

LTI Celebrates 40th Anniversary of the Uniontown Campus



Laurel Technical Institute, Uniontown's local career and technical school, celebrated its 40th year on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. Marking four decades since its founding in 1985, Laurel used this milestone not just to commemorate its growth from a single campus to six locations, but primarily to express gratitude for the trust, collaboration, and support received from local families, employers, and government partners. Laurel welcomed local Premier Employee Partners, students and alumni, local dignitaries, and dedicated community members to celebrate with a specialized career fair and luncheon in the Laurel Center.

When Laurel Business Institute first opened its doors in 1985, it operated with just a handful of programs focused on secretarial, accounting, and banking

skills. Nancy Decker, President and CEO for Laurel, recalls, "My late husband, Chris Decker, was the head of HR for Gallatin Bank and was tired of not having qualified candidates to work, so he decided we were going to start a school and train them, and we did!" Over the years, the institution has successfully navigated technological shifts and economic cycles, constantly adapting its curriculum to remain on the cutting edge of industry requirements.

During the Luncheon, Nancy Decker and son, Dr. Douglas Decker took time to reflect on special memories and recognize students, employers, and faculty members with awards and gratitude toward the support they have seen over the years. First to be recognized by Uniontown's Campus Director, McKenna Gower, were the Distinguished Graduates for the class of January 2026. Gower expressed pride

for the award recipients, recognizing their hard work, great attendance, and willingness to be helpful to their instructors and classmates. Candidates must also have a QPA of 3.0, and at least 90% attendance. She recognized Practical Nursing graduate, Kevin Hendrix, and Lucas Stevens, Welding & Fabrication graduate with a certificate of achievement.

Next to be recognized was one of Laurel's Premier Employer Partners, Automated Logic. Automated Logic and the Laurel Institutes partnered to help build a new generation of technicians while outfitting campuses in three states with the latest technology in building automation systems. Dr. Decker thanked Automated Logic for their dedication and willingness to provide training and equipment to the campuses.

Finally, Ms. Nancy Decker presented a special Presidential Award to Mrs. Bonnie Marsh, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Executive Director. Nancy states, "The Presidential Award is presented to someone who exceeds expectations and believes in the quality and effectiveness of the work we do here. The recipient displays helpful and responsible management skills for the team they work with, while being supportive and compassionate to the community of Laurel."

"Celebrating 40 years is truly a humbling experience, and it's a moment of reflection and deep gratitude," said Dr. Douglas Decker, Chief Operating Officer for Laurel. "We held this event to honor the trinity that we do this for: our students, our employers, and our community."

Along with students, employers, and alumni, Laurel was also joined for this celebration by local dignitaries such as State Senator, Pat Stefano, who recognized Laurel's 40 years of business and community involvement with a certification of recognition. Also joining Laurel to present a certificate of recognition was Debbie Hoone, a representative from Charity Grimm Krupa House of Representative member. Finally welcomed up to present Laurel with a certificate of appreciation was Fayette County Commissioner Vince Vicites. Ms. Nancy Decker and son, Dr. Douglas Decker, were honored to accept these recognitions and extremely pleased to have such great advocates for local business and education in attendance.

Laurel offers more than 20 educational programs designed with input from local industry advisory boards. This ensures

that every certification, degree, or diploma earned is highly valued in the current industries. Programs range from practical nursing and respiratory therapy, to welding and electrical technician, computer network security, and cosmetology arts. In response to the growth and changes that Laurel has seen, earlier in 2025, they announced that the naming convention of Laurel Business Institute would modernize to Laurel Technical Institute. This specific naming convention for LTI, Laurel Technical Institute, has been part of the Laurel school system since 2009, with locations in Northwestern Pennsylvania. The impetus for the change after 40 years, is the addition of a new satellite location of the Uniontown campus in Penn Township, located in Northern Westmoreland County. Nancy Decker, said that "The timing was right with the launch of our new location to bring all of our Pennsylvania schools together under one name."

As Laurel Technical Institute steps into its fifth decade, the institution is reaffirming its commitment to future innovation. Plans are underway to integrate more specialized training programs ensuring Laurel remains a relevant and vital resource for the workforce of tomorrow and the students who want the opportunity to make an impact on the community and their future.

