

# tech talk

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# CTC

## 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

**SEPTEMBER 2014**  
**Issue I**

Principal:

**Michael Concepcion**

[michael.concepcion@fcps.org](mailto:michael.concepcion@fcps.org)

AP:

**Jack Newkirk, II**

[jack.newkirk@fcps.org](mailto:jack.newkirk@fcps.org)

### Message from the Principal

Welcome back! The staff and I hope that your summer was a good one. We are in full swing at this time and have had an incredibly smooth opening.

Thanks to all who attended our Back to School Night on August 21st—what a great 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.

For over thirty five years, the Frederick County Public Schools' Career & Technology Center has been helping students jump start their future by providing intensive, career specific education in programs tailored for both college-bound and industry oriented students. Working closely with our families, as well as business partnerships, is very important to us 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.

We invite parents to become actively involved in our school community. Opportunities to volunteer are abundant. Our SkillsUSA, FFA and National Technical Honor Society organizations always welcome and need additional helping hands. These vital groups play a pivotal role at CTC and have already begun planning several key events for you and your children. In addition, each technical program offers the opportunity for industry leaders to participate in program advisory groups. These groups offer advice and support our technical programs; enabling them to keep pace with industry standards, expectations and innovations.

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 six newsletters a year to insure timely communication with families.

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

Sincerely,

Michael Concepcion

Principal

**Our Mission**—The Career and Technology Center provides intensive career-specific training to both college-bound and employment-oriented students. In addition to career training, emphasis is also placed on the development of broad, transferable “professional skills” that are essential for successful employment. We believe that Career and Technical education must provide students not only with technical knowledge but also essential academic and personal competencies that will allow them to become lifelong learners so that they can adapt to the changing requirements of the work-place and new technologies that are part of any career.

# 2

## current news

### Fundraisers

#### SAVE AROUND FREDERICK COUPON BOOK

Coupon book sales began on Thursday, August 21, 2014 and will continue until Friday, October 10, 2014. Books sell for \$20 and for every 5 that you sell, you will get one free! Sales to benefit SkillsUSA. Call CTC at 240-236-8493 for additional details.

### CTC Businesses

#### COSMETOLOGY

Phone 240-236-8528

Accepts calls for appointments:

W-F 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Walk-in's welcome!

### New Program Offered this Fall at CTC

Students interested in pursuing a career in floral design or related fields will have a new option starting this fall. Advanced Floral Design is a two credit, semester long course that fulfills the completer requirement for horticulture. Curriculum will be focused on design and the business aspect of the floral industry. If you're looking for a budget friendly option for flowers this fall, please contact diane.herndon@fcps.org.

### Back-to-School Community Night

(Sponsored by FCPS and EAG)

Registration for the sessions are based on a first-come, first-served basis. Session sizes are limited, so we encourage you to register early.

**Monday, September 15, 2014 – 7:00 to 9:00 pm** at Governor Thomas Johnson High School. For more information and to register for sessions, go to [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org). Click on Back-to-School Community Night.

### Environmental Landscape Design and Management Program to Sell Fall Chrysanthemums

Fall Chrysanthemums and pansies will be available for sale starting September 2, 2014. To join the plant sale mailing list, please email [diane.herndon@fcps.org](mailto:diane.herndon@fcps.org) or call 240-236-8514. A variety of fall colors are available. Chrysanthemums - \$6.50/ea or 5 for \$30.00 (tax included). We will also have pansies and ornamental cabbage and kale available. Make sure to get yours early!



### The Cognitive Benefits of Being Bilingual

Today, more of the world's population is bilingual or multilingual than monolingual. In addition to facilitating cross-cultural communication, this also positively affects cognitive abilities. Researchers have shown that the bilingual brain can have better attention and task-switching capacities than the monolingual brain, thanks to its developed ability to inhibit one language while using another. In addition, bilingualism has positive effects at both ends of the age spectrum: Bilingual children as young as seven months can better adjust to environmental changes, while bilingual seniors can experience less cognitive decline. For more on the benefits of being bilingual or resources for English language Learners instruction, visit Center of Applied Linguistics' website: [http://www.cal.org/earlylang/benefits/benefits\\_of\\_being\\_bilingual.html](http://www.cal.org/earlylang/benefits/benefits_of_being_bilingual.html)

Last year, 19 languages were represented at CTC.

