NYS CTE Model Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
The Questar III BOCES Criminal Justice program has been in operation for 16 years and provides high school juniors and seniors from 23 school districts with a two-year half-day program of study that includes classroom instruction, hands-on practical exercises, mentorships with professionals in the field, and pathways to programs at surrounding colleges. The program operates at two locations: the Rensselaer Educational Center in Troy and Columbia-Greene Educational Center in Hudson. The rigorous criminal justice curriculum includes academic credits in math, science, English, and Participation in Government to fulfill state graduation requirements. The program also provides the most current information and techniques to prepare students for post-secondary studies and careers in law enforcement, 911 dispatching, investigations, security, corrections, courts, and other criminal justice related fields. Students can earn up to 12 industry certifications, as well as college credits from several area colleges.

KEY PROJECTS
Students participate in a mock trial where they learn every aspect of the criminal trial process. Students prepare for either the defense or prosecution and work in a team to develop theories, arguments, and evidence, as well as to prepare exhibits, opening and closing statements, and questions for cross-examination. Every aspect of the process is practiced, including jury selection, voir dire, objections, and courtroom etiquette. The mock trial is a full-day event. It is attended by about 200 people each year and is broadcast over the BOCES YouTube channel. Students also do a capstone portfolio project, which includes a resume, cover letter, and research paper. As part of the work-based learning requirement, students provide parking and security assistance at school events and complete an internship with local police agencies.

SCHOOL NAME:
Questar III BOCES

PROGRAM:
Criminal Justice

LOCATIONS:
Troy, NY
Hudson, NY

SUCCESS DATA:
100% of students passed the Regents or an approved substitution exam
100% of students passed a technical assessment
100% of students received a technical endorsement on their diploma

ENROLLMENT:
81

PROGRAM TEAM:
Dr. Danielle Bouton-Wales, CTE Director – Questar III BOCES
Anthony DeFazio, Principal, Rensselaer Educational Center
Jake Stomierski, Principal, Columbia-Greene Educational Center
Amy Gillett, Teacher, Rensselaer Educational Center
Anthony Pierro, Teacher, Columbia-Greene Educational Center
INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS
Students earn the following certifications throughout the program:

- American Heart Association CPR/First Aid/AED Training/Certification
- APCO – Public Safety Telecommunicator I Certification
- New York State 8-Hour Pre-assignment Security Guard Training/License
- New York State Mandated Reporter Training/Certificate
- Questar III – Bloodborne Pathogens Training/Certificate
- Questar III – Right to Know Hazard Communications Training/Certificate

As well as these FEMA certificates:
- Incident Command System Training/Certificate
- Leadership & Influence Training/Certificate
- Decision Making & Problem Solving Training/Certificate
- Active Shooter – What You Can Do Training/Certificate
- Effective Communication Training/Certificate

ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS
Students can earn up to 12 articulated credits from four colleges – Schenectady Community College, Columbia-Greene Community College, Bryant & Stratton College, and SUNY Canton.

PARTNERSHIPS
The program maintains a strong network of partnerships in the community. Partners often come to the BOCES sites to do demonstrations and speak with students about various aspects of their professions. Examples of presentations include on patrol duties, crime scene labs, and demonstrations by K9 handlers on bomb detection, cadaver and missing persons searches, and drug detection. Students visit 911 dispatch centers, police departments, and courts. Additionally, partners provide internships and assess student readiness for the Criminal Justice NOCTI exam. Partnerships include:

- Albany County Family Court
- Albany County Jail
- Albany County Sheriff's Office
- Albany Police Department
- City of Hudson Police Department
- Columbia County District Attorney’s Office
- Columbia County Public Defender’s Office
- Columbia County Sheriff's Department
- Columbia-Greene Community College
- Dutchess County Community College
- Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office
- East Greenbush Police Department
- Greene County District Attorney’s Office
- Kingston Police Department
- New York State Police Troop K
- North Greenbush Police Department
- Rensselaer County Department of Public Safety
- Rensselaer County Family Court
- Rensselaer County Jail
- Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office
- Rensselaer County Unified Family Services
- Schenectady County Jail
- Troy City Police Department
- Ulster County Law Enforcement Training Group
- Ulster County Sheriff's Office
- Unity House

CTSO CONNECTIONS & PROGRAM AWARDS
Students participate in SkillsUSA and compete yearly at the regional and state levels in the Criminal Justice, Crime Scene Investigation, and Job Interview categories. Students in the program have been medal winners five times.

About CTE TAC of NY
The Career and Technical Education Technical Assistance Center of NY is funded through a state contract under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006, administered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED).