



# COMPACT *News*

YOUR CAREER CONNECTION | SUMMER 2023

## The Compact Welcomes New Director!

The Four Cities Compact is proud to announce that Bill DiMascio will be taking over the Director role as of August 1, 2023! He will be replacing retiring Director Roger Wright who served in the role since 2016. Mr. DiMascio has spent the last 8 years with the Lakewood City Schools as Director of the West Shore Compact (which includes: Bay, Lakewood, Rocky River, and Westlake City Schools). Over the past 8 years, he has served in a number of leadership roles for Career Tech Organizations across the state which include President of Ohio ACTE and Ohio CCS. In addition to this, he has served on the Executive Board for Ohio Career Technical Administrators (OCTA).

Prior to his time in Career Tech Education, Bill served 12 years as both a teacher and administrator in the Akron Public Schools. He holds both a Bachelors (Geography) and Masters degree from the University of Akron (Second-



ary Education), as well as both Principal and Superintendent licensure. Bill currently lives in Akron with his wife Karen and two sons Dominic and Paul. ■

## COMPACT ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS HIGHLIGHT

The past school year marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Four Cities Compact. The milestone was marked in many ways including a special logo, alumni reunions, t-shirts, and mention at all Compact events. It's wonderful to think of the countless students over those 50 years who started their involvement in a chosen career field by participating in a Four Cities Compact Career Tech program.



Compacts are somewhat unique in the state of Ohio with only 16 currently operating. The major benefit of this type of delivery model of Career Tech Education is students are able to retain important social and emotional



connections to their home school while branching out and working with unfamiliar students and staff from other schools, with a like interest in a career area serving as the magnet that brings them together. The other major benefit of Career Tech Compacts is financial. The residents of our four communities do not pay any additional taxes to support a brick and mortar career center. Existing facilities in the four high schools house the classrooms and labs in each program.

Although the programs have changed somewhat over the years and continue to evolve to meet the interests and needs of students and the business community, one thing has remained constant – Career Technical Education is a fantastic way for young people to gain exposure, content knowledge, and hands-on skills experience all of which builds their confidence and helps in mapping out their next steps after high school.

We are COMPACT PROUD of all the accomplishments of the last 50 years and look forward to future efforts helping our students become Focused Prepared and Future Ready! ■

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## From the Director –

We hope this letter finds you well and enjoying your summer. It is with great pleasure that we welcome back our returning students and extend a warm welcome to our incoming students to the compact's 51<sup>st</sup> year.

I am excited to introduce myself as the new Director of the Four Cities Compact. This is my ninth year in Career Technical Education (CTE) compact leadership and 24<sup>th</sup> year in education and I am thrilled to be a part of four amazing commu-

nities and their students, teachers, and staff.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the Four Cities Compact is committed to providing you with the best possible education and resources to support your CTE and personal growth. Our teachers and staff members are dedicated to helping you achieve your goals and aspirations, and we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that you receive a well-rounded CTE that prepares you for success.

We encourage you to take advantage of all the opportunities that the Four Cities Compact has to offer, including Work-Based Learning and Career Technical student organizations. These experiences will not only enhance your skills and knowledge, but also allow you to build meaningful relationships and connections.

In closing, we wish you all the best for the upcoming academic year. We look forward to watching you thrive and succeed as you continue or embark on your CTE journey. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of our faculty or staff. Thank you for choosing CTE! ■

*Bill DiMascio, Director*

As we wrap up the 2022-2023 school year, I feel a sense of pride in all that we have accomplished. We set many goals surrounding career awareness, exposure, and growth and have made great strides in all of those areas, at all levels. The excitement surrounding schools providing better guidance towards possible career pathways is contagious.

At the elementary level, we paired our Teacher's Academy students with second grade classrooms in all four districts. We purchased the book "There's A Hat For That" by Dr. Kevin



## The Counselor's Corner

*By Jodie McInnes  
Career Pathways Counselor*

Fleming for nearly 900 students. Then our aspiring teachers conducted lessons involving the book to over 40 classrooms. We look forward to growing this program in the years to come.

