



Who are future the creators, performers and leaders in Ohio, the nation and the world? Who will be fixing our cars, designing new computer software, crafting our laws, performing our surgeries, growing and preparing our food and instructing our children? When the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Career-Technical Education asked in the spring of 2012 for a list of the most promising members of the career-tech/high school Class of 2012, nearly 100 stories were offered up. It was a difficult task, but these 21 were selected to represent the "best of the best" within 15 career fields.

Agriculture and Environmental Systems

- Elizabeth Hayes, Marysville High School
- Alina Schroeder, Cloverleaf High School/Medina County Career Center

Arts and Communication

- Nilyshia Johnson, Choffin Career and Technical Center
- Kaitlyn Matthey, Franklin High School/Warren County Career Center

Business and Administrative Services

- Joshua Jenkins, Lakewood High School/West Shore Career Technical District

Construction Technologies

- Leanna Calton, Chillicothe High School/Pickaway-Ross JVSD
- Greg Kozel, Milford High School/Great Oaks Campuses (Live Oaks Campus)

Education and Training

- Ashly Dickman, Margaretta High School/EHOVE Career Center

Engineering and Science Technologies

- Mike L. Music, Sylvania Northview High School

Finance

- India Erby, Whitehall-Yearling High School/Eastland Career Center

Health Science

- Afreen Alvi, Perrysburg High School/Penta Career Center

- Jesse Shepherd, Oak Hills High School/Great Oaks Campuses (Diamond Oaks Campus)

Hospitality and Tourism

- Jordan Cusumano, Clearview High School/Lorain County Joint Vocational School
- Ceslie Eblin, Pleasant High School/Tri-Rivers Career Center

Human Services (cosmetology)

- Krista Frost, Northmont High School/Miami Valley Career Technology Center

Information Technology

- Jacob Comer, Utica High School/C-TEC of Licking County
- Brittany Dayton, Ridgewood High School/Coshocton County Career Center

Law and Public Safety

- Nick McCullough, Eastwood High School/Penta Career Center

Manufacturing Technologies

- Andrew Melrose, Sheridan High School/Mid-East Career and Technology Centers

Marketing

- Dominic DiCamillo, Washington (Court House) High School of Business/Great Oaks Career Campuses satellite program

Transportation Systems

- Kris Chamberlain, Jackson-Milton High School/Mahoning County Career and Technical Center



Future Horse Trainer

Elizabeth Hayes

Raymond, Ohio

Agricultural Business and Production Program
Marysville High School

Through engagement with FFA and career-technical education, Elizabeth realized she needed to combine her love of animals with nutrition, reproduction, business, management and financial knowledge to reach her goal of being a successful reining horse trainer. Among her accolades are top FFA Star awards in AgriBusiness, Chapter Farmer and Greenhand; top Equine Science Entrepreneurship project; Marysville FFA Chapter President; and the 2012 Ohio Capital Conference Leadership

Award. While giving riding lessons and training horses, she is at the University of Findlay, majoring in Western Equestrian Studies and Animal Science.

“I have been working on my business – building it from the ground up – for more than three years, developing new marketing strategies to get my name out in the horse community.”



Future Veterinarian

Alina Schroeder

Seville, Ohio

Animal Management and Care Program
Cloverleaf High School/Medina County Career
Center

With a high school life punctuated by horses and music, Alina exhibited leadership as a 4-H officer and placing first in the Ohio FFA Animal Health State Team competition while being a member of the National and National-Technical honor societies, American Quarter Horse Association, Arabian Horse Association, and marching and concert bands. With six college credits already under her belt, she is enrolled at the

Agricultural Technical Institute with plans to complete her veterinary studies at The Ohio State University.

“Incoming high school freshmen should relax, calm down and take life one step at time. Realize you have a great opportunity to decide your future. Find out what you like to do, find a career path that goes with that...strive to do what you love.”



