

Electricity/Electronics Student In Running for Presidential Scholars Program

Chelsie Cloutier, a senior from Newfane and a student in the Electricity/Electronics Program at the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center, has been nominated for the Presidential Scholars Program. The program was established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964 to recognize outstanding high school seniors. President Obama recently amended the program by adding a new component – recognition for excellence among students in career and technical education.

Orleans Career and Technical Education Center Principal Dr. Michael Weyrauch, counselor Kara Kirk and Electricity/Electronics teacher Bill Leggett submitted Chelsie's nomination to Mary Ellen Elia, Commissioner of Education for the State of New York, who chose Chelsie to be one of the representatives from New York State for the prestigious award. She is one of five from the state. "Chelsie is an outstanding student, with great grades, attendance, work ethic, school involvement and maturity," says Mrs. Kirk. "She has a 99 average here at OCTEC and perfect attendance."

"This is a pretty big award," says Chelsie. "I had to fill out a lengthy application and if I am selected, I will go to DC to receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony and get a tour of the White House." When asked why she chose to attend Orleans/Niagara BOCES, Chelsie responded, "I knew I was interested in electronics and when I took the tour of

the center, I thought the class seemed very cool. BOCES is a great place to learn valuable skills and I think my teacher Mr. Leggett is great. He has a lot of energy and has not only helped me with my skills, but with my resume, letters of recommendation and preparing me for competition." Last year, Chelsie represented New York State in Electricity at the National SkillsUSA competition in Louisville, Kentucky. "That was such a great experience," she says. "I really hope I get to go again."

"Chelsie is an awesome student," says Mr. Leggett. "She is a real overachiever and a pleasure to have in class. She has a great work ethic and I am



Chelsie Cloutier and her Electricity/Electronics teacher Bill Leggett.

so proud of her. Our BOCES program is really comparable to a college level course and she excels. I know when she goes

to the University at Buffalo next year; she is going to be way ahead of the curve compared to her classmates."

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NCTEC SkillsUSA Students Show Holiday Spirit to Local Food Pantry

Michael Daloia, the Assistant Director of the Heart, Love and Soul Food Pantry and Dining Room in Niagara Falls, says they had 375 families register for a Christmas basket this year. They were looking to the community for donations to gather the 6,000 pounds of food they would need to take care of everyone. "This time of year is very hard for our families," says Mr. Daloia. "Most of the children receive breakfast and lunch at school, so when school is not in session that is two more meals per child each day that have to be provided at home. The



Junior SkillsUSA Executive Officer Team Members (LtoR): Foreground: Becca Connors (Wilson), Kay Kennedy (Starpoint) and Dylan Guy (Wilson). Background: Elizabeth Schearer (Wilson), Kayan Brown (Lockport) and Kaila Veach (North Tonawanda).

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(LtoR) Gabreal Hooks Jr. (Niagara Falls) trains Sarah Laxson (Lockport).

Juniors Put Seniors Through Their Paces in Personal Trainer Class

The junior class in Jared Karas' Personal Trainer Program, at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center, recently got to show the seniors what they learned so far this year. About a dozen senior classmen stayed for the second half of the day so that the juniors could design a workout routine for them. "One of my juniors, Alexis Mittelstedt, came up with the idea," says Mr. Karas. "It was an excellent experience for all the students involved and I think they learned a lot. The seniors also gave them pointers for when they were working with a client in the future."

Precision Machine Technology Students Seeing if Winter Craft Measures Up

Students in Bill Rakonczay's Precision Machine Technology program at the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center are flexing their creative muscles for next year's SkillsUSA Craft Show.

Students in the junior class created a snow measuring stick using the skills they have learned in class and hope that it will be a big hit for the school's annual fundraiser.



(LtoR) Jack Muscarella (Royaltown Hartland), Nick Albone (Lyndonville), Craig Heitzenrater (Barker), Jeff Hamm (Newfane) and Hunter Wilson (Barker).

Diesel Mechanics Students Receive New Engine to Train On

Students in Wes Blidy's Heavy Equipment/Diesel Mechanics Program, at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center, recently acquired a new piece of machinery. The center purchased a brand-new old stock Series 50 Detroit Diesel Engine from Rochester Regional Transit Authority. "I would really like to thank Matt Shaw and Lucy St. George for giving us the opportunity to purchase this engine," says Mr. Blidy. "I would also like to thank Scott Breeze for helping to make this happen. The engine has never been started, and we have to find a few more parts to acquire to make it a complete engine to run. It will be a very nice training engine for the students to work on. We look forward to the first time we get to fire it up."