We spent time in all of our middle schools sharing career lessons and activities with all of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. All of those activities then led us to our "Real Money. Real World" simulations in partnership with the Ohio State University's Extension offices. It was nice to see enthusiasm surrounding this event which focuses on financial literacy from volunteers



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and students alike.

We provided opportunities for our high school students to visit the Career Expo held at The University of Akron and tour several local industries. The trips were very well received and also ended in employment opportunities for a few students.

Another goal we set for this past year was to increase the number of Compact seniors who receive an

*(Continued on next page)*





*(Counselor's Corner – Continued)*

Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal. In 2022 we had 26% earn this seal, we were able to boost that to 64% for the graduating class of 2023!

Likewise, Work-Based Learning opportunities for our students was another area of successful growth. Over 115 of our students were involved in internship and/or work placements where 45% of them earned 250 hours or more. These real-world experiences gave our students a huge advantage in preparing them for their future goals.

Perhaps a byproduct of all this success can be seen in the number of students signed up for our programs for next year. We have well over 750 currently enrolled, which is the highest number that we have seen in at least ten years!

While we have achieved much success and met many goals this year, we realize that there is still a great deal to do. As we look ahead to next year and welcome our new director, our fundamental goals remain the same. Educating our youth, our students, our colleagues, and our communities on the available opportunities will continue to be at the forefront of what we do.

We look forward to another awesome year in Career Technical Education preparing our students to be FOCUSED, PREPARED, and FUTURE READY! ■

## Med Tech Program Flies High in Year 1

Under the direction of Program Teacher Amanda Reid, the Compact's Diversified Medical Technologies Program at Wadsworth HS really got off to a strong start in the 22-23 school year. To begin with, the year was full of visits from guest speakers from many areas of the medical field. The class took field trips as well so they could actually talk to medical professionals and see real work settings. Students earned the CPR/First Aid certification, as well as Stop



*Above, students in the Med Tech Program at WHS were able to earn a number of certifications including Phlebotomy.*



*Above, a tour of the Wadsworth Airport and Life Flight Helicopters ended with Mrs Reid and some students taking flight!*

the Bleed, OSHA, and Phlebotomy. Much of this was made possible through powerful program partners at Summa Hospital who worked with Compact staff and Mrs. Reid closely during the early planning stages right through implementation throughout the year. The Wadsworth Soprema Center brought the Med Tech students in to conduct bi-weekly blood pressure screenings and the Wadsworth Airport gave a special tour of the life flight helicopter. Some of the students and Mrs. Reid even got to go for a plane ride at the end of the visit! Year two of the program promises to bring great new opportunities and the junior roster from the 2023-24 school year is full! Looks like this new program is taking off! ■

## Work-Based Learning

Work-Based Learning measures the percentage of Career Technical Education students from each program who participate in real-world work experiences throughout their junior and senior years. Beginning with the Class of 2023, these hours are included in the state level Career Technical Education Quality Program Review report for each of our programs. Each program is to report at least 15% of their students have earned at least 250 hours by the time they graduate. Many of our programs rely on longstanding partnerships with local businesses to create these powerful learning experiences for our students. Teachers work with managers and mentors at those businesses to make sure the content and technical skills required in all courses associated with the programs are properly covered so the student has all they need when they graduate. It is not uncommon for some students to continue their employment with the cooperating business after graduation on a full- or part-time basis. ■



*WHS senior and Media Program student Aiden Usinski logged over 250 hours of work at Wadsworth Community Television in the 22-23 school year.*



# 2022-2023 JOB TRAINING

The Job Training Program provides students with disabilities from each district within the Four Cities Compact with an opportunity to learn work skills by at-



tending work sites within the community. The Compact's Job Training Program had another successful year! Our students continued learning and practicing work skills at 12 of their pre-existing work sites, while adding 7 new business partnerships to the mix. New additions for the 2022-2023 school year include the following: Barberton Preschool (Barberton), Village of St. Edward at Fairlawn (Copley), Finny's Sports Bar and Grill (Norton), Legacy Hair Salon (Wadsworth), Barlett-Cook Flower Shoppe (Wadsworth), Sweets on High (Wadsworth) and Sonnets (Wadsworth). Some of the job tasks that students learn and perform while attending community

work sites throughout the year include the following: bussing tables, custodial/cleaning, folding, food prep, organizing, packaging, shredding, sorting, stocking,



weighing and working with children. As a related Job Training Program, the FIRST program (taught by Darla Ruff at Norton High School) served another 9 students at The Galaxy Restaurant and Comfort Inn & Suites.

