

Career Development Center

News

A Message from Keri Smith- CTE Director

The first semester of the 2024-2025 school year has passed by so quickly! The career and technical (CTE) programs at our center have soared through the first half. The Career Development Center works with the local business community to enhance the courses offered through our center.

The CDC staff is committed to providing students with hands-on educational opportunities and work-based learning experiences. CTE courses help students develop marketable job skills and earn national industry certifications needed to achieve their occupational goals. In Mississippi, CTE courses are widely available. At more than 500 schools and 15 community and junior colleges, CTE instruction is offered in 49 distinct occupational areas.

Our vision is to provide students with the necessary skills to be college and career ready by instilling the importance of soft skills, pride, motivation, and character. We are moving towards that vision through the use of the ACT WorkKeys Assessment and national certifications in the areas of Business, Marketing, & Finance. The results of these assessments are included in the statewide accountability system. The ACT WorkKeys Assessment was administered to all CTE completers enrolled in year two of their chosen career pathways and to PHS seniors on November 19, 2024. National certification assessments are tested during the spring semester.

We have so many exciting activities planned throughout the school year, and I can't wait to share them with you. In the meantime, if you are interested in becoming a partner with our center, please contact us. We welcome business and community leaders to visit with us!

For more information on the Career Development Center and the career programs offered, contact Keri Smith, Director of Career & Technical Education, at keri_smith@poplarvilleschools.org.