Mike Sosnowski (Lew-Port), Spencer Lilly (Lew-Port), Colton Meyer (Starpoint), Rob Hoover (Niagara Wheatfield), Brandt Breeze (Niagara Wheatfield), Ryan Lloyd (Niagara Wheatfield), Chris Kazmierczak (Starpoint), Hayden Goerss (Starpoint), Kyle Sharkey (Wilson), Anthony Scipione (Lew-Port), Mel Emery (Wilson), Conrad Swanson (Lew-Port) and Nolan Clickhammer (Starpoint).

Allied Health Students Tour Niagara University

The Allied Health classes from Newfane, Niagara Falls and Medina recently paid a visit to Niagara University. The program offers the students NuStep 101 for three credits and as part of that arrangement students get a tour of the campus, the Science labs and hear a talk by Dr. Robert Greene, the Professor and Chair of Biology at the college. The students and their teachers: Sharon Farrugia, Lisa Trapasso and Lisa MacEvoy were also treated to lunch in the college cafeteria.



Chef Lazarus Lynch Stops in at NCTEC to Talk to Culinary Arts Students



Chef Lazarus Lynch, also known as Son of a Southern Chef, recently paid a visit to the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center. Lazarus was invited by Principal Anedda Trautman to come and talk to the Culinary Arts students about being a Cooking Channel star, his culinary roots and how he uses social media to share his recipes and techniques. "Lazarus is in my class that I teach at Buffalo State and when he said he couldn't make the tour of our Orleans/Niagara BOCES' center I give all my students, I asked if he would like to come and spend some time with the culinary classes and he graciously agreed."

He told the students about how his dad was his inspiration because he owned a restaurant and they loved to cook together. "When I was in high school in New York City, I would post on my blog photos of dishes I made and write about them. In the 11th grade, a Food Network representative came to class and I volunteered to give a demonstration on pancakes. She told me I have a gift and I should pursue public speaking." It wasn't too much longer that someone from the Cooking Channel discovered his blog and



Niagara Career and Technical Education Principal Anedda Trautman, students Chaise Haring (North Tonawanda), Malik Pippens (Niagara Wheatfield), Matt LoCurto (Niagara Wheatfield), Chef Lazarus Lynch and teacher Bob Ihle.

asked him to be in a commercial. "It was huge," he says. "It ran on the Cooking Channel for two years. All the practice in classroom turned into something bigger. It made me realize I could take my passion for food and public speaking and turn it into a career."

Lazarus is studying Communication at Buffalo State

and will begin to work on a show for the Food Network, where he used to work. "It is a constant journey of doing more and learning more. I strongly recommend that you take advantage of your resources and teachers here. There are a lot of different avenues you can go down whether it is working in a restaurant, food science or media." Culinary Arts teacher

Bob Ihle said having Chef Lazarus talk to the students was great. "He's a young guy with fresh ideas. He has these great three minute YouTube videos of him making various dishes. The students can relate to him because he is close to their age and they can see the possibilities of furthering their education and using social media as a platform. We loved having him here."

Repair for Local Man Provides Great Lesson for Electricity/Electronics Class



Students Chelsie Cloutier (Newfane), Ben Maynard (Royalton Hartland), Tom Stagnitto and Linda Eastman.

Electricity/Electronics teacher Bill Leggett considers the project a win-win. "A local gentlemen, Tom Stagnitto, asked for some assistance. He was in desperate need of an electric scooter and someone donated one to him, but it needed a drive module and the control head had to be repaired. I thought it would be a good project for the class, so I had my seniors disassemble the chair and get familiar with its inner workings, including the motor control, to see what we could do for him."

The Orleans Career and Technical Education Center students saw that the electronic control head was damaged and needed to have fine soldering done to repair it. Mr. Leggett was also able to get a replacement part so that Mr. Stagnitto could bring it home after his stop at the Cosmetology clinic to get a haircut. "We were so happy to do this for Mr. Stagnitto," says Mr. Leggett. "He was so grateful that we were able to take care of the repairs and my students felt great about being able to help him out. It was also a great lesson for them to work on a piece of equipment they normally wouldn't have in class and do some community service as well."

