

The CTE Spotlight

Highlighting Career Technical Education in Cocke County Schools

Rolling into Real Skills:

Be Pro Be Proud Mobile Workshop Dazzles CTE Students



Cocke County High School (CCHS) was abuzz with excitement on Friday, April 25, 2025, as it played host to the innovative "Be Pro Be Proud" mobile workshop. This state-of-the-art transfer travels across Tennessee, bringing high-skill, high-demand industry trades directly to students through immersive, hands-on simulation experiences.

Students from various CTE pathways had the unique opportunity to step inside the impressive mobile workshop and explore a diverse range of skilled professions. From operating heavy equipment simulators and experiencing virtual welding to troubleshooting electrical systems and designing with advanced technology, the Be Pro Be Proud exhibit offered a realistic glimpse into vital career fields. The interactive simulations allowed students to gain practical insight into trades that are critical to our local and state economies, helping them visualize potential career paths they might not have otherwise considered.

The event wasn't just about experiencing the trades; it was also about leadership and service. In fact, a special group of CCHS CTE students volunteered their time and expertise throughout the day, serving as "Most

Valuable Pros" (MVPs). These dedicated student ambassadors were instrumental in assisting their peers, guiding them through the exhibits, and sharing their own enthusiasm for CTE. Their commitment ensured a smooth and engaging experience for everyone who visited the mobile workshop.

"Bringing Be Pro Be Proud to CCHS was an incredible (and surprising) opportunity for our students," said Crystal McGaha, CTE Career Counselor. "We got truly lucky when another organization within our region had to cancel." She continued saying that... "the experience has opened our students' eyes to the vast array of rewarding career options available in the skilled trades. The interactive nature of the exhibit, combined with the dedication of our student MVPs, made this a truly memorable and impactful day for us all."



The students above served as MVPs during the Be Pro Be Proud event. Pictured left to right are: Husband and wife Be Pro Be Proud team members; then CCHS students: Aiden Kendall, Nicholas Brooks, Austin Pressley, Aubrey Gradeless, Alyssa Smith, Hayden Graham, and Emily Blair.



See more BPBP pics on next page....

Learning the
LINGO

<-- Remember, this icon notes a CTE term throughout the newsletter.

(Logo)

<-- This one will highlight a CTE Industry Partner.

CTE
COCKE COUNTY SCHOOLS



Check out more BPBP pics...



More than 150 CTE students visited the Be Pro Be Proud mobile workshop on April 25th. Pictured to the left (both top and bottom) are a few of them taking in all of the ‘hands-on’ options available. Upper middle, Austin Pressley is practicing his driving skills on the transfer truck simulator. In the upper right, one student is honing his welding skills. In fact, the welding simulators provided an opportunity for students to compete with each other to see who could weld the best in the fastest amount of time.



Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) teacher, Mrs. Julie Harris (formerly “Ms. B.” or Ms. Barcikowski) helped students experience what it is like to be a utility lineman. Once students safely “operated” the bucket, the simulator allowed students to practice tasks such as inspecting and repairing power lines. To the right, Ms. B. is shown helping Alyssa Smith get the hang of it.

Mrs. McGaha is hopeful that the BPBP mobile workshop will visit Cocke County again in the future where more students can participate.



Certifying Success:

Cocke County CTE Students Earn Over 480 Industry Credentials in 24-25!

In today's rapidly evolving job market, Cocke County Schools' Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs celebrated a remarkable year for **industry certifications**, empowering students with essential skills and credentials for their future careers. **Industry certifications** are nationally recognized credentials that validate a student's mastery of specific, real-world job skills, making them highly desirable to employers and contributing significantly to their Ready Graduate status.

During the 2024-2025 school year, Cocke County CTE students achieved an outstanding milestone, earning **over 480 certifications** across 13 different critical industry areas! This incredible effort showcases their dedication and the high quality of our CTE programs.

The most frequently earned certifications included:

- **OSHA-General Industry (129 certifications):** Demonstrating crucial workplace safety knowledge.
- **ServSafe Food Handler (117 certifications):** Proving expertise in safe food handling practices for culinary and hospitality fields.
- **Adult, Infant, and Child CPR/AED/First Aid (84 certifications):** Equipping students with vital, life-saving emergency response skills.

This spring also saw 32 of our dedicated healthcare pathway students earn their highly sought-after Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) credentials, preparing them for vital roles in the medical field.

These certifications provide our students with a significant competitive edge, directly linking classroom learning to immediate career opportunities and a strong foundation for continued education or training. Cocke County CTE is truly building a skilled and certified workforce, ready for what's next!



Pictured left are the nine students from Cosby High School who passed the CCMA exam. They are:

Back row (L-R):
Alexis McGaha, Anastasia Laws, Tabaya Spencer, Claire Holt, and Alessia Mahoney.

Front row (L-R):
Shylia Acord, Alyssa Park, Lakelyn Sweeten, and Kara Shults.

Hats Off to the Future: TAP Program Sparks Career Exploration in Elementary Classrooms



Cocke County's TAP (Teaching as a Profession) program recently embarked on a heartwarming and impactful project, bringing the world of career exploration to 2nd grade classrooms in the county. Guided by CTE TAP teacher, Mrs. Rebekah Fisher, and CTE Career Counselor, Mrs. Crystal McGaha, TAP students designed and delivered an engaging lesson centered around the inspiring book, *"There's a Hat for That"* by Dr. Kevin Fleming.

The book itself is a delightful and thought-provoking one that introduces young readers to a wide array of careers, each represented by a different hat. Through vibrant illustrations and engaging rhymes, the book emphasizes that every child has unique talents and passions, and there's a perfect career path waiting for them to discover.

The TAP high school students brought the book to life for the 2nd graders, captivating them with readings and leading interactive activities. After sharing the stories, the TAP students facilitated discussions, prompting the young learners to think about their own interests and dreams for the future--encouraging the 2nd graders to see the exciting possibilities that lie ahead.

To further fuel the 2nd graders' career journeys, each student and their teachers received their own copy of *"There's a Hat for That,"* a thoughtful gift from the TAP program. This gesture ensured that the lesson's message of career exploration would continue to resonate long after the TAP students' visits. Their outreach extended to seven elementary schools: Bridgeport, Centerview, Cosby, Edgemont, Newport Grammar School, Northwest, and Parrottsville. While visits to DelRio, Grassy Fork, and Smoky Mountain were not possible, the TAP program ensured that the lesson plan and books were provided to each school's counselor, ensuring that all 2nd graders in the county had the opportunity to participate in the overall experience.

This project exemplifies the TAP program's commitment to nurturing future educators and empowering young learners. By sharing their passion for teaching and career exploration, these high school students have undoubtedly made a lasting impact on the lives of Cocke County's 2nd graders, planting the seeds of ambition and inspiring them to reach for their dreams.

All pictures on the left side of the page show the TAP students reading to and working with students in a variety of 2nd grade classrooms.

The picture to the immediate left shows students at Del Rio Elementary showing off their new "There's a Hat for That" books.





Breaking Non-Traditional Barriers: Cosby High Student Forges Her Own Path in Welding

As the end of the school year draws to a close, let's highlight students who are embracing "non-traditional" pathways within Career and Technical Education (CTE). One such inspiring student is rising senior, **Jaiden Carpenter**, a dedicated Cosby High School student who has chosen **Welding** as her **Program of Study**.

Each day, Jaiden demonstrated her commitment by traveling from Cosby High School to the Ben W. Hooper CTE Center on the Cocke County High School campus, utilizing the transportation provided by the district. Her journey into welding began after participating in "Rosie's Girls," a transformative summer program she attended after 8th grade.

Rosie's Girls is aptly named after "Rosie the Riveter," an iconic cultural symbol representing the American women who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II, many of whom produced munitions and war supplies. Rosie the Riveter became a symbol of feminism and women's economic power. (See graphic below to left.)

The summer program, **Rosie's Girls**, is hosted by local CTE teachers who are sponsored by **TCAT-Morristown** and aims to introduce more young women to high-demand industry trades. These include fields such as Welding, Machining, Industrial Maintenance/Electricity, and Architectural/Engineering Design – all areas traditionally underrepresented by women. Jaden's experience in **Rosie's Girls** clearly ignited a passion, leading her to pursue welding with enthusiasm. In fact, she was recently interviewed by TCAT regarding her positive experience in the program. **Pictured right, Jaiden participates in the virtual interview.**



Inspiring the Next Generation: Rosie's Girls Summer Camp 2025

Building on the success of past opportunities like the one that inspired Jaiden Carpenter, Cocke County Schools CTE was again thrilled to host this year's **Rosie's Girls** summer camp. From May 27-30, 2025, CTE teachers from Cocke County High School led the program, sponsored by TCAT-Morristown.

This year, we welcomed two enthusiastic students, **Madison Gee from Bridgeport Elementary** and **Lexi Gates from Edgemont Elementary**, who dove into the world of trades during the camp. As part of the program, they learned skills utilizing tools for welding, computer aided drafting, machining, and electrical trades.



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The success of students like Jaiden and the continued interest in programs like **Rosie's Girls** highlight the importance of encouraging ALL students, regardless of traditional gender roles, to explore the vast and rewarding opportunities available within CTE. We are proud to support these "non-traditional" students as they carve out bright and successful futures in high-demand industries.

Above right are this year's Rosie's Girls geared up in welding protective clothing and helmets alongside the CTE teachers who guided them through the program. **Pictured (L-R) is Mr. Lucas Valentine (Industrial Maintenance), Mr. Stephen Hodges (AED), Mr. Chad Webb (Machining), who is seated with Madison and Lexi, and Mr. Billy Holt (Welding).**

Pictured to the left, Mr. Webb is standing with Madison and Lexi who are holding items they received from their visit to TCAT-Morristown, which was part of the program.



CTE Middle School Snapshot

As of this past January, the CTE Middle School has been running strong serving 7th-8th graders in either STEM, Health Science, or Agriculture classes. After TCAP testing, area 6th graders visited the Career Zone. Check it out!

www.ccc-zone.org

Exploring Futures: 6th Graders Dive into the CTE Middle School Career Zone

The last few weeks of the 2024-2025 school year were an exciting time for 6th graders in Cocke County Schools! Our district's rising 7th graders had the opportunity to visit the CTE Middle School, located within the Cocke County Schools Innovation Center, for an immersive career exploration experience in the "Career Zone."

During their visits, students dove hands-on into a variety of engaging activities. They utilized cutting-edge equipment, explored virtual simulations, and participated in pre-planned lessons designed to spark their interest in diverse career pathways. These interactive sessions provided a fantastic introduction to the world of Career and Technical Education (CTE).

A highlight of the visits was meeting the dedicated CTE middle school teachers, who expertly guided the students through the activities and shared their passion for their respective fields. Students also had the chance to discuss the courses offered at the CTE Middle School, getting a sneak peek at the exciting learning opportunities that await them during their weekly visits next school year.

These visits were an invaluable experience, helping our 6th graders begin to envision their future and understand the many exciting possibilities available through CTE. We look forward to welcoming them back for their weekly sessions in the fall!

Pictures were taken during Smoky Mountain Elementary's 6th grade visit. We see them exploring different parts of the Career Zone during their visit. Students are engaged with virtual reality goggles – each doing their own thing as they explore different careers. In the center pic, CTE middle school AG teacher, Ms. Brilee Culbert, leads students through the Agriculture pod. Meanwhile, some 6th

graders are competing as they rush to complete restaurant orders.



EXPERIENCES IN STEM

CTE STEM middle school teacher, **Mr. Chuck Cody**, shared these photos. **Pictured below (left)**, we see Cosby Elementary students coding Finch robots through mazes. **Below right**, we see two Northwest students trying out the new Heavy Equipment Simulator in the Career Zone.



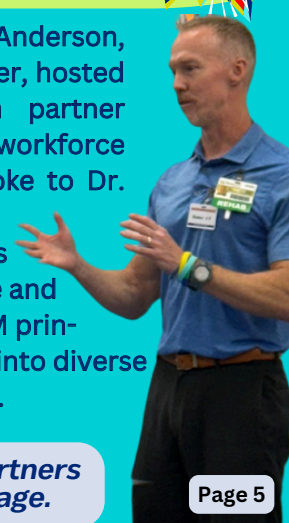
Tennova: Prescribing Knowledge

During the week of May 5th, Dr. Alisha Anderson, the CTE middle school health science teacher, hosted speakers from Tennova, her classroom partner through the ETSU STEM Hub program and workforce partners. These Tennova professionals spoke to Dr. Anderson's class, along with the STEM

classes, about various aspects of healthcare and highlighted how STEM principles are integrated into diverse healthcare industries.



**More Industry Partners
seen on next page.**





Beyond the Books: Showcasing Q4's Industry Visits and Collaborations

CCHS AG Cultivates Innovation with TVA STEM Grant

Congratulations to the Cocke County High School Agriculture Department on earning the prestigious Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) 2025 STEM Classroom Grant! This significant award of \$2,500 will empower students with cutting-edge tools and resources, further enhancing their agricultural education.

Representatives from TVA visited Cocke County High School on Friday, April 4th, to present the award to the dedicated CTE Agriculture teachers. The excitement was palpable as students seized the opportunity to showcase their new Digital Microscopes, which were purchased with a portion of the grant funds.