Both the Job Training and FIRST Programs provide students with a unique opportunity to learn and practice soft skills outside of a classroom setting. We are so thankful for the business partners we have, as they provide students with an opportunity to showcase their skills while helping businesses within their own communities. Through these experiences, students are gaining valuable skills that will help them after high school. If you or anyone you know may be interested in benefiting from a partnership with either of the Job Training Programs, please contact Ryan Whited at the Four Cities Compact office (330-335-1384). ■

## National Technical Honor Society Induction Class of 2023

The National Technical Honor Society exists to honor, recognize, and empower career technical students. The established criteria for eligibility includes grades, attendance, good moral character, and leadership. This past year's ceremony was held at Wadsworth High School on February 23, 2023. The ceremony marked the 30<sup>th</sup> year Compact students were inducted into NTHS.



A welcome address was given by Wadsworth Superintendent Dr. Andy Hill. Next, Christa Taylor, a graduate of the Advancement to Nursing program at BHS hosted by Barberton High School and who was recently hired to replace retiring nursing teacher Deborah Ritz, offered some encouraging words. Compact seniors already in NTHS participated in the ceremony by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and reciting the eight attributes of membership: Knowledge, Skills, Honesty, Service, Responsibility, Scholarship, Citizenship, and Leadership. Thank you Cadin Bux, Catherine Flohr, Alivia Baldwin, Peyton Colegrove, Leah Schenkenberger, Ryley Stuckey, Logan Merkle, and Dylan McKee.

The ceremony continued with 66 students crossing the stage and receiving their NTHS certificate. In addition to this honor, the LAPSEN endorsement was awarded to 7 students inducted for their excellence in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security career clusters. Two Compact programs fall in this cluster - Criminal Science Technology and Fire Safety/EMT.

Congratulations to these outstanding students on this great accomplishment! ■



*Above, Catherine Flohr from the Compact's Business Marketing Academy was inducted into the NTHS in 2022 and helped explain the attributes of membership at this year's induction ceremony held at WHS.*





## Pharmacy Program Gets Approval from State Board

The Compact's Pharmaceutical Science Program at Copley HS received some big news this year. In the fall, teacher Katie Amos applied to the State Board of Pharmacy to have the program designated as a state-recognized training center. This move marked major progress for the program which just finished its second year. In the extensive application process, evidence had to be shown on what the students were learning and how the curriculum was being delivered. The state has high training standards for the career field and the application had to be written to capture how the program was meeting every requirement called for by the state board. We were thrilled to hear back later in the year that we did indeed gain official approval and our students are now able to take the state Pharmacy Tech license exam and earn their state license upon passage. This will enable our students who aspire to become Pharmacists the ability to work in a Pharmacy Tech role as they go through further education and training. It also enables students direct entry into the workforce at local pharmacies, care facilities, or hospitals. ■



*Above, CHS Senior Diya Patel became the program's first student to successfully pass the state board exam and receive her license as Pharmacy Tech. Diya will be attending the Ohio State University this fall.*



*Above, students in the Compact's Automotive Technologies Program at WHS, under the direction of Teacher Pete Alexander, helped finish a restoration project on a 1957 Ford Ranchero! The vehicle now has a supered up big block 460 engine and is sure to draw lots of attention wherever it goes! The only part of the project students did not participate in directly was the final paint job.*

## Career Technical Student Organizations

Four Cities Compact students have the opportunity to participate in various career-related student organizations where they get to "show what they know." Participation in the organizations allows students to grow personally and professionally while demonstrating skills of their career path in a competitive setting. Students are able to prepare, practice, and perform tasks and projects much like they will be required to do someday while working in their chosen career field. These competitions are of interest to both future employers and college admissions officers. Some of the larger organizations our students were involved with this past year are: DECA (Business Marketing Academy) and SkillsUSA (Advancement to Nursing, Automotive Technologies, Criminal Science Technology, Engineering, Design & Technology, Fire Safety/ EMT, Masonry/ Building Trades). Students also participated in other contests related to their program, sponsored by a government agency, business, or college.