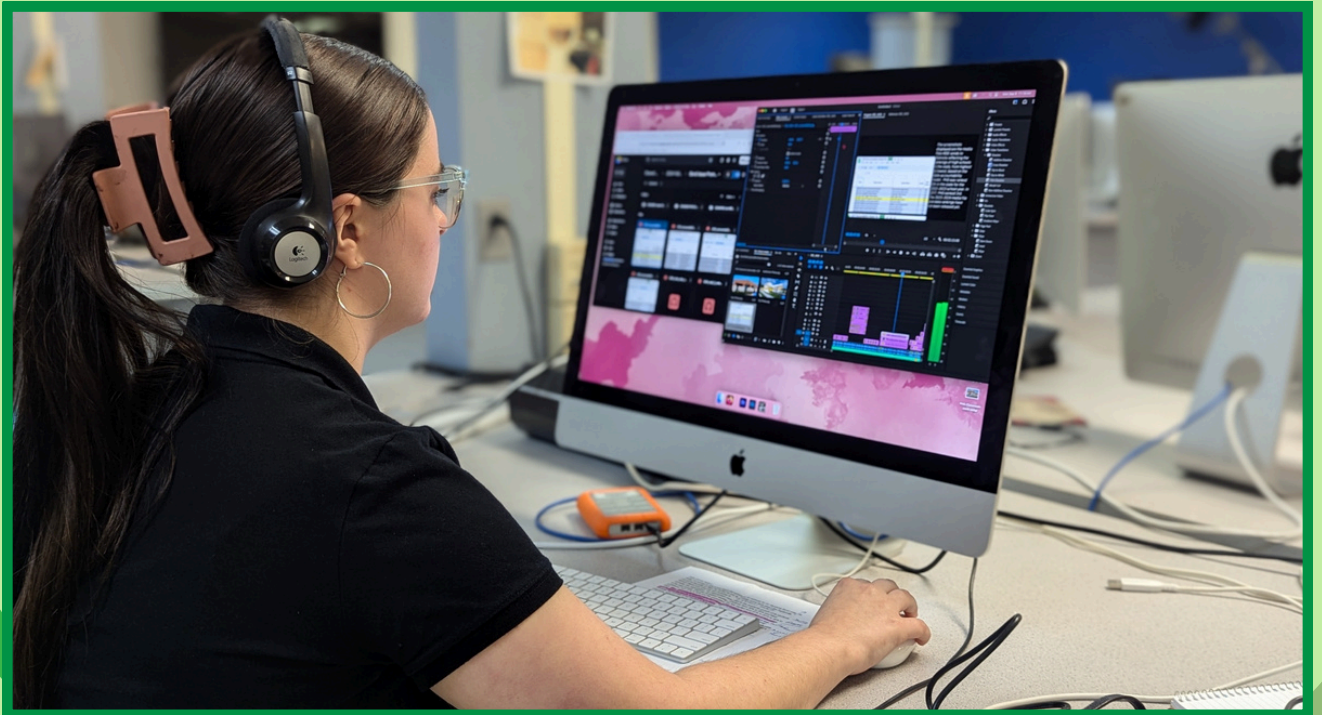
PRCC FTV Masterclass

Donna Baxter's Digital Media Technology class visited Pearl River Community College's Film and Video Technology program to attend a masterclass in video production.. The workshop, led by instructor Ronn Hague, taught second year DMT students everything they need to know about working on set and the production process. They were allowed to work in-studio on the campus and were allowed to use various types of professional equipment one would find in a high-end studio. Students enjoyed being both film crew and actors on set and returned from the trip with a plethora of knowledge regarding the film industry.



Our Video Editor

Pennelope Keenan spends most of her day staring at a computer screen creating digital videos for the district. After completing the Digital Media Technology program last May, she volunteered to be our post-production intern and began the monumental task of compiling and editing footage gathered each week by DMT and MM students. We rely on her skills and dedication to the job, and we will miss her when she graduates.



Football Footage

Journalism captured a few behind-the-scenes images of Digital Media Technology and Multimedia as they took photos and videos for the senior scoreboard spots.



Digital Media/Multimedia

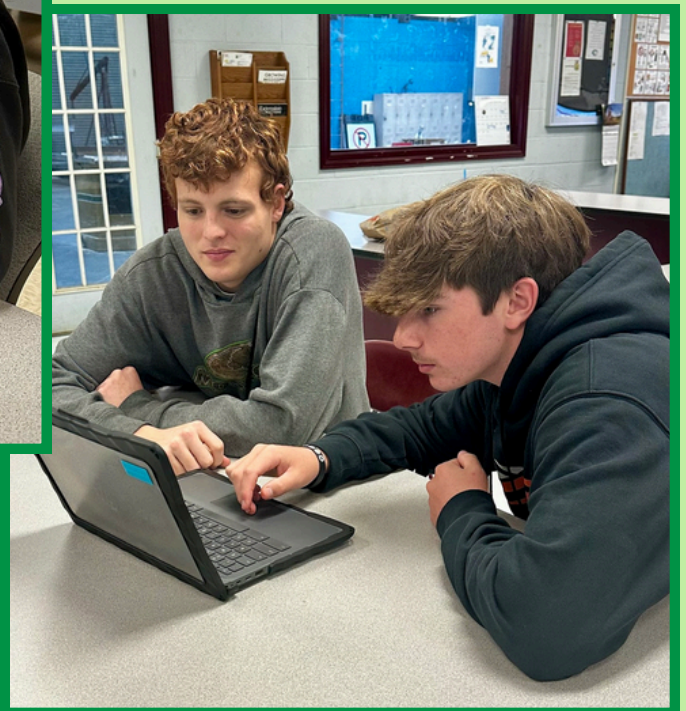
Positive Rewards

The Career Development Center positive behavior students for the first semester are Payton Hart and Ellie Beech. Winning students must be enrolled in a CTE program, must have no write-ups or tardies, and must be passing all of their classes. Their names are put in a hat, and the winner is drawn. We are glad to have Payton and Ellie in the CDC. Congratulations!



ACT WorkKeys

CDC students worked hard preparing for the ACT WorkKeys test. Their goal is to perform silver, gold, or platinum, which earns them National Career Readiness Certification. WorkKeys is a nationally recognized test that measures skills required for success in the workplace, and helps to measure workplace skills in applied math, graphic literacy, and workplace documents. Local businesses that use the test for employment are MS National Guard, MS Power, Pearl River Valley Electric, Forrest General Hospital, Hattiesburg Clinic, Pearl River Community College, Coca-Cola Bottling, Brown Bottling, Gulf Coast Restaurant Group, The University of Southern MS, William Carey, Hancock Whitney Bank, and Poplarville School District. It can also increase the person's opportunities for workplace advancement.



CTE Day at the River

On October 29th, our second year CTE students traveled to Pearl River Community College to partake in their annual CTE day. We appreciate the River taking the time to showcase their CTE programs and giving our students the opportunity to explore the many options available to them through their CTE programs. The students were able to tour the facilities and talk directly to the instructors of each program. They also heard from students who are currently enrolled in the programs, and they were able to get a realistic view of what obtaining a career in each field would look like. As always we want to thank PRCC for hosting this fun filled & informative day.



