From the Superintendent...
Christine M. Johns, Ed.D.

CTE programs give UCS graduates the leading edge on high paying careers

The importance of Career and Technical Education programs has taken center stage in Michigan. It is a familiar place in Utica Community Schools, which has long put a priority on giving students a competitive advantage to pursue high paying careers in their future.

UCS is fortunate to be located in the heart of the automotive, defense and health care industries. Through these relationships and the innovation of our staff, we have pioneered CTE programs that are now becoming the standard in education.

Recently, a 2012 UCS graduate, Adam Drotar, spoke about how far ahead he was compared to his peers when he began Lawrence Technological University. Drotar noted that UCS prepared him in key ways — he knew how to work in a team, was comfortable in a hands-on environment, could work across disciplines and knew how to solve problems.

The State of Michigan has recently announced a “Marshall Plan for Talent” to ensure meeting the demands of a professional trades industry that is expected to add 15,000 new jobs annually through 2024.

As Michigan makes CTE its focus, UCS will continue to ensure our students are a step ahead of their competition when it comes to achieving their career and college goals.

CTE demands a certain type of facility that mirrors the equipment and environment our students will experience in their future careers. We are working with industry leaders to design classrooms that give our students the workspace and tools they will need to be successful.

We continually network with business, manufacturing and education leaders to remain in touch with future needed skill sets and career projections in these fields.

This year, Eisenhower High School piloted a “Gone Boarding” program that gave students design and building skills while producing surfboards, snowboards, stand-up paddleboards and...
Meet our Safety Resource Officers

The School Resource Officers (SROs) in our four comprehensive high schools all agree that their new positions are about building relationships with students. Whether it is a mentoring-type role, or as a figure of authority, the officers are working hard to create a feeling of trust with the students. Just the presence of SROs in the building can make a difference for students and their parents. However, make no mistake, each SRO takes their responsibility very seriously – to maintain a safe learning environment for UCS students.

Meet Officer Brad Pluger
Henry Ford II High School

Officer Pluger has been a police officer for 23 years, 22 years with the Sterling Heights Police Department. He has worked in both the traffic and detective divisions.

When the SRO position became available at Henry Ford II, Pluger immediately applied for it. He says it was a very easy decision; Pluger is also a Henry Ford II parent. He and his wife have three children, two graduates of the Class of 2018 and an eighth grader.

When asked what is the most surprising outcome in the past three months, he said that 98% of the position is positive. “As a police officer, you tend to see people at their worst, after a car accident or maybe in the midst of a family dispute,” said Pluger. “But here it’s mostly positive. Kids walking up to me and saying good morning or starting up conversations. It’s such positive interaction.”

Meet Officer Jacob “Jake” Lukas
Utica High School

Officer Lukas, a Central Michigan University graduate, originally began college studying to be a teacher. Wanting to help people, but thinking a career in teaching might not offer the physically active environment he liked, Lukas turned to law enforcement. When the posting opened up for SRO at Utica High, he knew it would be a great blend of his interests. “As a police officer, you tend to see people at their worst, after a car accident or maybe in the midst of a family dispute,” said Pluger. “But here it’s mostly positive. Kids walking up to me and saying good morning or starting up conversations. It’s such positive interaction.”

Meet Officer Tricia Latour
Stevenson High School

Officer Latour is already looking forward to the start of the new school year in September. “I feel like next year will be even better,” said Latour a 25-year veteran, 23 years with the Sterling Heights Police Department.

“The kids are starting to open up to me and by spending the entire school year here, I know next year will be even more rewarding,” said Latour.

Meet Officer Jim Knobelsdorf
Eisenhower High School

Before starting his SRO position at Eisenhower, Officer Knobelsdorf was already quite familiar with the school. A parent to four Eisenhower graduates, Knobelsdorf has been involved in the school’s youth program for years.

For the past 10 years, he has been a bagpiper for the Metro Detroit Police & Fire Pipes & Drums corps. The group honors police officers and firefighters throughout Michigan that are killed in the line of duty.

Knobelsdorf’s commitment to public safety runs deep. For the past 10 years, he has been a bagpiper for the Metro Detroit Police & Fire Pipes & Drums corps.

The 33-year veteran of law enforcement is enjoying the new connections he is making inside the building and in the community. “There are a lot of great kids here,” said Knobelsdorf, “and the staff is phenomenal.”
Utica Community Schools Class of 2018

Graduates of the Class of 2018 have been outstanding throughout their educational career in Utica Community Schools.

In early June, UCS graduated a total of 2,264 students. This includes 613 from Eisenhower, 524 from Stevenson, 498 students from Henry Ford II, 406 from Utica High, 130 from Adult Education and Utica Alternative Learning Center and 93 students from Utica Academy for International Studies.

This school year the Board of Education recognized 644 Academic Scholars representing the four high schools and Utica Academy for International Studies. Each student maintained a 3.67 grade point average or above during their high school career.

Nearly 200 graduates were awarded the Seal of Global Language for a demonstrated level of proficiency in both English language arts and a world language.

Graduates earned over $30 million in scholarships and were accepted to more than 200 different colleges and universities across Michigan and the nation.

The Class of 2018 had 243 valedictorians and 10 salutatorians. Below are the names of those graduates who graduated with the highest honors, Summa Cum Laude, with a grade point average of 3.9 and above, and those that graduated with high honors, Magna Cum Laude, with a GPA of 3.7 - 3.89.
This April, the Utica Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence, a non-profit organization, proudly awarded 33 Superintendent’s Scholarships and celebrated 13 community-based academic scholarships.

**Utica Alternative Learning Center**
- Damian Cobaj: Superintendent’s
- Javan Lawes: Superintendent’s

**Eisenhower High School**
- Jacob Adamski: Superintendent’s
- Eamonn Gehle: Superintendent’s
- Mitchell Irvin: Superintendent’s
- Matthew Jelin: Superintendent’s
- Miranda Manzo: Altair STEM
- Ariana Matway: Altair STEM
- Giuliano Romano: Altair STEM
- Allison Soffa: Superintendent’s
- Bridgette Tupper: Superintendent’s
- Madison Thompson: Superintendent’s
- Audrey Warner: Superintendent’s

**Henry Ford II High School**
- Julianna Duncan: Altair STEM
- Maria French: Superintendent’s
- Sophia Osorio-Martinez: Superintendent’s
- Alexandra Patterson: Superintendent’s
- Antonina Rizzo: Altair STEM
- Crystal Schultz: Altair STEM
- Ryan Simpson: Superintendent’s
- Nichole Wallace: Superintendent’s
- Daniel Waller: Superintendent’s
- Stefan’s Hope
- Daniel Capozzolo: Superintendent’s
- Molly Hojnacki: Superintendent’s
- Vitaliya Hutsul: Superintendent’s
- Gabriella Melaragni: Superintendent’s
- Stefan’s Hope
- Bhum Patel: Superintendent’s
- Micayla Phillips: Superintendent’s
- Kaela Riera: Superintendent’s
- Mariam Saleem: Superintendent’s
- Divya Senivasan: Superintendent’s
- Merna Yaldo: Superintendent’s
- James Szewc: Superintendent’s

**Utica Academy for International Studies**
- Sritjea Malempati: Altair STEM
- Lucas Santavicca: Superintendent’s
- Madga Wojtara: Altair STEM

**Utica High School**
- Audrey Asgarally: Superintendent’s
- Keaton Connelly: Superintendent’s
- Gabrielle Davidson: Superintendent’s
- Mary Keta: Altair STEM
- Daisy Macias Gonzalez: Superintendent’s
- Kayln Macks: Altair STEM
- Rana Noori: Superintendent’s
- Quin Rynlander: Superintendent’s
- Alexsia Saji: Superintendent’s
- Emily Suchoski: Altair STEM

**Stevenson High School**
- Divya Seenivasan: Superintendents
- Mariam Sayed: Superintendents
- Angel Sanders: Superintendents
- Staniya Marangattil: Superintendents

**Utica High School**
- Nicholas Davis: Superintendent’s
- Margaret DeVore: Superintendent’s
- Jessica Easterly: Superintendent’s
- Ashley Farris: Superintendent’s
- Audry Farris: Superintendent’s
- Briain Tremillo Franco: Superintendent’s
- Carson Francuch: Superintendent’s
- Tiayna Hale: Superintendent’s
- Jasmine Hannah: Superintendent’s
- Trevor Hulvey: Superintendent’s
- Vitaliya Hutsul: Superintendent’s
- Carly Issa: Superintendent’s
- Ameile Keqj: Superintendent’s
- Ailvin Kesto: Superintendent’s
- Ailsa Kizy: Superintendent’s
- Brandon Kwiatkowski: Superintendent’s
- Alissa Kolo: Superintendent’s
- Olivia Kooshy: Superintendent’s
- Alvin Kesto: Superintendent’s
- Clarissa Mansoor: Superintendent’s
- Blake Mearin: Superintendent’s
- Chloe Nicolette: Superintendent’s
- Victoria Nassan: Superintendent’s
- Brandon Putrus: Superintendent’s
- Nikki Ramsey: Superintendent’s
- Lauren Yousif: Superintendent’s

CETE Career Development

DECA, SkillsUSA and HOSA are student organizations which promote CETE career opportunities through educational experiences. The following students excelled in state, national and international competitions hosted by the groups.

**Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA)**

**Henry Ford II High School**
- Owen Tucci
- Joseph Uher
- Bryan Wegrzyn
- Evan Werbruck
- Kyle Yousi

**Utica High School**
- Kendall Avis
- Stephanie Curnow
- Jacob Joseph
- Liam Hart
- Mariana Mirandi
- Elizabeth Mittag
- Stone Tanner

**Stevenson High School**
- Katiyra Barkho
- George Jacob
- Sneh Marangattil
- Staniya Marangattil
- Angel Sanders
- Mariam Sayed

**Utica High School**
- Maria McCollom

**SkillsUSA**

SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers and leaders of our nation’s future skilled workforce.

**Utica Center for Science and Industry (UCSI)**

**Utica High School**
- Julia Batres
- Nicholas Cole
- Mackenzie Daley
- Kristina Djelaj
- Michael Fox
- Maximilian Hartwell
- Mark Herc
- Amanda Hill
- Andrew Jewell
- Jake Lanfear
- Ta Mia Lee
- Bianca Martinez
- Devin Mispelen
- Antonio Major
- Jordan Pascua
- Faith Pieleck
- Joel Ramirez
- Jared Turski
- Brian Yarrington
- Fadya Yousif
- Tori Zygner

**Utica Academy for International Studies**
- Mariam Saleem
- Lauren Stafaro
- James Szewc
- Tom Tooma
- Tara Twal
- Emma Vitale
- Grant Watkins
- Merna Yaldo
- Donovyn Yonan
- Lauren Yousif

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www.uticak12.org

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