Future Nurse Anesthetist, Videographer

Nilyshia Johnson

Youngstown, Ohio

Multimedia Production

Choffin Career and Technical Center

While exposure to the world of media arts in high school was rewarding, Nilyshia decided to pursue a career in health care with the possibility of starting her own video production and marketing business further down the road. She cited the following among her career-tech studies: camera and audio-mixing, Adobe Photoshop, Final Cut Pro, Adobe After Effects, Adobe Illustrator. Among her activities and engagement were the National Technical Honor Society, Youngstown-Wooster Scholars and Youngstown State University's Upward Bound program. She is a double major – Communications and Nursing – at Youngstown State University.

“My most memorable career-tech experience was being part of the live call-in TV show, Homework Express, at Youngstown State...I worked on the crew for several weeks.”



Future Digital Design Instructor

Kaitlyn Matthey

Franklin, Ohio

Digital Design

Franklin High School/Warren County Career Center

Kaitlyn's list of nearly 50 high school honors and activities reflects the diversity of her talent and enthusiasm in the areas of sports, music, theater, academics, religion, videography and for causes connected to improving the environment and the lives of people with disabilities. Ohio Math League, Ohio Teen Institute of Warren County Career Center (founder), head pianist for Jazz Cats, National Honor Society and swim coach are just a few examples of her engagement during the past few years. Having

started her own photography business two years ago, she is enrolled in Loyola University of Chicago with a dual major in International Film and Media Studies and Computer Science/Software Development. Her high school career-tech teacher inspired her to want to become a teacher while "writing code" for various companies.

"My exposure to High Tech Career Camp in junior high school brought the best teachers and adult mentors into my life. They not only provided me knowledge but motivated me to become a camp counselor and to experience many activities."



Future Sports Agent

Joshua Jenkins

Lakewood, Ohio

Business Management

Lakewood High School/West Shore Career-Technical District

Joshua had to grow up faster than his peers. His pre-teen life was one of home evictions and living in shelters due to his mother's illness and father's alcohol addiction. In 2010, his mother died, leaving him with the responsibility of raising two younger brothers. He credits teacher role models for his ability to maintain a part-time job and keep things together at home while being successful in his high school studies. He is one of five

2012 Ohio Children's Defense Fund "Beat the Odds" honorees, which includes a \$5,000 scholarship. Joshua's other honors include the 2012 Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Outstanding Student Award from the Business Management program. He graduated from high school with 21 college credits and three business certifications and enrolled in Kent State University's Sports Administration program.

"Josh has truly risen above the hardships in his life and has become a successful, poised young man. He has maintained excellent grades and attendance while facing personal issues no teenager should have to deal with." - Vicki Plute, Business Management Teacher



Future Specialized Furniture Shop Owner

Leanna Calton

Chillicothe, Ohio

Carpentry

Chillicothe High School/Pickaway-Ross Career and Technology Center

Leanna's interest in carpentry was sparked when she worked alongside her father to build an addition to their home. Her leanings toward this career were strengthened by what she learned in her high school carpentry program, which included

work on a three-bedroom house – developing it from a rough frame to completion. Additionally, she applied her trade to help create a table and chair set as a memorial to her dad. A student ambassador and member of the National Technical Honor

Society, she was honored with the designation of 2012 Pickaway-Ross Student of the Year. After finishing an apprenticeship program (including an associate degree in construction management) with Carpenter's Local 200 (Columbus), she hopes to own and operate a woodworking shop of specialized furniture for clients.

“I will always have a sense of pride and fulfillment in knowing that I played a role in creating a house that a family will call home.”



Future Heavy Equipment Manager

Gregory Kozel

Milford, Ohio

Heavy Equipment Operations and Engineering
Milford High School/Great Oaks Career Campuses
(Live Oaks Campus)

Suppose you needed to dig a ditch on both sides of your driveway to allow for water run-off? Chances are that ditch would be called a “V,” which is one requirement for a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) certification – one of several industry-based credentials that Greg had when completing high school. Others include Forklift and Bobcat. The heavy equipment work, which requires application of mathematics on a daily basis, appeals to Greg’s love of the outdoors, solving problems and helping people have a better quality of life. While his specific goals were not yet formed when he completed high school, Greg had nearly 50 college credit hours and \$6,500 in scholarships. He enrolled at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College to finish a Construction Management associate degree with plans to continue on to get a four-year degree.

