

Lebanon County Career and Technology Center

833 Metro Drive, Lebanon, PA 17042 • • • Tel: (717) 273-8551 • • • www.lcctc.edu

Precision Machining Program – Summer Updates

The Precision Machining program has been busy this summer, bringing in new equipment, certifications, and training opportunities to further enhance student learning.

Two new Haas tabletop CNC machines—a lathe and a mill—have been added to the shop, providing students with additional hands-on opportunities to develop CNC programming and setup skills.

To support inspection and measurement training, the program purchased a 6' x 4' granite surface plate along with a digital height gage capable of measuring up to 24 inches. A Mitutoyo optical comparator with 50x magnification was also acquired, giving students experience in measuring precise and microscopic dimensions.

In addition, a new Snap-on tool box stocked with Starrett measuring tools has been introduced. Once the instructor completes certification at the end of September, students will be able to pursue multiple Precision Measuring Tool certifications using this equipment.

Professional certifications have expanded as well. The instructor became Haas Operator Certified this summer, which now allows the program to offer Haas Operator Training and certification on both the CNC lathe and mill—adding two more industry-recognized credentials for students.

The program also hosted two specialized training sessions in early August. The first welcomed Iscar sales representatives for training on the company's newest technologies. The second session opened the shop to local businesses, employees, and several current and former students, focusing on advanced hole drilling techniques. In appreciation for the use of the facility and equipment, Iscar generously donated \$2,800 worth of tooling.

Overall, it has been a very productive summer filled with upgrades, opportunities, and partnerships—all aimed at strengthening the Precision Machining program and better preparing students for success in the industry.



Haas Tabletop CNC Machines



Granite Surface Plate



Snap-on Tool Box



Specialized Training Session

Please welcome new staff members. . .



► Kelsie Hess, Dental Assistant Instructor

Kelsie Hess is an Expanded Functions Dental Assistant who brings 14 1/2 years of chairside dental experience to the classroom. She graduated from YTI for dental assisting in 2010 and then graduated from their EFDA program in 2012.

Kelsie resides in Lititz with her husband Chris of 11 years, (Shop Operations Manager of GSM Industrial). They enjoy spending time at their family's cabin, riding dual sport, going camping, gardening, and working on home projects. They have two sons: Everett (10) who loves to swim, ride four-wheelers, play Xbox, and be with friends and Eddison (7) who loves being outdoors, playing baseball and football, swimming, riding four-wheelers or dirt bike and kayaking.

► Mitchell Hinton, Carpentry Instructor

I was born and raised in Lancaster County and graduated from Lancaster County Career and Technical Center in 2001 from the carpentry program. I am a third-generation carpenter who has spent five years in commercial work, seven years operating my own residential company and also lived eight years overseas as a missionary in Chile and Costa Rica. Most recently, I have completed five years with Lancaster CTC as their Residential Carpentry Instructor. My wife Marisol and I have been married for 19 years and have four children: Violet, Isaac, Whitney and Nathan. We reside in Lititz, PA. I enjoy the outdoors, hunting, anything with a motor, smoking meat and spending time with friends and family. I also enjoy coming in everyday mentoring/teaching the youth of today and giving them skills to become good tradesmen/women in the future.



► Aghyad Kanafani, Electro-Mechanical Technology Instructor

My name is Aghyad Kanafani, but most people call me Alex. I was born and grew up in Syria. I graduated in 1996 from the University of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering with a degree in Electrical Engineering and later earned a master's degree in PLC systems. Over the years, I worked my way up to senior leadership roles and eventually became the general manager of one of the largest companies in the Middle East.

In a moment, like a nightmare, the war in Syria began; everything changed. I had to leave my career, my home, and everything I had built to keep my children safe. In 2013, my family and I moved to the United States to start over.

Starting a new life wasn't easy, but I brought my education, skills, and determination with me. I began with entry-level jobs and eventually returned to what I love most, teaching. I worked as an instructor at Triangle Tech Trade School in Sunbury, Pennsylvania, for eight years where I taught Electromechanical Engineering to more than 300 students.

During my time there, I received several awards, including the Governor's Award for Education. My biggest reward was hearing my students thank me, seeing them succeed, and knowing I helped them build their futures.

When Triangle Tech closed, I worked at Clearly Clean, a leading plastic manufacturing company in Pennsylvania, as a Research and Development Engineer. I designed and improved machines to help the company work more efficiently.

Now, I'm happy to be back in the classroom, teaching at the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center. Sharing my experience and story with students gives me a sense of purpose and pride.

I'm also a proud father of three and a soccer coach, which helps me stay active in my community.

I believe two things strongly:

1. We should never stop learning, because learning helps us grow and stay ready for the future.
2. Life is good and tomorrow can always be better.



Please welcome new staff members. . .



► David Patches, Maintenance Technician

My name is David Patches, and I am the new Maintenance Technician here at LCCTC. I am a 2009 graduate of the Plumbing/ HVAC course here, and ELCO High School. I have 15 + years of experience working in the maintenance and mechanical fields. I value spending time with my family. I am married and have two daughters, ages 3 and 11, with the oldest attending ELCO Middle School. With my free time, I enjoy traveling up to my cabin and being in the outdoors. I am thrilled to be here and I look forward to working with everyone.

► Amanda Robinson, Career and Technical Learning Facilitator

Amanda Robinson has served in the special education field for the past 15 years. She had worked for Lancaster Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 as a Job Trainer. She more recently worked at Schuylkill County Intermediate Unit 29 as a Special Education Facilitator for the Project SEARCH program at Lehigh Valley Hospital.

Amanda Robinson holds a BS from Thomas Edison State University in Sociology and M.S.E. from Kansas University in Special Education and Transition Counseling. She will be completing her PA Special Education Teacher Certification from Alvernia University in November 2025.

She currently resides in Lake Wynonah, Auburn, PA (Schuylkill County). She is obsessed with golden retrievers. Amanda also enjoys thrift shopping, vacationing in Florida, and boating.



► Sam Santiago, Welding Instructor

Sam has 38 years of welding experience, including 30 years at Harley-Davidson assembly plant, where he built gas tanks, motorcycle frames, and swingarms. Prior to that, he spent eight years at Simon Ladder Towers, working in their weld shop building fire trucks. He is a 1988 graduate of the Brownstown CTC Welding program, where he earned his welding certificate.

Outside of work, Sam enjoys spending time with family, hiking, biking, and ATV riding. Sam has been married to his wonderful wife Sharon for 32 years. They have a daughter, Megan, 27 and a son, Austin, 24. They also have two dogs, Levi and Daisy.

He's honored to join the team at Lebanon CTC as the new Welding Instructor and is very excited and looking forward to sharing his experience and guiding new students as they begin their welding career journey.



► Bambi Tanger, Cosmetology Instructor

With over 20 years of experience as a cosmetologist and 10 years as a salon owner, Bambi has built a career centered on passion, professionalism, and creativity. Her love for hair and nails started as a little girl, and that early spark grew into a lifelong career in the beauty industry. Known for her dedication to both her craft and clients, she takes pride in helping others look and feel their best. Bambi is excited to begin the next chapter of her career: teaching and guiding future stylists. By sharing her knowledge and experience, she hopes to inspire the next generation of beauty professionals to follow their passion and dreams. Bambi lives in Myerstown with her husband Eric, two sons, Isaac and Ian, her pup Broc Harrison, and cat, Moose E. Moose. When not in the classroom or behind the chair you can find her at Dunkin, T.J.Maxx, the soccer fields or baseball games.



Lebanon CTC's Chicken BBQ

Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 1:00-6:00 pm

This Fundraiser Supports Lebanon County CTC's CTSO's



Alumni Helping Students

On Monday, September 1, 2025, Harlie Gassert, CL, a student in Pastry Arts visited Disney World Epcot. While there she met with Chef Ian Benach Lebanon CTC Culinary Alumni 2012. Chef Benach is a Sous Chef at Disney World Epcot and is responsible for the Themed Festivals at that park.

Chef Ian shared his experience he had at the Lebanon CTC including pumpkin carving, gingerbread house, and SkillsUSA competitions. He also shared his experiences as an apprentice at Westmoreland Community College as well as Disney for the past 10 years including numerous locations from Ohana at The Polynesian Resort to now Sous Chef at Epcot. Harlie stated, "I am so glad I had the opportunity to talk with Chef Ian and that he shared with me his experience during his time at the CTC and how he got to where he is today". Harlie hopes to someday operate her own business and apply these experiences to her career path.

"After 30 years of teaching, it is great to see our Alumni helping future Alumni, we are truly blessed!" Chef Peffley commented.



School Counseling Calendar

September: Let's Get Adjusted

- 19:** SkillsUSA Memberships DUE
- 19:** Student Ambassador Applications DUE
- 25:** SkillsUSA Membership Meeting and Officer Nominations
- 26:** Progress Reports DUE
- 29-30:** SkillsUSA Officer Campaigns

****Introductory meetings with students and their respective School Counselor****

November: Look Towards Your Future

- Beginning the weeks of the 3rd:** Post-Secondary Planning Meetings with Seniors
- 6:** Lebanon HS Recruitment Visits to CTC
- 13:** Community Open House: 6-8pm
- 18:** Cedar Crest HS Recruitment Visits to CTC
- 24 & 25:** ACT 80/In-service Days for Staff
- 26-28:** Holiday Break

October: Let's Get Prepared

- 1-3:** SkillsUSA Officer Campaigns
- 2-3:** PACTA School Counselor Conference
- 8:** SkillsUSA Officer Elections
- 8:** Kauffman's Chicken BBQ Fundraiser
- 9:** Cedar Crest HS Recruitment Presentations
- 9:** Lebanon HS Recruitment Presentations
- 13:** Indigenous Peoples' Day (Columbus Day)- In-service Day for Staff
- 21:** Advisory Council Meeting at 7am & Quarterly Counselor Meeting to follow
- 22:** Mini Info Session: How to Prepare for a College and Career Fair at 9:30am and 1:10pm- sign up for students to attend
- 28:** College and Career Fair at Expo Center- 9:00am and 11:45am
- 30:** End of 1st Marking Period

****Stay tuned for more info on Manufacturing Week****



988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline



We can all help prevent suicide. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress as well as prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.

The national phone number for the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is for anyone in crisis. **Dial 988** for immediate help.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE