



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE STUDENTS

The annual IU1 Student Showcase, held on Tuesday, March 26th, 2024, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Southpointe, PA, was a resounding success, drawing participants from school districts and CTCs across the region. This highly anticipated event provided a platform for students to exhibit their creativity, innovation, and hard work throughout the school year. The displays were as varied as they were impressive, encompassing a wide range of disciplines including paintings, drawings, woodworking, media center technology, pottery, jewelry, STEM and STEAM projects, robotics, FFA endeavors, science experiments, 3D printed and laser cut works, and much more. The ingenuity and dedication of the students were evident in every exhibit, reflecting their passion for learning and exploration.

In addition to the captivating displays, CTC students seized the opportunity to showcase their talents in cosmetology and demonstrate their proficiency in EMT skills. Musical performances, featuring an acapella group, several bands, and a talented violinist, provided a captivating backdrop to the event, further enhancing its energy.

Despite the cold and rainy weather outside, the atmosphere inside the venue was warm and welcoming, fostering a sense of camaraderie and celebration among participants and attendees alike. The annual student showcase not only highlighted the remarkable achievements of the students but also served as a testament to the importance of nurturing creativity and fostering a supportive learning environment within the IU1 community.



## REMINDER ROUNDUP!

- Summer hours begin Monday, June 10th
  - For more information, refer to the April 5th email from Michele McVicker
- Administrative Professionals Day is Wednesday, April 24th
- Take Your Child To Work Day is Thursday, April 25th
  - For more information, refer to the March 13th email from Jennifer Judge
- Central Office May Professional Development:
  - Monday, May 13th from 9am - 11:30am in the Washington & Fayette Rooms



## TECH-TIP!

*STAY DILIGENT ON REPORTING LOST DEVICES!*

ENSURE YOU REPORT ANY LOSS OF DEVICE/THEFT TO:

- Maintain integrity of sensitive information
- Prevent unauthorized access
- Maintain Trust and Reputation
- Possibly track and recover



## CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



# EXCELLENCE IN ACTION *IU1 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH*

In honor of **Autism Awareness Month**, we are happy to recognize two employees: Joanne Stickel and Allyson Vitez, Autistic/Life Skills Support teachers at Intermediate Unit 1 Waynesburg Campus. Joanne is a seasoned teacher who has worked for Intermediate Unit 1 for over 20 years. She has worked in Alternative Education, the Partial Hospitalization Program, the Greene Academy, Comprehensive Therapeutic Emotional Support Program and has taken on a new role as the Autistic/Life Skills Support teacher. Her wealth of knowledge and experience has provided a positive experience for her students.

Allyson Vitez is a new teacher who has a passion in educating students with Autism. This school year, she has developed her teaching skills by receiving verbal behavior training and is always looking for resources to support her students. When you walk into her room, you observe her, her paraprofessionals and students working, laughing and enjoying the educational process. The IU1 Waynesburg Campus is very lucky to have these two individuals.



*Joanne Stickel & Allyson Vitez*

## UPBEAT UPDATE



On Saturday, April 13th, communities around the region rallied together for two Autism walks in honor of **Autism Awareness Month**. One was at Jefferson-Morgan School District, and the other, Trinity West Elementary School. Despite the sunny yet windy weather, spirits remained high as participants engaged in a plethora of activities. Jefferson-Morgan's walk boasted face painting, delightful treats, clothing vendors, and even a visit from some beloved Disney princesses, alongside a tempting spread of homemade BBQ and an ice cream food truck. Trinity's event mirrored the festivities but added some unique flair with a dunk tank, fun photo booth stations, and the highlight of the day, a color run.



Funds raised at Trinity's walk will directly support Autistic Support Classrooms at Trinity West, enhancing resources and experiences for students, as well as benefitting Adaptive Sports of Washington County, PA. Funds raised at Jefferson-Morgan's walk will go towards their Best Buddies Autism Initiative which aims to offer diverse activities and enriching experiences not only for students in the Life Skills/Autistic Support classrooms but also for those in other classrooms across the district. The initiative fosters collaboration between students in regular education and those in specialized classrooms. Past funding has supported various activities like kitchen sessions and special holiday events. Additionally, the initiative plans to allocate funds for a significant communication board for the playground, promoting interaction between non-verbal students and those with verbal abilities.



Both walks were resounding successes, uniting the community in support of autism awareness and ensuring a day filled with joy and camaraderie. Excitement already brews for next year's events!

## POWERFUL PERSPECTIVES

*TAMMY MANDICH*

*PRINCIPAL, IU1 EDUCATIONAL CAMPUS AT WAYNESBURG*

I learned early in my career it takes a team to run a school. This holds true no matter what your position is in a school, district, or organization. As the leader of the IU 1 Waynesburg Campus School, I can honestly express our staff has a team mindset. They are there for each other. We all support each other regardless of our specific responsibilities. We are here for the success of our students and will go above and beyond to make that happen.

The most powerful perspective an individual or organization can have for success is that we need each other.

