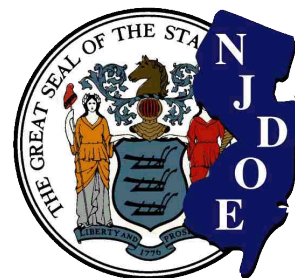




EPS Designated “High Performing” by NJDOE

Elizabeth Public Schools was designated as a “high performing” school district by the New Jersey Department of Education following its evaluation for the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC).

In a letter to the district from Assistant Commissioner, Division of Field Services Robert L. Bumpus, Elizabeth Public Schools “satisfied at least 80% of the weighted indicators in each of the five areas of the NJQSAC review process” and has been designated as “high performing.”



The five areas reviewed by NJQSAC include Instruction and Program, Fiscal Management, Governance, Operations, and Personnel.

Elizabeth Public Schools, following an initial evaluation in March 2017, had received 63% in the area of instruction and program. The district developed an improvement plan, approved on February 20, 2018, to address noncompliant areas pertaining to instruction and program. Upon an interim review conducted by the Union County Office of Education in December 2018, the percentage increased to 82%, satisfying the requirements to be designated a “high performing” school district. On both the initial and interim reviews, Elizabeth Public Schools received 98% in fiscal management, and 100% in governance, operations, and personnel.

As a result of the district’s performance on NJQSAC, New Jersey Commissioner of Education Dr. Lamont Repollet will recommend to the State Board of Education that Elizabeth Public Schools be certified as providing a thorough and efficient system of education for a period of three years or until the next NJQSAC review.

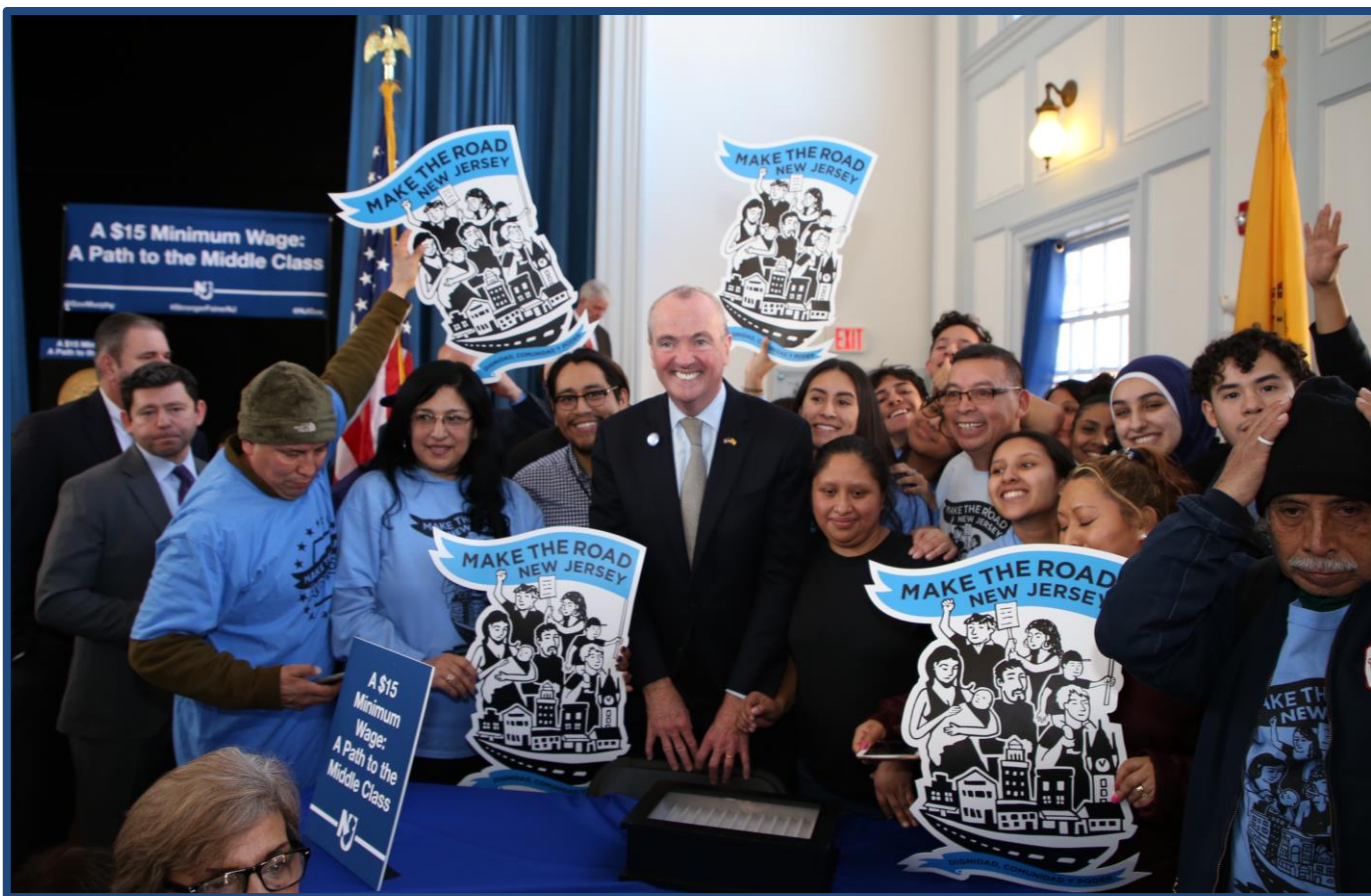
“The pillars of our strategic plan include academic excellence, achievement focused workforce, innovation and technology, parent and community engagement, safe and caring environment, and organizational effectiveness, all of which were measured within the five areas of NJQSAC,” said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. “The high performing designation for our district indicates that we are successfully providing high quality instruction and are moving in the right direction toward becoming one of the highest performing urban school districts in the nation.”

