

Career Talk

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Career and Technology Center

7922 Opossumtown Pike
Frederick, MD 21702

Hours: 7:00AM - 3:00PM

Phone: 240-236-8500

Fax: 240-236-8501

<http://education.fcps.org/ctc>



**Frederick County
Career & Tech Center**



**@FrederickCTC
@CTCPrincipal**

Principal

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michael.concepcion@fcps.org

AP

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jack.newkirk@fcps.org

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SEPTEMBER 2022 ■ Issue I

Message from the Principal

Welcome back! The staff and I hope that your short summer was a good one. We are in full swing at this time and we are glad to be back with our 876 students!

To our returning students, we expect nothing less than your best as you prepare for a successful career or post-secondary experience. Our staff is committed to helping you reach both your short-term and long-term goals, maximizing your potential and helping you earn your respective industry certifications. To our incoming new students, welcome to what could be one of the best educational decisions a student can make for their high school experience. We welcome you to our school and offer to you all of our support to make your first year here a very special one.

This year, CTC staff will continue to work on developing and enhancing relationships with our students and their families. Strong and positive relationships with teachers and school staff can dramatically enhance students' level of motivation and therefore promote learning.

Thanks to all who attended our Back to School Night on August 15th—what an exceptional turnout! This year promises to be a rewarding one for all, and students have already begun to focus on their academic studies, career exploration, and extra-curricular activities.

Working closely with our families, as well as business partnerships, is very important to us at the Career and Technology Center as we continually strive to foster a learning environment where all members of the CTC community have the ability to maximize their potential. As we engage in this partnership, we encourage open communication between school and home to ensure that all of our students are successful learners.

As we continue to strive toward career success for all, our hope is to always keep you informed of what we value at the Career and Technology Center. We will produce approximately five newsletters a year to insure timely communication with families.

Thank you for entrusting your child's learning to us.

Sincerely,

Michael Concepcion - Principal

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Guidance News...



WELCOME STUDENTS!!!

Thank you to Ms. Erica Stull, school counselor at CTC, for drawing this awesome sidewalk chalk message.

At CTC, we want our students to want to be here and always feel welcome.



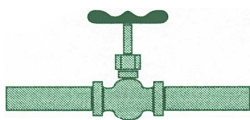
COUNSELING SERVICES

Hi! Our names are Mrs. Daly and Ms. Stull, we are the counselors here at CTC and look forward to working with you!

As a school counselors we can do many things to help, including but not limited to, providing behavioral, academic, aptitude and college/career counseling, identifying and addressing issues that may interfere with your education, acting as a bridge between students, administrators, teachers, and parents, and making referrals to outside agencies. We share this because we want you to know that you have many advocates in this building, including us. Our contact information is below, including which counselor works with your program, as well as some numbers in case of an emergency.

Mrs. Kristen Daly kristen.daly@fcps.org 240-236-8494	Ms. Erica Stull erica.stull@fcps.org 240-236-8486
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Good To Know...

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ATTENDANCE MESSAGE

If your student is going to be absent, please email both your student's home school and ctc.attendance@fcps.org so the absence may be excused. Your student's absence will be considered unlawful/unexcused if a note or email is not received. The One Call Now texts will now occur only once a day at 1:30 pm. If you need to pick up your student early from CTC, please email paula.brodell@fcps.org.



CTC BUCKS

CTC Bucks are awarded by staff members as an incentive to encourage students to improve their academic performance and to participate in various school-based initiatives. When students earn five CTC bucks they may redeem them for a blue ticket at the school store to be entered in drawings for a gift card. The drawings will occur before winter break and near the end of the school year.

CTC SCHOOL STORE

Hello CTC! My name is Mrs. Keller. I am the smiling face you see in the CTC school store when you come through the front doors. The store offers CTC Spirit Wear and a great selection of snacks and drinks. It is also the place where you turn in your CTC bucks for chances to win gift cards. We are now able to customize t-shirts with your school colors and/or program name. Stop by, say hi, and check out our school store! I look forward to seeing you!



WHAT IS A CTC STUDENT AMBASSADOR?

A CTC Student Ambassador is any student who wishes to represent their program with enthusiasm! Our ambassadors represent and participate in CTC's Educational Outreach Program. This program enriches and engages elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as community members with information and activities that showcase our CTC programs. Examples of ambassador responsibilities during the school day, include middle school career fairs, elementary school classroom presentations, high school visits, and the CTC shadowing process. CTC Student Ambassadors also have the opportunity to share their experiences at community events, such as The Great Frederick Fair, STEM Nights, and Science Fairs. Ambassadors gain valuable experience as they become the teachers. Public speaking, leadership, lesson & activity planning, and collaboration are just some of the skills that are gained throughout this experience. This experience will no doubt give a sense of pride to those involved.

Interested in becoming a CTC Student Ambassador? See **Mrs. Keeney-Fisher** in the guidance office.

Stop by and visit our CTC Student Ambassadors in the STEM tent at The Great Frederick Fair Friday, September 23rd from 1:00-4:00pm.



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2022 SKILLSUSA MARYLAND FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The SkillsUSA Maryland state officer team and board of directors are excited to launch the first in-person Fall Leadership Conference (FLC) in 3 years! The conference will be returning to the beautiful Carousel Hotel and Conference Center, Ocean City, MD, Thursday and Friday, November 3-4, 2022.



Participating students will experience two days of engaging, informative and interactive workshops and activities. Students (and advisors!) are challenged to earn their Statesman or Advanced Statesman Awards. Registration will be released in September. Don't miss the 2022 FLC!

Cost: \$240, 3-4 per room; \$265, 2 per room

Important Dates:

- 9/23: Fundraiser due (if applicable)
- 10/3: Registration fee due

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ADD LEADERSHIP SKILLS TO YOUR RESUME!

COME SEE THE AMAZING THINGS STUDENTS CAN DO AT THE...

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CENTER (CTC) OPEN HOUSE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH
6:00 – 8:00 PM**

24 CAREER PROGRAMS FOR FCPS STUDENTS IN GRADES 10-12

- Teachers from CTC programs will talk to students & parents/guardians about various career programs.
- Staff will discuss the curriculum, student activities, post high school employment and education.
- Students will demonstrate activities.
- Alumni, businesses, and colleges will be present.
- Additional information sessions offered for EL students and families (with interpreters):
5:30 – 6:00 PM & 7:15 – 7:45 PM

Many programs offer college credits, dual enrollment, industry certification/license.

Enjoy fun activities for all ages.

Learn about potential careers.

Students: Find out how to jump start your future at CTC!



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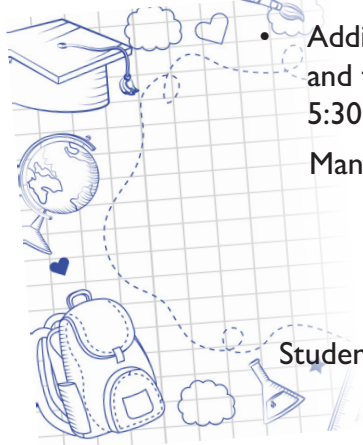
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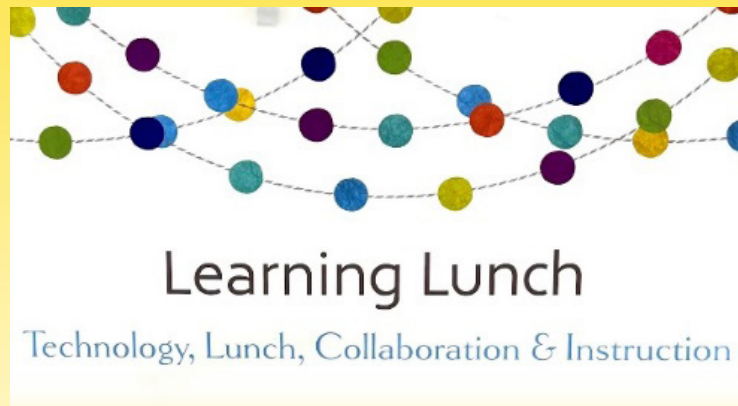
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BLENDED LEARNING IN LEARNING LUNCH