These state-of-the-art microscopes are already being put to good use, providing CCHS agriculture students with an up-close look at the intricate world of plant parts and agricultural pests. This hands-on experience is invaluable, allowing for deeper understanding and practical application of scientific principles within the field of agriculture. The grant underscores TVA's commitment to fostering STEM education and preparing the next generation for success in critical industries.



Connecting Classrooms to Companies: CTE Students Visit Howmet & JTEKT

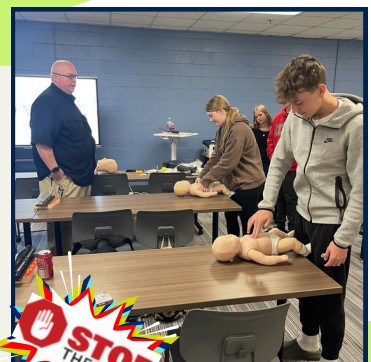
Twenty-five skilled trades students from Ben W. Hooper CTE embarked on an illuminating field trip on Friday, April 25th, 2025, gaining valuable insights into advanced manufacturing and automotive sectors. The immersive experience included tours of both Howmet Aerospace and JTEKT Automotive, two prominent industry leaders in the region.

Students representing the Welding, Industrial Maintenance, Machining Technology, Architectural & Engineering Design (AED), and Automotive Collision Repair classes participated in the outing. Accompanied by teachers Mr. Chad Webb, Mr. Jason Smith, and Mr. Stephen Hodges, the group had the opportunity to witness real-world applications of the skills they are mastering in the classroom.



Industry Experts Bring Real-World Skills

Mrs. Fisher's Hospitality/Tourism and TAP classes welcomed visitors who brought real-world industry and safety knowledge to the classroom. **Shane Farley (left) from Stinnett Automotive** discussed the **10 Steps to Sales** with the students. Additionally, local medic **Todd Spence (right)** conducted a session on **CPR** and **Stop the Bleed**, equipping students with critical life-saving skills. These visits offered practical learning opportunities, connecting classroom studies with immediate, actionable knowledge.



Reports from our CTSOs...

The Results Are In: CTSO State Competition Recap!

As the 2024-2025 school year concludes its final quarter, we are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our **Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)** and their dedicated student members. Over the last nine weeks of the school year, more than 50 students from across our district showcased their skills and passion at various state-level competitions.

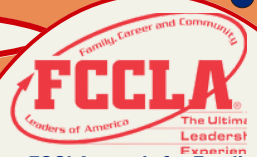
This newsletter highlights each CTSO's incredible journey, detailing the competitions entered and recognizing the talented individuals who represented our schools with distinction. We extend our deepest gratitude to our CTSO sponsors, whose guidance and support made these successes possible, and who have provided the names and accompanying photos (if shown) for each section. Beyond the competitors, many other students also attended these conferences, gaining invaluable insights and inspiration that will undoubtedly fuel their own competitive aspirations in the years to come.

CTSO

CTSO stands for **Career and Technical Student Organizations**. These are student-led organizations in the United States that are specifically focused on career and technical education (CTE) fields. These organizations provide students with opportunities for leadership development, career exploration, and skill-building activities related to various vocational fields.

FCCLA Shines at State Leadership Conference

Twelve FCCLA members represented our district at the FCCLA State Leadership Conference held in Murfreesboro, Tennessee from March 23-26, 2025. Our students competed in six different events, showcasing their dedication and skills in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.



FCCLA stands for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. It is a national CTSO for young men and women in Family and Consumer Sciences education in high school. The organization aims to promote personal growth and leadership development through Family & Consumer Sciences education, focusing on the multiple roles of being a family member, wage earner, and community leader.

<u>COMPETITION NAME</u>	<u>COMPETING MEMBER(S)</u>	<u>PLACEMENT</u>
Career Investigation	Gracelyn Davis	SILVER
Chapter Service Project Display	Kaylee Hannah & Aaliyah Timmons	SILVER
National Programs in Action	Faith Turner & Reagan Webb	2nd Place - GOLD
Professional Presentation	Delilah Cashen & Jasmine Williams	BRONZE
Promote and Publicize FCCLA - Lev 2	Hannah Fisher & Molly Layman	1st Place - GOLD
Promote & Publicize FCCLA - Lev 3	Emma Arrowood & Hayden Graham	BRONZE



Cocke County FFA Chapters Cultivate Success at State Convention!

