NYS CTE Model Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
The Urban Forestry and Landscape Services program at Putnam-Northern Westchester (PNW) BOCES offers students the opportunity to explore arboriculture, landscape design, construction management, and construction. The 250-acre PNW BOCES campus on which students can work includes wetlands, open space, and old and new growth forests. This program has state-of-the-art equipment including an articulated loader, sawmill, front end loader, spray rig, excavator, and various tools needed to perform tasks at a professional level. Community partnerships allow students to attain contextualized technical knowledge and skills.

Students in the program have the opportunity to earn industry recognized credentials and to partake in conversation challenges where they can earn scholarships. They also benefit from business and industry partnerships in the private and public sectors.

KEY PROJECTS
Project-based learning is an integral part of the Urban Forestry and Landscape Services program. Students have completed multiple community projects including clearing land for a new firehouse; transplanting a 30-foot holiday tree; helping to build a community dog park; partnering with the Boy Scouts to restore the historic Patriot Garden; milling 18 benches for FDR Park’s frisbee golf course; and renovating a par three, handicap-accessible, nine hole golf course for wounded military veterans and seniors, which is one of two in the country.

Additionally, the Urban Forestry program partners with the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Department on 250-acre PNW BOCES campus to...
carry out such tasks as removing large trees and building a parking lot. These opportunities allow students to learn and apply a variety of technical knowledge and skills: setting up a work area and controlling traffic; leveling an area to specifications; using surveying equipment; utilizing heavy equipment to excavate and level an area; calculating volumes of materials to be moved and replaced with substrates; removing trees; and tamping areas for paving. The work with O & M also allows students to experience partnerships with local businesses which mirror the curriculum.

**INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS**

The program offers four levels of certification. The Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), which allows all students to achieve individualized measures of success, is the industry-standard; companies utilize this standard to hire and maintain employee professionalism, growth, and performance. Students also receive 10- or 30-hour OSHA certification cards, which enable them to be hired upon graduation for competitive construction jobs. Achieving OSHA certification ensures that students are prepared on the jobsite, especially in regard to safety. Finally, this program incorporates the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), an industry-based certification that ensures students’ readiness in Heavy Equipment I operation. The NCCER certification is key for students seeking post-high school employment.

**ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS**

The Urban Forestry and Landscape Services program has articulation agreements with SUNY Morrisville, Paul Smith’s College, and UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture. Students can receive three credits from one of the three colleges. For UMass, students must maintain an overall 2.5 out of 4.0 GPA and a 3.0 average in the technical area of study (related agriculture curriculum) for consideration for credit.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

The Consultant Committee partners include leaders from Vermeer, Care of Trees, Save a Tree, and Alpine Tree Care and from the Town of Yorktown Department of Public Works and the Westchester County Parks Department, among others. This group is diverse in its representation from both the public and private sectors. Post-secondary members represent UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture, Paul Smith’s College, and SUNY Morrisville.

**CTE FOCUSED EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

Students participate in the New York State Conservation Competition held at Paul Smith’s College. Here, they can compete for scholarships in such fields as climbing, surveying, land use, heavy equipment operation, timber cruising, and plant and wildlife identification. In addition, students take a college tour there and learn about the college experience.

Students work in internships in businesses and the public sector.

With a grade average of 90 or better, students can be accepted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS).

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**About CTE TAC of NY**

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