"Our commitment remains to the communities across our six campuses," states Dr. Decker, "We will continue to listen, adapt, and invest in the resources necessary to keep our programs relevant and the opportunity accessible. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for 40 incredible years. We look forward to continuing growth and legacy for many decades to come."

Laurel Institute of Technology Announces Change to Laurel College of Technology Namesake

Laurel Institute of Technology in Fort Mill, South Carolina is proud to announce its official transition to Laurel College of Technology. This name change reflects the institution's growth, its expanded academic offerings, and its unwavering commitment to providing high-level technical education to the Fort Mill community.

The shift from "Institute" to "College" marks a milestone in the school's evolution. While the core mission remains rooted in hands-on training and workforce readiness, the new designation better aligns with the programs and comprehensive curriculum now available to students.

For years, Laurel's roots in the areas of Southwestern Pennsylvania and North

Central West Virginia has been a primary pipeline for local industries, including Information Technology, Healthcare, and Specialized Trades. The transition to Laurel College of Technology honors the academic rigor of its programs while signaling a modernized approach to professional development.

"Our new name is more than just a brand update; it's a reflection of who we have become," said Dr. Douglas Decker, Chief Operating Officer of Laurel's network of trade schools. "As we continue to develop programs and curriculum that meet the demands of a 21st-century economy, 'College' more accurately describes the depth of the education our students receive and the prestige they carry into the job market."

The Fort Mill campus is a branch campus of the original Uniontown campus, which was opened in 1985. At that time, the Uniontown location housed mainly business-related programs, including secretarial studies, accounting, data processing, and others. However, over the years, as technology and the network's local community needs in the workforce have evolved, so did Laurel. The school rapidly expanded into computer technology, medical and allied health programs which now includes nursing, and skilled trades and many more.

In tandem with the name change, Laurel College of Technology continues to prioritize accessibility through its robust program offerings online. Recognizing the needs of working professionals and

students requiring flexibility, the college offers several fully online and two hybrid Specialized Associate Degree programs, including:

- Cloud Computing Technology
- Clinical Medical Assistant
- Medical Billing & Coding
- Accounting & Business Administration
- Medical Laboratory Technician

Laurel College of Technology welcomes anyone to go to laurel.edu to find more information on the programs offered and to reach out to their admission team. The campus is open for tours, class shadowing, and friendly conversation about the programs offered.



Uniontown Respiratory Department Raises Money For Local Fundraiser

LTI Uniontown Respiratory Therapy students rolled up their sleeves and prepared a variety of delicious dishes for a special Pasta Lunch fundraiser! From prepping ingredients to serving guests, they worked together to make the event a success. Not only did it give them a chance to build teamwork and organizational skills outside of the classroom, but it also allowed them to support a cause that connects directly to their field.



The lunch raised \$200 toward the 2025 Lung Cancer Awareness Walk, helping bring attention and support to individuals and families affected by lung disease. We're proud of our Respiratory Therapy students for combining their passion for patient care with community involvement and making a meaningful impact beyond campus.



Hermitage Electrical Students Teach Ms. Chaney the Ropes

Some Raceway students in our Electrical Technician program took some time to teach Campus Director, Mrs. Chaney, how to bend conduit, giving her a hands-on look at the precision and skill that goes into the trade. With guidance from the students, she learned how to

measure, mark, and make clean bends, no easy task when accuracy matters! Ms. Chaney caught on quickly and definitely shows promise as a welcomed addition to the Trades field.

Way to go, Raceway crew!

Uniontown Welcomes New September Students

There is a common thrill in watching new students get their hands on professional-grade tools for the first time! Our fall orientation is among our favorites among our tight-knit campuses, every newcomer represents more than just a face in a crowd; they are a

vital new teammate in the shops and labs! The excitement is rooted in the shared passion for building a future! It's incredibly rewarding to welcome a group that is ready to stop reading about work and start actually doing it!



Local Premier Employer Invite Electrical Students to Site

Learning doesn't stop in the classroom! We always love the opportunity to take our students off site to see the different options for their future careers. In November, our electrical students had the chance to tour Advanced Acoustic, heard directly from industry pros, and

explored the facility to see what their future careers could look like if they are interested in this route! Laurel values the partnerships we have within our communities- especially those willing to invest in the success of the students!