“This designation is directly attributed to the commitment of our students and staff to achieve excellence in the classroom and the commitment of the Board to shape policy that provides a framework in which teaching and learning can thrive,” said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves.

“We are proud of our students and staff for their contributions that have resulted in this designation by the state and are very much encouraged by the steady progress that Elizabeth Public Schools has made over the past few years.”

Elizabeth H.S. Students Lead Campaign to Support Teens Inclusion in \$15 Minimum Wage Bill

Students took action to influence final draft of legislation; attend Gov. Murphy's bill signing at The Snyder Academy



High School students from several of Elizabeth Public Schools' seven secondary education academies participated in the democratic process by actively campaigning to include teens in the \$15 minimum wage legislation that Governor Phil Murphy signed into law in Elizabeth on Monday.

Make the Road New Jersey, an organization founded in 2014 to build the power of immigrant and working class communities in New Jersey to achieve dignity and justice through community organizing, legal and support services, transformative education and policy innovation took action to support the bill.

Several high school students from Elizabeth Public Schools, through the organization's Youth Power Project, used their voices to campaign and convince legislators that teens have vested interest in the minimum wage hike.

The students were invited to the bill signing, held at The Snyder Academy of Elizabethtown, whose mission is to serve the people of Elizabeth and New Jersey as a vibrant center for culture, education, history and economic and social advancement. The venue is home to Make the Road New Jersey.

Elizabeth Students Lead Teens Inclusion in \$15 Min. Wage Bill (cont.)



Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy senior Giovana Castaneda, the Make the Road New Jersey youth leader who led the campaign charge, opened the bill signing event by leading the audience in a “power of the people” chant and welcoming Gov. Murphy, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin.

“No family in New Jersey can live on our current minimum wage,” said Castaneda. “As a teen worker who fought hard with young people across the state not to be left behind, I am proud that teen workers are included in the minimum wage hike. Our work has value and contributes to our families’ income and allows us to save for college.”

Students Jose Analco, Jesus Hernandez, Genessey Jimenez, and Alejandro Rodriguez-Buseman of Hamilton Preparatory Academy; Jefferson-Bellatrice Lavendes and Johana Chacon of J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy; and Edwin Amaya, Bridget Barragan, Nathaniel Cordero, Fiona Joseph, Rudy Joseph, Xenia Rivas, Natalie Roman, and Angie Ruiz of Elizabeth High School – Frank J. Cicarell Academy were also key contributors in advocating for the \$15 minimum wage legislation.

Elizabeth Students Lead Teens Inclusion in \$15 Min. Wage Bill (cont.)

Among their contributions was an article written by Ruiz that was featured in NorthJersey.com (<https://www.northjersey.com/story/opinion/contributors/2018/10/04/opinion-nj-teen-workers-deserve-15-minimum-wage/1514957002/>) in which she detailed the importance of raising the minimum wage and how it affects New Jersey working families. She also helped to make sure that New Jersey teens would be included in the minimum wage raise.