We are proud to share that eight students advanced beyond state level competition and were national qualifiers: Conner Filbert (DECA, Wadsworth), Hailey Harris (DECA, Wadsworth), Rachel Dennee (SkillsUSA, Wadsworth) and Chloe Gabler (SkillsUSA, Norton). Congratulations to these students and their teachers! ■







**22/23 Carpentry House** – Our seniors in the Compact’s Carpentry Program at WHS have one of the best projects in the state! They actually build a house that, once completed, is sold at public auction. Below is their 2022 house located at 298 Stratford Ave. in Wadsworth. Amazing the class breaks ground in August and finishes the last nail in May. Many thanks to our community partners including Dominion Energy who helped with the build.



Above, Norton Senior Evelyn Fernandez (pictured with Compact Counselor Jodie McInnes) was an outstanding student in the Compact’s Culinary Arts Program and one of the Compact’s 10 Stone Ledges Scholarship recipients (see article below).

## Stone Ledges Scholarships Welcome!

### 2023 Scholarship Recipients

The Stone Ledges Scholarship is a charitable trust specifically for Four Cities Compact students. The scholarship is awarded to students enrolled in a Four Cities Compact program who plan to continue studying in that career field at the post-secondary level. Award amounts vary and recipients are selected through an application process by representatives of the foundation. Over \$570,000 has been awarded to exemplary Compact students since 1999. For more information on the Stone Ledges Scholarship, visit [fourcitiescompact.org](http://fourcitiescompact.org). Congratulations 2023 scholarship recipients!

Student	Program	Home School
Mary Krege	<i>Advancement to Nursing</i>	Barberton
Zara Warford	<i>Athletic Health Science &amp; Wellness</i>	Copley
Evelyn Fernandez	<i>Culinary Arts</i>	Norton
Kendall Glover	<i>Cosmetology</i>	Norton
Dylan McKee	<i>Culinary Arts</i>	Norton
Carter Miller	<i>Animal Care &amp; Veterinary Science</i>	Wadsworth
Alivia Baldwin	<i>Advancement to Nursing</i>	Wadsworth
Max Bigelow	<i>Engineering, Design &amp; Technology</i>	Wadsworth
Melody Johnson	<i>Automotive Technologies</i>	Wadsworth
Brian Myers	<i>Athletic Health Science &amp; Wellness</i>	Wadsworth

## New Teacher Academy has Class

Under the direction of veteran NHS teacher Tricia Pletcher, one of the Compact’s 2 new programs last year the Teacher Academy at Norton HS took off like a rocket! First year highlights of the program include: students getting out to classrooms for observations and actual teaching



all over the four districts, students teaching Career Advisory lessons to Elementary students, students

attending school board meetings and teacher planning meetings, students helping with Compact Field Day, students being exposed to teacher/staff training. Year two program plans include: expanding college credit opportunities, building more partnerships, and participation in Career Tech student skill competitions. The word is out on how well this program did in just its first year! Its roster is full with a wait list for the 2023-24 school year! We can’t wait to see all the great things our future educators are going to achieve. ■



Above, Teacher Academy students helped out with school events like the field day held at BHS for students with disabilities.





Above, Media Program grads Cale Breuers (WHS) and Logan Merkle (WHS) were on the WHS announcement team and will be attending Kent State University to study Communications this fall.

## Media Program Gets a Makeover

The Media Communications Program at WHS is changing. Under the direction of new teacher Paul Taylor the program is in the process of updating equipment and expanding into the area of live/recorded event production, including sports and school events as well as the morning announcements at WHS. The program is a perfect fit for any student wanting to enter the multifaceted world of Media. Students learn all about camera work, sound and lighting, editing and graphics. The program enjoys partnerships with local businesses including Wadsworth Community Television which has a full production studio right in the same building! In addition to new equipment, the program will have a new classroom with added space at WHS. The sky's the limit for opportunities for our Media students! ■

Photo below, Rep Sharon Ray (pictured with Media teacher Paul Taylor and student Megan Ross) toured the Media Program last fall and even helped tape a program for WCTV.



## THE FIRST RULE OF SUCCESS – SHOW UP

The Four Cities Compact recognized students who had exceptional attendance this year. Coming out of the pandemic, we felt it was especially important to highlight our students who made the extra effort to be in class every day. A common theme when we speak with our local business partners is concern about workers who have inconsistent attendance. High school students sometimes struggle to understand how important good work attendance is in terms of production and company success, as well as their success as an employee. We tracked our attendance and found we had 39 students and 2 staff members who had perfect attendance in the first semester. All of them received a special Compact shirt with an American Work Ethic logo. The shirts were worn proudly throughout the rest of the school year reminding all that good attendance to school and work is a key to success. ■



Above photo: The Compact's Fire Safety Program led the way for perfect attendance having Owen Chokreff (WHS), Mason Brogan (NHS), Toby Tatka (NHS), Alivia Potter (NHS), and Casey Carte (BHS) all with perfect attendance throughout the first semester.



## Nursing Program hits Meaningful Milestone

The Compact's Advancement to Nursing Program recently achieved an impressive milestone by having over 100 program graduates now working in the Health-care field! The program which started at Barberton High School in 2004 has been one of the most popular and successful programs offered by the Compact for many years. It has a rigorous curriculum, great opportunities for real-world hands-on learning, powerful partners, and steady leadership. Students can earn college credit and a number of industry-recognized credentials including: State Tested Nursing Assistant, First Aid/CPR, Phlebotomy, and OSHA 10. The program also has students compete very successfully in Career Tech student competitions often winning medals at both state and national skill competitions. Longtime teacher Debbie Ritz has retired and program grad (and experienced nurse) Christa Taylor now joins veteran educator Cindy Boswell to keep the program operating at a very high level. The 100 grads in the field would all agree the program had them more than ready for their next steps after high school. ■





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## CAREER & TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

### BARBERTON

Advancement to Nursing  
Business Marketing Academy  
Career-Based Instruction  
Cosmetology  
Criminal Science Technology  
Fire Safety/EMT  
Machine Technology  
Network Systems & Cyber Security  
Nursing Care Assistant\*

### COPLEY

Animal Care & Science  
Culinary Arts  
Pharmaceutical Sciences

### NORTON

Athletic Health Science & Wellness  
Career-Based Instruction  
Masonry  
Teacher Academy

### WADSWORTH

Automotive Technology  
Carpentry  
Diversified Medical Technologies  
Engineering Design & Technology  
Media Communications  
Programming Design & Robotics



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\*Seniors only program

**Check with high school counselors about program availability in early August!**

*Programs are available to Barberton, Copley, Norton & Wadsworth students. Most programs are two years in length with students entering as juniors.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE:

**Barberton: 330-753-1084 ext. 25510    Copley: 330-664-4827    Norton: 330-825-6104    Wadsworth: 330-335-1381**

*It is the policy of the Four Cities Compact to offer educational programs and activities without regard to race, color, natural origin, sex, or handicap, as required by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Sex Equality provisions of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Act of 1984. Inquiries regarding compliance with these requirements may be directed to: William DiMascio, Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator, c/o Four Cities Compact, 524 Broad Street, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281, Phone: (330) 335-1309; Joyce Walker, Director of Student Services, c/o Wadsworth City Schools, 524 Broad Street, Wadsworth, OH 44281, Phone: (330) 335-1319; or to: Director of Office of Civil Rights - Region IV, 55 Erieview Plaza, Room 222, Cleveland, Ohio 44114, Phone: (216) 522-4970.*