Young Soldier Shares His Enlisting Experience with Security and Law Enforcement Students

Army Private Michael Marotta recently stopped into the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center to not only visit his father, teacher John Marotta, but to share with the students about his experiences as a 17 year old joining the military.

John Marotta teaches Security and Law Enforcement at the center. "I have several students who have expressed interest in joining the military after graduation and I thought it might be helpful for them to talk to Michael since he joined at seventeen. I knew he would be honest with them about what his experiences were at basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he graduated as a Combat Engineer. He also discussed his feelings preparing to go to Fort Benning, Georgia for Airborne School. I think the students found it easy to talk to him because he is the same age as they are."

Michael spent the whole day at the center. He talked to the class as a whole and then went to a separate area to talk to any juniors and seniors one-on-one who were definitely considering it as a career option and wanted to ask him more questions about the military. "I really love the Army and I am very excited to start Airborne School," he told them. "It is giving me skills and experiences that I couldn't get any other way."

"It was great having Michael spend a day with my class," says Mr. Marotta. "His mother and I are so proud of him and I know the students were very appreciative of the time he spent with them."

Chelsie Cloutier

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Chelsie will find out in May whether or not she will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion. Until then, she will focus on the SkillsUSA competitions and preparing to enter the Electrical

Engineering Program at UB this fall. "I am excited about going to college. I will focus more on electronics, very cutting edge, like cellphone chips and radio frequency; things the military uses. I just found out I received a scholarship that will cover my tuition and board which is awesome. I also have an internship lined up for this summer. I am very excited about my future."



Private Michael Marotta, Cory Jackson (Medina), Jeremiah Chandler (Lockport), Gabriela Wasnock (Barker), Jessica Reigle (Medina), Dakota McDonald (Lyndonville), William Childs (Lockport), Jillian O'Brien (Royalton Hartland), Elias Eaton (Royalton Hartland), Jared Atwell (Albion), Jordan Wolcott (Albion), John Marotta. Front Row- Thomas Woodward (Lyndonville), Taylor McLaughlin (Lockport), Michael Stubbs (Lockport), Logan Yotter (Royalton Hartland), Scott Hoyle (Barker) and Brittney Buchanan (Newfane).

Security and Law Enforcement Students Learn About Fingerprint Scanning



Students in Steve Browning and John Marotta's Security and Law Enforcement Program at the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center are learning a new technology called fingerprint scanning. Soon the days of ink and paper imaging of fingerprints will be obsolete and the students are becoming familiar with this new process that is being used by most law enforcement agencies, military and employers.



(LtoR) Nicholas Hinkson (Lyndonville), John Chandler (Lockport), Kyle Secore (Barker), Kayli Fox (Barker), Brandon Churchfield (Lyndonville) and Tyler Skidmore (Newfane), Staff Sergeant Kerr

"What is great about electronic fingerprinting is that it can be easily transmitted over computer networks," says Mr. Browning. "Computers will be able to quickly analyze the fingerscan and compare it with thousands of other fingerprints in its system. This will greatly speed up criminal investigations and people seeking pistol permits. It can also be used by employers who need them for background checks."

Army Staff Sergeant Kerr and Staff Sergeant Stepp stopped by the classes to give a demonstration and allow the students to try out the technology.

Security and Law Enforcement Students Spend Day with Niagara Falls Park Police

The Security and Law Enforcement students from the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center recently spent a day at the Niagara Falls Park Police Station. Teachers Amber Chunco and Jess Traver are trying to expose the students to as many careers as possible to help them prepare for after graduation. They were fortunate enough that K9 Officer Mike Cali and Officer Chris Gerlach had time to talk to the students about not only their jobs, but what it is like to go through the Academy to become a New York State Park Police officer. They also showed the classes their vehicles and the equipment they use in their day-to-day duties.

The New York State Park Police provide essential police services consistent with the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's mission-to provide safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities for New York State residents and visitors. Both officers shared with the students many stories about how you can be sitting drinking coffee one minute and then trying to save someone from going over the falls the next. Student Angela Micale found that fascinating. "I think policing is always about being prepared for anything. You have to know that at any moment or point your entire day can change."