Learning Lunch at CTC is a unique time. Taking place between the am and pm programs, Learning Lunch provides time for all-day CTC students taking online courses to work on assignments, eat their lunch, and receive academic support from certified teachers. Students are given autonomy over their learning and can choose their own pace, place to work, and pathway.

CTC uses a blended approach to online learning. Students have access to teachers and mentors who guide them through the online courses and help them comprehend the content. Teachers also provide hands-on guidance and understanding of text and difficult concepts. Students can also collaborate with other students or work on their own. Learning lunch is a great time to learn in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Our staff who help students during learning lunch are Lera Straits (English Teacher), Lorraine Marshall (Math Specialist), Dina Karakus (Mentor) and Jen Leatherman (Mentor).

Learning Lunch is a valuable bonus to attending CTC as it allows students to complete the required courses to graduate seamlessly in conjunction with their CTC program.

TUTORME FREE SERVICE IS NOW AVAILABLE

[TutorMe.com](https://tutorme.com), a free student online tutoring and homework help service, is now available in any subject for students in grades 6-12. [TutorMe.com](https://tutorme.com) is a secure, online resource easily accessible through the [FCPS Clever Portal](#) and offers on-demand assistance. Directions for how students can access the service are [here](#). More information is available at the vendor website, <https://tutorme.com/> and this [Student Support Document](#).

TutorMe

CTC GOES PURPLE

CTC "Goes Purple" to support [Frederick County Goes Purple \(FCGP\)](https://www.frederickcountygoespurple.com/). Frederick County observes National Recovery Month during September by launching FCGP to bring awareness and understanding of mental health and substance use disorders, to reduce substance-related deaths and overdoses, and to celebrate those living in recovery. For more information visit <https://www.frederickcountygoespurple.com/>



LOFT FREDERICK DONATES BACKPACKS TO CTC

The LOFT store in Frederick's Westview Promenade supported FCPS and the community by having a special event for teachers and by donating stuffed backpacks to students. CTC received 10 backpacks which they distributed to 10 students in need.



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Student News

SEPTEMBER 11th CEREMONY

Thank you to the CTC Criminal Justice and Homeland Security program for conducting a beautiful ceremony in remembrance of September 11th. Click [HERE](#) to view the ceremony.



CTC HONEY BEES ARE FLYING INTO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR STRONG

Nestled behind the CTC greenhouse are multiple boxes hosting hives of bees. Honeybees were brought to CTC in 2016. Since then, they have become an integral part of students' Agribusiness Program. The students taking this class help care for the honey bees and their hives. The bees help the students develop marketing, financial, and business-related skills. The students use the bee's in all of these areas with hands-on learning and much more.

The Agribusiness class has frequently partnered with the Culinary class; together they made an aromatic supplement to add to the sugar water fed to the bees to make sure they have enough stored food over winter. Students are currently feeding the bees a 1:1:3 sugar water with supplement. As we progress into fall, students will transition the bees onto a 2:1 sugar and supplement. Agribusiness and Culinary



students will also collaborate in the summer to extract and bottle honey harvested from CTC and create a honey themed menu for a fundraiser dinner, hosted in the spring.

The students in the Agribusiness class have a marketing opportunity to sell the honey they help produce! This is a great hands-on experience for the students to gain authentic life lessons with finances and marketing. "The bees are a great learning tool for the kids in this

class. It is a wonderful opportunity to be able to participate in helping take care of the bees, one you won't necessarily be able to do again," said Lillyan Sheets, a 2022-2023 Agribusiness class student. Students have started making plans to visit out-of-school activities to promote their program. A group of students plan to go to the Great Frederick Fair to demonstrate honey recipes. Another group of students plan on participating in Homegrown Hay Days by selling honey and flowers.

The students in this class do more than take care of the bees. They also explore complex business-related topics in agriculture. This includes creameries, vineyards, orchards, and many more local businesses. The bees are a great learning tool for the students. It is safe to say that the students are #Happy2BeeBack!

Student News

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CTC AT THE GREAT FREDERICK FAIR SEPTEMBER 16-24th, 2022

Friday, September 23rd from 1:00-4:00pm, visit our CTC Student Ambassadors in the STEM tent.

Check out the beautiful work CTC landscaping students designed and installed in front of building 33. This year's theme is Harvest Memories.

Saturday, September 24th at 9:00am, stop by building 9 to check out demonstrations from the CTC Agribusiness program. They will demonstrate different ways to enjoy the CTC honey harvested right here at CTC!

First-year CTC welding students are making and entering basket hooks that can be mounted on a wall or post and CTC second-year welding students are making and entering double shepherd's hooks that can be stuck in the ground and hold two hanging basket plants.



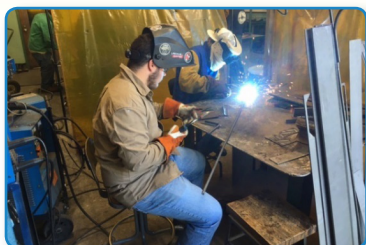
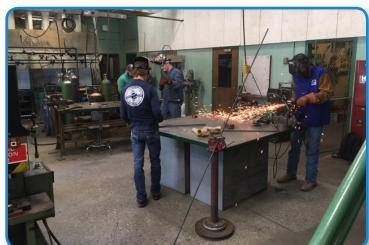
SKILLSUSA FALL KICKOFF

CTC students participated in the annual SkillsUSA Fall Kickoff at the FCC Auditorium on Wednesday, September 7th. Students had the opportunity to learn about SkillsUSA and how it is integrated into the curriculum. Every student automatically becomes a SkillsUSA member when they come to CTC. Yes, you heard that right; everyone is already a member!

SkillsUSA is based on a framework that encompasses personal skills, technical skills, and workplace skills. It supports our CTC school culture in developing accountable, professional, positive, and supportive members of society. Visit <https://www.skillsusa.org/> for more information.

As part of the kickoff, our programs participated in the annual Minute to Win It Cup Stacking Challenge where 2 students from each program competed to see which program reigns supreme and wins the coveted trophy for the year. This year's winners are: AM – Mrs. Kidd's AoHP program; PM – Mr. Stanley's Auto Tech program. Mr. Duman and Mr. Zucco from Homeland Security/Criminal Justice are the reigning teacher champs.

Students should be on the lookout for opportunities to engage in SkillsUSA activities throughout the year.



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How It All Began

FREDERICK COUNTY CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER: HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The Frederick County Career and Technology Center (CTC) is a Career and Technical Education (CTE) school. Our programs and classes combine academic knowledge with technical skills to prepare students for in-demand and high-skilled jobs. CTC provides

students with opportunities to earn industry-recognized certifications and licenses, acquire college credit, and gain valuable work experience. CTC is one of many treasures in Frederick County. It is not only a place of great education and opportunities but also a place of camaraderie and nostalgia. Let's take a look back in time and find out how it all started.



Left, Paul Stull (first principal at CTC) Right, Mike Concepcion (current principal at CTC)

THE PURPOSE

The Career and Technology Center, formerly known as the Vo-Tech Center, is a school that was and still is crucial to filling the demand of our growing and everchanging workforce. CTC prepares students for a successful career or post-secondary experience. CTC also provides an opportunity, atmosphere, and environment for each student to develop intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally. One example of how CTC develops students is by providing them with the knowledge, experience, and skills to build houses. This is how the Student House Project was born and it is still going strong today. CTC students are beginning to build our 34th house!

