

## Laurel Institutes: Learning, Growing, and Moving Forward in 2024

At Laurel, the year 2024 is focused on adapting to changing workforce dynamics in our region. During the past several years of exacerbated skilled shortages, the needs of the local employer base led to more direct engagement in the educational process. As a result, more work-based learning opportunities for Laurel's students grew in the form of expanded internships, clinical rotations, school-based enterprises and advisory board membership. Laurel's goal is to provide the best career education possible for students by offering experiences that make lasting skill-building impressions. Experiential Learning, the process of learning through work-based learning, hands-on activities or lab exercises provides students the opportunity to gain real-world knowledge in the

classroom that they can apply in the workforce. Laurel's growth comes from enriching the educational opportunities through innovative technologies like healthcare simulators, on-site Cosmetology Salons, our student run restaurant, and so much more.

In the onsite clinic, Cosmetology students learn how to engage and interact with the community, helping build skills in communication and practicing professional interactions that encourage them to maintain their own books for appointments and clientele after graduation. Students use the salon to practice timed product application, haircuts, styles and required safety & sanitation practices.

In the Student Restaurant, Gigi's Table, Culinary Arts students are encouraged to learn and practice skills in

kitchen and restaurant management. This is a great way for students to experience the pressures of time management, portion management, and professionalism while interacting with members of the community. Students also gain skills in menu planning, local sourcing, and horticulture through their time spent in Gigi's Table.

Laurel also offers Premier Employer Partnerships to leverage support from local employers for our students. These partnerships help furnish students with financial resources, such as scholarships or tuition assistance, to obtain their degree. Participating businesses and organizations play a key role during every step in the process, providing career guidance, meaningful workplace experience and the opportunity to start

working immediately following graduation.

As Laurel looks forward into 2024, the introduction of new programs is on the horizon, as well as new learning and teaching techniques. The education development teams will continue to work hard to keep our program curriculum relevant to the ever changing fields for our students' future careers

Since Laurel was established in 1985 in Uniontown, PA, the school has opened the doors on three other locations throughout Northwestern Pennsylvania, Northern West Virginia, and now Northern South Carolina, with offerings in distance education through our online platforms, providing a variety of programs in the fields of trades, cosmetology, healthcare, business, and information technology.

## Laurel Institute of Technology Opens New School in Fort Mill, SC

Laurel Institutes, a well-known family of post-secondary technical schools founded in 1985 in Western Pennsylvania, is providing residents of York County, SC, and surrounding areas a new state-of-the-art healthcare educational facility at 127 Ben Casey Drive, Suite 101, in Fort Mill, SC. Laurel Institute of Technology's Ft. Mill school will offer post-secondary students the opportunity to earn a Diploma in Cardiovascular Technology in just 16 months.

"We opened a school in Ft. Mill because we learned that healthcare providers in the area are specifically in need of more trained allied health professionals," said Nancy Decker, president of Laurel Institutes. "We're excited about the York County region because the healthcare system is rapidly expanding, but they need skilled technicians so they can continue to grow and service the community's residents. Currently, employers in the medical community can't find enough qualified employees to fill all of their openings. Laurel has a long history of providing quality healthcare training and wants to be part of the solution and provide individuals with the skills, training, and certifications that are needed to help grow the economy in the region. Furthermore, there is a strong connection in the Charlotte area to Western Pennsylvania, so we

felt this community was the perfect fit for us."

In 2022, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) showed that healthcare openings are projected to grow 13 percent between 2021 and 2031. Specifically, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects a 10 percent increase in openings for cardiovascular technologists and technicians. Cardiovascular Technology (CVT) students are trained in the performance of non-invasive cardiac testing, such as EKG (ECG) and cardiac sonography/echo tech procedures, which provide valuable recorded data utilized in cardiac medical evaluation. Cardiovascular technicians perform diagnostic, administrative, and clinical duties under the direction of a physician. Clinical duties may include taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood, and administering medications as directed by the physician.

