The 50th Annual Senior Awards Program was held Thursday evening, May 11, in the school cafetorium. Outstanding senior awards were presented to students in twenty-seven programs. Thirty-seven other special awards and scholarships were presented. One senior was recognized for having three years of perfect attendance. Approximately 285 students, parents, business and community representatives, and staff members attended. Nearly $35,000 in cash awards were presented to these seniors. It is important to note that many memorial awards are endowed to honor former students or employees of the school. Some of these memorial awards include the Timothy A. Bartek Memorial Scholarship, Joseph J. Schamris Memorial Scholarship, Daniel Clark Memorial Scholarship, Jesse McElhinney Memorial Scholarship, and the Scott Garlick Memorial Scholarship.

Congratulations to the award recipients and to all the seniors from sending schools as they close their high school careers.

Best wishes for great success to all of you!

OUTSTANDING SENIOR

Interior Decorating & Finishing Program

Enrolled in the Psychology Program at Slippery Rock University

Jayden C. Starr
Altoona Area High School

OUTSTANDING SENIOR OF THE YEAR
Guidance Activities

Secondary Applications
To date, 544 new applications for incoming tenth graders and 105 applications for incoming ninth graders have been received and processed.

Counselors’ Activities
In the past month, much of the counselors’ time has been devoted to completing scheduling activities, including both regular and special needs students. In addition, counselors have been processing returning students’ scheduling requests and attending IEP meetings as necessary.

Student Failures
Counselors continue to meet with students who are in danger of failing for the year. The parents of those students who do indeed fail will be contacted. Home schools are notified in a timely manner so those students can schedule full day classes at their home schools for the 2017-18 school year.

GACTC Visits
Sixth graders from Tyrone toured GACTC on May 10; approximately 70 sixth graders from Penn Lincoln Elementary School are expected to tour GACTC on May 26.

Attendance Incentive Assembly
The end of the year assembly for the Attendance Incentive Program (Miss School Miss Out) was held on Monday, May 15. The grand prize, a 2009 Hyundai Accent was awarded to a student, along with many other prizes (page 8). Students were eligible either through perfect attendance or honor roll status.

Cooperative Education
As the end of the school year approaches, ten high school students have met all criteria and are currently participating in Cooperative Education.

Blair Chamber Next Gen Summer Program
The Next Gen program held Mock Interviews with twelve local employers on May 3. Forty-five students participated in the interview/resume evaluation process. Potential placements resulted. The Next Gen Workforce Development program is requiring minimum wage positions with a minimum of ten hours/weekly for at least a 4-week commitment from employers.

Report from ADULT & CONTINUING EDUCATION

Practical Nursing Notes

Current Class Update
Once again the daytime students are participating in a pilot program at the Presbyterian Home in Hollidaysburg as they test out a new electronic medication administration system. The students are assigned to this facility for their quadrant medication administration experience, which involves administering medication to an entire quadrant of residents under the direct guidance of their instructor. The purpose of this clinical practice is to prepare the students to administer medication to multiple patients for an entire eight hour shift. The students are also in the process of completing their Pennsylvania State Board Approved Intravenous Therapy Course that will enable them to administer and start IVs. The program has six simulation arms that the students use to perform the needle insertion for an intravenous start and to draw blood.

Continued on Page 3
The Pulse of Pennsylvania’s LPN Workforce
With an August graduation nearing, GACTC practical nursing students will soon be making application for their initial licensure in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Once an individual is licensed, renewal is required every two years. In conjunction with the biennial license renewal, a survey is conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Health Bureau of Health Planning Division of Plan Development on the characteristics and distribution of the LPN workforce within the Commonwealth. Results of this survey reveal that the average age of an LPN working in Blair County is 42, and that 63% of the 674 respondents are over the age of 40. These statistics support the labor shortage prediction for LPN’s in the Pennsylvania workforce over the next 20 years. But nearing retirement isn’t the only explanation for the multitude of job openings; as many as 20% of respondents reported that they are continuing their nursing education, with 64% of them in an associate degree program attaining eventual licensure as a Registered Nurse. Another factor responsible for the projected 20% increased need for practical nurses in Pennsylvania is the expanding role of the LPN working with vulnerable populations in community settings such as ventilator-dependent children in the home, prisons, co-dependent patients, families in urgent care, and end-of-life patients.