Morgantown Students Master The Machine

LCOT's 1st Semester Cardiovascular Technology students spend a lot of time mastering echocardiography — using ultrasound to see the heart in motion and understand how it works from the inside out!



Morgantown Cosmetology Students Showcase Skills

There is a lot of pride when a cosmetology student steps back to reveal a balayage or a structured updo, turning their station into a mini-gallery of living

art! We love to watch them confidently use their shears and brushes to show off that they've moved beyond basic theory into the realm of true creative mastery!

Morgantown Cosmetology Student Recognized for Hard work

Laurel College of Technology Cosmetology instructors and the Campus President proudly awarded Angela Wolfe with a Sheetz gift card and several professional cosmetology tools in recognition of her outstanding achievement of servicing the most clients in December 2025. Her dedication, consistency, and commitment to delivering quality services truly set her apart.

Balancing technique, professionalism, and client care is no small task, and

Angela demonstrated all three while building her confidence and real-world experience in the clinic. Reaching the highest number of clients not only reflects her strong work ethic but also her ability to connect with and retain clients, an essential skill in the beauty industry.

Congratulations, Angela, on your amazing achievement and well-deserved recognition! Keep up the incredible work!

Uniontown Campus Honors Student Achievements for Summer 2025 Term

Laurel Technical Institute in Uniontown was excited to recognize students for their hard work in the Summer 2025 term with the Dean's List Awards! Students were recognized for Highest Honors, High Honors, Honors, and Perfect Attendance! Congratulations to the awarded students and keep up the great work, we're so proud of you!



LTI Hermitage Culinary Student Visit Local Soup Kitchen

The culinary program visited the Prince of peace soup kitchen in November, with plans to return in December to prepare the soup and the food in the kitchen for one of the distribution days. The students had a great experience and they are looking forward to returning to prepare the meal and help serve!



Hermitage Trades Department Cooks Up Good Memories

The trades and culinary department sponsored a cookout for all the staff and students at our Hermitage campus! It was great to see everyone come and enjoy the food! A huge thank you to the faculty, staff, and students that helped make this possible!

'Morgantown Nursing students welcome Uniontown's Practical Nursing students

Uniontown's Practical nursing students joined Morgantown's ADN students for on-site simulations. These seniors are not only learning to provide exceptional patient care, but also how to work together as a team. Teamwork truly makes the dream work!



Morgantown Announces January 2026 Graduating Class



Laurel College of Technology held graduation on January 14th, 2026, at their campus in Morgantown, W.V. Opening comments were given by Nancy Decker, President and CEO, "This is a time to celebrate all the hard work you've put forth in the recent months of your life," says Decker, "you've put in the time, the effort, and the dedication and here you are. Congratulations to each of you, we are all very proud of you."

Campus President, Sherri R. Rimel, recognized the class Valedictorians, Trenton Bothwell, Kiersten Davis, Emily Gawthrop, Corey Shackelford, and Susan Tedrow. Rimel then recognized class salutatorians Noah Fields, Kylie Phillips, Buddy Locklear, and Savanna King. Next to be recognized were the January 2026 Distinguished Graduates Chloe Bolyard, Maris Corwin, and Susan Tedrow. Bolyard, Corwin, and Tedrow were also recognized for membership into the Alpha Beta Kappa Honor Society. Campus President, Rimel, then presented the Degree and Diplomas to the graduates. The Career Services department reported that 73% of the January 2026 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:** Jazmyne Miller, Kayleigh Roberts, Hannah Sabutala, Kali Shriver, Danielle Shroyer
- Medical Laboratory Technician**
Kayleigh Thomas
- Electrical Technician**
Trenton Bothwell, Logan Danser, Logan Fields, Talon Gilmore, Andrew Gilpin, Derrick McElroy, Joseph Moritz, Grayson Robinette, Kohilton St Clair, Tanner Ware
- Cardiovascular Technology**
Chloe Bolyard, Jamie Brocius, Kyra Dalton, Hannah King, Savanna King
- Diploma Programs:**
Cosmetology
Skye Adams, Dylan Albright, Adia Corbin, Maris Corwin
- Rachel Dennis, Tiara Ford, Bailey Friend, Buddy Locklear, Kaylyn Moore, Kylie Phillips, Preslie Ridgley, Alana Riley, Brynnah Shackelford, Christa Smitley, Eve Thubron
- Hair Styling**
Rachel Morgan, Makayla Ward
- Esthetics**
Sophia Bradford, Kiersten Davis, Emily Gawthrop, Savannah Johnson
- Nail Technician**
Shaniequa Smith

