

Aerial Photos provided by Matt Baker

# The Career Center Courier



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**New ACC/SRAVTE  
Director  
Dr. Shane Lange**

**ACC Alum  
Gets Her Wings**

**Students of the Month:  
Miya Washkowiak  
Niles Tremper**

**Part 107-Excellence**

**Around the ACC  
New Aviation Instructor  
Austin Golden**

**Trivia Time  
&  
Thank You**



## Meet The New ACC-SRAVTE Director



On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Dr. Shane Lange was officially approved as the new ACC/SRAVTE Director starting for the 2024-25 school Year. Dr. Lange will officially assume his position starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Dr. Langes' approval was two-fold as the SRAVTE/ACC Boards of control approved him in a special meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>, and the LPHS School board affirmed that appointment on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Currently Dr. Lange works as the Dean of Workforce Development at Illinois Valley Community College. He is pictured left with his wife Lisa, who is an instructional coach at Northwest Elementary in Lincoln.

Dr. Lange brings a wealth of educational as well as private sector experience with him in this transition to the Directorship. Dr. Lange started his educational journey at Illinois Valley Community College, and then moved on to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. In that time he worked in industry for the automotive, insurance, and manufacturing sectors. Not finding his ultimate love with those career paths he decided that he wanted to help others the way his teachers had helped him. With that he went back to school to become a teacher. Dr. Lange later spent some time teaching junior high Science, and then moved on to teach Automotive Technologies at Illinois Valley before becoming the Dean of Workforce Development. To finish his educational degree pursuit, he received a Master's from the University of Massachusetts and his Educational Doctorate from Illinois State University.

Dr. Lange brings a passion for the CTE end of education, and has great respect for the CTE instructors and the skill sets (as well as work-place acumen) that they impart to their students. In his current role he has made many visits to the ACC and those trips have continuously added to his respect for the facilities and its employees. He sees his love for CTE as adding to the growing enthusiasm from the public and industry partners for what the ACC has to offer.

Going forward as the next director, Dr. Lange is very excited to do work in improving Career Pathways for students and to use his leadership skills to foster trust and collegial collaboration. In doing so each area will work toward the goal of improving student success and instilling value for the work they do. **Welcome aboard Dr. Lange, You and the ACC/SRAVTE are a match!**

## ACC Alum Gets Her Wings

LPHS and ACC alumni Catherine Engels (Class of 22), credits the ACC Aviation program with whetting her appetite for a love of flying. Having had no experience in Aviation, Catherine saw the ACC program as a perfect opportunity to get started. In taking the class (as well using its introductory flights), Catherine decided a further pursuit of an Aviation career was the path she would take, with the ultimate goal being to become an airline pilot. Catherine stated: *"I chose this path because I traveled a lot as a child and I was always inspired by the pilot's ability to fly a huge aircraft from one place to the other. Traveling was also something I was interested in, so flying for an airline would allow me to travel across the country and the world."*

There is also a secondary motivation that Catherine holds dear in her pursuit of becoming an airline pilot. That motivation is the advocacy for greater involvement of women in the Aviation industry. In an industry that is dominated by males, Catherine is hopeful that she adds to the importance of having women in bigger roles like instructors and/or captains. Having more women in those roles is impactful for younger people (herself included) so they see that it is possible to succeed as far as you can dream. She reflects that as a woman *"it was intimidating to have all male instructors and classmates at first, but having one female instructor was really amazing for me. Having other women around to support and guide you helps you feel less alone and creates a close community."* In completing her training, and earning her private pilots license, Catherine has taken the first step in supporting this advocacy.

Catherine advises that when one takes up a pursuit of their goal they shouldn't compare themselves to others. One should trust their gut and understand that if it is worthwhile, it won't be easy. However, in the end, the payoff will be similar to what she felt when she flew solo *"As often as it's said, it's true when I say there are no words. It was a nervous, exciting, exhilarating, adrenaline rushed feeling. Having full control of the plane felt powerful. It also took my mind a while to process that it happened."* **The ACC is very Proud of you Catherine and Congratulations on this huge success in achieving a goal and pursuit of your career!!**



