



COMPACT Points

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News from the Six District Educational Compact

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



Author Douglas Tallamy visits with Forestry and Environmental Science students and instructor Kyle Kutinsky

Author and ecologist empowers Forestry students

New York Times best-selling author and ecologist **Douglas Tallamy** visited Forestry and Environmental Science students in April. The Master Gardeners of Kent generously donated copies of Tallamy's groundbreaking book, *Bringing Nature Home*, to the Forestry program. Students gained valuable insights regarding the link between native plant species and native wildlife from reading this significant publication. During his visit, Tallamy engaged students in meaningful discussions about wildlife populations, conservation efforts, and sustaining biodiversity. Students gained practical recommendations on how they can contribute, and left empowered to make a difference.



Level I Automotive Technologies students alongside the new Rotary, two-post vehicle hoist donated by Klaben Auto Group

Donation to Auto Tech maximizes student outcomes

The Automotive Technologies program recently acquired a new vehicle hoist, providing an additional workspace for students in the lab. This was made possible by the *Klaben Auto Group* through its commitment to supporting local communities and expanding educational opportunities for young people.

By adding workspace, the program can increase its capacity and improve students' experience by using lab time more efficiently. Instructor **Chad Groom** shares that this additional vehicle hoist will serve students for many years to come and will be a major contributor to their success.

Biotech celebrates DNA Day

Biotechnology Academy students celebrated DNA Day in April by hosting a genome walk for Woodridge middle and high school students around campus. Participants completed a scavenger hunt through all 23 genomes, discovering and learning about different genes along the way. Following the walk, Biotechnology students led several hands-on activities to further explore genetics and DNA science. DNA Day is celebrated annually on April 25 and recognizes the publication of James Watson and Francis Crick's groundbreaking paper on the structure of DNA in 1953.



Grace Zhao (Stow-Munroe Falls) demonstrating spooling DNA from a strawberry



Katie Walker (Stow-Munroe Falls) leads Woodridge seventh graders through a DNA origami model activity



L to R; Payton Justice (Tallmadge), Instructor James Gillahan, and Brody Bartunek (Stow-Munroe Falls) alongside a portion of the DNA scavenger hunt



Author **Jordan Sonnenblick** connects with his audience regarding many of the important issues facing teens today



Students are challenged during the small group activity, "Book Breakout"

Author Jordan Sonnenblick inspires at Reading and Writing Festival

The 37th annual Reading and Writing Festival took place in late April at Kent State University. Over 200 area middle schoolers were entertained and inspired by guest author **Jordan Sonnenblick** and storyteller **Kevin Cordi**. Participants engaged in several small group activities aimed at fostering creativity and curiosity about the world of reading and writing.

Finance student awarded prestigious scholarship

Academy of Finance Careers (AFC) student **Lilly Geiss** (Cuyahoga Falls) was awarded the Jill D. White Inspirational Student Scholarship in the amount of \$20,000. Lilly wrote an essay about her decision to pursue a Career-Technical Education program during its first year of operation. Lilly was the only student from Cuyahoga Falls High School to join AFC at Tallmadge High School and over her two years in the program, she has had great success. Lilly is a decorated Business Professionals of America (BPA) student, winning multiple regional contests and a state competition during her senior year that advanced her to the national competition in Nashville. Lilly plans to major in Accounting at the University of Akron.



Lilly Geiss (Cuyahoga Falls) pictured in Nashville at the BPA National Leadership Competition



Anya Culver (Cuyahoga Falls)



Lydia Harris (Stow-Munroe Falls)

BPA state champions

Congratulations to Computer Science Pathways student **Anya Culver** (Cuyahoga Falls) and Business and Sports Management student **Lydia Harris** (Stow-Munroe Falls) on their outstanding achievements at the state Business Professionals of America competition. Anya placed first in Digital Communication and Design and fourth place in Web Design; Lydia placed first in Entrepreneurship. Both students qualified to compete at the BPA National Leadership Conference.

Early Childhood Professions students raise awareness of an important teen issue

Developed through the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) FACTS peer education initiative, "Think Before You Act: The Impact of Impaired Driving," Early Childhood Professions students created a seven-minute video to raise awareness about this important topic. The program shared the video with all six districts within the Compact to empower students to make safe, responsible decisions. The Ohio Department of Public Safety awarded the program the FACTS Initiative Award Grant in recognition of their outstanding youth safety project. In addition to grant monies, they were recognized at the FCCLA state conference.



Congratulations 2026 C.A.R.E. Award recipients

This year's annual C.A.R.E. banquet was a wonderful celebration of school personnel, community members, and organizations dedicated to contributing to positive environments that support healthy living, inclusion, and connection in the lives of our students and their families.