The new CVT program will train students to be vital contributors to the health and well-being of our communities, which we feel is so important right now. The material covered in the CVT program will introduce students to how to perform cardiac sonography/echocardiogram procedures and provide preparation for graduates to take the national certification examination to become a Certified

Cardiographic Technician (CCT) and Certified Rhythm Analysis Technician (CRAT) through Cardiovascular

Credentialing International (CCI). The program will have access to a well-designed and equipped skills lab for experiential learning that students will utilize throughout the program to prepare them for certifications, critical thinking, and patient care. Students will take courses in Anatomy & Physiology, Phlebotomy, Pathophysiology, Pharmacology, Medical Law & Ethics, Cardiac Sonography, Cardiovascular Technology, Non-invasive Cardiology, and much more! With small class sizes and great faculty, Laurel has high hopes of helping build great healthcare workers for the community and surrounding areas. In addition, Laurel Institute of Technology is establishing healthcare affiliations with many of the area's leading healthcare systems. The students in Laurel Institute of Technology's healthcare programs will receive invaluable employment opportunities from all affiliations.

Founded in 1985, Laurel family of schools, including Laurel College of Technology, Laurel Business Institute (LBI), and Laurel Technical Institute (LTI), is a well-known post-secondary technical school organization that offers hands-on training and small class sizes,



taught by highly skilled and experienced instructors. Laurel convenes annual program advisory committees comprised of local employer and community stakeholders to evaluate and review the curriculum as well as guide the institution's development. In addition to the new Fort Mill school, Laurel has three other locations throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia, including Hermitage, Morgantown, and Uniontown. In addition to licensure by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, Laurel is licensed by the Pennsylvania State Board of Private Licensed Schools under the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the State of West Virginia. Students are eligible to apply to participate in federal and state financial aid programs as the school is accredited nationally by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges. In addition, Laurel Institutes was named as one of the top 25 two-year trade schools by Niche in 2023.

## Laurel Highlights George R. Smalley Co. Inc. as Premier Employer Partner

At the beginning of 2024, Laurel added another local company to the network of Premier Employer Partners, George R. Smalley Co. Inc., in their Uniontown community. George R. Smalley Co. Inc., has been a part of the Uniontown community for decades, and Laurel is excited to welcome them into the fold to further support graduates of our Electrical Technician and Computer Network Security Technician programs.

In January 2024, Laurel visited with Rusty Smalley, owner and operator of George R. Smalley Co., to discuss employment potential, scholarships and tuition assistance for students and graduates of adjacent Laurel programs. While on site, Laurel was presented with a

\$5,000 scholarship check to be dispersed as seen fit to help meet the needs of Laurel students.

Outside of the classrooms, George R. Smalley Co. has stepped into our PAC meetings, showing a commitment to our students and programs. By doing so, they have provided necessary input to the development of Laurel's Electrical Technician program to keep curriculum current and practical for students and graduates.

As Laurel continues to grow our relationship with the network of partners, it's great to see how dedicated everyone is to every aspect of Laurel and the students, George R. Smalley Co. also offers benefits to students graduates of the Electrical Technician and Computer



On January 29th members of Laurel Institutes visited George R. Smalley Co., Inc in their new facility to receive the first scholarship sponsorship through the Premier Employer Partnership. This scholarship will be awarded to Laurel's Electrical Technician students in the coming semester.

Pictured Left to Right, Laurel Institutes Director of Trades, Justin Caldwell, President & CEO of Laurel Institutes, Nancy Decker, Owner of George R. Smalley Co., Inc, Rusty Smalley, and Executive VP of Laurel Institutes, Dr. Doug Decker.

Network Security Technician programs by providing internships, tuition reimbursement, feature guest lectures, on-site demos, student friendly part-time employment opportunities, and

so much more! Laurel students benefit from a Premier Partner like this, who are committed not only in the classroom, but outside of it, especially with the community.



## LCOT Electrical Technician Students Take a Tour

The LCOT Electrical Technician's got an awesome tour of the Mountaintop Beverage facility! A huge thanks to our tour guides and the rest of the team there, we appreciate your time and thoroughness, it was a great experience for these students!



### LTI Hosts 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat

Sneaky spooks shook the halls during Laurel Technical Institute's second annual Trunk or Treat event at the Sharon campus! A big thank you to all the businesses who came out to celebrate, as well as to students and staff for joining in the fun!

### LTI Hosts Fall Into Change Health Fair



Laurel Technical Institute had the opportunity to host the Fall Into Change Health Fair, conducted by the Shenango Valley Urban League in partnership with the Primary Health Network and Tracy Schliep, RN., at the Sharon campus. Culinary Art students Ken Nalepa, Matt Ammann, and Victoria Delgado, alongside Culinary Instructor Cassie Cooper, highlighted and demonstrated healthy recipes during the fair.



### LCOT Students Accepted for Aspiring Nursing Program

Congratulations to all of these hard-working students! We are so proud of the hardworking LCOT students who are a part of this new Aspiring Nurses program! We are so excited to see what you bring to the world of healthcare upon completion of your program!  
We would like to congratulate some of our excellent Nursing students for their recent recognition from WVU Medicine and acceptance into the first inaugural cohort of Aspiring Nurses! Congratulations to Sarah Barnett, Sandra Hetrick, Cassandra Isom, Ariel Kozich, Shawn Tay Snyder, Cierra Truley, and Donna Zuzak!  
We are so proud of each of you and cannot wait to see what your future holds!!

### LTI Graduates Obtain Interview Experience

Last Friday, students from the Electrical Technician, Welding and Fabrication, and Clinical Medical Assistant programs had the opportunity to practice their interview skills with a Mock Interview exercise during their Career Development class. Students were interviewed by representatives from local companies, and given tips and tricks to perfect their interview skills. With many of these students graduating this semester, we can't wait to see what they do!

Industries, Inc, Kismet PEO, The Electrical Technician, Welding and Fabrication, and Clinical Medical Assistant programs had the opportunity to practice their interview skills with a Mock Interview exercise during their Career Development class. Students were interviewed by representatives from local companies, and given tips and tricks to perfect their interview skills. With many of these students graduating this semester, we can't wait to see what they do!



### LTI Welcomes New Students

LTI is super excited to welcome this amazing group of students to campus for an exciting educational journey! Happy Spring Semester everyone!



### LBI Massage Therapy Graduates Pass Exam



Congratulations to all 5 of our September Massage Therapy graduates for successfully taking & passing their licensure exam! We know how much hard work went into the preparation for this exam and we are so proud of all of you! **Congratulations!!**

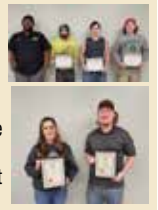
### LBI Hosts Graduate Luncheon for January Graduates



Last week, LBI held a Graduate Luncheon to celebrate our bright, outstanding students! You have all worked so hard on your education and we are very excited to see all of your future success! Good luck in your last couple weeks here, we'll see you at Graduation!

### LTI Hosts Graduate Luncheon for January Graduates

Last week, Laurel Technical Institute held a Graduate Luncheon to celebrate our bright, outstanding students! You have all worked so hard on your education and we are very excited to see all of your future success! Good luck in your last couple weeks here, we'll see you at Graduation!



### LCOT Celebrates Spring Pinning Ceremony



We celebrated our six graduates that made up the Spring 2024 pin recipients. These six hardworking, accomplished students make up the first inaugural cohort of Laurel's LPN to ADN Transition Program. We were very excited to celebrate the excellence and dedication that this great group displayed during their education. Congratulations to you all, we cannot wait to see all your future success!

### LTI Cosmetology Students Enjoy Class Sit-In



Laurel Technical Institute's Cosmetology students had the opportunity to sit in on a haircutting class with Tucker James at Lindy's Salon & Spa. A big thank you to Lindy's Salon & Spa for hosting and inviting the students, and to Tucker James putting on such a great class!

### LBI Practical Nursing Students Get Hands On Practice

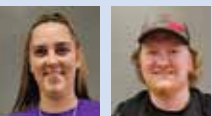
LBI Practical Nursing students administered flu vaccines to staff at Uniontown Hospital! Thank you for having our students there, it was a great experience!



### LTI Celebrates Summer 2023 Distinguished Grads

Laurel Technical Institute is excited to recognize the Summer 2023 Distinguished Graduates: Aiden Mohr from the Electrical Technician program, and Briana Porterfield from the Cosmetology program! These

two students are recognized for the amazing effort they've put into learning, helping and going above and beyond in their programs. Congratulations to both of you! This recognition is very well deserved!