Uniontown Announces January 2026 Graduating Class



Laurel Technical Institute held graduation on January 15th, 2026, at the State Theater in Uniontown, PA. Opening comments were given by Nancy Decker, President and CEO of Laurel Institutes, "This is a time to celebrate all the hard work you've put forth in the recent months of your life," says Decker, "you've put in the time, the effort, and the dedication and here you are. Congratulations to each of you, we are all very proud of you."

Assistant Campus Director, McKenna Gower, recognized the class Valedictorians, Nicholas Loughner, MercMedes Bando, Tina Dean, and Kevin Hendrix. Gower then recognized class salutatorians James Cessna and Alexis Pritts. Next to be recognized were the January 2026 Distinguished Graduates Kevin Hendrix and Lucas Stevens. Hendrix and Stevens were also recognized for membership into the Alpha Beta Kappa Honor Society. Assistant Campus Director, McKenna Gower, then presented the Degree and Diplomas to the graduates. The Career Services department reported that 74% of the January 2026 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:**
Early Childhood Education
Jacob Thomas, Kyndra Rose Tucker
- Medical Billing & Coding**
Miranda Arnold, Kaleigh Jo Lynn
- Electrical Technician**
James Cessna, Matthew Costello, Josiah Dauria, Geno DeChessero, Jace Deli, Brody Dix, Nicholas Loughner, Mark Martini, Ramani Piri, Brandon Rapchak
- Noah Ritchie, Jacob Thomas
- Diploma Programs:**
Clinical Medical Assistant
Cassy C Knisell, Kaitlyn Eileen Wright
- Cosmetology**
Meredith Kinneer, Valerie Means, Alexis Pritts, Carleigh Riley
- Esthetics & Nail Technician**
Mercedes Bando, Tia Dean
- Practical Nursing**
Noelle Bernier
- Andres Cardona, Angel Dennison, Vada Glover, Kevin Hendrix, Shawna Hileman, Emily Hutchison, Gabrielle Kobaly, Kaylee McClead, Olivia Sanders, Mackenzie Jordan Sanner, Shalea Smith, Raven Darryle Thornton, Lynda N. Weaver
- Welding & Fabrication with Pipeline Technology**
Lucas Stevens

Hermitage Announces January 2026 Graduating Class



Laurel Business Institute held graduation on January 15th, 2026, at Hickory High School in Hermitage, PA. Opening comments were given by Dr. Douglas Decker, Chief Operating Officer of Laurel Institutes, "This is a time to celebrate all the hard work you've put forth in the recent months of your life," says Decker, "you've put in the time, the effort, and the dedication and here you are. Congratulations to each of you, we are all very proud of you."

Campus Director, Lauren Chaney, recognized the class Valedictorian, Zachary Ewing. Chaney then recognized class salutatorian Clarysa Grimes. Next to be recognized were the February 2026 Distinguished Graduates: Tracey Peterson-Banks, Zachary Ewing, and Morgan Hall. Peterson-Banks, Ewing, and Hall were also recognized for membership into the Alpha Beta Kappa Honor Society. Campus Director, Chaney, then presented the Degree and Diplomas to the graduates. The Career Services department reported that 62% of the January 2026 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:**
Computer Network Security Technician
Zachary Ewing, Maya Floch, Madeline Henry, Jaclyn Hetrich, Zy'Aire Hill, Laney Miller, Tayler Miller, Jady Phipps, Morgan Rife, Emily Simcox, Lisa Young
- Electrical Technician**
Landen Infante, Logan O'Neill, Leon Schell
- Medical Billing & Coding**
Kara Morrow, Sheila Olsen, Sheyanne Gilger, Sarah Van Fossan
- Cardiovascular Technology**
Katie Arnold, Anastasia Arroyo, Haley Beachem, Rylee Deegan
- Adrienne Donegan, Zachary Ewing, Morgan Hall, Tracey Peterson-Banks
- Culinary Arts**
Ja'Laija Gregory, Tanner Knically
- Electrical Technician**
Landen Infante, Logan O'Neill, Leon Schell
- Medical Billing & Coding**
Kara Morrow, Sheila Olsen, Sheyanne Gilger, Sarah Van Fossan
- Cardiovascular Technology**
Katie Arnold, Anastasia Arroyo, Haley Beachem, Rylee Deegan
- Practical Nursing**
Cheyenne Boles, Kalee Cotelesse, Jackie Eckrt, Morgan Hall
- Tori Hulings, Paige Langos, Nicolette McConnell, Lashaya Norris, Samantha Pal, Ronel Perry, Kendra Ramey, Zoe Rhoades, Alyssa Weatherby
- Clinical Medical Assistant**
Megan Alexander, Catherine Garrity, Caitlin Prestner, Amari Stewart, Samantha Rimer
- Cosmetology**
Skye Bowser, Jossalyn Capezio, Alyssa Exley, Rylee Gearhart, Clarysa Grimes, Olivia Guthrie, Tracey Peterson-Banks, Olivia Guthrie, Tracey Peterson-Banks