English, of course, was spoken by all, but our multicultural and diverse population also spoke Amharic, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, Dari, Farsi, French, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Twi, Urdu and Vietnamese! Can you identify where in the world all these languages are spoken? We're looking forward to another multilingual group of students again in 2014/2015. - The English Language Learner (ELL) Department



## Work Smart and Hard: THE VALUE OF SKILLED LABOR

By: Kristen Daly, CTC School Counselor - Published in Frederick's *Child Magazine* February/March 2014 Issue

I have a confession to make...I have a bit of a crush on Mike Rowe, most famous for his role as host of the Discovery Channel's show *Dirty Jobs*, but more recently recognized for his awareness campaign for the skilled trades called *Profoundly Disconnected*. My affections for Mike Rowe don't stem from his good looks or his charisma – although he does have both. My love for Mike Rowe comes from a shared passion for the value of an education plus a skill that I have developed and deepened over the years through my work as a school counselor at the Frederick County Public Schools Career & Technology Center. I have a crush on Mike because he seems to do a much better job of articulating the sentiment than I do...To put it plainly in his words "We are lending money we don't have to kids who can't pay it back to train them for jobs that no longer exist. That's nuts."

As a country we have trillions of dollars in student loans, hundreds of thousands of college graduates who can't find a job, and yet there are 3 million good paying jobs that go unfilled due to a lack of skilled workers. The skills gap is real and widening. Why is that? Over the past 40 years we as a country have slowly but systematically marginalized a critical part of our workforce – that of the skilled tradesperson. This marginalization has dramatic implications for our economy. And we are not just talking about the traditionally viewed blue collar jobs. The shortage of skilled workers includes highly skilled positions in science, technology, engineering, and math as well. Is it because young people are not inspired by science and math? Is there a negative perception of vocational careers? Is it because skilled labor has the word labor attached to it? Or is it because we have elevated higher education to such a lofty position that anything else seems to be a lesser option? If there are millions of good paying jobs available to people who are willing to learn a skill and work hard – and 80% of those jobs do not require a traditional four year degree – why are young people not interested in them?

We are a product of our values. Larry Bock, entrepreneur and biotech investor believes "A society gets what it celebrates." I recently presented at a middle school evening event for

8th graders and their parents. The presenters included myself, two college representatives, a college savings representative, and two other high school guidance counselors. As I was presenting my standard presentation regarding the value of getting an education and learning a skill, parents in the audience were smiling and nodding their heads in agreement. However, after the conclusion of all of the presentations the audience was encouraged to take the remaining time to talk to each one of us individually to gain more information. Of an audience of more than sixty people, only two stopped by my table briefly just pick up a brochure. To me this was a very telling sign that while in our hearts we deeply value the work of the skilled tradesperson, we see those as careers for someone else's children. These are the people that built our country on their backs, that continue to allow us to live in comfort and safety; they are the problem solvers, the innovators, the collaborators, the entrepreneurs, the doers of our society. Yet we still see those jobs as a job for someone else to do.

The truth is, if we don't begin to change that thinking and truly begin to re-value the trades, as Charles Warner of *Innovation & Technology Today* put it in his 2013 article *What's Behind the Skills Gap* - not only will our way of life and economy be at risk – the skills gap affects our young people's sense of purpose and feelings of contribution to our society. It impacts the ability of businesses to grow and expand and our economy's ability to prosper. So what can we do about it? There needs to be big shifts in thinking from government and business. There also needs to be a real collaboration between government, business, and education. But the most important shift in thinking and action needs to come from parents. As parents it is natural to want something better for our children than we had. The question is what is "better" in 2013-2014 and beyond? Ten to twenty years ago getting a standard four year degree was what helped young people secure a good job. However, things have changed. Today, everything is saying to us as parents that a good life can be found in another way as well, if we

only listen. Three million jobs are unfilled. 80% of those jobs do not require a four year degree. Trillions of dollars of student loan debt. "College isn't the enemy," Mike Rowe says, "A skill and an education are two sides of the same coin and it makes no sense to champion one at the expense of the other."

