2019-20 Applications
The application process for the 2019-2020 school year has begun. Paper applications are being accepted now with a deadline of February 2, 2019. GACTC Guidance Counselors are meeting with current students, including ninth graders, to schedule classes for next year.

Scholarships
GACTC Guidance Counselors continually work to inform senior students of scholarships including the Altoona Area High School Alumni Scholarship and the Richard L. McEldowney Academic Scholarship (both available now).

Counselors’ Activities
Nicole Taneyhill and Principal Mike Selvenis participated in the Altoona Area High School Curriculum night on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, where they provided information on the GACTC programs.

Visits/Tours
Hollidaysburg Area Junior High School eighth graders will tour all GACTC programs on Wednesday, January 30, and Thursday, January 31, 2019.

Interested current GACTC senior students will visit the school’s adult programs on January 28, 2019 to explore post-secondary enrollment at the school after graduation.

On January 16 and January 17, 2019, Altoona Area Junior High School eighth graders visited our Drafting/Design Technology program.

GACTC will welcome the eighth graders from Spring Cove Junior High School to tour all of our programs on February 1, 2019.

Attendance Probation Letters
Following the end of the second marking period on January 18, mid-year attendance letters were sent to the parents of students who have missed more than 15 days this school year.

Cooperative Education
Ten students were reported in December as being enrolled in Cooperative Education. Another student has been added for a total of eleven:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Home School</th>
<th>Employer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tanner Turnbaugh</td>
<td>Bellwood-Ants</td>
<td>Tri Star Motors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Practical Nursing Notes . . .
Class of 2018 State Board Results
“Unofficial Results” – “Pass,” a cause for celebration words sent in an email from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to every licensure exam test taker that passes and is willing to pay the $9 fee for that instant gratification and knowing that a license is soon to follow. This “quick results” route is available to graduates, but programs must wait for quarterly, official reports to arrive in the mail from the board. In a state where 25% of Practical Nursing programs are on Provisional Status for exam pass rates below 80%, the GACTC can boast an overall pass rate for the last five graduating classes of 97%. The rationale for the success of our graduates lies with the rigors of the program and the excellence of the instructors who have more than 100 years of nursing experience, and over half of that in education, at the GACTC.

Student Activities
As part of their community service activities, the students went Christmas caroling at three local long-term care facilities (pictured left). They also signed and distributed over 1,000 Christmas cards to residents at Garvey Manor, the Lutheran Home in Hollidaysburg, and Maybrook Hills.

Alumni Visit and Advancement Opportunities
A GACTC Practical Nursing Diploma and a license to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can provide unparalleled opportunities for rapid advancement in the field of Practical Nursing. Recently, Jim Wagner, Class President and graduate of the Class of 2017, stopped to visit with the faculty. Jim is currently the Operations Manager of Adara Health Care Staffing. He also has worked as an LPN near Gettysburg making $32 an hour. The wages in that area, and many others, are rapidly climbing due to the shortage of LPNs in Pennsylvania. Although schools continue to graduate a significant number of Practical Nurses, many advance place into a registered nursing program. The GACTC currently has 85 students between the full-time and part-time programs.

Employment
The program continues to survey the graduates of the August 2018 class. The following is a list of facilities, though not all inclusive, that have hired our graduates over the past year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allegheny Staffing</th>
<th>Donahue Manor</th>
<th>Keystone Dermatology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Altoona Center for Nursing Care</td>
<td>Epworth Manor</td>
<td>The Lutheran Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegheny Lutheran Home</td>
<td>Fulton County Medical Center</td>
<td>Maybrook Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegheny Pain Management</td>
<td>Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies</td>
<td>Morrison’s Cove Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altoona School District</td>
<td>Geisinger Healthcare</td>
<td>Mount Nittany Nursing Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Red Cross</td>
<td>Golden Living Center</td>
<td>Penn Knoll Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellemeade Manor</td>
<td>Greystone Manor</td>
<td>The Presbyterian Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blair County Prison</td>
<td>HealthSouth of Altoona (now Encompass Health)</td>
<td>Pyramid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blair Medical</td>
<td>Homewood</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambria Care Center</td>
<td>Home Nursing Agency</td>
<td>UPMC Altoona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambria County Prison</td>
<td>Huntingdon Valley View</td>
<td>Veteran’s Home in Hollidaysburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cove Forge</td>
<td>Indiana Physician’s Group</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Continuing Education Notes . . .

Community Outreach
Kim Ciccarella, Recruitment, Retention, and Career Placement Specialist, conducted a presentation for all GACTC Seniors on December 5 to discuss the postsecondary opportunities available at GACTC. Students were presented with at $500 tuition voucher to be used towards an adult program.

PA State Inspection
PA State Inspection classes have been held monthly in the fall. Each session was full, with 10 students enrolled in each session.

Phlebotomy
Phlebotomy students are finishing coursework and will soon begin their clinical rotation.

Nurse Aide
A Nurse Aide class will begin in March at Garvey Manor.

Welding
The American Welding Society (AWS) conducted an audit on January 14. The school was recommended for reaccreditation without any stipulations or findings.

Alumni Spotlight
Dillon Denny is a 2015 adult graduate of the Multimedia & Web Design program. He began employment in August of 2015 as a Teacher Aide at the GACTC.

Dillon stated, “I knew coming back to work at the GACTC was going to be extremely awkward the next year after graduation. Many of my classmates would now refer to me as Mr. Denny instead of my first name. I love my job here, it was nothing but serendipity for me. I don’t live far, I can continue my college career online while working as an aide.”

In 2017, Dillon enrolled at PSU to pursue his goal of obtaining a Bachelor’s degree in Digital Multimedia Design. He takes classes while continuing his employment at our school. “Taking the Multimedia and Web design program assisted me with my Web developing class at PSU. I took the same knowledge and used some old notes I had as a high school and Adult student at GACTC to help me with my class and final project. I get the best advice on college material from co-workers who are currently taking classes at Penn State. I think it is also rewarding helping students and assisting the teachers here that I knew back in high school.”
**State Officials’ Visit**

Pennsylvania Department of Labor Deputy Secretary Eileen Cipriani and Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Special Assistant Carol Kilko toured the GACTC on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 18. They have been visiting career and technical centers across the state. Hands-on activities were included as part of our three highlighted programs: Collision Repair & Refinishing Technology, Culinary Arts, and Dental Assistant. State legislators were also invited to participate and Senator Judy Ward attended and the Honorable Lou Schmitt, Jr., sent a representative.

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**SkillsUSA District 7 Competition**

Current Chapter News Updates
District Competitions are incomplete at this time. Due to a small hosting school this year, we are spread out in five different locations on five different days. Competitions will be completed on Monday, January 28. At that time, we will conduct local competitions to select competitors that will advance to states based on BYES and Straight to States Only competitions. It has been an extremely busy year organizing the logistics, but the students and staff have been extremely helpful.

Principal Mike Selvenis and Instructors Lisa Kuhn, John Williamson, Andrea Lascoli and Tony Gibbons have all offered their time to go to District 7 Competition Sites. Advisor, Dodie Amigh, will also be present at most of the sites.

Instructors Brian Kelley, Amanda Kulik, and Heather McCloskey hosted four competitions here on January 28. We applaud and appreciate their efforts for District 7.

We will report our final numbers at next regular meeting.

Fundraising Activities
The officers continue to sell candy bars to pay for Leadership Academy Training. It is going well.

Community Activities
The CTC has continued raising money for the Teen Shelter through the help of our School Store, led by Retail Marketing/Entrepreneurship Instructor, Lisa Kuhn. Our goal is to raise $500 by the end of the year.