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# VOC

Livingston Area Career Center

## Fire Fighting

By Dillon Prendergast

"Modern firefighting techniques are founded on principles that predate almost all of their active practitioners. One of the most basic principles is that the firefighter's responsibility is to protect life and property. Whether paid or volunteer, there isn't a firefighter in the free world who is forced to join this profession. All do so by their own free will. When they take the oath of office, they commit themselves to uphold this ideal. It becomes their sworn duty." FDNY Deputy Assistant Chief John Norman (Retired).

Like so many people before them, the students of the L.A.C.C. Fire Fighting Class have taken their first steps toward the possible profession of public service as a firefighter. While the students attending the class are still undecided whether this is the career for them or not, some of them have chosen to pursue a career in fire service or serve as a volunteer within their communities. All of them have come to the realization that the profession as a whole is very demanding but worthwhile.

The students enrolled in the course were exposed to the expectations of a firefighter within the first three weeks of the school year. In week one, the students learned about the core values of a firefighter. This included having a discussion about having a solid work ethic, being a team player, being capable of leading others, being empathetic to the situation at hand, being willing to be unselfish, and being able to be trusted. During the following weeks, the students learned about why a fire fighters health and safety are important. They were fitted for all the firefighting gear that a fire fighter wears during a fire. They also learned about why communications is important on the job. The students have been practicing putting on the air packs fire fighters wear during a fire so they are able to breath. The students also got a chance to go up in Pontiac Fire Departments Tower/Ladder truck. They were over 75 feet in the air. Students will participate in a physical agility test that requires them to stretch a charged 100 foot piece of hose filled with water, drag a simulated victim, climb a 50 foot aerial ladder, and complete a multitude of other physically demanding obstacles.

As you might expect, the class has been very busy during the first part of the school year. There are many goals and objectives set for this particular class. Just like the firefighters they aspire to be, they will rise to the challenge and meet these expectations head on...not as individuals, but as a group. As quoted by Lt. "Bull" McCaffery (played by Kurt Russell) in the movie *BackDraft*, "You Go, We Go." They are all in this class together by their own free will and in one voice, someday, they too may choose to take the oath to protect life and property.

As always, stay safe.



Pictured above: Fire Fighting students learn hose training at the Pontiac Fire Department. This image was taken during the 19-20 school year during the last Fire Fighting class that ran.

## Regional Students of the Month "March"

**Brandon Bigger**

Pontiac Township High School

Class: Child Development & Parenting

Instructor:

Amy Richardson

**Kayleigh Osterdock**

Woodland High School

Class: Agricultural Food Science

Instructor:

Keri Christie

## LACC SPOTLIGHT



Pictured above: A Certified Nurse Assistant student scoops ice for residents while on her clinical at Evenglow Lodge in Pontiac.

## CAREER EDUCATION

the VOC NEWSLETTER

Created By: LACC Students



Education Today... Skills For Life  
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**Computer Maintenance**  
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**Criminal Justice**  
**Culinary Arts**  
**Cyber Security/Networking**  
**Digital Media/Graphics**  
**Early Childhood Education**  
**Emergency Medical Technician**  
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fax 815-842-1005  
[www.livcareer.org](http://www.livcareer.org)

## Students of the Month "March"

### Sergio Munoz

Pontiac Township High School

Class:

Digital Media/Graphics

Instructor:

Ben Diaz



### Alyssa Fox

Pontiac Township High School

Class:

Criminal Justice II

Instructor:

Jack Bristow



### Quotes..

"Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all." – Sam Ewing