And it starts with us as parents. What will we encourage in our children? What perspective will we perpetuate in them? Can we change in ourselves this ingrained thinking? It is hard. When I first started at the Career & Technology Center my principal at the time asked me the question "What do you want for your own children? Do you want them to go to college?" Do I? I hope I want them to pursue their dreams, challenge themselves, learn to work hard, and find a career that brings them joy and satisfaction. If that path includes the traditional four year degree I will be okay with that. But if it doesn't I need to be okay with that as well because I know that if they have a skill and an education and a willingness to work hard – they can be successful. The skills gap is real and growing. We need to change how we think about the definition of a good job, and be willing to encourage our little ones to do the same.

An important presenter at a recent educational community event spent a great deal of time talking about how every student can and should have access to college level classes in high school. He then went on to say that for those other students who didn't want that option but wanted to work as a beautician or bricklayer, "That was okay too." At first I was intensely disappointed at what I perceived to be his portrayal of these types of careers as a lesser alternative for students. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized, that it is okay. It is okay to be a bricklayer. Or an electrician. Or a health technician. Or a computer technician. Or any of those jobs that comprise the three million unfilled highly skilled jobs available to those willing to learn the skill it takes to fill them. It is absolutely okay. So in the words of my not-so-secret-crush Mike Rowe, we need to start encouraging the thinking "Work Smart and Hard", not just smart. Can we do it? I certainly hope so.



# 4

# featured programs

## Relay for Life

Carpentry program students from the Frederick County Career and Technology Center (CTC) joined forces with the Frederick County Building Industry Association (FCBIA) to construct a playhouse as a community service project to benefit Relay for Life. FCBIA members donated the materials and delivered them to CTC with construction drawings. The students were excited about the educational project and the opportunity to help the community. Community Service is an important part of the SkillsUSA Program of Work for its student members at CTC. Because of the student house project and apprenticeship curriculum time requirements, the students agreed to construct much of the project after school. The completed play house debuted at the FCBIA Home Show where FCBIA members raffled off the project.

In more than 5,200 communities and 20 countries, Relay for Life events comprise the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Each Relay for Life event is special to its community, but the movement's true power lies in the combined commitment of thousands of participants, volunteers, and supporters to help the American Cancer Society save lives from cancer.



## Operation Edge-Ucation

For the past two years in Culinary Arts, our students have been cooking after school with middle school students through the Operation Edge-Ucation program. This program partners CTC programs with middle school students interested in learning about some of the programs offered here at CTC. In the Culinary Arts sessions the students learn to cook and practice their skills in a commercial kitchen setting. It's a great experience for all of the students involved, especially our Culinary Arts students, because they get the chance to teach others their newly learned cooking skills, and they earn volunteer hours. This helps to enhance their technical skill level, their comfort level, and their leadership skills in the kitchen. This year we had the theme of cooking dishes from around the world, such as - wontons, spinakopita, stuffed shells, Thai curry chicken, shepherd's pie, and ravioli. The culinary sessions run from 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. for four weeks and are typically offered twice a year (once in the fall and once in the spring).



## Frederick CTC FFA Chapter Receives Food For All Grant

The CTC FFA Chapter received a \$2500 grant this spring to install a high tunnel greenhouse in the land lab. Students and volunteers worked this spring to install the high tunnel, build raised beds and plant fruits and vegetables with the lofty goal of growing and donating 700 pounds of produce to local families in need.

This summer, several students and volunteers volunteered their time to weed the garden, stake the tomatoes, harvest fruits and vegetables and deliver them to the local food bank. We've had several large donations including: cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, peppers, cantaloupes and potatoes.

This fall, students will be planting cool season vegetables in hopes of reaching the 700 pound goal. Thank you to National FFA for sponsoring the grant with financial support from Ram Trucks, Monsanto, Farmers Feeding the World and Donaldson Filtration Solutions.



## FCPS Curriculum NOW

You have probably heard the words "Common Core." But do you know that the Common Core is not a curriculum?

Common Core standards are benchmarks or general guidelines that a partnership of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association launched with parents, school administrators and educators in many states across the country to help students become college and career ready.

Common Core state standards do not tell our teachers what or how to teach; they simply outline the skills that all students should master to help them:

- Think critically
- Cooperate
- Innovate
- Make decisions

Curriculum NOW is the FCPS curriculum that we prepared for meeting the state standards.

Find out more: [www.fcps.org/curriculumnow](http://www.fcps.org/curriculumnow)

## “Paying it Forward”

What a pleasure to watch the Digital Design & Printing Methods students guide Wolfsville Elementary students to creating a vinyl cut t-shirt from beginning to end last March! As the Digital Design & Printing Methods students waited for the Wolfsville bus to arrive they were nervous with anticipation and worried if the visitors would enjoy what they were going to teach them.