“My history teacher at Milford helped me recognize my strengths. When I talked about going to the program at Live Oaks, he really listened. He told me to go for it.”



Future Preschool Owner

Ashly Dickman

Bayview, Ohio

Early Childhood Education

Margaretta High School/EHOVE Career Center

Ashly is among many career-tech students who balance “home school” engagement with those at a career center. While being a cheerleader and serving on a festival queen court, among other traditional high school activities, she had her sights further out toward becoming an early childhood teacher and, eventually, owner of her own preschool. Among her EHOVE honors were being vice president of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), earning a first-place Gold in the FCCLA state early childhood team event and receiving the Bear Company Rising Star and Citizens Bank scholarship awards. After graduating with 12 possible college articulated credits, she planned to enroll at Baldwin Wallace University.

“Don’t miss out on opportunities just because they aren’t what your friends are doing.”



Future Engineer

Michael L. Music

Sylvania, Ohio

Engineering Tech Prep

Sylvania Northview High School

Michael's most memorable high school experience was serving as a leader for a preschool playground project funded in honor of a local teenager, Morgan Duris, who died in her freshman year. The son of a carpenter, Michael combined construction and engineering knowledge and skills to determine location and leveling and to create the wood structure with different climbing options and a sliding board. The second most impacting was a local hospital internship in which Michael fixed equipment in the

biomedical area. While not certain yet what area of engineering he will pursue, Michael is enrolled at The University of Toledo with hopes to work for a large company someday.

“Building the playground at Sylvania Northview Preschool was rewarding because it is for little kids today and tomorrow.”



Future Forensic Accountant

India Erby

Whitehall, Ohio

Finance

Whitehall-Yearling High School/Eastland Career Center

When India came to Eastland Career Center, she found a teacher who, like her, “worked hard and played hard.” Unlike other teachers, this career-tech instructor provided instruction and guidance related to life beyond the classroom. In addition to learning related to a future career in accounting, India learned the value of “building connections” and had the experience of representing the Business Professionals of America during a national

conference in Washington, D.C. Among India’s accolades in her last two years of high school are being named the Eastland Career Center Outstanding Junior of the Year, serving as a Planned Parenthood Peer Educator and working at Today’s Child. She acquired nearly 50 postsecondary education credits while in high school and plans to attend Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University. After getting her Certified Public Accounting certification, she hopes to work for a government agency, possibly with the FBI.

“High school is the time to find yourself, but in reality, it is more the time to demonstrate your strengths and weaknesses and develop a drive for success.”



Future Oral Surgeon

Afreen Alvi

Perrysburg, Ohio

Dental Assistant

Perrysburg High School/Penta Career Center

Afreen has long been interested in healthy minds and bodies. This is demonstrated in her studies, her work experience and activities. Afreen's senior year work experiences included assisting in a dental office and volunteering as a greeter at a hospital. She also attained the Certified Ohio Dental Assistant and American Heart Association Heart Saver Certification.

Her activities included being a member of the Teen Institute and Perrysburg Alternatives to Substance Abuse (PASA) – both

designed to reinforce drug-free lifestyles. She received the PASA Teen

Board Outstanding Teen of the Year honor. Afreen's other affiliations were with SkillsUSA and French Club. Afreen enrolled at The University of Toledo, where she planned to major in biology and chemistry. After receiving her undergraduate degree, she hopes to go to Case Western Reserve University dental school to become an orthodontist or oral surgeon.

“High school students should get involved in the community.... These activities will help build leadership skills.”



