

**Program Advisory Committee Dinner
BCIT Medford Campus
Superintendent Remarks
Dr. Christopher Nagy
12-1-2022**

Good evening members of the Board of Education, honorees and invited guests, business advisors, fellow administrators, CTE instructors, BCIT support staff and our culinary students who prepared the beautiful and delicious meal this evening.

In addition to thanking our dedicated Board of Education, the support staff who made tonight possible, Christine Jenter who assists with admissions and marketing and communications, her colleague Collin Smith and our administrators and teachers, I want to thank our new assistant superintendent Mr. Eder Joseph who is a valued partner who is passionate about BCIT and CTE. He has hit the ground running as you will hear tonight of great progress we have made and the outstanding promise of an exciting tomorrow for CTE and BCIT.

In this post-COVID environment, I am pleased that we have more than 180 individuals who were committed to attend our dinner tonight which represents one of the largest PAC dinners on record. I cannot help but think that this is a harbinger to come given the significant milestones we have reached and will be reaching more in the near future. All of you are part of something really special – contributors to the formation of future that does not yet exist – a new generation of skilled workers who are looking to be in the future that they want to be and create. You are there and here planting the seeds of innovation and skill development.

As we take a quick glance back we have a number of points of pride to highlight over the past year, but let me select a few:

1. We launched successfully three new programs during COVID which is a rarity for any educational institution:

- Marine Mechanics
 - Cyber Security and
 - Warehouse Management under Transportation Logistics and Distribution.
2. We applied for and was awarded over \$16 million as part of a New Jersey CTE ACT Grant to expand the building footprint on both BCIT campuses to support increased enrollment and expansion of programs. We also had commitments from our County Commissioners.
 3. More than 20% of our 2021 graduates found employment in their career major by the end of their senior year and 62% continued their education in the field pursued at BCIT.
 4. Participation in School to Work programs is up 35% year over year and unpaid internships are seeing a rise in opportunities for extended employment. We anticipate that this number will increase significantly based on new requirements under the Perkins V grant funding which wants to see more students and across all programs be engaged in School to Work opportunities.
 5. We were named by the NJDOE as a Lighthouse School District for Equity and Diversity
 6. We launched a major effort to support the social and emotional wellbeing of our students and just this week, we learned that we will recipients of the SAMHSA Mental Health and Human Services Grant Award the application of which was prepared by central office and building level administrators and will be an award of \$1,807,480 from the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C.
 7. We will be looking to induct in this Spring our next class of Hall of Fame for Lifetime Achievement honorees a tradition started 5 years ago to honor our former graduates, teachers and significant contributors to our CTE programs.

As we look to next year and beyond, in addition to the new construction, we are looking at:

1. The reconfiguration of our Marketing program to be focused on Entrepreneurship, Business Administration and Marketing to be in line with the emergent trends and needs of people wanting to start businesses, support and expand opportunities.
2. The expansion of our Childcare Program to Include a focus on Future Educators and training students to be in a pipeline for teaching to promote the sustainability of the good work and foundation laid down yesterday and today.
3. Creation of Cyber Security as its own focus given the emergence of its importance in industry today
4. A look at the creation of a gaming and design and coding program to address the advancements in extended reality and blockchain

Our business and community advisors present tonight know all too well of the disruptive environment they find ourselves and it is no different for us at BCIT. We are in a new reality where we must shift our thinking and mindsets to reimagine the future and seek the solutions needed to support that future we want to be in.

We will be honoring John Broderick General Manager and Burlington Chevy in a few minutes as our valued Business Partner of the Year. John is the example of the new leadership today who is committed to be a forward thinker, entrepreneur, supportive of CTE and apprenticeships and has been paying it forward as a community advocate in the areas where his business serves. John and I had a great conversation a month ago at a BCRCC business function about the future of the skill sets needed for the new generation of vehicles and he responded that the industry needs to be pivoting to preparing students to be working on electronics and battery-operated vehicles as the interest and cost affordability factors are growing exponentially. Yet, also out there is the future of hydrogen and what impact that will have across industries as well as new renewable fuels and green technology. I just read in wired magazine that companies are now looking to design batteries that include the chassis and frame of the car to create lighter cars and to

extend the charge of batteries for longer distances. Who knows what tomorrow will bring.

The advancement of research and technology is in fact underscoring that we are in the midst of the 4th Industrial Revolution. We are looking more and more on Return on Investment (ROI) and CTE is a great response with the ability to have a State of the Art education and training, industry stackable credentials, transferable skills with little or no debt or skills to place one ahead of others in career fields begun while in high school.

The future is exciting at BCIT. We are seeing interest in our enrollment for next year match some of best years to date at this time of the year. This is exciting.

As I conclude, I am reminded of the story told about Michaelangelo who himself was an apprentice and later his own apprentice who worked under him one day found himself looking at one of the marble statues created by Michaelangelo from his bare hands and now is part of the world's greatest masterpieces, the apprentice asked Michaelangelo: *how is it that when you see a block of marble, you know what is in that marble?* Michaelangelo's response was: *I saw the angel in the marble, and carved until I set him free.* In essence, Michaelangelo breathed life into the stone. To all of you this evening, you are the Michaelangelos who see the rare talent before you and with your expertise, with mentoring and advice, you breathe life, hope and create the next generation of skilled industry credentialed graduates who will carry on the honored profession. Thank you. Continue to inspire, for there are many blocks of marble around that are in need of being chiseled and freed to be tomorrow's future. Thank you.