LTI Hermitage Celebrates Graduates

Hermitage celebrated their grads in December at their graduate brunch! Graduates for the January 2025 graduating class were recognized for achievements and instructor awards during the event, and some huge congratulations are in order! You all displayed hard work and dedication in the efforts to finish your programs, and we are so proud of each of you! We can't wait to see where your future takes you!



Dean's List Awards Ceremony Held at Hermitage Campus For Summer 2025 Term

Students at Laurel Technical Institute Hermitage campus received recognition for their hard work in the Summer 2025 term with the Dean's List Awards! Students were recognized for Highest Honors, High Honors, Honors, and Perfect Attendance! Congratulations to the awarded students and keep up the great work, we're so proud of you!



Fort Mill Campus Celebrates Dean's List Recipients for Midterm Practical Nursing Students

We are all about recognizing excellence here at Laurel! Congratulations to two of our Practical Nursing students on being recognized as Dean's List recipients. We are excited to share with you in celebrating your success, keep up the great work!



Fort Mill Announces January 2026 Graduating Class



Laurel College of Technology held graduation on January 21st, 2026, at their campus in, Fort Mill S.C. Opening comments were given by Dr. Douglas Decker, COO of Laurel Institutes, "This is a time to celebrate all the hard work you've put forth in the recent months of your life," says Decker, "you've put in the time, the effort, and the dedication and here you are. Congratulations to each of you, we are all very proud of you."

Assistant Campus Director, Cindy Carey, recognized the class Valedictorian, Allison Williams. Carey then recognized the class salutatorian Apollonia Moore. Next to be recognized were the January 2026 Distinguished Graduates Allison Williams, Apollonia Moore, Stacey Haese, and Michael Collins. Assistant Campus Director, Cindy Carey, then presented the Degree and Diplomas to the graduates. The Career Services department reported that 100% of the January 2026 graduating class have accepted employment offers within their program of study. The following students were awarded diplomas in the following programs:

- Electrical Systems Technician Diploma Recipients:**
Michael Collins, Apollonia Moore, Nuriel Orozco
- Cardiovascular Technology Diploma Recipients:**
Rahnneisha Douglas, Jordan Goolic, Stacey Haese, Marquisha Ross, Shareena Smith, Allison Williams

Hermitage Celebrates Deans List Awards for Fall 2025 Term



Students at Laurel Technical Institute Hermitage campus received recognition for their hard work in the Fall 2025 term with the Dean's List Awards! Students were recognized for Highest Honors, High Honors, Honors, and Perfect Attendance! Congratulations to the awarded students and keep up the great work, we're so proud of you!

Fort Mill Recognizes Fall 2025 Dean's List Award Recipients

Our South Carolina campus was excited to recognize and congratulate our hard-working students with a little informal ceremony! Students were recognized for Highest Honors, High Honors, Honors, and Perfect Attendance! Congratulations to each awarded student, keep up the great work, we're so proud of you!