Student David Neff said talking to the two officers was very interesting. "When people think of security and law enforcement, they

automatically think of a traditional street officer. There are so many more careers available than that. I found it very interesting to hear about the Academy." Classmate Julian LaBarber already has an interest in

becoming a State Park Police Officer. "This was an extremely valuable experience. It has allowed me to gain more knowledge as to the daily duties of a State Park Police Officer and all that it encompasses."



Back Row: Issac Howard (Niagara Falls), Ronnie Staton (North Tonawanda), Charles Hayes (Niagara Wheatfield), Travis Mis (Lew-Port), Qamara DuBois (Niagara Falls), Ashley Edwards (Niagara Falls), Jayson Parker (Niagara Falls), Kaylynn Buck (Niagara Falls), Breanna Greenawalt (Niagara Falls), Erin Wegener (Wilson), Rachel Anderson (North Tonawanda), Brian Leising (Niagara Wheatfield), David Neff (Lew-Port), Richard Williams (Niagara Falls), Michael Dobmeier (Niagara Wheatfield), Stephen Moore (North Tonawanda), Jordan Stoelting (Wilson), Mr. Traver (Security & Law Enforcement Instructor), Mr. Bill Morgan (Retired Correctional Officer/ Substitute). Front Row: Ms. Amber Chunco (Security & Law Enforcement Instructor), Officer Mike Cali (K9 State Park Police), Julian LaBarber (Lew-Port), Mark Huffman (Niagara Wheatfield), Nicholas Weber (Niagara Wheatfield), Austin Strope (Niagara Wheatfield), Gina Mallone (North Tonawanda), Angela Micale (Niagara Wheatfield), Kaylee O'Donnell (North Tonawanda), Erin Schmidt (North Tonawanda), Chris Gerlach (State Park Police), Deputy T. Huff (Niagara County Sheriff's Office/ School Resource Officer)

Letters to Santa Help Students Give to Make-A-Wish Foundation

Orleans/Niagara BOCES teacher Matthew McCall organized a great community service project for the students at the Newfane Learning Center, North Tonawanda High School, Orleans Learning Center and Niagara Wheatfield High School.

All through the month of December, the students worked in partnership with the North Tonawanda City School District to write letters and cards to Santa as part of Macy's yearly Believe campaign. For every card or letter for St. Nick, the store donates \$1 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation to help a child, who has a life-threatening medical condition, get a wish come true.

The BOCES students crafted 492 cards and the North Tonawanda schools collected 895 from its four elementary schools, for a grand total of 1,387 cards. Mr. McCall says they were very excited that they were able to drop the cards off on National Believe Day which doubled their donation. "We collectively turned our cards into \$2,774 to donate to this wonderful organization!"



Matthew McCall's class at the Newfane Learning Center: (LtoR) Teacher Aide Jan Bayles, Teacher Aide Stephanie Wilson, Eddie Garber, Teacher Matthew McCall, Blake Reilly, Brooklynn Cunningham, Teacher aide Sarah Pabon, Joshua Bohl, Teacher Aide Tammy Reeson and Teacher Aide Mary Stayzer.



Austin Taughrin (Niagara Falls) shows off the switch plates he contributed.

Niagara Academy Students Help To Make Wish Come True

Students in Rose Lewkowicz's art class at the Niagara Academy helped to fulfill a dream for a local boy through the Make-A-Wish Foundation. "A kid wanted 1,000 switch plates," explains student Austin Taughrin. "I really wanted to help. I know it would mean a lot to him and it made me feel great to be able to help his dream come true. It really touches my heart."

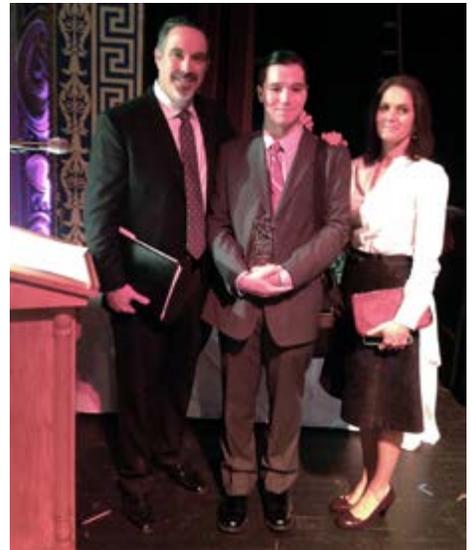
A local artist will be taking all the switch plates that are contributed to make a mural for the little boy. "The students are very considerate and each of them made three switch plates," says Ms. Lewkowicz. "Between Mr. Craig Hoplight's class and mine we decorated 70 with sharpies, paint markers and acrylic paints. It is great because it combines the art class with a community service project. A lot of the students included messages for the child in their design. It is a really nice thing to do."