CTE Counselor



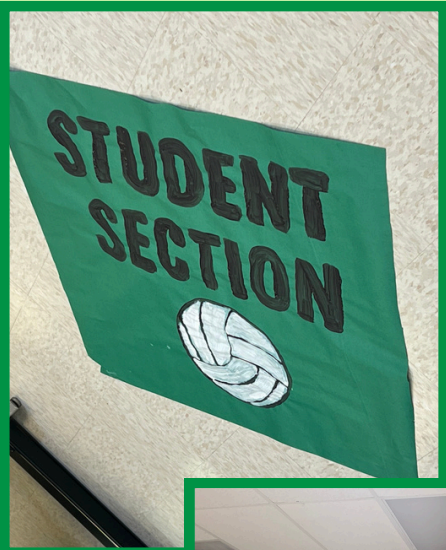
Business Board Game

BMF students competed at Monopoly in a fun way to learn about real estate, rent, and mortgages plus the concept of a market dominated by a single seller.



Advertising the Hornets

'Even a simple paper sign counts as advertising.



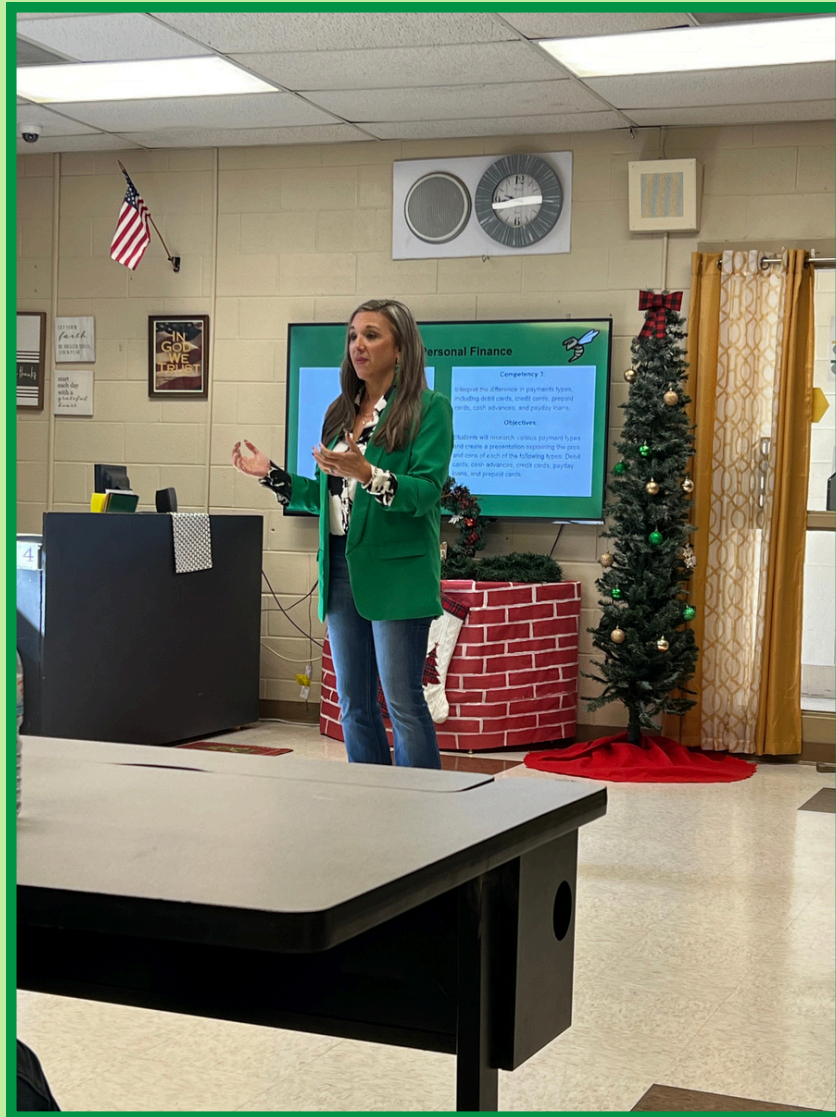
Community Service

The Backpack Buddies food drive by BMF and DECA was a success!



Guest Speaker

Devin Smith of ReMax spoke to Mrs. Campbell's classes about credit scores and first-time home buying.