Future Microbiologist

Jesse Shepherd

Cincinnati, Ohio

Biotechnology and Forensic studies

Oak Hills High School/Great Oaks Career Campuses
(Diamond Oaks Campus)

Biotechnology involves the use of living organisms in engineering, technology and health. Jesse's awareness of the need for workers in his chosen career field was heightened during a class visit to Procter & Gamble. His studies at Diamond Oaks and the Cincinnati State STEM Academy provided the "jump start" for further education, allowing him to graduate from high school with three health-related certifications and two dozen possible credits

to transfer to college. Jesse's affiliations in his junior and senior years included being an officer for SkillsUSA and the National Technical Honor Society and serving as a member of the equity council and advocacy program. He plans to attend Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, then Northern Kentucky University with a 10-year plan to have a microbiology doctorate degree that will help land him a job in research and development at a pharmaceutical company.

"My instructor pushed me past my limits, inspiring higher-level thinking and helped me overcome insecurities. Where I was once afraid to answer questions because I thought I would be wrong, I now love to try my best to figure out the answer."



Future Restaurant Owner

Jordan Cusumano

Lorain, Ohio

Culinary Arts

Clearview High School/Lorain County Joint
Vocational School

Jordan's résumé belies her young age by at least 10 years. Just a few example entries are: 1) prepared and plated for Culinary Vegetable Institute/Chef's garden; 2) prepared food for Culinary Institute of America (CIA) day; 3) prepared food for 100 at Lorain County JVS Prime Rib Dinner; 4) cooked and served at chili cook off; and 5) prepared full breakfast for 30 guests at Elyria Rotary Club breakfast. Then, there are the age-obvious but nevertheless impressive entries such as Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) class vice president, silver medal at national FCCLA competition, food service math certification through the National Restaurant Association and student representation on the Educational Foundation Board. Jordan garnered 35 possible credits to transfer to college and obtained certifications in Manage First, ProStart, Nutrition and ServeSafe. She was also on her high school cross country team. With more than \$30,000 in scholarships, she planned to attend CIA and to eventually open her own Italian restaurant, possibly in Sicily.

“Don't leave projects until the last minute. It is true that you never know who is watching. Be polite. Treat others well. When you do the right things, so many amazing opportunities come your way.”



Future Café Owner

Ceslie Eblin

Marion, Ohio

Culinary Arts

Pleasant High School/Tri-Rivers Career Center

As Ceslie developed her craft in the kitchen, she shared the rewards not just with those who could afford it but the less fortunate – treats for a church mission trip and the Salvation Army soup kitchen, to name only two. One of her best career-tech experiences was a summer Cook's Camp where students spent "extremely strenuous" hours learning and then preparing and serving a grand banquet. Among her honors during the two-year program are serving as a school ambassador and

radio spokesperson, being president of the Family, Career and Community

Leaders of America (FCCLA), taking third place at state FCCLA competition and

being certified in CPR, Red Cross First Aid, ProStart and ServeSafe. As Pleasant High School valedictorian with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average, Ceslie is going on to receive her associate degree from Hocking College and her bachelor's degree from Franklin University. She eventually wants to come back to Marion and open a café.

"Both of my chefs (teachers) encouraged and inspired me to continue my dedication to excellence and succeed in every way possible."



Future Journalist

Krista Frost

Englewood, Ohio

Cosmetology Tech Prep

Northmont High School/Miami Valley Career
Technology Center

The communication skills that Krista uses as a licensed cosmetologist will eventually land her a place among the news media. Her work in a salon will help pay for that college education needed to elevate her to that next step. She planned to major in journalism and minor in political science at Ohio University. Her two worlds – Cosmetology and Communications – came together in early 2012 when she was one of her career center's students chosen to meet and speak with USDOE Secretary Arne Duncan. Other career-tech opportunities in high school included leadership as a SkillsUSA state officer who was able to participate in the national conference, summer camp and leadership training.

“We all have a passion in life – something that makes us tick.”