Congratulations to this year's district award winners:

Cuyahoga Falls: Cuyahoga Falls-Akron-Barberton Elks Lodge 1923

Hudson: HHS Media Center Specialist Andrew Robitaille

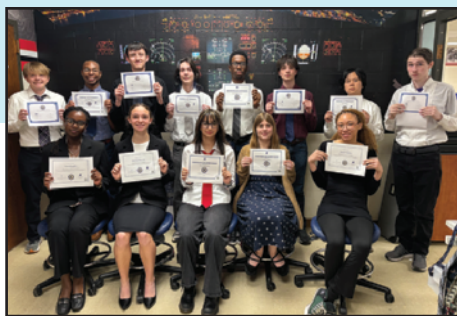
Kent: Kent Social Services Program Manager Marquice Seward

Stow-Munroe Falls: SMFHS School Counselor Jason LePard

Tallmadge: Tallmadge Opportunity Foundation Founder Jamie Bezbatchesko

Woodridge: WHS Health & PE Teacher Ty-Ann Gray

The C.A.R.E. Committee selected the six public libraries in the Compact districts for this year's Community Award of Appreciation. **Cuyahoga Falls Library, Hudson Library & Historical Society, Kent Free Library, Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library, Tallmadge Branch Library, and Peninsula Library & Historical Society** champion healthy living by providing a safe, welcoming environment and connecting students and families to essential resources. Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients!



ERP students proudly show off their E-Badge certificates in semiconductor manufacturing

ERP students earn credential in semiconductor manufacturing

Students in Electronics, Robotics, and Programming (ERP) earned a microcredential from Kent State University in semiconductor fabrication processes. These students gained a wealth of information, including the evolution of the semiconductor industry and how sand is transformed into microchips, an essential understanding for today's automated and digital world. Additionally, they completed lab reports on the photolithography technique and etching and spent approximately 4.5 hours in an actual cleanroom setting. Within the cleanroom, students completed the photolithography and etching process on a patterned wafer, followed by characterization.



Tallmadge school district representatives celebrated Tallmadge Branch Library Manager Kristi Gerlach (fourth from right) and Tallmadge Opportunity Foundation Founder Jamie Bezbatchesko (sixth from right) at the 2026 awards dinner



L to R: C.A.R.E. Coordinator Samantha Pfeiffer, Stow-Munroe Falls High School Principal Amanda Murray, School Counselor Jason LePard, Assistant Superintendent Kristen Prough



L to R: C.A.R.E. Coordinator Rowen Karasek, Media Center Specialist Andrew Robitaille, Hudson High School Principal Mike Miller



Representatives from Akron Canton Builds stopped by the Construction lab to present Collin Pietrowski (Woodridge), pictured second from the right, with a scholarship

Hard work pays off for construction student

Construction Technologies Level II student **Collin Pietrowski** (Woodridge) has worked extremely hard during his

time in the program, both inside the lab at Roosevelt High School and also at his internship at *Western Reserve Interiors*. His dedication and effort have not gone unnoticed, as he was recently awarded a scholarship from *Akron Canton Builds*. Thank you to *Akron Canton Builds* for supporting our students and their future careers!

News from around the Compact



Medical Office students engaged in a variety of activities during Stark State's Medical Laboratory Professionals Week

Medical Office students explore healthcare careers

Students in the Academy of Medical Office and Business Management attended Medical Laboratory Professionals Week at Stark State College in April. The annual event celebrates the important behind-the-scenes work of medical laboratory technicians and scientists in healthcare while introducing high school students to careers in the field. During their visit, students participated in hands-on activities and explored Stark State's Medical Laboratory Technology Program, gaining valuable insight into this growing healthcare profession.



Level II Community Ag students along the shoreline of Lake Erie at Sims Park

Community Ag students explore sustainable agriculture across Northeast Ohio

Level II Community Agriculture through Local Impact students capped off their time in the program with a final field trip to the Cleveland area, where they explored several businesses and organizations. Their first stop was *Meadow City Native Plant Nursery* in Cleveland's Collinwood neighborhood, where students learned how native plants support local ecosystems and can be incorporated into a variety of landscapes. They then traveled to Euclid to tour the *HELP Foundation's* greenhouse, where they explored pest management and vegetable production within controlled environment agriculture (CEA). The greenhouse also serves as a vocational training site for adults with disabilities. The trip concluded at *Sims Park*, where students toured native plantings and shoreline habitat restoration projects along Lake Erie. They also learned about community partnerships that help expand public access to the region's natural resources.



Evan Jacobson (Cuyahoga Falls) and Damien Scott (Cuyahoga Falls) planting seeds of lettuce at the HELP Foundation Greenhouse in Euclid



Participants from the Shoemaker Institute Leadership Fellowship, alongside Mary Jane Stanchina, at Stow-Munroe Falls High School following a lunch prepared by Culinary Arts and Hospitality Studies students



After visiting the Six District EntrepreNew Pathways program, CTE superintendents and Mary Jane Stanchina check out an inflatable duck promoting the program's Duck Race

Compact hosts CTE leadership from across the state

On two occasions this spring, CTE professionals from across the state visited the Six District Educational Compact to gain a better understanding of the inner workings of the Compact model for delivering CTE programming. Participants included rising CTE leaders from the OACTE Shoemaker Institute, CTE superintendents from Ohio Hi-Point, Pickaway Ross, Southern Hills, U.S. Grant, and Warren County Career Centers, and OACTE Executive Director **Dee Smith**. They toured several Compact CTE programs, met with Compact Executive Director **Mary Jane Stanchina**, instructors and administrators, and heard from current students.

Marketing and DECA instructor honored

Marketing Management and DECA program instructor **Brent Pfeiffer**, was awarded the Honorary Life Membership Award at this year's DECA State Career Development Conference. Congratulations, Brent, on this distinguished honor!



Instructor Brent Pfeiffer at the DECA state conference after receiving the Honorary Life Membership Award

Let's Connect



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The Six District Educational Compact does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities.



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