Graphic Communications Student Named Rising Star by Leadership Niagara

Lucas Kates, a senior in the Graphic Communications Program at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center and a Lewiston-Porter student who attends the Niagara Academy, was recognized for being a Rising Star by Leadership Niagara. "When our adult class was given a tour of the Niagara Academy by Lucas, they immediately fell in love with his charm and intelligence," says Leadership Niagara Assistant Director Tasha Villani. "The class decided to create an award at their graduation ceremony to honor Lucas called the Rising Star Award."

"Since I am the first one honored with this award, I felt humbled," says Lucas. "It is an honor that I will be the beginning of a future legacy of other rising stars." At the ceremony at the Rivera Theatre, Lucas talked about how learning about his autism spectrum disorder was akin to Clark Kent learning that he was not human. "He didn't become Superman right away, he had to look at himself and question everything." He talked about how each experience he has had has helped him to understand who he truly is and how grateful he is to his two counselors at the Niagara Academy, Mrs. Antonacci and Ms. Henson, for helping him along the way. "He presented a powerful and moving speech," says Ms. Villani. "He received a standing ovation and many people had tears in their



Lucas Kates (Lewiston Porter) with his parents David and Donna Kates.

eyes when he was done. We are proud to have him in our 2016 Class of LYNC."

Lucas will be attending R.I.T.'s School of Film and Animation. "The world of film is like a more tangible world of dreams and dreams lift us up to transform ourselves into something beyond our initial forms," he says. "You could say that I plan to make my inner "star" continue to rise."

Orleans Learning Center Performs Beloved Holiday Favorite

Students in Kim Wiley's class at the Orleans Learning Center brought smiles to the faces of their audience as they performed their rendition of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Students Catherine Bruscino, Haley Fronczak, Matthew Johnidas, Brandon Mazur, Noel Mireles, Brianna Reilly and Justin Wargala played all of the parts in the beloved holiday show. Their teacher aides Tim Page, Cyndi Barber and Toni Newell also took parts as elves and the misfit toys with other staff members and family members contributing by making costumes and scenery.



Cast members- Catherine Bruscino, Brandon Mazur, Matthew Johnidas, Justin Wargala and Occupational Therapist Emily Frank.



Teacher Kim Wiley with Rudolph played by Noel Mireles.

The performance put everyone in the mood for Christmas as the students sang many of the songs from the shows and gave a great performance!

North Tonawanda HS BOCES Students Rally Around Troops at Christmas

The Life Skills students at North Tonawanda High School decided to take part in the high school's Giving Tree Program before the holidays. The Giving Tree had the names of servicemen and women who are stationed at the Niagara Falls Airbase and items they would like to receive for Christmas. The students chose two names off the tree and then decided to adopt the sons of two of their staff members, teacher Pamela Owens and teacher aide Karen Wingert, who are also serving in the military.

Students in Molly Baker, Mike Brauer, Mark Kurtz and Judy Wagner's classes filled the gift bags with personal care items, gloves and gift cards for all four military personnel. Mrs. Owens' son, Private First Class Austin Owens, is serving in the Marine Corp Reserve and is stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Mrs. Wingert's son Private Alec Wingert is a Senior Airman and serving in the Air Force in Panama City, Florida. Austin showed up in person to surprise the students and thank them for their generosity.



Bottom row (LtoR) Andrew Witkowsky, Tessa Breen, Brooke Tesch, Meghan Livesay, Kari Clinger. 2nd row Adam Rougeux, Wayne Mielcarek, Ben Bizzel, Joe Hoffman, Pam Owens, Private First Class Austin Owens, Brandon Zaker, Rachel Retzlaff, Angelina Zangara, Brian Green, Michael Harding, Andrew Harris and Tyler Licht. Bottom left: Private Alec Wingert

Roy Hart Learning Center Adds Splash of Color to Reading Initiative

The students at the Roy Hart Learning Center have been participating in PARP (Parents as Reading Partners). School administrator Paulette Hamilton-

Koehler and her staff have come up with a multitude of schoolwide activities for their theme "Feeling Groovy: Peace, Love, Books!"

Recently, the students got a fun treat of adding a splash of color to Mrs. Hamilton-

Koehler. At the activity known as the Groovy Color Splash, they lined up on either side of a covered path in the cafeteria and took turns throwing Dixie cups of colored water at her while she was wearing a paint suit and goggles. She did get a chance to retaliate with some silly string and a fun time was had by all.



(LtoR) Gerald Lockett, Brayden Cota, Paulette Hamilton-Koehler, Colton DuBois and Loyal Sanders.

Board Member Helps Out with Read Across America Day

Orleans/Niagara BOCES Board of Education member Becky Albright was the honored guest at the North Tonawanda Learning Center. Mrs. Albright, who represents the Wilson Central School District, read to the students for Read Across America Day on March 2nd.

Read Across America Day celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday and the joys of reading, so Mrs. Albright chose "What Pet Should I Get?" by the author to share with the eager and captive class. "The students had a great time," said teacher Julie Nelson. "They drew pictures of the pets in the story, and presented them to Mrs. Albright. The event ended with a reception complete with juice boxes and animal crackers. It was a fun afternoon. We want to express many thanks to Mrs. Albright for visiting our school and helping to instill the love of reading."



Becky Albright with Santana Maddox and (LtoR): Griffin Stinner, Connor Bullen, Marissa Roath, Keegan Toy, and (hiding behind) Noah Cooper.

Pendleton Lions Play Santa to North Tonawanda Learning Center Students

It has been almost a quarter of a century since the Pendleton Lions Club has been playing Santa to Orleans/Niagara BOCES students at the North Tonawanda Learning Center. The yearly tradition started when the program was originally in Pendleton and the Lions members continue their holiday gift giving to the students. "It's a real highlight for us," says Lions member Marty Cicatello. "We really look forward to seeing the children's faces when they see Santa and open their gifts."

The Lions Club collects donations throughout the year and talk to the teachers to see what the students need and want and do their best to accommodate them. Each teacher takes a turn bringing out their students to Santa and the reactions are priceless. Many of the students couldn't wait to get on Santa's lap and tell him their wishes for Christmas and to give him a big hug. "We look forward to this all year," says Mr. Cicatello. "It's a lot of preparation and coordination, but none of us would miss it for the world. It really brings the meaning of the holiday home to all of us."



Shayla Jefferson with Santa (Steven "Bubba" Lorenzo).

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Christmas baskets provide additional food for each family with this situation in mind, helping families to stretch their food budgets even further at the end of the month when most public assistance has run out."

The SkillsUSA students at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center are very involved in community service work. The mission of the organization and the school is to empower the students to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. The center has helped the pantry in the past with canned food drives and SkillsUSA advisor Scott Brauer asked members if they could make the holidays a little brighter for those who needed help. "I thought it would be helpful to have the classes put together bags of complete meals for the families, so we got the word out starting at Halloween that is what we wanted to do."

"Our SkillsUSA members did a great job making the rounds to every class and told them why this was so important," says NCTEC SkillsUSA advisor Vicki Augugliaro. "We even offered a prize of a pizza party for the class that brought in the most food items." The students responded

with enthusiasm and collected over 150 bags of meals to give to those families in need. All the recipients had to do is add the meat. One student even had four turkeys donated that were given to the pantry. "We were so happy about what the students were able to achieve," says Ms. Augugliaro. "It was amazing. I think when they saw that these bags represented a meal for a family then they got it. It wasn't about the pizza prize; it was about coming together to help someone in their community."

"Orleans/Niagara BOCES gave us well over 1,100 pounds of food," says Mr. Daloia. "It went incredibly far in ensuring many families in need had a well-rounded Christmas meal they could prepare at home. Scott Brauer was instrumental in getting the students more involved this year by not only collecting the food, but also pre-packing the bags to save us some time on our end. We could not have helped as many families or distribute our Christmas baskets without the generosity of the students and staff at BOCES. Needless to say, our guests had a Merry Christmas knowing that for at least a few days they would not have to worry about where their next meal would come from."

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