

# DWIGHT FLANAGAN CORNELL PONTIAC PRAIRIE CENTRAL TRI-POINT WOODLAND

# VOC

Livingston Area Career Center

## CAREER EDUCATION

the VOC NEWSLETTER

Created By: LACC Students

### LACC Digital Media/Graphic Arts

Digital Media/Graphics is a program led by Mr. Ben Diaz. This course teaches students the basics to many different aspects of being a professional designer & commercial artist. Students of this course will learn to use computer programs like CorelDraw, Adobe Illustrator & Adobe Photoshop to create digital art for many different types of applications. Throughout the year students will have the opportunity to work both as a designer & as a client to experience both sides of the commercial art profession.

We are excited that this course is back after ten years. Even though this is the first year back for this course it is not Mr. Diaz's first year in the graphic arts industry. He has been working at Diaz Sign Art in Pontiac for the last 14 years & continues to work there still. We currently only have 8 students enrolled in the class, but plan on growing year by year. We are also currently adding new computers & workstations to this class. Once our students have learned the basics of the software & hardware in this class you should expect to see their artwork in the hallways, on the LACC social media pages & in a few more unexpected spots locally.

We would love to see even more students enrolled in the 2021-22 course to become awesome graphic artists & learn about the commercial art profession. If you have an interest in the LACC Digital Media/Graphic Arts program, see your guidance department and enroll.

### New Teacher Interview

My name is Ben Diaz, and I am the new Digital Media/Graphics instructor. Professionally, I have been in the sign industry for 16 years, but really our sign business started when I was just a baby & it has always been a part of my life. I grew up in the commercial arts/sign industry. After high school I attended college at NIU briefly before being called up to serve as part of the Illinois Army National Guard. After serving in Germany for 6 months I returned to Illinois & decided to pursue the sign industry full time. I worked in Normal, IL for two years at Prairie Signs before returning to Pontiac & joining the family business at Diaz Sign Art. I'm really looking forward to seeing what my students can create & what ideas they will bring to their work. I'm excited to be a part of their journey & I am hoping to learn a few things myself over the course of the year.



Pictured above: Ben Diaz, Digital Media/Graphics

### LACC Construction Trades

20-21

We are excited that after nine years, the Construction Trades program at the Livingston Area Career Center (LACC) is up and running again. With 30 years in the construction industry, Mr. Kevin Kuerth will be teaching the class. Unfortunately, due to the restart of the program and altered school schedules, students will not be starting construction on a home this year. Instead, our carpenters will be working on picnic tables for the LACC. They will also be doing smaller projects at this time, including decks and sheds. This way they can still develop the necessary construction skillsets for: joists, subfloor, walls, rafters, siding, and shingles.

This year Construction Trades students are beginning by taking The OSHA-10 Construction Industry course. The OSHA Outreach Training Program for Construction Industry provides training for entry-level workers and employers on the recognition, avoidance, abatement, and prevention of safety and health hazards in workplace in construction industry. This, along with their training, will help prepare them for year two of the program or assist with employment opportunities.

According to Construction Labor Market Analyzer, September 2019 edition: Over 1 million skilled professionals will be needed in the construction industry by 2023. We hope to assist in filling this skills gap by getting students interested in the field and providing the entry level construction skills needed to gain employment.

### New Teacher Interview

My name is Kevin Kuerth, and I am the Construction Trades instructor. I have been in the building trades field for 30 years. My first construction job was with V.P. Construction. After that, I was employed with Vogel Construction for 20 years. I've had a great group of teachers throughout my career. I am where I'm at today from excellent employers who taught me the right way to do construction work. I would like to pass along those skills I have learned over the last 30 years in the construction field. I am very much looking forward to seeing how well my students progress, and how they use the skills I have taught them.



Pictured above: Kevin Kuerth, Construction Trades

### Education Through a New Lens

As we are really getting into the 2020-2021 school year, some things may look quite different than they normally do, but we are learning from these changes. Running a career center while a nationwide pandemic is occurring has proven to be quite a feat, but our young professionals are taking it in strides and handling the changes effortlessly. Students are following guidelines with ease, and have come to class ready to develop new skills and safely learn with their peers.

While we are unable to do some activities & events this year, there are several new opportunities that this year has brought us. Classes are introducing online certifications that their students can complete at school and at home. Automotive and Diesel Technology, Welding, and Construction Trades are all working on these online certifications, which will be another great addition to the students' skillset. Our students have also become proficient with Google Classroom, Zoom, and many other online platforms that allow them to learn safely and effectively. When in class, we are still focusing on skill checks and hands-on learning.

We still intend to highlight our students on LACC's social media pages, so please be sure to check us out on Facebook, Instagram, and our website. With every challenge that this school year has presented, our students have shown us two ways to overcome them and with resilience and positivity. We are grateful for our LACC teachers and staff as well, for this school year wouldn't be possible without them. We are still here changing oil in cars, practicing knife skills, and learning to build benches. We are looking forward to what else this year has in store.



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**Automotive & Diesel Technology**

**Certified Nurse Assistant**

**Computer Maintenance**

**Construction Trades**

**Criminal Justice**

**Culinary Arts**

**Cyber Security/Networking**

**Digital Media/Graphics**

**Early Childhood Education**

**Emergency Medical Technician**

**Engineering & Architectural Design**

**Fire Fighting**

**Inter-Related Cooperative Education**

**Manufacturing**

**Medical Terminology & Health Careers**

**Welding Technology**

**COURSES**

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### LACC 2019-2020 Students of the Year

After a tough end to the 2019-2020 school year, we are so excited to recognize our Students of the Year! These students were selected based on several attributes, including the ability to finish up their senior year from home. These students embody what it means to be a young professional, and we are incredibly proud to have had them go through the LACC. Congratulations to Jeremy Lyons from Pontiac Township High School, and Josie Snyder from Dwight Township



Pictured to the left is Pontiac Township High School graduate: Jeremy Lyons

Support  
Career  
&  
Technical  
Education



Pictured below is Dwight Township High School graduate: Josie Snyder