### Laurel Announces Summer 2023 Dean's List Recipients

Laurel Technical Institute is pleased to announce our Dean's List recipients for the Summer 2023 Semester:

<i>HAVING EARNED A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 4.0 TO 3.8 TO BE ON THE HIGHEST HONORS DEAN'S LIST:</i> Joshua Bender <i>Welding &amp; Fabrication</i> Benjamin Brown <i>Electrical Technician</i> Easton Campbell <i>Electrical Technician</i> Aaron Dennis <i>Network Administration &amp; Security</i> Rachel Doult <i>Esthetics/Nail Technician</i> Jennilyn Ferguson <i>Respiratory Therapy</i> Tegan Frampton <i>Network Administration &amp; Security</i> Ashley Freeman <i>Cardiovascular Technology</i> Colleen Gasser <i>Clinical Medical Assistant</i> Hayden Gould <i>Network Administration &amp; Security</i> Rowan Hall <i>Cosmetology</i> Essence Harris <i>Cosmetology</i> Taylor Heriger <i>Cosmetology</i> Scott Kurtz <i>Welding &amp; Fabrication</i> Dominik LaGamba <i>Culinary Arts</i> Claire Lees <i>Clinical Medical Assistant</i> Edward Marsch <i>Culinary Arts</i>	Catherine Martin <i>Esthetics/Nail Technician</i> Michelle Martin <i>Molding &amp; Fabrication</i> Jenna Mattocks <i>Esthetics/Nail Technician</i> Ashley McCausland <i>Esthetics/Nail Technician</i> Jonathan Melhorn <i>Electrical Technician</i> Montana Minor <i>Electrical Technician</i> Marissa Muszik <i>Cosmetology</i> Keneth Nalepa <i>Culinary Arts</i> Briana Porterfield <i>Cosmetology</i> Allyson Schultz <i>Esthetics/Nail Technician</i> Brooke Sealand <i>Cosmetology</i> Christopher Smith <i>Welding &amp; Fabrication</i> Destinee Smith <i>Esthetics/Nail Technician</i> Torree Smith <i>Cosmetology</i> Hailee Stinedurf <i>Cosmetology</i> Michael Wade <i>Electrical Technician</i> Tyler Welsh <i>Network Administration &amp; Security</i> Sydney Wylie <i>Cosmetology</i> Eli Yereb <i>Cardiovascular Technology</i>	Robert Zieminick <i>Welding &amp; Fabrication</i> <i>HAVING EARNED A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 3.79 TO 3.5 TO BE ON THE HIGH HONORS DEAN'S LIST:</i> Nikole Barretta <i>Esthetics/Nail Technician</i> Hailey Boozer <i>Cardiovascular Technology</i> Victoria Delgado <i>Culinary Arts</i> Cole Doolin <i>Welding &amp; Fabrication</i> Tylauna Jones <i>Cosmetology</i> Jordan Litwiler <i>Cardiovascular Technology</i> Noel McMuldren <i>Network Administration &amp; Security</i> Aiden Mohr <i>Electrical Technician</i> Christopher Morton <i>Electrical Technician</i> Dyiamond Perkins <i>Cosmetology</i> Madison Pipes <i>Respiratory Therapy</i> Allison Sauervien <i>Cardiovascular Technology</i> Kaitlin Whelan <i>Cosmetology</i> Abigail Wheeler <i>Cosmetology</i> <i>HAVING EARNED A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 3.49 TO 3.25 TO BE ON THE HONORS DEAN'S LIST:</i> Kaitlyn Atterholt <i>Esthetics/Nail Technician</i>	Kayleigh Beasley <i>Cosmetology</i> Erin Bobby <i>Respiratory Therapy</i> Autumn Camper <i>Esthetics/Nail Technician</i> Casey Clark <i>Welding and Fabrication</i> Dina Conroy <i>Clinical Medical Assistant</i> Aislynn Deeter <i>Esthetics/Nail Technician</i> Kylie Deeter <i>Cosmetology</i> Chad Fullum <i>Network Administration &amp; Security</i> Mikaya Henry <i>Culinary Arts</i> Justin Huffman <i>Culinary Arts</i> Katie Hurst <i>Culinary Arts</i> Robert McMurdy <i>Electrical Technician</i> Jaydn Moon <i>Esthetics/Nail Technician</i> Leticia Rea <i>Respiratory Therapy</i> Bella Root <i>Cosmetology</i> Torrance Shearer <i>Welding &amp; Fabrication</i> Robert Studor <i>Culinary Arts</i> Anthony Yaeger <i>Respiratory Therapy</i>
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Congratulations to these hardworking students!

### Learning you Experience

### LCOT Announces September 2023 Graduating Class



Laurel College of Technology held its Fall graduation ceremony on September 8th, 2023, at the Holiday Inn in Morgantown, WV. Opening comments were given by Nancy Decker, President and CEO of Laurel Institutes, then Director of Education, Kathleen Spolt, presented the Degree and Diplomas to the graduates. Diploma Valedictorian, Zoey Bassett, addressed her fellow students with a congratulatory and encouraging speech. Campus President, Sherri Rimel also reported that 49% of September graduating class have accepted an employment offer within their program of study! The following students were awarded Specialized Associate Degrees and Diplomas in the following programs:

- Degree Programs:** Kyia Uphold, Madison Hazelwood
- Nursing:** Abby Bailey, Cassandra Bolyard, Sydney Duckworth, Crystal Foreman, Sydent Lipscomb, Emily Mulvihill, Autumn Carl, Melaine Estright, Sarah Jenkins, Yuan Kelley, Madison Scott, Santana Strong
- Diploma Programs:** Zoey Bassett, Heather Hose, Molly McCarthy, Allison More, Kaitlyn Rifton, Malesa Taylor, Alesha Yanero, Dakota Barber, Savannah Brumbaugh, Makenzie Carroll
- Cosmetology:** Addie Barber, Linzie Bass, Shyleigh Pyles, Camille Tinney

Laurel College of Technology is also excited to recognize the following students for these exemplary accolades:  
**Fall 2023 Class Valedictorians:** Zoe Bassett, *Esthetics*; Heather Hose, *Esthetics*; Molly McCarthy, *Esthetics*; Allison Moore, *Esthetics*; Emily Mulvihill, *Nursing*; Skyleigh Pyles, *Cosmetology*; Malesa Taylor, *Esthetics*.  
**Fall 2023 Class Salutatorians:** Kaitlynn Rifton, *Esthetics*; Alesha Yanero, *Hairstyling*.  
**Fall 2023 Distinguished Graduates:** Crystal Foreman, *Nursing*; Madison Hazelwood, *Cosmetology*

### LBI Announces September 2023 Graduating Class



Laurel Business Institute held its Spring graduation on September 14th, 2023, at the State Theater in Uniontown, PA. Opening comments were given by Nancy Decker, President and CEO of Laurel Institutes, then Director of Education, McKenna Gower, presented the Degree and Diplomas to the graduates. The Career Services department reported that 62% of September 2023 graduating class have accepted employment offers within their program of study. The following students were awarded Specialized Associate Degrees and Diplomas in the following programs:

- Degree Programs:** Hannah Cuppelt, Jessica Little, Lydia McAllister, Samantha Sipe, Kylee Trump, Jordyn Turner, Julia Logan
- Electrical Technician:** Christopher Quarrick, Mickey Jenkins
- Medical Office Administration:** Elisha Fazenbaker
- Network Administration and Security:** Mason Hovis
- Respiratory Therapy:** Alexandria Rivera, India Davis-Williams, McKenzie Glover, Trina Esposito, Michele Isanhart
- Diploma Programs:** Kaylee Campbell, Billie Marie Evely, Desiree May
- Cosmetology:** Ellarie Coleman, Victoria Duranko, Emma Kapp, Lexie Martin, Lauren McGhee
- Massage Therapy:** Emily Crites, Lacie Gaines, Kahla Paton, Haley Somers, Morgan Watson
- Welding & Fabrication with Pipeline Technology:** Sebastian Breig, Johnathan Crawford, Tre'Von Harper, Jacob Landman, Cody Molyneaux, Cody Montegari, Carter Nicholson, Joseph Smith, Gabriel Stark

Laurel Business Institute is also excited to recognize the following students for these exemplary accolades:  
**Fall 2023 Distinguished Graduates:** Cody Montegari, Welding & Fabrication with Pipeline Technology; Kaylee Campbell, Clinical Medical Assistant; Morgan Watson, Massage Therapy

### LTI Announces September 2023 Graduating Class



Laurel Technical Institute held its Spring graduation on September 14, 2023, at the Buhl Park in Hermitage, PA. Opening comments were given by Doug Decker, VP of Operations at Laurel Institutes, then Director of Education, Lauren Chaney, presented the Degree and Diplomas to the graduates. Distinguished Grad Claire Lees addressed her fellow students with a brief encouraging speech for the Closing Comments. 67% of September 2023 graduating class have accepted an employment offer within their program of study. The following students were awarded Specialized Associate Degrees and Diplomas in the following programs:

- Degree Programs:** Evan Muszik, Dyamond Perkins, Bella Root, Brooke Sealand, Sydney Wylie
- Early Childhood Education:** GraceAnne Weibel
- Clinical Medical Assistant:** Colleen Gasser, Claire Lees
- Cosmetology:** Kayleigh Beasley, Ylie Deeter
- Culinary Arts:** Makayla Hall, Carlee Huston, Tylauna Jones
- Esthetics & Nail Technician:** Kaitlyn Atterholt
- Welding & Fabrication with Pipeline Technology:** Nikole Barretta, Aislynn Deeter, Ashton Garrett, Catherine Martin, Jenna Mattocks, Ashley McCausland, Jadyn Moon, Payton Sloan, Destinee Smith

### LCOT Announces January 2024 Graduating Class



Laurel College of Technology held their first graduation ceremony of the year on January 23rd, 2024, in the Great Room on their Morgantown campus. Opening comments were given by CEO and President of Laurel Institutes, Nancy Decker, saying "it's not always easy, so we are excited to be here to celebrate their success and the wonderful support system they had throughout their educational journey." Diploma Valedictorians, Kella Moon and Kierra Rodeheaver, addressed their fellow students with a congratulatory and encouraging speech stating that "No matter our next step after we walk out of here today, what is important is that we made it here today to celebrate our achievements." Moon says, "For some of us, this is something we never thought we could accomplish, but here we are, with those who never stopped believing in us. We're living proof that it's not only possible, but it's never too late," said Rodeheaver. Kathleen Spolt, Director of Education, then presented the Degrees and Diplomas to the graduates. Campus President, Sherri Rimel also reported that 33% of January graduating class has already accepted an employment offer within their program of study! The following students were awarded Specialized Associate Degrees and Diplomas in the following programs:

- Degree Programs:** Kella Moon, Brooklyn Morris, Kierra Rodeheaver
- LPN/Paramedic to ADN Transition Program:** Amanda Leister, Savannah McCoy-Nelson, Sydney McCullough, Taylor Petrovich, Jenni Swisher
- Cardiovascular Technology:** Rayelle Huey
- Electrical Technician:** Kallum Griesmer, Brody Hendershot, Parker Idler, Caleb Maines, Benjamin Roth, Jascskon Wolfe

Laurel College of Technology is also excited to recognize the following students for these exemplary accolades:  
**January 2024 Class Valedictorians:** Kella Moon, Kierra Rodeheaver  
**January 2024 Class Salutatorian:** Kallum Griesmer

### LBI Announces January 2024 Graduating Class



Laurel Business Institute held graduation on January 11, 2024, in the Laurel Center at Laurel Business Institute in Uniontown, PA. Opening comments were given by Bonnie Marsh, Campus President at Laurel Business Institute. "We're so proud of each graduate! We know it can be hard to balance life during your educational journey but we are so glad to present you with your degree and diplomas on this special occasion."

Laurel Business Institute's Director of Education, McKenna Gower, presented the Degree and Diplomas to the graduates. The Career Services department reported that 33% of January 2024 graduating class have accepted employment offers within their program of study. The following students were awarded Specialized Associate Degrees and Diplomas in the following programs:

- Degree Programs:** Dawn Costain, Matthew Kick, Jasmine Donaway, Brittany Watts
- Medical Billing and Coding:** Cheyenne Slingluff
- Respiratory Therapy:** Dawn Costain, Matthew Kick, Jasmine Donaway, Brittany Watts
- Electrical Technician:** Ethan Meza, Adam Brangard, Robert Erjavec, Gavin Fragello, Even Hospodavits, Mark Mascara, Mason May, Caleb Peternel, Ryan Pyro, Ashton Steedle, Elijah Robinson
- Diploma Programs:** Dawn Costain, Matthew Kick, Jasmine Donaway, Brittany Watts
- Clinical Medical Assistant:** Kelsea Rose
- Cosmetology:** Rhya Akins, Sydney Ankrom, Krystal Perrine, Ashley Sellong

Left to Right: Salutatorian Robert Erjavec, Valedictorian Mason May, Valedictorian Gavin Fragello, Valedictorian & Distinguished Graduate Dakota Sisler, Salutatorian Ryan Stouffer

### LTI Announces January 2024 Graduating Class



Laurel Technical Institute held its Spring graduation on January 10, 2024, at the Hickory High School Auditorium in Hermitage, PA. Opening comments were given by Doug Decker, VP of Operations at Laurel Institutes, then Director of Education, Lauren Chaney, presented the Degree and Diplomas to the graduates. Distinguished Grad Briana Porterfield addressed her fellow students with a brief encouraging speech for the Closing Comments. 62% of the January 2024 graduating class have accepted an employment offer within their program of study. The following students were awarded Specialized Associate Degrees and Diplomas in the following programs:

- Degree Programs:** Easton Campbell, Dashawn Cole, Xavier Footman, Robert McMurdy, Montana Minor, Aiden Mohr, Christopher Morton, Brandon Sanchez
- Clinical Medical Assistant:** Erica Bunce, Dina Conroy, Natchana McDivitt, Trinity Robinson, Melissa Tierney, Aiden Mohr
- Esthetics & Nail Technician:** Jereen Moore, Autumn Camper, Rachel Douitt, Allyson Schultz
- Welding & Fabrication with Pipeline Technology:** Mitchell Boitnott, Casey Clark, Cole Doolin, Joshua McCurry, Torrence Shearer
- Medical Office Administration:** Cheyenne Slingluff
- Cosmetology:** Essence Harris, Briana Porterfield, Torree Smith, Abigail Wheeler
- Culinary Arts:** Mikaya Henry

### LBI Honors Fall 2023 Dean's List Recipients

We would like to extend a huge congratulations to our Fall 2023 Dean's List Recipients. Students received awards for Highest Honors, High Honors, Honors, Perfect Attendance, and Community Service hours!

**Congratulations to each of you for these great accomplishments! Keep up the good work!**

## Retirement Story?



## LTI Partners with Thiel for Culinary Arts Program

Laurel Technical Institute and Thiel College signed an agreement to have Thiel students complete their culinary specialties at LTI and their business degrees at Thiel.

LTI's executive vice President Doug Decker said Thiel students were previously going to Pittsburgh to finish the culinary portion of their degree. Now they can come to LTI for it.

"It's an institutional partnership where it's quite innovative to have schools starting to find ways to work together and support one another," Decker said. "It keeps students here in the valley. We want them to learn here, work here, buy homes here and start families here."

Decker said partnerships like this give students more choices.

"They're getting more credits, they're getting more options," Decker

said. "With lifelong learning, they're continuing their careers."

Decker said Amy Braymer, LTI's vice president of education, spearheaded the partnership with Thiel.

Braymer said LTI and Thiel officials are signing two articulation agreements. Not only will Thiel students be able to receive the culinary specialty of their degree at LTI, but it allows LTI students in the accounting and business administration program to go on and get their bachelor's degree with Thiel College.

"It's really opening doorways for our students - career paths - for our students to continue in education," Braymer said. "We're really excited about that."

Braymer said LTI and Thiel College went back and forth for a long time comparing curriculum and syllabi and seeing where the programs fit in

together. LTI has two kitchens with walk-in freezers and refrigerators for their learning programs and also for use as community business incubators. Outsiders can use the kitchen for \$25 for four hours. LTI uses the commercial kitchen for learning and outside events. They also have a restaurant, Gigi's Table, that is open to the public.

Thiel officials, particularly Greg Q. Butcher, vice president of academic affairs, were looking for more local connections for Thiel students.

"With the culinary program in particular, it allows students to gain business experience through the bachelor's degree but also to have the applicable hands-on skills component as well," Butcher said. "So for those who want to go into small businesses, or open their own restaurants or whatever

that might be, that gives them the opportunity and keeps them within the county."

Butcher said that the two institutions started working out a partnership more than a year ago. He said in the past, students would typically gain culinary skills at an institution in Pittsburgh.

"When we saw the opportunity to have something that is really in our backyard, we thought this would be a wonderful partnership," Butcher said. "I think it's going to be a great opportunity for our students. We're thrilled to be working with LTI and we hope this works in both directions."



## LCOT Announces First Cardiovascular Technology Graduates

Laurel College of Technology excitedly opened the doors and enrolled students into their newest 16-month Associate's Degree of Cardiovascular Technology program in September 2022. The program coursework is designed to provide the students with an awareness of the value and dignity of people - helping shape them into integrated, unique individuals ready to take on career opportunities in this growing field. Laurel was proud to have the opportunity to graduate their first inaugural class of Cardiovascular Technology students at their January 2024 graduation ceremony.

### The graduating class included:

Timarie Repman of Morgantown, WV  
Alyssa Montgomery of Morgantown, WV  
Kylie Keller of Glen Dale, WV  
Chelsey Sansonetti of Connellsville, PA

Graduates "The most memorable part of my education was finding something that finally clicked with me," states Timarie Repman, Cardiovascular Technology graduate, "I had a lot of career opportunities after completing the program, I was able to get a job at the clinical site I worked at through my program." The material covered in the CVT program provides preparation for graduates to take the

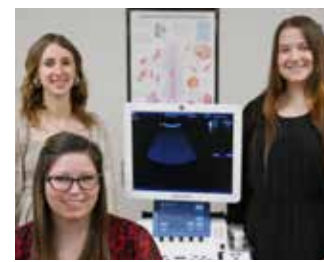
national certification examination to become a Certified Cardiographic Technician (CCT) and Certified Rhythm Analysis Technician (CRAT) RCS235 through Cardiovascular Credentialing International (CCI). This program will have access to a well-designed and equipped simulation experience that students will utilize throughout the program to prepare them for certifications, critical thinking, and patient care. Laurel also adopted Virtual Reality simulation units for in class learning to provide educational and useful scenarios.

"The most impactful part of my education was going out to clinicals and seeing how my day to day work life would be in this field," stated Alyssa Montgomery, Cardiovascular Technology graduate. "I am very proud of myself for sticking with it and getting my degree, I look forward to finally working in this field." The curriculum the students take include courses in Anatomy & Physiology, Phlebotomy, Pathophysiology, Pharmacology, Medical Law & amp; Ethics, Cardiac Sonography, Cardiovascular Technology, Non-invasive Cardiology, and much more!

With small class sizes and great faculty, Laurel has high hopes of helping

build great healthcare workers for the community and surrounding areas! "I felt the scan time we got in the classroom was very important to the development of my skills for this field," says recent program graduate, Chelsey Sansonetti. "The hands-on work we had during class helped me get the job I wanted right out of school," says Sansonetti. Laurel College of Technology has established healthcare affiliations with Mon-Health, WVU Medicine in Morgantown (WV) and Uniontown (PA), as well as Highlands Hospital in Connellsville (PA), and Washington Health System in Pennsylvania. The students in Laurel College of Technology's healthcare programs will receive invaluable clinical experiences from all affiliations.

Founded in 1985 as Laurel Business Institute, LCOT is a private, post-secondary specialized associate degree-granting, Career and Technical Education (CTE) provider with four locations throughout Western Pennsylvania and North Central West Virginia. Licensed by the WV Council for Community and Technical College Education, WV Board of Barbers & Cosmetologists, provisionally accredited with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and nationally accredited as 'School of Distinction' by



Front Row: Chelsey Sansonetti Back Row (L to R): Alyssa Montgomery, Timarie Repman; Not pictured: Kylie Keller

The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, Laurel has over 500 current students and 3,500 alumni across approximately 20 different AST/B Degree and Diploma programs. These programs are focused on high-demand occupational classifications such as skilled trades, health care, information technology, business, cosmetology, and early childhood education.

Laurel College of Technology believes in providing career and professional education with specialized associate degrees, diploma programs, and professional certifications for a variety of industries. For further information, visit [www.laurel.edu](http://www.laurel.edu), send an email to [contactform@laurel.edu](mailto:contactform@laurel.edu), or contact the Morgantown campus directly at 304-381-4097.

Important information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students can be found at [www.laurel.edu/consumer-information](http://www.laurel.edu/consumer-information)