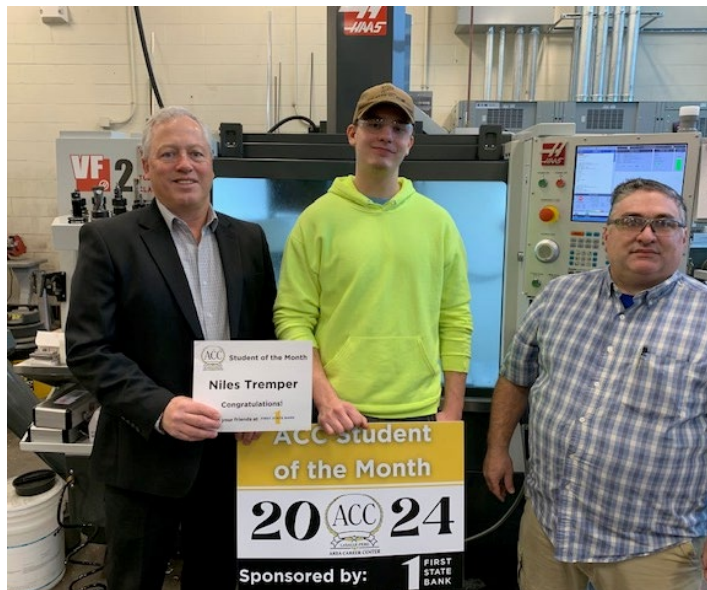
Pictured Left is Catherine Engels next to the Cessna 172 R, she flew for her solo and flight hours. Right, the wings she was presented with in earning her license.



# Students of The Month

Miya Washkowiak  
(LPHS)

Niles Tremper  
(LPHS)



Pictured Left (L to R): Lori Turczyn (Instructor) Miya Waskowiak (LPHS), and Kirk Ross (First State Bank)

Pictured right (L to R): Kirk Ross (First State Bank), Niles Tremper (LPHS), Matt Lee (Instructor)

Miya Washkowiak of LPHS is a first-year student in the ACC Culinary Arts Program. Miya has recently earned her Food Handlers license and OSHA 10 certification through the program. Miya indicates that she has decided to attend IVCC upon graduation, but the totality of her post-secondary plans are undecided at the moment. Her interest and abilities in Art may be used to compliment her culinary skills, but as to a fully developed career plan she is still working on that.

Niles Tremper, of LPHS, is a dual ACC student enrolled in both the Machine Technology and Welding programs. Excelling in both programs compliments Niles' career plans, which are to work through the Pipe-Fitters apprenticeship program and pursue his career as a union welder with the Pipe-Fitters. While doing exceptionally well in both programs, Niles is being recognized for his work in Machining.

The ACC is privileged to recognize students like Niles and Miya. Their ability to combine solid classroom work while at the same time demonstrating an exceptionally high level of tactile and performance skill development bodes very well for their future, as well as the future of the local community. **Miya and Niles, the ACC and First State Bank are proud to recognize you as the January 2024 students of the month.** Best of luck in your careers after graduation!

## Part 107-Excellence



Over the course of the Christmas break six students of the ACC made the choice to invest in themselves and to put their learning to the test. These six students trekked out to Naperville Illinois and sat for the FAA Part 107 drone pilot certification test ([Click Here to see the Government description of Part 107](#)). All six students passed the test and earned their FAA certification. The testing took place at the Illinois Aviation Museum and was paid for by the local EFE office (SRAVTE—EFE 190). The ACC is very proud of this accomplishment as it is the first group of aviation students to achieve this honor. The six students were Cale Strouss of Mendota, Luke Tunnell of St. Bede, Devyn Castelli of LPHS, Will McLaughlin of LPHS, Evan Thrush of Ottawa, and Landon Arthur of LPHS. Many thanks are also in order to their instructor Mr. Brian Layhew. It was his foresight to open this avenue of instruction, as well as his instillation of faith in the students in their ability to pass the exam. The second semester of aviation will continue with a focus on the private pilot ground school exam, and it is hoped that the Spring will bring an additional group of private pilot certifications.

## New Aviation Instructor



The ACC is proud to announce its new Aviation Instructor Mr. Austin Golden. Austin is a Certified Flight instructor who is also commercial certified. He is a father of three and enjoys playing and watching Rugby. He graduated from ATP flight school, and has worked at the Peru Airport. His goal is to continue to advance the ACC Aviation program and expose the students to all aspects of the aviation industry. Thus far he has been impressed with the accomplishments of the students in the program and hopes to use the classroom location at the Peru Airport to further expose the students to the many facets the industry has to offer. As Austin is a CFI, students who wish will be able to sit for the private pilot's exam in the Spring. **Welcome Aboard Austin!!**



# Around The ACC



Above Left: Addy Nance of LPHS holds a plate of crepes she prepared as part of a unit on breakfast foods for her Culinary Arts program. Above (Middle and Right) Axel Mejia (DePue), Keven Mejia (DePue), Gabriel Delgado (LP) watch as their crepes are heated to the correct consistency. Right Keven Mejia of De Pue adorns his crepe with his preferred fillings.



Above : Through a donation from local supermarket chain HyVee, the ACC Culinary Arts program is now in possession of an automatic donut maker. The machine is able to produce the batter and fry the donuts as well as send them to an additional mechanism to frost them. Look for a future newsletter to highlight an upcoming ACC **"Donut Day"**. The ACC Wishes to thank HyVee for its generosity.

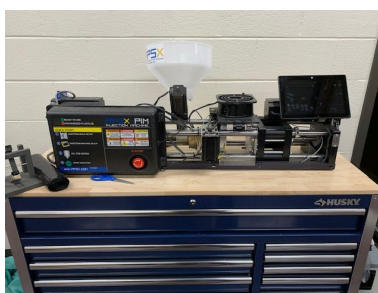
**ACC Registration has started, contact your counselor !**



# Around the ACC



Above: Left- Salina Breckenridge of Putnam County and Olivia Weber of LP track down the cause of engine knocking on a customers truck. Middle- Instructor Mike Fischer (blue) works with Rikki Trinidad of Putnam County to secure a heat and protective shield that has come loose on a vehicle. Right--Miles Walder from PC, Miguel Reveles also PC, Ryker Rolando LP, Rock Ratke LP, and Lincoln Eitutis (back to us) remove head bolts as they prepare to dig deeper into engine of a customers car.



**LP Maker Space**  
**Sponsored by:**  
**Mr. Tom Kowalski**

Above L to R—A new mini mill sits on a pallet awaiting installation in the Maker Lab that is used by the ACC CAD program and the LPHS PLTW program. The mini-mill is pictured next to its big brother which resides in the Machine Technology lab. The remaining equipment is composed of 3-D printers, plastic injection molders, and general production equipment. The lab provides the ability for a student to see a design from inception to a modeled prototype.

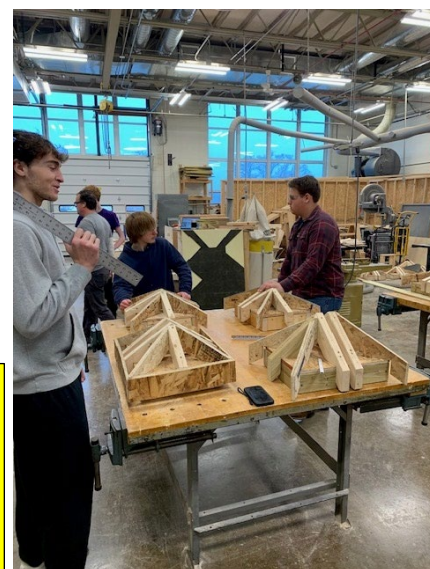
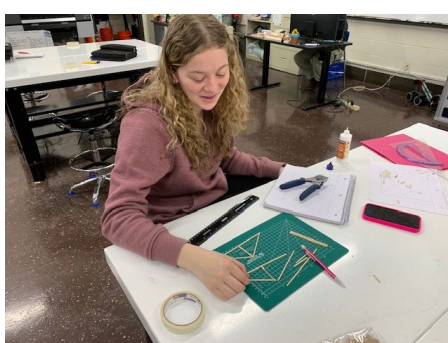


# Around the ACC



Left: Students (Dylan Salz, Hannah Zera, and Niles Tremper) in Mr. Joe Villarreal's welding class strike a pose to illustrate their deep thinking involved in the manufacturing of carts for LKCS. They are pictured above a jig they made and use to ensure that the carts are of the correct dimensions, square, and level. One of the major aspects of their project is quality control. Right- Connor Kelly practices his TIG welding with aluminum material. 😊

Below: CAD Architectural Drafting students Esmeralda Avila (Putnam County-L), and Sadie Quest (La Moille-R) work on physical model representations of their designs. For the CAD students the ability to physically model their designs helps complete the picture and deepen understanding of how their designs interact with the physical world. For Esmeralda, the understanding goes even deeper, as she is also a student in the Building Trades class where they are working on construction of **hip rafters** and the CAD unit coincides with her Building Trades unit.



Right: PCHS student Orlando Harris, Grady Morscheiser (LP), Robert Schroeder(LP), and Brady Kmetz-Korte(LP)work to finish their hip rafter mockups.

Left: A finished hip rafter mockup done by an ACC student.



## Thank You Mr. Kowalski



Pictured above (T to B- ACC Blocks 1,2, and 3): ACC students pose wearing T-Shirts with the ACC logo. The shirts were generously donated by Mr. Tom Kowalski. Mr. Kowalski, your kindness and generosity are not lost on the ACC and its students.

## December Trivia Master



December Trivia Winner Kathy Baker (LPHS Jobs Coach) displays her prizes for being the first to correctly answer the question of: What type of pasta is pictured and what term fits this definition? Cooked so as to still be firm when bitten. **The correct answer was al dente, and the pasta was Gemelli Pasta.**

January Trivia Question: Prize to first person to correctly send answer to [dmentgen@lphs.net](mailto:dmentgen@lphs.net).

These precious metals are generally found in automotive catalytic converters, and per ounce are sometimes more costly than gold. Name the three metals (this might explain why there is a current rash of catalytic converter theft).