At first there was a moment of awkwardness, but it subsided as soon as each of the students stood up, introduced themselves and shook their assigned person's hand, just like they were taught how to handle meeting a professional in the trade. Conversations started and a sense of friendship began to form. We kicked off the event explaining how the graphics and printing industry touches their life daily with examples of all the items in a local supermarket, the clothes they wear that have graphics, to the mail their parents receive at home. We walked around showing them the computer lab and all the equipment that could produce books, t/shirts and signage.

Each student then recreated our class logo and the Wolfsville logo in Adobe Illustrator. After this, they weeded away the image that they did not want, positioned it on a shirt and heat pressed the logos on the front and back. By doing this, they saw that there is something magical about creating an electronic image and reproducing it on paper or clothing.

The end result? A group of very happy and excited elementary students were able to take home a personally designed and printed t-shirt that day!



Creating Artwork



Completed Shirts

## A Visitor from Puerto Rico

Lorainne Medina, a ninth grade student from Puerto Rico, was given a trip to Maryland for her 15th birthday. Lorainne spent the summer with her cousin, Astrid Cordero, a student in the Academy of Health Program (AoHP) at the Career & Technology Center (CTC). Lorainne received permission from CTC's principal, Mr. Concepcion, to visit the AoHP classroom. During her visit, Lorainne learned about the dental profession and how to take a blood pressure.

Lorainne said she had never visited a technical high school and was impressed with the size of CTC and all the programs it offers. She said this type of school would be beneficial to the students of Puerto Rico by helping them to focus on a future career. She has aspirations to become a Nutritionist and she feels that AoHP would be very helpful.

Our Spanish speaking students interviewed and interpreted for Lorraine who does not speak English. Lorraine says she has enjoyed her time in Maryland and she looks forward to visiting Washington, D.C. She says people here are not so different from those in Puerto Rico, however the food and the landscape is very different. She has enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers and likes the fields of corn, something that she has never seen in Puerto Rico.

The AoHP students enjoyed asking her questions about her country and her culture. They also enjoyed teaching Lorraine how to take a blood pressure which she mastered by the end of the class.



## Frederick Students Win Governor's Cup

### PLACED FIRST IN ENGINEERING CHALLENGE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

**Frederick, MD (May 27, 2014)** – Frederick County Public Schools' students in the Career and Technology Center (CTC) are state champions for the third year in a row, placing first in the 2014 Real World Design Challenge. They won the Governor's Cup for their Precision Agriculture Drone project. Their challenge, according to advisor Phil Arnold, was to maximize crop yields while maintaining reasonable costs for the unmanned aircraft system. They designed the winning drone to address crop loss due to invasive pests.

Blair Plombon was the team's project manager this year—and on last year's winning team. Teammates Paige Bussard, Nathan Eschbach, Nathan Fox, Ryan Kinzie, Jeet Kumar and Devin Shields worked with Blair to achieve this year's win.

Taking part in this national STEM competition, the CTC engineering program received \$1 million worth of software to use during the challenge. Next up the Frederick team will compete at the national finals at Washington DC in November.



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# 6

# CTC organizations

## Be a Student Ambassador!!

Are you...

- Outgoing??
- Enthusiastic??
- Willing to present to small groups??
- Willing to lead small groups in hands-on activities??

Interested in sharing your CTC technical program with elementary school students??

Interested in sharing your CTC technical program with middle school students??

Our Student Ambassadors engage school students and community members with information and activities that showcase our CTC technical programs.

Come join us for an informational meeting on September 9th in the Spires Cafe.

**Morning students:** 9:10am

**Afternoon students:** 12:40pm

## 2014-2015 STUDENT AMBASSADOR MEETING DATES

Meetings will be held in the Spires Café on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:10 am for morning students & 12:40 pm for afternoon students.

September 9th	January 13th
October 14th	February 10th
November 11th	March 10th
December 9th	April 14th
	May 12th

## Frederick CTC FFA Chapter has Successful Summer

The CTC FFA chapter attended the Maryland FFA Convention located in College Park, Maryland at the University of Maryland from June 24th - 26th, 2014. The chapter competed in the following Career Development Events (CDE): Floriculture, Junior Extemporaneous Speaking, and FFA Knowledge.

During the Prepared Public Speaking CDE, students wrote and delivered a six- to eight-minute speech about a current agriculture-related topic. The speaking skills gained through this event help students excel in school, community and career settings. Amanda Farmer participated in this event and placed bronze.

The FFA Knowledge competition tests FFA history. Four students participated in this event with Alex Carpenter, Estefany Lazo, Hannah Brown earning bronze and Amanda Farmer earning silver.

The Floriculture CDE required students to identify plants, create flower arrangements, complete a general knowledge exam and solve problems. Hannah Brown and Amanda Farmer earned bronze individually.

In addition to the state convention, students also participated in the state Forestry Contest and placed 1st as a team. They will travel to Louisville, Kentucky in October for the National FFA Convention. Team members are: Alex Carpenter, Amanda Farmer, Michelle Hagan and William Salisbury.

Amanda Farmer also competed in the state Livestock Evaluation CDE and placed 7th in the state.

Upcoming events include: Poultry Evaluation CDE at the Maryland State Fair, Nursery/Landscape Contest at The Big E in Springfield, MA and many events at the Great Frederick Fair.









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## You're on track with CTC, BUT WHAT'S NEXT?

College options abound - we can help find the best fit for you!



Rely on the experience of **Charlotte Klaar, PhD.**, and her staff of professionals to provide crucial advice on college lists, timelines, applications & financing. Contact us today! [www.cklaar.com](http://www.cklaar.com)



Ask about our ongoing seminars!

## SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA provides a wide spectrum of opportunities for our students. The organization itself transcends from the National level with ties to corporations which provide technical support to State, Regional and Local activities. Corporations like DeWalt Tools, CISCO Systems, Johnson and Wales, and the National Home Construction Foundation recognize the impact SkillsUSA has on preparing career and technology students for employment. In addition the administration and staff at the National headquarters value direct ties to local chapters like ours at CTC. In the past, the National Director, Mr. Tim Lawrence, and his staff have participated in media events at CTC and enlisted the assistance of our instructors and students to be photographed for numerous publications that SkillsUSA distributes to over 33,000 chapters throughout the United States, Guam, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. SkillsUSA is also recognized by countless colleges and technical institutes in the nation which award scholarships to SkillsUSA members.

The State level of SkillsUSA facilitates technology and leadership competitions for students in addition to sponsoring an annual Maryland SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference where SkillsUSA student members from across the State meet to participate in session on a wide range of "soft skills" topics like effective communication, team building skills, professional image, etc. The school year culminates with the State SkillsUSA Championships in the spring. Students who have advanced through local and regional technical and leadership competitions compete at States to determine the best in over 75 contests. Winners then advance to the National Championships held in late June in Kansas City, Missouri. Students who reach the National Championships are recognized as being in the top 2% in the nation in their technical area.

Locally, we have a very active chapter. We are one of the three largest chapters in Maryland. Although the staff and students feel that we are always holding fundraiser activities and concentrating on preparing for technical competitions, our student officers have planned numerous activities to promote professional development and community service. Please look for more information on all of our activities in future articles from our SkillsUSA Reporter, Addison White, as well as information posted on our CTC website.

## Students Achieve in Top 10

### NATIONWIDE SKILLS USA COMPETITION

Ten students from CTC recently placed in the nation's top ten in the 50th Annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference and Championships in Kansas City, MO. They competed against more than 6,000 students from across the nation and U.S. territories.

Amanda Ponce placed fourth nationwide in Basic Health Care Skills; the team of David Green, Alondra Herrera and Esther Shafer placed fifth nationwide for Outstanding Chapter; Nicholas Rakowski placed sixth nationwide in Architectural Drafting; Erin Hessong placed seventh nationwide in Employment Application Process; and the team of Sophia Eureka, Eric Myers, Maria Olney and Benjamin Wetzel placed tenth nationwide in Broadcast News Production.

Also recognized for outstanding achievement were Cearrah Sherman for placing 12th nationwide in Job Interview; Alex Kravchenko and Kyle Lokey for placing 15th in Web Design; and Louis Bell, Sprio Millios and Ben Olson for placing 27th in the Welding Fabrication Team competition.

To be eligible to compete at the national level, each of the 16 students had already won at the local, regional and state levels. At the national level of this \$35 million event, there were technical competitions and written-test competencies that representatives from the technical professions designed and administered. These included professionals from trade associations and labor organizations as well as instructors from colleges and post-secondary technical institutes. Students worked against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in one of 99 occupational areas.

Front row (Left to right): Kyle Lokey and Amanda Ponce. Second row: Cearrah Sherman, Alondra Herrera and Maria Olney. Third row: Erin Hessong, Esther Shafer, Ben Wetzel, Sophia Eureka and Nicholas Rakowski. Last row: David Green, Sprio Millios, Ben Olson, Alex Kravchenko, Louis Bell and Eric Myers.



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# in the spotlight

## *This Is A Story*

(POEM BY EVAN WINDSOR)

*This is a story to all the boys and girls,  
That don't understand their place in this world.  
I'll show the path you may never have seen,  
That very well could lead to your dreams.*

*You don't have to be nerdy,  
But willing to get dirty.  
Just work really hard,  
It will take you far.*

*There are so many jobs that need to be filled,  
That only require a handful of skills.  
As long as you agree to give it your all,  
They will take you high and never let you fall.*

*The lazy say "work smarter not harder"  
The wise say "work harder and smarter"  
But at the end of the day it's your decision to make,  
But please don't make the same mistake.*

*Find a skilled trade that you enjoy,  
Work hard, and you will stay employed.*

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## Mr. Arnold Earns National Award

### NAMED 1 OF 5 EXEMPLARY MENTORS

CTC AutoCAD teacher Philip Arnold has earned national recognition as one of five 2014 Engineering News-Record/McGraw Hill—ACE Exemplary Mentor Award winners. In the ACE Mentor Program, ACE stands for architecture, construction and engineering. A jury composed of the 2013 Exemplary Mentors selected Mr. Arnold for the award.

ACE's Frederick affiliate Board Chairman Gary Orton nominated Mr. Arnold for the national award: "Phil, an engineer by education and training, took his passion for the building industry to heart and joined FCPS as an instructor with the Career and Technology Center (CTC). In this role, Phil knows he can have the most impact by leading classes in Architecture, Drafting, and Engineering—and inspiring our next generation of industry leaders. Phil actively promotes his CTC classes during ACE orientation sessions and any opportunity he gets to draw potential students to CTC, ACE and ACE-related careers. Because of his enthusiasm, reputation and dedication, his classes fill up quickly. His students are some of the most talented, successful, dedicated and recognized students and graduates. In turn, Phil promotes the ACE Mentor program to all of his CTC students as a 'must have experience' so they can blend their studies with real-world experiences provided by ACE mentors. Phil sees first-hand the value of the students' ACE experience, and he is a true champion of both—ACE and the students."

The Frederick ACE affiliate that nominated Mr. Arnold for the award received \$2,500 to be used as a scholarship in Mr. Arnold's name. In addition, the Frederick affiliate received \$500 for a travel subsidy for a representative to attend the All Affiliates Best Practices Conference in Chicago, this past June.

## Mr. Jones Tops CISCO Leaderboard

### FOR CISCO NETWORKING ACADEMY

Cisco Networking Academy instructor Robb Jones is number 1 on the new Cisco Networking Academy Global Leaderboard, beating out every other instructor worldwide.

Cisco recently developed a point system that tracks contributions of Cisco instructors from around the world. There are over 10,000 academies in 165 different countries, teaching Cisco to more than 1,000,000 students a year. Instructors are awarded points for curriculum development, shared teaching materials, academy-based blogs and wikis, and other activities that promote better teaching within the worldwide Cisco Networking Academy program.

Mr. Jones started the Computer Technician/Analyst Program at CTC in 1998. He then began teaching the Cisco Networking Academy program in 2000. This past year he taught the first Network Security+ class at the CTC.

During his FCPS tenure, Mr. Jones has also become a teacher trainer for the Cisco Networking Academy program in Maryland and a prolific author of curriculum materials that support the worldwide program.

"Our CTC Academy program has the highest pass rate on the A+, CCENT, and CCNA certification exams in Maryland," says Mr. Jones, speaking of the program that he, Melvin Baker and James Dorsch teach. "Jim and I are routinely asked to do instructor training for Cisco and IT Essentials (computer technology) for the Academy program, the Maryland State Department of Education, and Towson University."