



IU1

INTERMEDIATE UNIT I
Fayette-Greene-Washington

INTERCONNECTED

January Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 9

SPOTLIGHT ON THE STUDENTS

The Culinary Arts program at the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center provides students with a dynamic and engaging learning experience, offering integrated training in essential aspects of the Food Service Industry. The curriculum includes a mix of theoretical knowledge in food service, hands-on practical training, and a focus on safety and sanitation practices. This well-rounded program aims to give students exposure and proficiency in four key areas of dining room service.

Students not only enjoy participating in activities that foster camaraderie but also approach their studies with dedication and hard work. The program ensures that students gain both theoretical insights and practical skills, preparing them for success in the field of culinary arts.

Attendees of the January Superintendent's Advisory Council meeting were treated to a delicious and FUN lunch prepared by the Mon Valley CTC Culinary Arts students, consisting of build-your-own chicken and steak salads, as well as beautifully presented fruit and desserts.

Well done, Wolfpack!



REMINDER ROUNDUP!

- Central Office February Professional Development: *Artificial Intelligence*
 - Monday February 12th from 9am - 11:30am in the Washington & Fayette Rooms



TECH-TIP!

RING IN THE NEW YEAR BY KEEPING SAFE FROM PHISHING SCAMS!

Brush up your knowledge by taking the following quizzes:

- <https://phishingquiz.withgoogle.com/>
- <https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/small-businesses/cybersecurity/quiz/phishing>
- <https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/small-businesses/cybersecurity/quiz/ransomware>

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:





Trisha Kress

EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

IU1 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Trisha Kress is a Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS). Mrs. Kress has been a dedicated teacher of Intermediate Unit 1 since September 2003. She is a leader in organizing the Home Orientation and Mobility Experiences at School (HOMES) program, which is designed for students who are blind or visually impaired to learn compensatory skills, carry out career exploration activities, acquire orientation and mobility skills, and practice appropriate social skills in a variety of educational and community settings. Mrs. Kress is a collaborative and creative teacher who fosters independence in her students and empowers them to excel in school and life outside of the classroom.

FRESH FACES: *GET TO KNOW OUR DECEMBER NEW HIRES!*

- Ann Walsh, Adult Education Teacher, Washington Career Link

UPBEAT UPDATE



In the spirit of Christmas, the December 14th board meeting was an uplifting gathering, capping off 2023 with a touch of creativity and cake! Members were pleasantly surprised to receive unique handcrafted wooden snowmen, a thoughtful gift from students at the IU1 Waynesburg campus. Crafted in the Fab Lab, these snowmen were born from the careful deconstruction of pallet wood, a thorough sanding, and some creative painting. What added a personal touch was the inclusion of the students' names on the back of each snowman, ensuring a direct connection between the creator and recipient. To sweeten the deal, the meeting concluded with a delightful cake from Bethel Bakery, leaving everyone with a sense of joy as they wrapped up the year on a high note.

POWERFUL PERSPECTIVES *STEPHANIE PAOLUCCI* *LEAD SUPERVISOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION*

How frequently do we embark on a new year with the ardent vow that "I'm going to do it this year!", only to realize that by mid-January or early February, we find ourselves back in the same old slump, having already defeated ourselves? It becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy, and unwittingly, we set ourselves up for failure. When guiding our students, we encourage teachers to "start small" and ensure that students experience some level of success, regardless of its magnitude. Let's adopt the same approach for ourselves in 2024 and contemplate how we can approach this opportunity differently.

Consider crafting a list of things to anticipate in the New Year, creating a bucket list, experimenting with gratitude exercises, and focusing on the things you have accomplished each day rather than dwelling on what you haven't. Some time ago, my family and I began a practice of sharing three positive things from our day at the dinner table. It's remarkable how deliberately acknowledging and articulating the positive aspects of each day alters our mindset, even if only in that moment. In both our personal and professional realms this year, let's concentrate on our strengths and accomplishments, seizing the opportunity to build upon them. Wishing you a joyous 2024!

