

# Completer Success Stories

Successful completers of Compact programs are thriving in both lucrative, professional careers and at post-secondary institutions. In both cases, completers have a head start having gained college credits, industry credentials, work-based learning experiences and real-world skills while in their CTE program. The powerful connections and strong relationships that students make while in their CTE program remain once students graduate. Many successful completers give back to the CTE programs that they gained so much from, by volunteering their time as guest speakers, mentoring students and/or serving on program Advisory Boards. We are extremely proud of our completers and wanted to share a sampling of their successes!



## Engineering Academy graduate attending Princeton

Opportunities without limits. Discovery. Critical thinking. **Chloe Froning**, 2017 Roosevelt graduate, describes her time in the Engineering Academy as one that allowed her to explore the boundless career opportunities and fields within engineering, without pigeonholing herself into a specific career. “I was

very lucky to be in the Engineering Academy, a space where I could explore my creativity and interests and develop my skills into what they are today,” Chloe says.

Chloe began her first semester at Princeton University in Fall 2022, pursuing her Master of Architecture, and is one of five students who was admitted into the Advanced Placement program. Chloe graduated from Kent State University in May 2021 with her Bachelors of Science in Architecture.

Instructor Jeff Bee explains, “From the get-go she displayed her desire and interest in CAD design and architecture. It was a WOW moment for me once I heard she was going to attend Princeton for her graduate degree. To see a young person like Chloe, that I had a hand in teaching, well that’s a feeling every teacher cherishes.”



## Akron Children’s RN

**Marissa Kassinger**, 2017 Cuyahoga Falls graduate and Athletic Health Care and Fitness completer, graduated from Ashland University in May of 2021 with her BS in Nursing. She credits much of her success to the countless shadowing, networking and volunteer opportunities that she experienced in AHCF.

Marissa recently started work as an RN at Akron Children’s Hospital and was surprised to run into nurse educator, Lori Ferrara, at her orientation, whom she had volunteered with while in the AHCF program.



## “The Green Industry”

**Pete Grantham**, ‘14 Hudson graduate and Forestry completer, attended The Ohio State Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI) for two years and then went on to The Ohio State University where he received his BS in Horticulture in 2018.

Pete completed an internship in Bonn, Germany, at the Arboretum Park Hale as part of his OSU education. Upon graduation from OSU, Pete secured a management position with a Columbus-based landscape company and then went on to work for Ag Pro Equipment Sales, where he sold both large and small power equipment used throughout the “Green” industry. Pete’s latest adventure includes a move to Virginia, where he will be working as a territory sales manager for a horticulture product business. Pete feels that CTE programming can provide students with purpose, hard skills and endless opportunities and enjoys visiting with current students to share his educational and professional journey, as he was inspired by the stories of completers that visited while he was in the program.



## Summa Work Leader

**Zachary Long**, 2009 completer of the Project SEARCH program from Cuyahoga Falls, has worked for Summa Health since he completed the program. He began his career as a patient transporter and over the years became one of the department’s trainers. He trained all new hires, as well as any Project

SEARCH students within the department. Recently, Zach was promoted to a work leader in the Vascular Department. Zach shares that Project SEARCH helped prepare him for employment by providing him with help on interview skills and experience with attention to detail and communication skills.

Project SEARCH is a collaborative, site-based initiative located at Summa Health that aims to prepare students for employment. The Compact is proud of Zachary’s successes, promotion and commitment to 13 years of work at Summa Health.



### Executive Sous Chef

**Dante DeGeronimo** is a '16 Hudson graduate and Culinary completer who serves on the Culinary Advisory Board. Dante graduated from The Culinary Institute of America in 2019 with degrees in both Culinary Arts and Food Service Management. He is currently the Executive Sous Chef at HarvestOwl, a corporate catering company based in Cleveland.

Dante credits his Culinary instructors for providing him with the skills and confidence to succeed, and is grateful for the life-long friendships that he made within the program. Dante hopes that current and future students understand that the key to success in this “humbling industry” is “not about being the best in class,” but rather having the determination and persistence to learn from your mistakes and continue to improve.



### Aviation

**Connor Kirkner**, a '21 Stow-Munroe Falls High School graduate and Aeronautics Careers Academy completer, is currently attending Bowling Green State University where he is majoring in Aviation. Connor describes the ACA program as “one-of-a-kind” and shares that the unique experiences he took part in gave him a head start in aviation training.



### Entrepreneur and Small Business Owner

**Marvin Montgomery**, '20 Woodridge graduate and Marketing Management completer, is the owner of Kicks and Cuts, a full-service barbershop that also specializes in premium sneakers, with vintage sportswear and street clothing located in Cuyahoga Falls. Marvin has also served as an

industry mentor to students in the EntrepreNEW Academy. Marvin shares that he “enjoyed the networking opportunities, rigorous learning, traveling for DECA competitions, and the friendships he established” while in the Marketing program.



### Mechanical Engineer

**Marielle Muncy**, a 2018 Stow-Munroe Falls graduate and CADET completer, is pursuing a BS of Mechanical Engineering at Youngstown State University. Marielle explains that she is able to teach other students AutoCAD or drawing fundamentals, as well as machining fundamentals, as a result of her experience in the CADET program.



### Elementary School Teacher

**Danielle Lee**, '16 Tallmadge High School graduate and Early Childhood Professions completer, is currently a 1st grade teacher at Mount Health North Elementary in Cincinnati, Ohio. Danielle graduated with her B.A. in Early Childhood Education from Mount Saint Joseph University in 2020.

Danielle shares that the curriculum in ECP prepared her for college because it focused on lesson planning, standards and goals/assessment and the field experiences and observations really prepared her for college level practicums. She also noted that the theories taught in ECP were relevant to both her college work and professional career. Danielle states, “I loved the (ECP) program because I made lifelong friends and gained invaluable experience. It really affirmed for me why I wanted to be a teacher!”



### Middle School Intervention Specialist

**Autumn Simpson**, a 2017 Stow-Munroe Falls graduate and Teaching Professions completer, graduated from Heidelberg University with her BA in Education and is currently a middle school intervention specialist at Fostoria Junior Senior High School. Autumn states, “the Teaching Professions’ Career Tech program fueled my passion to be an educator

through engaging, inspiring, and empowering coursework as a high schooler. The program also enabled me to solidify the area of education that I wanted to specialize in before stepping foot on a college campus, setting me ahead of fellow classmates.”

She continues, “the lifelong mentorship and friendships you gain from the Teaching Professions’ program build a strong support system as you engage in the journey of becoming an educator and beyond.”

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## Theater Performance

**Spencer Marfy** graduated from Tallmadge High School and completed the Theater Arts Careers Academy in 2020. He is currently attending the University of Evansville, majoring in Theater Performance and states that he feels ahead of other students in his college acting classes because of the preparation TACA provided him.



## Accounting and Business Analytics

**Nickolas Archer** is a '22 Tallmadge High School graduate and Business Pathway completer who will be starting his post-secondary career at Miami University in Oxford in the fall of 2022, majoring in Accounting and Business Analytics. Nick feels that he greatly benefited from the career exploration provided within the program and shares, "it let me get a head start on my career by going into college knowing what exactly I wanted to do."



## Biomedical Engineering

**Nick Ciancio**, '21 Cuyahoga Falls graduate and Biotechnology Academy completer, is currently attending Stark State College where he is beginning his college coursework in Biomedical Engineering. Nick states that "this program was the best decision I could have made to further my education. It challenged and motivated me!"



## Auto Body Bhop Owner

**Andrew Licata** is a Collision Repair and Auto Refinishing completer and '10 graduate of Stow-Munroe Falls High School. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Kent State University, Andrew went on to open his own auto body shop in Rootstown, Alpine Auto Body and Collision Centers, LLC. Andrew shares, "Collision Repair was a fantastic learning experience that showed me all of the different techniques, skills and common sense tools I would need to start a successful career. I really enjoyed working with like-minded students that were all working towards similar goals."



## From IT Academy to Facebook

**TJ Krusinski** is a '09 Hudson High School graduate and IT Academy completer and is currently a video producer in the Office of the CEO at Facebook. TJ shares that he greatly benefited from the IT Academy where he was able to deeply focus on IT with other students with similar interests. He states that the strong relationships

that he built with both his instructor and other students provided him with a positive classroom environment.



## United States Air Force

**Annah Bobbitt** is a '19 Cuyahoga Falls High School graduate and completer of the Criminal Justice program. She currently operates a MQ-9 Sensor for the United States Air Force and shares that the program developed a fire within her and that her instructor's support assisted in making her who she is today.