Future FBI Computer Forensics Investigator

Jacob Comer

Utica, Ohio

Electronic and Computer Technology

Utica High School/C-TEC of Licking County

Jacob has good naturedly accepted the title of “computer nerd” since his high school freshman year. For two years, his popularity was intertwined with his quiet, behind-the-scenes ability to trouble-shoot computer issues for students and teachers. In his final two high school years at C-TEC, he had these same skills, but they blossomed into the forefront with the

growth of his communication and leadership skills, including as a member of the Student Leadership Team and SkillsUSA. A recipient of the Presidential Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, Jacob’s most memorable career-tech experience is his senior capstone project involving an electronic, automated door with a keypad. Among his scholarships is the \$13,500 Herman DeVry Scholarship that he is using at DeVry to receive his bachelor’s degree in CIS/Computer Forensics to become an FBI investigator.

“My career-tech mentor was more than a teacher. She was like a parent and best friend, supporting my decisions and challenging me to do more.”



Future Neurologist

Brittany Dayton

Plainfield, Ohio

IT Tech Prep Electronics

Ridgewood High School/Coshocton County Career Center

Brittany's career goal exemplifies the growing applicability of IT in multiple career fields. While in high school and in her postsecondary enrollment courses, she studied electronic circuitry and software engineering. However, she became increasingly interested in algebra, calculus and, especially chemistry. She realized how the concepts she was learning about in her program applied to medical research. While Brittany earned her Student Electronics Technician (SET) credential and placed first in a college- and industry-sponsored robotics competition, her plan is to major in biochemistry at Kent State University. After obtaining her bachelor's degree, she hopes to be accepted into medical school, and eventually become a neurologist. Her most memorable high school experience was when the Cyber Club helped developmentally disabled adults disassemble and safely dispose of computers, reinforcing her belief that anyone, regardless of circumstances, can be a productive worker.

"I enjoyed chemistry class so much that I switched my career interest.... I learned how fun a difficult subject can be."



Future Public Prosecutor

Nicholas McCullough

Stoney Ridge, Ohio

Public Safety/Criminal Justice

Eastwood High School/Penta Career Center

As the 2011-2012 president of Ohio SkillsUSA, Nicholas had the state organization's top leadership role with opportunities to represent thousands of students and give presentations for various audiences nationwide, including face-to-face meetings with U.S. Congress. Among his honors in the final two years of high school are the Presidents Volunteer Service Award and Ohio Mock Trial Outstanding Attorney Award. Also, he has certifications that include Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission

(Private Security), Hazardous Materials Awareness, National Incident

Management System, National Response Framework, Emergency Response to Terrorism

and 911 Communications. As he heads to The University of Toledo to study political science, he has

scholarships from the Wood County Sheriff's Office Auxiliary and Faith United Methodist Church, among others.

Eventually, he wants to have his law degree with sights on being a county prosecutor some day.

"Don't let the negative people around you discourage your dreams."



Future IT Technician

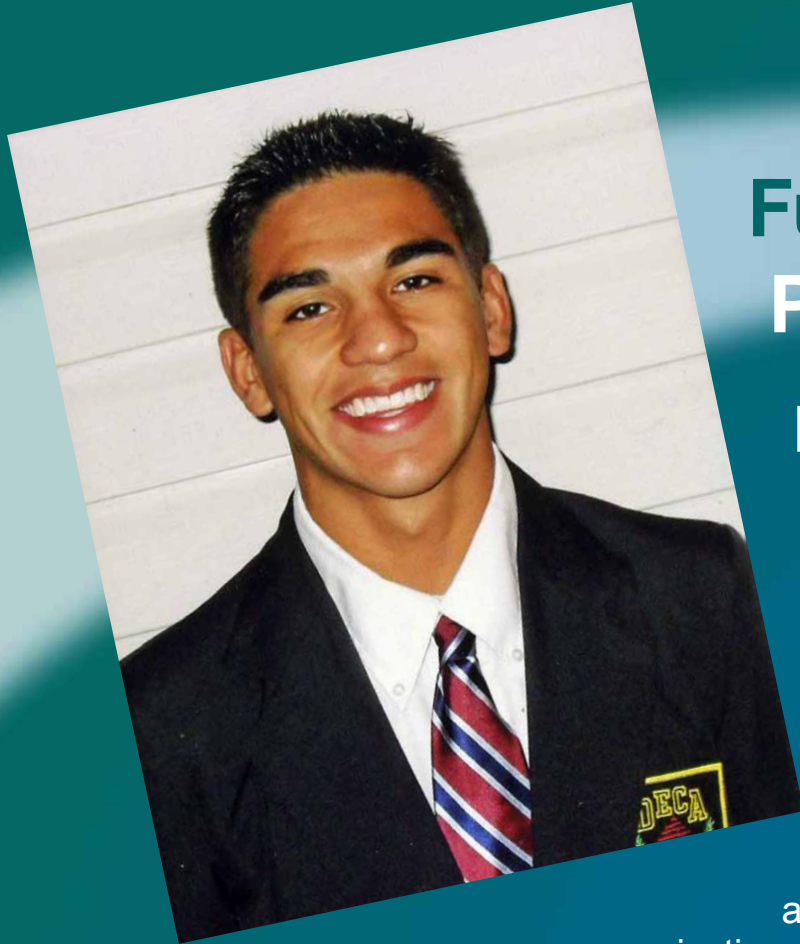
Andrew Melrose

Glenford, Ohio

Industrial and Engineering Systems
Sheridan High School/Mid-East Career and
Technology Centers

Andrew always loved taking things apart and playing with electronics. When deciding to take career-technical education courses, he straddled those in Information Technology and Manufacturing career fields. In five-to-10 years, he will have a bachelor's degree and likely work in the technology field of networking, computer repair or as an IT technician. Immediately upon high school graduation, he had two electronics technician certifications and 12 credit hours toward his electrical/electronic engineering technology associate degree at Zane State College. His best high school experience was attaining a gold medal during state SkillsUSA competition in electronic technology.

“I never knew exactly what I wanted to do until I made a change in my high school experience. That change was career-tech, which is probably the best choice I’ve ever made.”



Future Operational Manager/ Politician

Dominic DiCamillo

Circleville, Ohio

Washington (Court House) High School of Business/
Great Oaks Career Campuses satellite program

For most of his education, Dominic was accustomed to having teachers confined to their specific curriculum area during the nine-month school year. All that changed when he enrolled in career-technical education, where a teacher facilitated learning year round in content while encouraging engagement and self-esteem building through the DECA/Marketing student

organization. With this added assistance, he became Governor at Buckeye Boy's State, Student Government President and DECA chapter president. Other activities and honors included wrestling, cross country, the Button D. Morgan Foundation Leadership Award and the Washington High School Academy of Scholars. Dominic is enrolled at The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business with plans to eventually get his MBA and work in politics or operational management or both.

“My involvement in DECA and the High School of Business program provided me with career-oriented skills and knowledge that I will need in the future.”



Future Farmer, Body Shop Owner

Kris Chamberlain

North Jackson, Ohio

Collision Repair Technology

Jackson-Milton High School/Mahoning County
Career and Technical Center

Kris has fond memories of his high school junior year and painting his first vehicle, applying red and white onto a 2003 Ford Ranger. He moved on to body repair. In addition to understanding how all his academics (English Language Arts, math, science) connected to this line of work, he had an instructor who encouraged problem solving and “to remain calm,” walk away and come back later to complete a job in a quality way. While receiving a \$1,000 scholarship from Lincoln College of Technology, Kris planned to continue working with his high school employer, Sweeney Buick, to learn alongside other professionals in his field. As a member of both FFA and SkillsUSA, Kris hopes to combine his love of collision repair and farming with ownership of both his own farm and body shop in 10 years.

“Try not to become frustrated when you make mistakes because you will make mistakes ... but learn from them and change your actions to build success.”