The future of agriculture and leadership in Cocke County is bright, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our FFA members and their sponsors! This past quarter, students from both Cocke County High School and Cosby High School showcased their talents and commitment at the Tennessee FFA State Convention, held from March 23-26, 2025, in Gatlinburg, TN. Their participation highlights the vibrant growth of our agricultural education programs, now proudly including a brand-new Middle School FFA Chapter poised to develop the next generation of leaders.

High School FFA Members Earn Coveted State Degrees

A significant highlight of the convention was the well-deserved recognition of ten outstanding FFA members from Cocke County who earned the prestigious State FFA Degree. This advanced degree is a testament to their exceptional leadership, personal growth, and unwavering commitment to their supervised agricultural experience programs. Earning this degree requires thousands of hours of effort, significant financial investment in agricultural projects, and demonstrated leadership skills, truly setting these students apart.

We proudly congratulate the four State FFA Degree recipients from Cocke County High School and the six State FFA Degree recipients from Cosby High School for this remarkable achievement. Their success reflects the strong agricultural education programs at both high schools and their personal dedication to excellence.

Pictured left are the high school members who received FFA State Degree recognition.

Top row (L-R) from CCHS:

- Jenna Arms
- Olivia Lewis
- Emma Blair
- Teara Denton

Bottom row (L-R) from CHS:

- Maddy Miller
- Amelia Hill
- Kara Shults
- Alee Leatherwood
- Claire Holt
- Christian Rymer

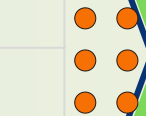
A New Chapter Begins: Middle School Welcomes FFA

We are thrilled to announce an exciting new addition to our Cocke County CTSO family: the establishment of a new Middle School FFA Chapter! This groundbreaking development provides younger students with an earlier opportunity to engage with agricultural education, develop leadership skills, and explore diverse career pathways within the agriculture industry. This new chapter will serve as a foundational step, nurturing future leaders and ensuring the continued strength and growth of FFA in Cocke County for years to come. We look forward to seeing the incredible impact this chapter will have on our middle school students!

Pictured right are middle school FFA sponsor, Ms. Brilee Culbert, with our newest members: Abigail Manda, Sabrina Maples, Adalyn Sane, and Lilly Sprouse.



FFA



COMPETITION NAME

COMPETING MEMBER(S)

PLACEMENT

Agriscience Fair - Animal Systems Division 5

Nate Mason

State Runner-Up

Agriscience Research - Animal Systems Proficiency

Nate Mason

State Finalist

Diversified Horticulture Proficiency

Emma Blair

State WINNER

Environmental & Natural Resources

Brody Gardner, Aden Hendrickson, Preston Hendrickson, & Maci McCallister

5th in State

Flouriculture

Mackenzie Carias, Olivia Lewis, Nate Mason, & Maci McCallister

4th in State

Marketing Plan

Emma Blair, Nate Mason, & Ireland Strange

3rd in State

FFA Quiz Bowl

Middle schoolers: Abigail Manda, Sabrina Maples, Adalyn Sane, & Lilly Sprouse

5th in State
(Junior Division)

A Season of Reflection & Celebration: FFA Chapters Conclude Year with Memorable Banquets

As the school year drew to a close, both Cocke County High School and Cosby High School FFA Chapters gathered to commemorate a year of growth, achievement, and shared passion for agriculture. These cherished end-of-year banquets serve as poignant milestones, marking not only the culmination of diligent work but also a time for gratitude and farewells. Cocke County High School FFA held its annual celebration on Tuesday, May 6th, within the familiar halls of their high school, while Cosby High School FFA members convened on Friday, May 9th, at the beautiful Carson Springs Baptist Convention Center, each setting providing a unique backdrop for their reflections.

These evenings were more than just award ceremonies; they were heartfelt tributes to the dedication of students and the unwavering support of advisors, families, and community partners. Laughter mingled with moments of quiet pride as achievements were recognized, from foundational steps to advanced degrees and countless competition successes. For graduating seniors, these banquets held an extra layer of significance, serving as a final chapter in their high school FFA journey—a moment to reflect on friendships forged, skills honed, and the indelible mark left by their time in an organization that shapes future leaders.



CONGRATULATIONS,
Emma Blair!



2025 National FFA Bayer-Grow AG
Leaders Scholarship Recipient

HOSA, or Health Occupations Students of America, is a national organization focused on preparing students for careers in healthcare. HOSA provides hands-on learning, leadership training, and competitive events in fields like medical terminology, nursing, and public health.

HOSA STATE CONFERENCE: CCHS & CHS STUDENTS BRING THEIR A-GAME



Cosby High School HOSA members who attended the state convention are pictured above. They are (L-R) Ansley Cobble, Claire Holt, Tabaya Spencer, Anastasia Laws and Ariela Holt



CCHS HOSA members pictured here are (L-R) Jocelyn Waits, Kaelena Reed, Hannah Suggs, Leyna Vo, and Riley Thomas.

Students from Cocke County High School and Cosby High School recently demonstrated their dedication to future health professions at the HOSA (Future Health Professionals) State Leadership Conference. The highly anticipated event

took place from March 30 to April 2, 2025, at the Chattanooga Convention Center, bringing together aspiring healthcare professionals from across Tennessee for a series of competitive events, leadership development opportunities, and educational workshops.

Our local students represented their schools with pride, showcasing their skills and knowledge in various healthcare-related competitions. Notably, Cosby High School's Tabaya Spencer achieved an impressive Top 13 ranking in the State for the Medical Assisting competition, a significant accomplishment that highlights her hard work and expertise. The table below details in which competitions HOSA members competed.

CTSO	St First Name	St Last Name	Competed in...
HOSA - CCHS	Riley	Thomas	Anatomy and Physiology
HOSA - CCHS	Jocelyn	Waits	Biology
HOSA - CCHS	Leyna	Vo	Extemporaneous Writing Health Policy
HOSA - CCHS	Hannah	Suggs	Medical Math
HOSA - CCHS	Kaelena	Reed	Research Poster
HOSA - CHS	Ansley	Cobble	Healthcareer Display
HOSA - CHS	Ariela	Holt	Healthcareer Display
HOSA - CHS	Tabaya	Spencer	Medical Assisting
HOSA - CHS	Anastasia	Laws	Medical Reading
HOSA - CHS	Claire	Holt	Patient Care Technician (PCT)

HOSA Member Chosen as CCHS Student of the Year

Cocke County High School Senior and HOSA member, Ziyanna Carr, has been selected by the school faculty as CCHS Student of the Year. Ziyanna was honored with a special trophy during the Senior Honors ceremony held on May 15th. Here she is pictured with CCHS principal, Dr. A.C. Willis.



Exploring Healthcare Careers at ETSU

On Friday, May 8, 2025 members of both HOSA chapters embarked on an enriching field trip to East Tennessee State University (ETSU). This valuable experience provided aspiring healthcare professionals not only an in-depth look at various medical fields, but also showcased ETSU's related programs.

During their visit, students had the opportunity to tour some of ETSU's impressive healthcare facilities, like its many anatomy labs and simulation centers. These tours offered a crucial glimpse into the hands-on learning environment and the state-of-the-art resources available to future healthcare practitioners. They also heard from ETSU staff about the different degrees that their College of Public Health has to offer.

Our CTE Students “NAIL IT” at SkillsUSA State!



The **SkillsUSA** Tennessee State Leadership and Skills Conference (SLSC) is an annual event that showcases career and technical education. It involves competitions in various trade, technical, and leadership fields, providing opportunities for students to gain experience and network with industry professionals.

This year, the TN SLSC was held in Chattanooga from April 13-16, over 3,000 people participated. This included Career and Technical Education (CTE) students, advisors, industry partners, and community leaders.



Over 20 students from our district high schools (**CCHS** and **CHS**) attended the state conference where they showcased their exceptional talents. The students competed in a wide array of skilled and technical competitions. These events, designed to mirror real-world industry standards, provide invaluable experience and recognition for our aspiring professionals.

Beyond the competitive arena, students had the opportunity to explore various display booths from colleges and technical schools, interact with industry vendors, and network with peers and professionals, gaining insights into potential career paths and further educational opportunities - like **CHS Industrial Maintenance** students, **De’Vonte Wigfall** and **Cornelius Carr** who are pictured to the left.

