The Computer-Aided Design and Engineering Technologies College Tech-Prep Initiative received a $5,000 grant from the Gene Haas Foundation. Funds may be used for scholarships, to promote competitive spirit by financing trips to contests or to meet metalworking credentials. One of the goals of the Gene Haas Foundation is to introduce students to careers in machine technology and manufacturing.

Students in Textile and Design, a new Family and Consumer Sciences class offered at Stow-Munroe Falls High School, made brightly colored dresses for a charity called “Little Dresses for Africa,” which sends handmade dresses to more than 47 countries in Africa and others around the world. Retired Stow-Munroe Falls teacher Brenda Walko provided kits with a pattern, material and bias tape as part of her efforts to help the charity.

A $1,000 memorial scholarship has been created in memory of Mitchell Kyle Cellars for a promising young adult pursuing a degree in the culinary field, according to Mitchell’s aunt, Judy Montecalvo, retired Hudson school counselor. Cellars, a 2019 Hudson graduate and Culinary Arts College Tech Prep completer, died in April 2016 from a heroin overdose. He earned an associate’s degree in culinary science from Sullivan University in Louisville, Kentucky and was just beginning a career as a chef.

In October, a representative from the Ohio Department of Education, as well as 35 teachers and administrators from the Ohio Association for Career-Technical Education (ACTE), spent a day in the Athletic Health Care & Fitness College Tech Prep Initiative at Roosevelt. Part of ACTE’s Success Series, Athletic Health Care & Fitness and instructor Terry Slattery were selected as a premier CTE initiative in Ohio. Slattery gave the group an overview, including the job shadow/internship program, Capstone Project and post-secondary credit options. He also outlined the many educational and university partners involved with AHCFT, including the Six District Educational Compact, The University of Akron, Slippery Rock University, NEOMED, Akron Children’s Hospital, Summa Sports Medicine, Akron General Sports Medicine and the Kent Fire Department.

Criminal Justice students hosted a fundraising event in April to benefit the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina counties. Lily Rose Lee, formerly known as Michelle Knight, spoke to an audience at Cuyahoga Falls High School about her experiences being kidnapped and held captive for more than a decade. Students helped organize and publicize the community event.

In October, Culinary Arts students presented to members of the Stow Rotary Club. They talked about their experiences in the College Tech Prep Initiative. Presenters included Matt Beckwith, Tallmadge; John McCue, Hudson; and Kayla Purcell, Stow-Munroe Falls.

Tallmadge Business II students in Management Principles passed on their knowledge of economics to third and fourth graders at Munroe Intermediate School. The class taught age-appropriate economics as part of a partnership with Junior Achievement, a project called Hometown Heroes.

According to instructor Gary Reynolds, the Hudson Automotive Technologies College Tech Prep Initiative recently received 15 automotive engines and a test stand, as well as other new technology including superchargers. This donation from Stark State College was also shared with the Automotive Technologies College Tech Prep at Cuyahoga Falls. The Hudson initiative also received some newer vehicles, including a Toyota Prius hybrid and a turbo/diesel Volkswagen, as donations. Hudson Kiwanis also donated $200 to the Hudson Automotive Technologies, which will be used to purchase an electrical training unit.

Woodridge High School students were recognized for their volunteer work as Big Brothers and Big Sisters Mentors. Created by Robert Sykes, C.A.R.E. Coordinator at Woodridge High School, the program involves students from second through sixth grades who have mentors in eighth through twelfth grades who read, play together.

Tallmadge Accounting student Alexis Swain shadowed Dennis Lux, a local Certified Public Accountant, this fall at his Akron office.

During part of the 2016 fall semester, executives at Smithers Foams spoke to Forestry and Landscape Management students every Thursday. The Kent-based company produces a variety of foams for industrial use. Presentation topics included an overview of the floral and agriculture industries.