"I'm not the only young person in New Jersey who is working to help put food on their family's table. Teens from working class families contribute on average 18 percent of family income. For families of color, teens' wages comprise even more of our household income, according to a study from the National Employment Law Project," Ruiz wrote in the article.

"That's why I just don't understand when legislators want to carve out teen workers from the minimum wage. They say we are working to pay for movie tickets or buy clothes at the mall. That couldn't be further from the truth."



The bill signed by Gov. Murphy will gradually raise the state's minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2024. New Jersey teens under 18, who were once likely to be excluded from the wage hike, are now scheduled to also reach the \$15 hourly wage in 2024.

"Providing our students with an excellent, comprehensive education includes equipping our students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed both in college and career opportunities as well as life circumstances," stated Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "The initiative taken by these students and the courage they showed in using their voice to persuade government officials that they were deserving of being included in the minimum wage increase is very inspiring."

"I am so proud of our students for taking such an active role throughout the process in which our elected leaders shaped the \$15 minimum wage bill that Governor Murphy just signed into law," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. "Many of our students help their families to make ends meet by working a job. Their efforts in effecting change were vital to ensuring that teens of working class families would be heard and supported through this wage increase bill instead of potentially being left behind as initially expected."

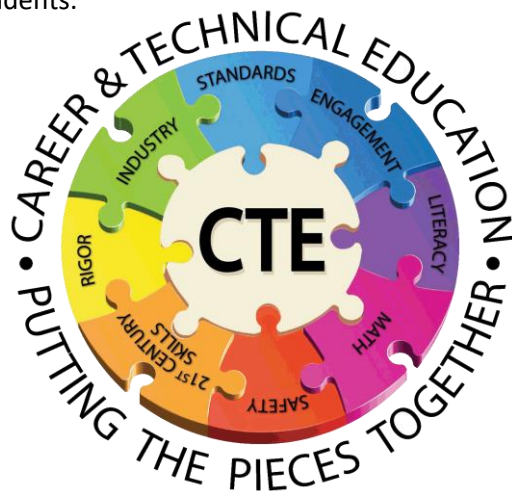
EPS Shares CTE Successes at NJBOE Meeting



Elizabeth Public Schools was invited by the New Jersey State Board of Education to present on its Career and Technical Education (CTE) initiatives at the State Board of Career and Technical Education Meeting at New Jersey Department of Education on February 6.

Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer, district CTE Supervisor Tracy Espiritu, and Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy teachers Eileen Mulroy and Faheemah Walton gave a presentation on the district's implementation of the Building Capacity for Career Pathways Programs grant and the positive impact it has had on career and technical education students.

The Building Capacity for Career Pathways Programs grant is a multi-year limited competitive grant that supports comprehensive high school districts with up to \$100,000 in grant funds per year, totaling a maximum award of \$500,000 per grantee for the entire five-year grant period. Grant funds are used for capacity building activities to provide professional development and instructional and student supportive services in several career pathway domains, including district vision and commitments, high-quality partnerships, high-quality CTE programs of study, pedagogical approach and interdisciplinary instruction, individualized planning and supportive services for learners, and the data informed improvement cycle.



The grant allows for Elizabeth Public Schools to expand health science career pathways at Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. Health and Public Safety Academy, including in the areas of allied health, which was introduced in September 2017 and emergency medical technology, which will be introduced in September 2019.



EPS Shares CTE Successes at NJBOE Meeting (cont.)

**New Jersey
Department of Education**

State Board Meeting
February 6, 2019

Linda P. Eno, Ed. D.
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Academics and Performance

Jane Griesinger
Director, Office of Career Readiness

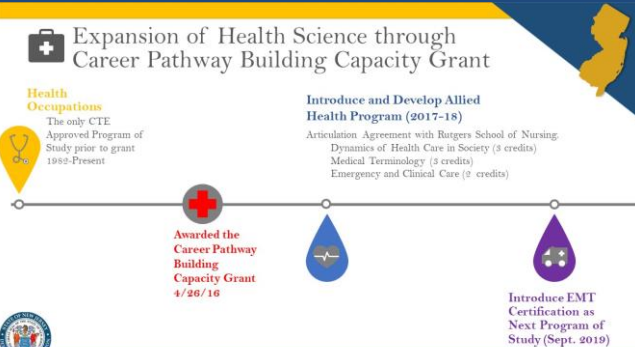

**Expansion of Health Science through
Career Pathway Building Capacity Grant**

Health Occupations
The only CTE
Approved Program of
Study prior to grant
1992-Present