LAUREL
Working Graduates

GRADUATION
August 2025

PROGRAM OF STUDY
Cosmetology

REAL JOB
Wave Beauty
as a Stylist



Clara Melvin

LAUREL
Working Graduates

GRADUATION
May 2025

PROGRAM OF STUDY
Respiratory Therapy

REAL JOB
WVU Uniontown Hospital as a
Registered Respiratory Therapist

EMPLOYED WITH A LAUREL
PREMIER PARTNER



Kaylee Gluzna

LAUREL
Working Graduates

GRADUATION
May 2025

PROGRAM OF STUDY
Welding & Fabrication
with Pipeline

REAL JOB
Local 154 Boilermaker Union
as a Welder/Fabricator



Landon Hough

LAUREL
Working Graduates

LAUREL College of Technology - Fort Mill

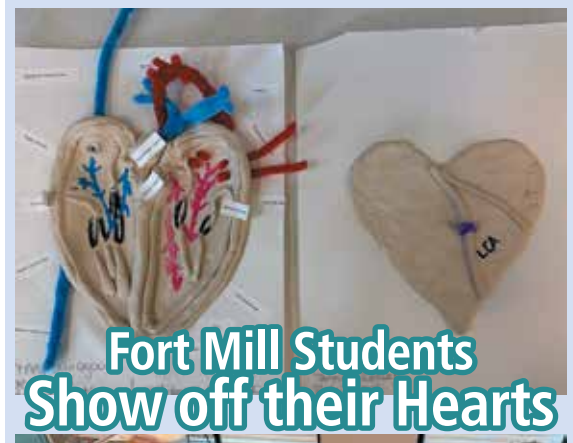
GRADUATION
January 2026

PROGRAM OF STUDY
Electrical Systems Technology

REAL JOB
Bingo Electrical LLC
as an Electrical Technician



Michael Collins



Fort Mill Students Show off their Hearts



**CREATIVITY + SKILL +
HANDS-ON LEARNING =
IMPRESSIVE 3D HEART MODELS!**

Students combined their artistic ability with detailed anatomical knowledge to bring these models to life, carefully constructing each chamber, vessel, and structure with precision. Projects like this go beyond the textbook, helping reinforce complex concepts in a visual and interactive way. By building the heart themselves, students gain a deeper understanding of how it functions and how each part works together to keep the body alive and healthy.

*Amazing job, everyone!
Your hard work, attention to detail, and
teamwork truly show. Keep up the great work!*

Fort Mills Electrical Systems Students Visit Carrier U



Our Electrical Systems students had the great opportunity to visit Carrier for a facility tour! As one of the newest members of our growing network of Premier Employer Partners and with Carrier's newly integrated curriculum from their very own Carrier U, this tour was a welcome experience. The opportunity for discussion between the awesome tour guides and our students was a great experience! Thanks, Carrier, we were excited to visit you and hope to be back soon!

Fort Mill Recognizes Heart Disease Awareness Week

Fort Mill took some time to remind the campus to listen to your heart, literally, it's trying to tell you to eat your greens! Heart disease doesn't always look like what you think and our Fort Mill campus was ready to spread awareness for healthy living during Heart Disease Awareness Week!



Fort Mill Begins Clinical Training

We are so excited to see our students as they begin their clinical training! This is such an important milestone in their journey.

Clinical training is where skills are sharpened, confidence grows, and compassionate, heart led care truly comes to life. It's an opportunity for students to apply what they've learned, work alongside experienced professionals, and make a meaningful impact on patients and their families.

We are so proud of the dedication and determination that brought you to this point. Keep up the great work! You're one step closer to making a difference in your field!



Penn Township Nursing Welcomes BAYADA Home Health Care

Recently, our Practical Nursing Students in Export had a guest speaker come in from BAYADA Home Health Care to talk about employment opportunities! They came with great energy, fun prizes, and a bunch of future opportunities for these students! Thanks for visiting our campus, we hope to have you back soon!



Morgantown Nursing Students Test Out New Tech



Some of Laurel's healthcare classrooms are being transformed by new interactive displays that allow students to engage with 3D environments without the need for cumbersome headsets! These technologies enable "digital twins" of complex systems—like the human heart or respiratory systems. These new large-scale touch-screen TVs turn abstract lessons into tactile, hands-on explorations! By integrating this new, immersive technology- Laurel's simulations labs are safe spaces to learn proper techniques for effective patient care.

Penn Township Receives Toolkits

There's nothing quite like that "new tool smell" when a student finally cracks open their first professional kit. You can practically feel the excitement in the room as they get their hands on the real deal, realizing they're no longer just practicing—they're officially geared up for their new career!

