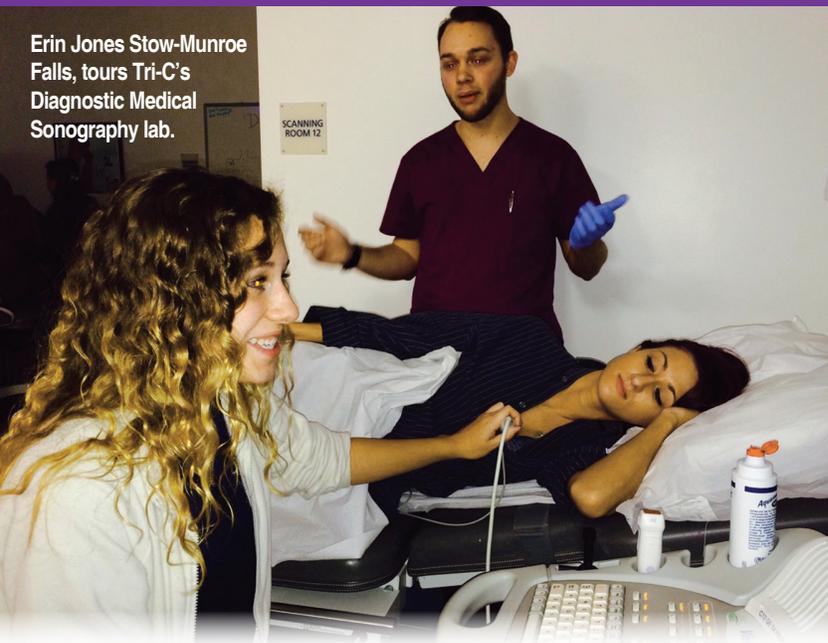




# Health Careers Technologies

News about a College Tech Prep Initiative from the Six District Educational Compact

Erin Jones Stow-Munroe Falls, tours Tri-C's Diagnostic Medical Sonography lab.



## Site visits preview externship possibilities

Recent site visits include working with residents and Direct Care Staff at Hattie Larlham Foundation in Mantua, as well as touring the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at Cuyahoga Community College in Parma.

"At Hattie's, we met with therapists from physical therapy and speech therapy and worked with the residents as part of our unit on Physical therapy," explains instructor **Catie Milton**. The 130-bed intermediate care facility is located in Mantua.

During their visit, students met with representatives from Human Resources and Volunteer Services, as well as Physical Therapy Assistants, Rehabilitative Therapists, and an Art Tracker or art therapist. They also talked with direct care providers and rehabilitative assistants.

At Tri-C's Parma Campus, Level II students toured the Diagnostic Sonography Lab, where they met first and second year students, clinical preceptors and clinical instructors. They rotated through Cardiac, Vascular and General-Fetal labs where they were able to use the sonography equipment.

Students also met with Tri-C's admissions department and heard about the admission process, scholarship opportunities, financial aid and completing the FAFSA.

"I was surprised at how small the campus was," says **Kailyn Welch**, Stow-Munroe Falls, "with small class sizes and more student-directed than what I've seen in larger universities. Instructors and staff were really approachable."

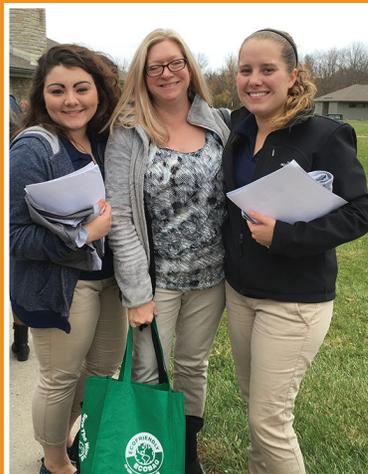
## Where are they now?

2004 Health Careers completer **Reagan Williamson**, CMA, is now working at Roosevelt's Health Clinic. "It doesn't seem that long ago that I was learning how to take vital signs, and now I am here employed through Akron Children's Hospital as a Certified Medical Assistant," Reagan says.

Other completers include **Tod Shaffer**, Tallmadge, EMT-P, Paramedic for City of Tallmadge and restaurateur at Carolina Barbeque and **Samantha Parisi**, 2009 Woodridge graduate who earned her PharmD at the University of Kentucky and is working as a pharmacist in Florida.

**Karla Kopniski**, DH, a 2004 Roosevelt graduate, is a dental hygienist at Martin Layman DDS and Associates in Streetsboro. Recent completer from Cuyahoga Falls **Carson Holler**, CMA, graduated from The University of Akron and is working for Summit County with **Dr. Daniel Steidl**.

2015 completers **Chelcey Bell**, Roosevelt, and **Alexis Hose**, Cuyahoga Falls, are working at the Hattie Larlham Foundation as Direct Care providers. 2015 Tallmadge graduate **Kelly Wolcott**, is now an EMT.



**Natalie Jividen**, Roosevelt; **Catie Milton**, HOSA Co-advisor and health tech teacher and **Billie Jo McMullen**, Roosevelt.

## Participating in HOSA

HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) is the student organization for students in Health Sciences. According to HOSA Co-advisor **Angela Textor**, HOSA offers students in Health Careers Technologies the opportunity to participate in local, regional and state events, which include retreats, leadership activities and competitions.