Many of our dedicated SkillsUSA students competed in various fields, demonstrating the breadth and depth of our CTE programs at both **Cocke County High School** and **Cosby High School**. The following table provides a breakdown of our students who competed, their competition areas, related CTE programs, and their placements:

POS Represented	First Name	Last Name	State Conference Competition	Placed
Architectural/Engineering Design	Kaylee	Gilliland	Technical Drafting	2nd in State
Automotive Collision Repair	Brady	Calfee	Collision Repair Estimating	4th in State
Automotive Collision Repair	Waylon	Gossett	Collision Repair Refinishing	11th in State
Criminal Justice	Daniel	Reece	Criminal Justice	8th in State
Culinary Arts	Davane	Holt	Culinary	
Industrial Maintenance	Coven	Wise	Electrical Construction Wiring	9th in State
Industrial Maintenance	Landon	Sane	Industrial Motor Control	2nd in State
Machining Technology	Justin	Ramsey	Machining Technologies - CNC Mill 3 Axis Programmer	5th in State
Res/Comm Construction	Kayden	O’Byon	Carpentry	
Welding	Kysen	Butler	Welding	
Welding	Deegan	Crum	Welding	
Welding	Lukas	Denton	Welding	
Welding	Hunter	Lowery	Welding	
(Various - for team competition)	Bo	Proffitt	Team Works	
(Various - for team competition)	Eli	Roberts	Team Works	
(Various - for team competition)	Colton	Sane	Team Works	
(Various - for team competition)	Jackson	Williams	Team Works	



Pictured left are Bo Proffitt, Eli Roberts, Colton Sane, and Jackson Williams as they competed in the **Team Works** category.

Pictured right is Coven Wise being judged for the **Electrical Construction Wiring**.



Two significant highlights for Cocke County were the outstanding achievements of **Kaylee Gilliland**, and **Landon Sane** who secured **2nd place** in the **Technical Drafting** and **Industrial Motor Controls** competitions (respectively). Their success is a testament to their hard work, precision, their robust programs, and the guidance of their CTE advisors/teachers.



Interested in joining SkillsUSA? Speak to a CTE teacher in any of these programs:

At Cocke Co. High School: Architecture & Engineering Design, Automotive Collision Repair, Automotive Maintenance, Coding, Criminal Justice & Correctional Services, Culinary Arts, Industrial Maintenance Technology, Machining Technology, Residential & Commercial Construction, and/or Welding.

At Cosby High School: Criminal Justice & Correctional Services, Hospitality & Tourism Management, and/or Industrial Maintenance Technology.



JAG Program Completes Stellar Inaugural Year!



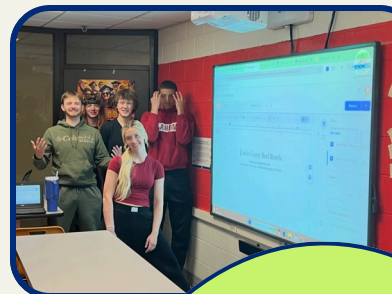
Cocke County High School (CCHS) is proud to celebrate the incredibly successful completion of its first year with the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program. This inaugural year saw a remarkable 90 students complete the program, gaining invaluable skills and guidance for their futures.

The past year was packed with highlights, showcasing the program's impact on career and college readiness. Students journeyed to Washington D.C. for the National Conference, and our very own Edna Lopez Santiago was chosen as the President for JAG Tennessee. Our students excelled in various JAG competitions, held our first advisory council, and benefited from numerous guest speakers. The program was instrumental in helping students finalize their post-secondary plans. For instance, **Alyssa Gunter (pictured top right)**, initially undecided, chose to enlist in the U.S. Navy after receiving support and hearing from speakers, and she'll ship out this summer! Notably, both the valedictorian and salutatorian of the CCHS Class of 2025 participated in JAG as well.



Reflecting on her inaugural year as the **CCHS JAG teacher, Ms. Barcikowski (now Mrs. Harris)** shared her enthusiasm: "Witnessing the growth and transformation of these students over the past year has been an absolute privilege. Their dedication, combined with the comprehensive support of the JAG program, has set them on incredible paths toward bright and successful futures. I am so incredibly proud of each and every one of them and excited for what next year holds!"

To the right is Mrs. B with Arian Thompson after her win in public speaking at JAG State. Above is Alyssa Gunter, newly enlisted in the Navy, and JAG students after presenting their business plans in class.



Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a national non-profit program that helps students facing barriers to graduation and employment by providing career readiness training, leadership development, and job placement support.



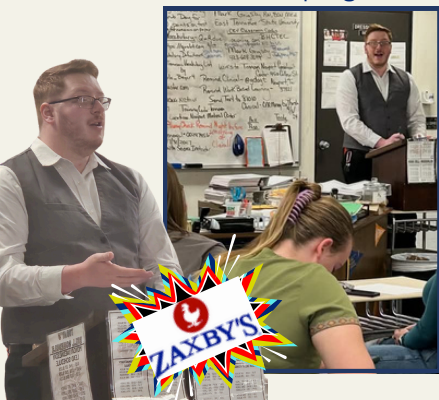
First Name	Last Name	Competed in...	Placed
Elijah	Bennett	JAG National Conference -problem solving	
Charles	Daniels	JAG National Conference -problem solving	
Gracelyn	Davis	JAG National Conference -public speaking	4th in the state
Emerald	Ottinger	JAG National Conference -public speaking	
Edna	Lopez-Santiago	State Career Development Conference --public speaking	
Arian	Thompson	State Career Development Conference --public speaking	4th in the state

Work-Based Learning (WBL)

Work-Based Learning (WBL). WBL is a dynamic educational approach that bridges the gap between academic learning and real-world work experiences, providing students with invaluable opportunities to explore careers, develop essential skills, and make meaningful connections in the workforce.

Work-Based Learning: Celebrates A Year of Real-World Readiness

The Work-Based Learning (WBL) program also wrapped up a highly productive year with a celebratory event for its CCHS and CHS students. The highlight of the gathering was a special address by **Mr. Billy Day, manager of Zaxby's, (pictured below left)** who shared invaluable insights on the characteristics of a good employee. His practical advice provided students with real-world perspectives on workplace success. The WBL program was pleased to have Mr. Day attend and speak, an invitation extended by Ms. Paula Bearden and Mr. Mark Grigsby, who have overseen the program this year, and who are pictured below right with Semester 2 WBL completers.



WBL Semester 2 Completers:

(Cosby HS students noted with **. All others are CCHS.)

(Sitting L-R) Rafe Faustino-Flowers, Bo Proffitt, Landon Sane, Justin Ramsey. **(Standing L-R)** Ms. Bearden, Olivia Lewis, Lilliana Sane (also shown above right at Centerview, her WBL placement), Emily Blair, Anthony Hale, Leocadio Campos-Nuci, Kaden Uhls**, Ciara Purkey, Daniel Reece, Jerry "Amin" Black, and Mr. Grigsby.

Not pictured: Celeste Barrientos, Tera Denton, Briana London, Bethany Swanger, Julien Welcome, and Cayelesa Williamson.

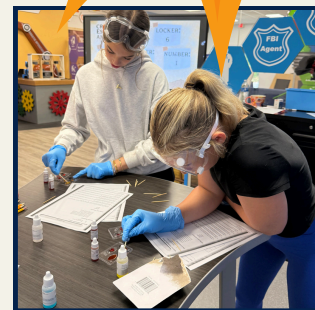




Summer Learning Heats Up with CTE Bootcamps!

Summer is in full swing, and so are the exciting Career and Technical Education (CTE) bootcamps, offering students immersive, hands-on learning experiences! These intensive 4-day programs, typically running 4-5 hours daily with lunch provided, are designed to give participants a concentrated taste of various high-demand career fields.

While the **Rosie's Girls** bootcamp was already highlighted in this issue (*see page 4*), the past week has seen even more fantastic opportunities for students to explore their passions. Cocke County High's CTE AG teachers, Ms. Chelsay Burns and Mrs. Ariel Perry, recently hosted engaging bootcamps in **Animal Care** and **Floral Design**, allowing students to delve into the intricacies of these fascinating industries. **Check out some of the Animal Care photos on the left.**



Meanwhile, the state-of-the-art CTE Innovation Center was abuzz with activity, offering both a dynamic **STEM** Bootcamp and an insightful **Biomedical Science** Camp. The Biomedical Science camp was overseen by CTE teachers, Dr. Alisha Anderson, from the CTE Middle School, and Mrs. Kim Hurst, Cosby High School's CTE health science teacher. **The pictures on the right show the Biomedical Science students** learning how to determine blood types, perform injections and apply sutures. They also learned crucial life-saving skills during a visit from the Newport Rescue Squad, where they received a detailed tour of their ambulance--even sitting behind the wheel!



Then, looking ahead, the **learning continues next week as Mrs. Jennifer Noe, the CTE AG teacher at Cosby High School, prepares to offer a Floriculture Bootcamp**, further expanding the diverse range of CTE pathways available to our students. These summer bootcamps are an incredible way for students to gain practical skills, explore potential career paths, and ignite their passion for learning in a fun and supportive environments. Stay tuned for more updates on upcoming CTE opportunities!



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The CTE Spotlight

Highlighting Career Technical Education in Cocke County Schools

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Any questions, concerns, suggestions, or corrections to this newsletter should be directed to:
Mrs. Crystal McGaha, CTE Career Counselor, by emailing mcgahac@cocke.k12.tn.us.