College and Career Fair

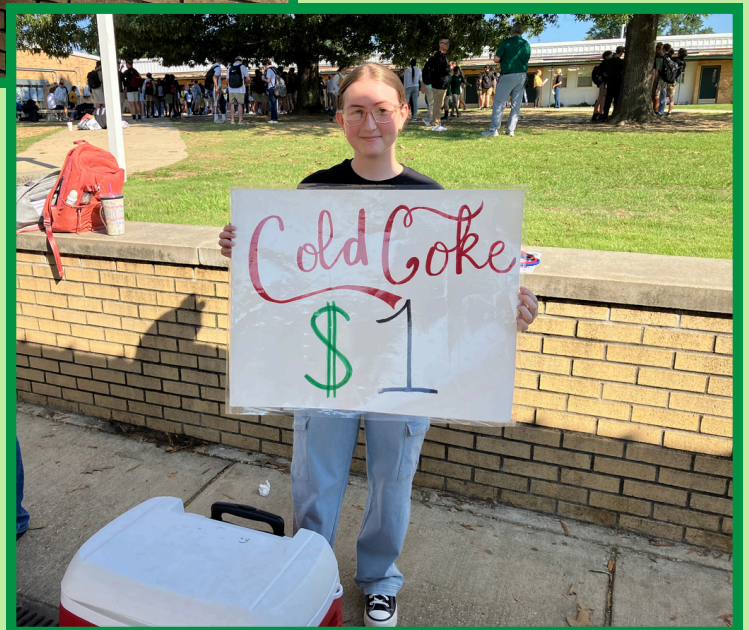
This year's college and career fair was a success with representatives from local industries as well as the military and several colleges across the state. The students enjoyed a selection of cuisine from several food trucks as well.

Campus Activities



Homecoming Sales

The Health Sciences/HOSA chapter participated in Homecoming Break activities this year by teaming up with DECA-DMT to sell canned drinks. HOSA raised \$200 for the week, which will help defray the cost of future travel to conferences and competitions. A big THANK YOU to Greer's Cash Saver for donating (16) 12 packs of canned drinks!



Vital Signs

As part of the patient assessment unit, second-year HCCS students learned how to perform vital signs such as blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and respiration. A blood pressure accuracy contest was held with the winner being Janiyah Jones! The winner was treated to a snack from the Snack Shack or culinary class.



PPE

As part of their lesson on Infection Control, Health Sciences students learned how to properly put on and remove Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gowns, masks, gloves, hats, and protective eyewear.



Hoyer Lift

Health Sciences students recently learned how to properly operate a Hoyer lift. A Hoyer lift is used to help transfer a patient from the bed to another device if they are unable to stand or walk. This piece of equipment makes it safer for the patient as well as the health care worker when performing transfers.



Clinical Rotations

Health Sciences II students have been participating in clinical rotations at Pearl River County Hospital and the Pearl River County Family Clinic. Clinical job shadowing is an extremely important part of the Health Sciences experience and we are very thankful to the staff and administration at Forrest Health Systems for allowing our students to participate in clinical job shadowing.



Allied Health Day

Health Sciences II students traveled to the PRCC Allied Health Campus in Hattiesburg to tour the programs offered there. The students received detailed information about each of the programs offered at the campus. Each of the program representatives allowed the students to test out some of their equipment and informed the students about the type of work that particular profession would be engaged in on a daily basis. After the tours, the students were treated to a pizza lunch. The Health Sciences II students enjoyed their day and received some valuable information about varying professions they could choose from in the allied health field.



Health Care & Clinical Services



Women in Welding

The CDC encourages non-traditional student populations to enroll in classes as much as possible, and our female welders make us proud.



Diversified Agriculture



Pretty Playhouse

Diversified Ag built a playhouse for Poplarville Pretty to be raffled off on December 14 at noon on the town green. The Career Development Center is so proud of the work these students have done.

Tickets can be purchased through the QR code.



Diversified Agriculture

Christmas Stage Props

Boxes were needed for the arts Christmas extravaganza.

We made boxes. 😊



Diversified Agriculture



Christmas Cookies

Culinary Arts spent a day baking and decorating sugar cookies.



Culinary Arts



CDC Christmas Party

at The Blue Heron Barn

We wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!



Director's Note