In October 2015, 13 club officers traveled with Co-advisor **Catie Milton** to Ashley, Ohio for the Fall Leadership Conference. The student officers met with other officers from schools throughout the state and discussed leadership.



**Six District Educational Compact**

Cuyahoga Falls • Hudson • Kent • Stow-Munroe Falls • Tallmadge • Woodridge

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## Health Careers Technologies students explore careers through shadowing

Level II students in Health Careers Technologies complete 30 hours of Career Shadowing/College Readiness during the first semester and a 30-hour Externship second semester.

Students shadow professionals at area hospitals, long term care facilities and out-patient medical offices and clinics. These include Cleveland Clinic, Summa Health, Western Reserve Hospital, Akron General, Mercy Medical Center in Canton, Akron Children's Hospital, Akron Children's in Boardman, ClearVision in Streetsboro and Drayer Physical Therapy in Macedonia.

Shadowing observations are designed to give students a better understanding of what health care professionals do on the job, according to instructors **Catie Milton** and **Angela Textor**.

**Natalie Jividen**, Roosevelt, shadowed at Akron Children's Hospital and observed many areas, including the Heart Center and Cardiac Cath Lab.

**Jill Aguiar**, Hudson, shadowed a registered nurse at Cleveland Clinic's Step-down Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. She explains, "During my experience, there was a Code Blue, and all the doctors ran to assist the patient. I was able to see how everyone works as a team."

Jill also shadowed an optometrist at ClearVision in Streetsboro. After her experience, she says she realized she wanted to find out more about optometry and has scheduled an observation with an ophthalmologist.

**Dharti Patel, Roosevelt**, shadowed a Registered Nurse at Akron City Hospital on the Medical Surgical Division. "I really was able to see all the work that an RN is responsible for," Dharti says. "It was a fantastic experience. It made me reconsider going into medicine for a career in nursing."

In addition to their shadowing experiences, students listened to career presentations by Allied Health Care professionals in the classroom. Speakers included a CST (Certified Surgical Technologist), Psychologist, Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Audiologist, Paramedic, Medical Assistant, Dental Hygienist and Home Healthcare Nurse. As a culminating project, students will complete two photo journals highlighting the health care professionals they observed.

## Focusing on semester externships

Level II students take part in a 24- to 30-hour externship program each spring to help to expand their career exploration. Students are placed at clinical sites one afternoon a week through March and April.

During the spring of 2015, students did externships at Mercy Medical Center in Canton on the Maternity/Newborn Unit, Respiratory Therapy Unit and Rehab Therapy Department (Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy). Others had their experiences at University Hospitals Case Medical Center in the NICU/Step-Down and at Northeast Ohio Cardiovascular Specialists in Fairlawn.

At Western Reserve Hospital in Cuyahoga Falls, four students rotated through the nursing divisions: Medical, Surgical, Telemetry and ER.

**Michael Szoch**, Hudson, completed his experience at Specs Eyecare in Hudson. "I initially joined Health Careers Technologies with the idea of becoming a dentist," he explains. "I shadowed with **Dr. Michael Evan, DDS** at Munroe Falls Family Dentistry and then with **Dr. Jeff Parnell, OD** at Specs. "Optometry was an area I had not really considered before, so I decided to complete my externship with Dr. Parnell," he says. Michael is currently a freshman at Notre Dame College.

**Taylor Paxton**, Stow-Munroe Falls, says, "I started out my senior year thinking about a career in radiology, but through shadowing and my internship I fell in love with OT (Occupational Therapy). Taylor is a freshman at The University of Akron.

Another option for seniors is to work or volunteer in a health care facility. Last year, students volunteered at Western Reserve Hospital, Robinson Memorial (now University Portage Medical Center) and Akron Children's Hospital, as well as the Dietary departments at Stow-Glen Retirement Center and Laurel Lake.

**Rebekah Jones**, Cuyahoga Falls, and **Jill Aguiar**, Hudson, are currently working in Dietary at Laurel Lake, **Emily Maggard**, Roosevelt, is working in Assisted Living at Stow-Glen and **Jade Garman**, Stow-Munroe Falls, is in the dietary department.

In addition, one student has completed the STNA (State Tested Nurse Assisting) program and passed the state licensure test. **Evan Stranathan**, Roosevelt, currently works at Arbors of Streetsboro. **Lindsey Davis**, Roosevelt, volunteers at University Hospitals Portage Medical Center and Cuyahoga Falls students **Emilee Policicchio** and **Alexis Squibb** volunteer at Akron Children's Hospital.

## Students learn assessment skills

"While many students learn care of choking victims or how to perform CPR in health classes, our students are certified through American Heart Association as Basic Health Care Providers," states instructor **Angela Textor**. "This means they have the same certification as a registered nurse or athletic trainer. They learn to use the bag and mask and perform two-person CPR/AED, skills no longer taught to the general public." Second semester Level I students begin lab rotations in nursing, medical, dental and laboratory skills.



Juniors **Rebecca Houser**, Cuyahoga Falls and **Hailee Starkey**, Stow-Munroe Falls practicing vital sign in lab