Practical Nursing Student Activities
This month, Donna Clifton, Placement Coordinator, will assist the students in developing resumes in preparation for our annual Health Care Industry Job Fair. More than 30 prospective employers are expected to attend the event which will be held June 22, 2017, in the GACTC cafeteria. The expanding role of the LPN has attracted not only long-term care facilities, hospitals, and clinics, but industries such as prisons, dialysis clinics, and school districts. Representatives from colleges will also attend to provide information on advanced placement for the practical nurse into their RN programs.

During the month of May, the Practical Nursing students celebrated Cinco de Mayo by preparing Mexican foods and learning how to communicate with patients in Spanish; and on May 11, the day before the birthday of Florence Nightingale, they received a GACTC Practical Nursing t-shirt and had ice cream sundaes to celebrate Nurse’s week.

American Cancer Society Bark for Life
GACTC PN students braved the cold and rain in order to represent our school Relay for Life team at the American Cancer Society Bark for Life which was held May 6 at Hollidaysburg American Legion Park. This fundraising event is held annually to honor the life-long contributions of canine caregivers of pets with cancer-related illnesses. A ceremony was held to present information related to promoting healthy pet practices and a sponsored walk helps raise money for the Cancer Society. GACTC PN students handed out homemade dog treats which were very popular with the pets in attendance.

Projected 2017-2018 Enrollment
The program continues to accept applications for both the full-time and part-time programs that will begin fall of 2017. We have received more than 100 applications for the available 54 full-time openings. Our next pre-entrance exam will be administered on June 12. The selection process is very competitive; therefore, it is important that individuals score well on the exam. The Adult Community Education Center continues to hold preparatory classes to assist prospective students in the achievement of successful exam scores. The Practical Nursing program at GACTC also accepts transfer students from other programs and those who were not successful in registered nursing programs.
Continuing Education Notes

Welding Grant
The GACTC was one of the 14 educational institutions across the state to be awarded a grant through the Department of Labor and Industry. The $58,060 grant monies will be used to purchase additional equipment for the adult Welding Program. The additional equipment will enable student to receive state-of-the art training in important phases of the industrial welding processes.

SkillsUSA
Two adult students competed at the state competition for SkillsUSA in Hershey in April. Michelle Aurandt competed in the Commercial Baking Event and placed second. Carrie Kidd competed in the Customer Service Event and placed first. Carrie will now move on to the National SkillsUSA Competition in June in Louisville, Kentucky, where approximately 6,000 students will compete from across the nation.

2017-2018 Academic Year
Interviews are continuing for all applicants for the upcoming school year.

Graduation
On May 18 a graduation luncheon was held for 79 graduates from the various Adult Education Programs (excluding Practical Nursing). Kyle Dambeck, an alumnus of the Welding program, employee of McLanahan Corporation, and an evening Welding Instructor was the guest speaker. Students will finish classes June 2. Several students plan to further their education by taking advantage of the articulation agreement between the GACTC and St. Francis University. They will be able to transfer 27 credits towards an Associate Degree. In addition, multiple students have already accepted full-time positions within their areas of study.

Employee Spotlight — JUNE RETIREES

Jack Chilcote, Jr., began his career in the construction field in 1979 as an HVAC Serviceman/Electrician before being hired at the GACTC in 1992 as HVAC Instructor. Jack earned an Electrical Construction and Technology Certificate from Williamsport Community College in 1978 and Vocational Instructional II Certification from Penn State Workforce Education in 2003. Jack and his students have worked on all of the seven houses built by the school. Jack will be remembered as a dedicated teacher!

Frank Cristillo, Jr., has taught Computer Programming at the GACTC since 1987. He began his career as a teacher at the Greater Johnstown Area Vocational-Technical School and also worked as a programmer at Link Computer Corporation. Frank earned his Vocational Instructional II Certification in 1994 and a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Pennsylvania State University in 2012. Oracle Academy certification was added to the Computer Programming course of study through Frank’s efforts. He has also served as Student Information System and Digital Curriculum Coordinator, Professional Development Committee Chairperson, and GACTCEA President. Frank will be missed for his pedagogical as well as technical skills!

Both retirees are former students of the GACTC (formerly known as the AAVTS) and graduates of Altoona Area High School.

We wish you both healthy and enjoyable retirements!
Congratulations are extended to the following students named *Outstanding Seniors* in their respective programs for 2016-17:

**Hannah I. Watchey** Administrative Office Specialist/Bellwood-Antis  
**Steve L. Franklin** Automotive Technology/Altoona Area  
**Wyatt J. Oppel** Automotive/Diesel Technology/Altoona Area  
**Samuel S. Sessamen** Cabinetmaking/Finished Carpentry/Altoona Area  
**Cody J. Wicker** Carpentry/Construction/Central  
**Aaron L. McCaulley** Collision Repair & Refinishing Technology/Tyrone Area  
**Jeromy P. McCorriston** Computer Programming/Oracle Academy/Altoona Area  
**Joshua T. Allison** Computer Technology/Cisco Academy/Williamsburg Community  
**Sophia C. Damiano** Cosmetology/Bellwood-Antis  
**Zemira C. Moore** Cosmetology/Altoona Area  
**Chelsea A. Pounds** Dental Assistant/Hollidaysburg Area  
**Parker D. Riley** Digital Printing Technologies/Central  
**Melanie M. Boggs** Drafting/Design Technology/Altoona Area  
**Noah C. Bowser** Electrical Trades/Altoona Area  
**Noah J. Foor** Electro Mechanical Engineering Technology/Hollidaysburg Area  
**Collin M. Shannon** Emergency Services/Altoona Area  
**Kenna D. Willson-Kerns** Health Occupations/Bellwood-Antis  
**Keaton A. Branstetter** Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Plumbing/Bellwood-Antis  
**Jayden C. Starr** Interior Decorating & Finishing/Altoona Area  
**Madison L. Peterman** Logistics & Materials Management/Altoona Area  
**Joseph B. Williams** Masonry/Altoona Area  
**James L. Laich** Multimedia & Web Design/Altoona Area  
**Aaron J. Miller** Outdoor Power Equipment Technology/Bellwood-Antis  
**Brady M. McCready** Precision Machining/Hollidaysburg Area  
**Andrey P. Lear** Retail Marketing/Entrepreneurship/Altoona Area  
**Jaden T. Hrzic** Visual Arts Technologies/Claysburg-Kimmel  
**Tyler L. Potts** Welding Technology/Altoona Area
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

SPECIAL AWARDS

AAA East Central Award, David A. Musselman, Automotive Technology, Central
Aaron Stuckey Memorial Scholarship, Trent D. Gearhart, Automotive Technology, Altoona Area
Altoona Area Alumni Association Scholarship, Kirsten E. Beach, Interior Decorating & Finishing, Altoona Area
Altoona Area Alumni Association Scholarship, Kendra N. Renzo, Dental Assistant, Altoona Area
Altoona Rotary Club Award, Joshua T. Allison, Computer Technology/Cisco Academy, Williamsburg Community
American Welding Society Award, Brady T. Deterline, Welding Technology, Central
BASICS Attendance Counts Award, Damian P. Grager, Computer Programming/Oracle Academy, Altoona Area
Daniel A. Clark Memorial Scholarship, Sophia C. Damiano, Cosmetology, Bellwood-Antis
Dental Clinician of the Year, Kendra N. Renzo, Dental Assistant, Altoona Area
E. Charles Makdad Memorial Award, Dylan M. Singer, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Plumbing, Altoona Area
Franklin M. Finelli Memorial Scholarship, Melanie M. Boggs, Drafting/Design Technology, Altoona Area
Franklin M. Finelli Memorial Scholarship, Dylan M. Singer, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Plumbing, Altoona Area
Health Clinician of the Year, Alexis N. Kensinger, Health Occupations, Bellwood-Antis
Hite Company Tools for the Trade, Colt Butterbaugh, Electrical Trades, Bellwood-Antis
HOSA Scholarship, Megan L. Streightiff, Health Occupations, Altoona Area
Jane Purdy Hite & Robert Lee Hite Memorial Scholarship, Noah J. Foor, Electro Mechanical Engineering Tech., Hollidaysburg Area
Jesse McElhinney Scholarship, Cherie J. Langenbacher, Multimedia & Web Design, Hollidaysburg Area
Joseph J. Schamris Memorial Scholarship, Megan L. Streightiff, Health Occupations, Altoona Area
Lowe’s of Altoona Gold Hammer Award, Cody J. Wicker, Carpentry/Construction, Central
Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc. Recognition, Trenton J. Kipe, Welding Technology, Williamsburg Community
Outstanding Senior of the Year, Jayden C. Starr, Interior Decorating & Finishing, Altoona Area
PA Concrete Masonry Association Award, Gunnar J. Wood, Masonry, Claysburg-Kimmel
Perfect Attendance—3 Years, Damian P. Grager, Computer Programming/Oracle Academy, Altoona Area
Reliance Bank Scholarship, Joshua T. Allison, Computer Technology/Cisco Academy, Williamsburg Community
Reliance Bank Scholarship, Megan L. Streightiff, Health Occupations, Altoona Area
Richard L. McEldowney Academic Scholarship, Kendra N. Renzo, Dental Assistant, Altoona Area
Richard L. McEldowney Academic Scholarship, Collin M. Shannon, Emergency Services, Altoona Area
S. Rodger Walters Education Scholarship, Dylan M. Singer, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Plumbing, Altoona Area
Scott Garlick Memorial Scholarship, Noah J. Foor, Electro Mechanical Engineering Technology, Hollidaysburg Area
SkillsUSA Scholarship, Jayden C. Starr, Interior Decorating & Finishing, Altoona Area
SkillsUSA State Competition—2nd Place, Zeth Osborn, Health Occupations, Altoona Area
SkillsUSA State Competition—2nd Place, Collin M. Shannon, Emergency Services, Altoona Area
Smithmyer Special Recognition, Kyle T. McFadden, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Plumbing, Altoona Area
Special Recognition Foods Award, Jacob D. Lauver, Food Production, Altoona Area
Timothy A. Bartek Memorial Scholarship, Dylan M. Singer, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Plumbing, Altoona Area
YBC Gold Hammer Award, Maxwell A. Lynam, Cabinetmaking/Finished Carpentry, Altoona Area
THANKS TO ALL OUR SCHOLARSHIP 2017 CONTRIBUTORS
Many area businesses and individuals have contributed to scholarship and special awards for our graduating seniors.
Without these contributions, the Senior Awards program would not be possible.
In the aggregate, contributions amounted to nearly $35,000

MULTIPLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Joshua T. Allison, Computer Technology/Cisco Academy, Williamsburg Community (4)
Melanie M. Boggs, Drafting/Design Technology, Altoona Area (2)
Sophia C. Damiano, Cosmetology, Bellwood-Antis (2)
Noah J. Foor, Electro Mechanical Engineering Technology, Hollidaysburg Area (3)
Kendra N. Renzo, Dental Assistant, Altoona Area (3)
Collin M. Shannon, Emergency Services, Altoona Area (2)
Dylan M. Singer, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Plumbing, Altoona Area (4)
Jayden C. Starr, Interior Decorating & Finishing, Altoona Area (3)
Megan L. Streightiff, Health Occupations, Altoona Area (3)
Cody J. Wicker, Carpentry/Construction, Central (2)
At the annual Miss School/Miss Out Attendance Incentive Assembly, twelfth grade students at the Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center were recognized for perfect attendance and high achievement.

Sara Deyarmin of the Challenge Program presented awards as follows to outstanding seniors:

- **Academic Excellence**—Chelsea Pounds, Dental Assistant (Hollidaysburg AHS)
- **Academic Improvement**—Ebony Wilson, Cosmetology (Altoona AHS)
- **Attendance**—Jayden Starr, Interior Decorating & Finishing (Altoona AHS)
- **Community Service**—John Hile, Emergency Services (Altoona AHS)
- **STEM**—Ezra Hartman, Electro Mechanical Engineering Technology (Hollidaysburg AHS)

The Blair Companies and GAP Federal Credit Union contributed $1,500 as sponsors for each senior award and the underclassmen awards to be presented in September.

This is the fifteenth consecutive year that the school has awarded a rebuilt late-model automobile that is restored to like-new condition by the Collision Repair & Refinishing Technology, Automotive Technology, and Automotive/Diesel Technology Programs. This year’s car was purchased from Stoystown Auto Wreckers. Donations from the following companies helped make this restoration possible: Fisher Auto Parts, Hamer Auto Body Repair & Towing, Mueller’s Auto Recycling & Sales, and Reliable Towing & Auto Center.

One student from the morning session, Megan Streightiff, and one student from the afternoon session, Damian Grager, qualified for the grand prize automobile. Each student received an ignition key for the 2009 Hyundai Accent, but it was Megan’s key that proved successful in turning the ignition. Megan, who is a Health Occupations student, will soon graduate from the Altoona Area High School. She is enrolled in the fall in the Physician Assistant Program at Mount Aloysius College.

Megan Streightiff was declared the winner. Runner-up, Damian Grager (Computer Programming/Oracle Academy Program) won a TV/DVD Player.

Good luck with the car, Megan, and remember to drive safely!