The Vo-Tech Center originally offered the following 14 programs; carpentry, diesel and truck mechanics, electronics, electricity, heating and air conditioning, landscaping and nursery management, nursing assistant, machine shop, masonry, metal fabrication (welding),

cosmetology, retail sales and management, drafting, and a pre-testing program for Vo-Tech ability of county seventh and eighth grade students. The Career and Technology Center now offers [24 programs](#) and is continuously growing.

HOW IT CAME TO BE

Mr. Harold Reiley, the Supervisor of Vocational Education and Industrial Arts for Frederick County Public Schools, formed a committee of advisors who had an interest in teaching young people the skills needed to succeed in the workforce and in "real" life as an adult. At this time, the school board was also showing interest in a vocational technology center to serve the students of Frederick County. One of the board members in particular, Helen Remsburg, put her full support behind the center. After many meetings and discussions about the new Vo-Tech Center, the school board voted to move forward with the project.

Paul Stull was teaching vocational agriculture and FFA (Future Farmers of America) at Walkersville High School and had just finished assisting with the planning of a new vocational agriculture area for that high school. Mr. Reiley and members of his committee approached Mr. Stull with questions about the operation of the center, hiring staff, logistics of building the Vo-Tech Center and purchasing equipment. Shortly after, Mr. Stull was asked to become the principal of the new Vo-Tech Center.

He worked with the county advising committee, county vocational supervisor, architect, and builders to plan and design the new building. He also visited other vocational centers throughout the state and surrounding states to get ideas for the Vo-Tech Center. A number of the original ideas that were used still exist in the center today. Mr. Stull also hired staff and equipped all of the program areas in the new building.

The cooperation and support from businesses, industries, the agricultural community, students, staff, fellow principals, and administrators were all instrumental in making the center operate successfully as part of the community. It was definitely a great investment and money well spent. Mr. Stull said that his years serving as principal at the Vo-Tech Center were the most pleasant in all of his 31 years in public education.

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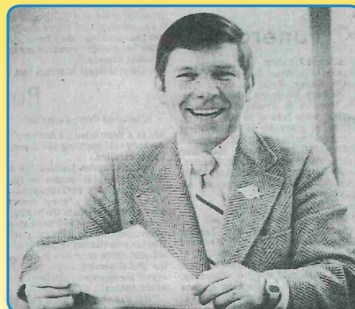
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How It All Began

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THE MOMENT IT MATERIALIZED

In January of 1976, ground was broken for the new Vo-Tech Center located at 7922 Opossumtown Pike Frederick, MD 21702 on the Frederick Community College campus. The center then opened in September of 1977. Mr. Stull was assigned a secretary at the new Vo-Tech Center. Her name was Ruby Shanholtzer. She made opening day at the new Vo-Tech Center a success and was instrumental in the center running smoothly. According to Rollie Atkinson with the Frederick News Post, "In the first year, the Vo-Tech Center gained recognition by the State Department of Education as a "model school program" and the first school to adopt competency-based curriculum." (Atkinson, Rollie. "Vo-Tech Program a Winner", Frederick News Post, n.d.) In 1987, ten years after the Vo-Tech Center opened, an addition was added to the building to accommodate the changing nature and growing need of the labor market. This addition housed seven programs, five of which were new at the time.



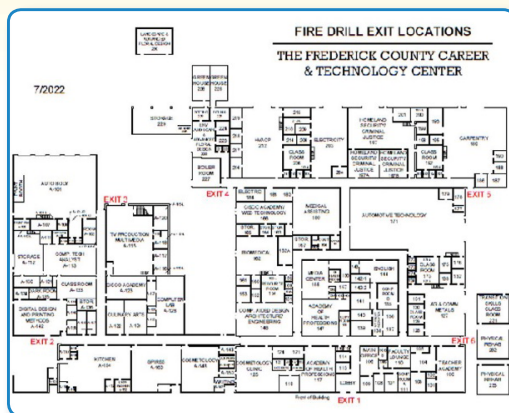
Paul Stull (then)



Paul Stull (now)



CTC original floor plan



CTC floor plan after 1987 expansion

The Frederick County Career and Technology Center is a very special place that has so much to offer to so many people especially our students. CTC has a significant impact on the community of Frederick County. It is not just a school it is a vibe... a good vibe! A big thank you to Paul Stull for taking the time to visit, share his stories, and for being an integral part of CTC (Vo-Tech).



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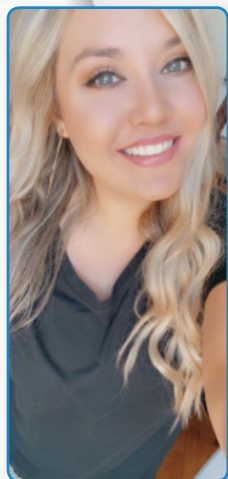
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Welcome New Staff!



**EMILY KLINE,
COSMETOLOGY TEACHER**

I came back home! My name is Ms. Kline and it has been absolutely incredible coming back to be part of the CTC family. I began my journey with CTC when I was a Junior at Walkersville High School, by attending the Cosmetology program. It was truly a blessing to be introduced to a program that provides students with a career and state licensure opportunities. After successfully completing 2 years at CTC and passing my state board exam, I worked as a cosmetologist while attending FCC where I received my associate's degree

in Criminal Justice, and sat for my senior cosmetologists licensing exam. During that time, I became aware that CTC was hiring for an instructional assistant position, I was fortunate enough to be able to go from student to staff member at CTC and help guide and support students on their technical education journey. During that school year I realized my passion for education and knew that one day, given the opportunity, I would love to be a CTC Cosmetology instructor. To properly ensure that I was up for that responsibility I accepted an education position with The Temple, a private Paul Mitchell cosmetology college in downtown, Frederick MD. After 5 years of growth, training, and experience, I am so blessed and happy to be back at CTC as a Cosmetology instructor.

**ERICA STULL,
SCHOOL COUNSELOR**

Hi! My name is Erica Stull. I have been a school counselor for about 8 years, 6 of which were spent at Urbana High School, and 2 spent at a variety of schools around the county. Before that, I worked as a residential counselor in a residential treatment center for adolescents. My career at a residential counselor inspired me to pursue and obtain a master's degree and become a school counselor. I love animals and currently have four cats; Piper, Benny, Archie, and Lucy. I also love sleeping in, strength-training, and my family. I was born and raised in Frederick County and graduated from Brunswick High School. Go Roaders! I love my job as a school counselor and am so happy to be at CTC!



**SHAWN STANLEY, AUTOMOTIVE
SERVICE TECHNOLOGY TEACHER**

Originally from Beaver Falls, PA, I completed a tour of duty in the Nation's capital as a bugler in The Commandant's Own U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps. Upon honorable discharge in 2004, I transitioned into an automotive technicians training program. As a technician's apprentice and during my 9 years as an ASE master technician, I primarily repaired Volvos and Saabs; however, I have experience repairing most vehicles. I was a teacher for the last 9 years with Howard County Public Schools where I also taught Automotive Technology, and achieved my National Board Certification in 2021. I have lived in Middletown, MD since 2006 and I am excited to be a part of the CTC family and teach students in Frederick County.

**SUSAN WHITE, ACADEMY OF
HEALTH PROFESSIONS TEACHER**

Hi! My name is Susan White. I received my RN diploma and began nursing as a career over 35 years ago. I have worked in a variety of nursing jobs. For almost 18 years I worked in the NICU at Howard County General Hospital. For the past 15 years I have been an elementary school nurse for Carroll County Public schools. I acquired a master's in education as a healthcare educator from St. Joseph's College in Maine several years ago, with the intention of teaching eventually. I am excited to teach at CTC and share my experience and love of nursing. I live in Woodbine with 2 cats and my 20-year-old son Michael, who is attending UMBC.