**Introduce and Develop Allied
Health Program (2017-18)**
Articulation Agreement with Rutgers School of Nursing:
Dynamics of Health Care in Society (3 credits)
Medical Terminology (3 credits)
Emergency and Clinical Care (2 credits)

**Awarded the
Career Pathway
Building
Capacity Grant
4/28/18**

**Introduce EMT
Certification as
Next Program of
Study (Sept. 2019)**

Allied Health Program of Study | Introduced in 2017-18
School Year



Program Name	CIP code	Postsecondary partner(s)	Number of Credits	Industry-valued credential
Allied Health	510000	Rutgers University	8 credits	CPR Certification - AHA

01 | Certification
Prepares students for
CPR Certification

02 | Dual Credit
Articulation Agreement
with Rutgers University

03 | Clinical Hours
Clinical Hours at
Trinitas Regional
Medical Center

**04 | Blended
Learning**
90 mins. Block Classes
Daily
Online/ hands-on/
Classroom

EMT Program of Study | To Be Introduced in
2019-20 School Year

Program Name	CIP code	Postsecondary partner(s)	Number of Credits	Industry-valued credential
Emergency Medical Technician	510810	Union County College Rutgers University	IN PROGRESS 8	CPR Certification- AHA EMT Certification

01 | Certification
Prepares Students for
EMT Certification
Exam
CPR Certification



02 | Dual Credit
Planning Articulation
Agreement with Union
County College and
Rutgers University

03 | Clinical Hours
30 Clinical Hours in ER
at Trinitas Regional
Medical Center

**04 | Ambulance
Hours**
30 hours of Ambulance
Experience w/
Elizabeth Fire
Department

05 | Partnership
Partnership with
Elizabeth Fire
Department and
Union County EMT
Trainer

**06 | Blended
Learning**
90 mins. Block Classes
Daily
Online/ hands-on/
Classroom

Along with the district's administrators and teachers who presented on the Building Capacity for Career Pathways Programs at Elizabeth Public Schools, Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy seniors Valentina Esquivel and Maciyah Reid and sophomore Nicole Prado participated by sharing their experiences in the program.

"The Building Capacity for Career Pathways Programs grant offers provisions that align well with our district goals of college preparedness, career readiness, and 'on-time' graduation," stated Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "We believe that our current allied health program and the proposed EMT certification program will live up to the objectives of the grant, which include preparing students for careers in high-labor market demand occupations which provide family sustaining wages and expanding the number of career pathways for students in grades 9-12."



"We feel very fortunate to participate in the career pathways grant," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. "The grant provides our district and, most importantly, our students, the opportunity to get a head start on their college and career ambitions by receiving clinical experience and dual enrollment credit from industry partners and postsecondary institutions such as Trinitas Regional Medical Center and Rutgers University. It is a win for the Elizabeth Public Schools community and a win for the colleges and partners who work with and develop a relationship with our young men and women who potentially could be their students and employees in the near future."

3 EPS Schools Named 2019 NJ School of Character

School Nos. 9, 29, and 50 among six district schools recognized by NJASECD

Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology, and the Arts School No. 9, Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29, and Frances C. Smith Early Childhood Center School No. 50 were among 26 schools to be recognized as a 2019 New Jersey School of Character by the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD).

Each year, Character.org and its state affiliates select schools and districts that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development which has a true positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior, and school climate. There were 87 schools in 18 states overall selected as state schools of character for 2019.

John E. Dwyer Technology was also recognized by the NJASECD, being selected as a New Jersey Honorable Mention School of Character. Additionally, William Halloran School No. 22 and Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy were designated as Emerging Schools of Character.

The six schools will be honored in a recognition ceremony to start the 2019 NJASECD Conference at Rider University on May 31.

The 26 schools selected as 2019 New Jersey Schools of Character have been forwarded to Character.org, a national character education advocate, and are in the national evaluation process for consideration to be 2019 National Schools of Character.

Elizabeth Public Schools can now claim seven district schools that have been designated as state schools of character, three of which received national school of character honors as well. Past recipients include Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 (2018), which also was named a National School of Character; Nicholas S. La Corte-Peterstown School No. 3 (2016); Donald Stewart Center for Early Childhood School No. 51 (2016), which also received the National School of Character designation; and Juan Pablo Duarte – José Julián Martí School No. 28 (2015), which received State and National School of Character honors.

School Nos. 9, 29, and 50 will retain the NJ School of Character status for a period of five years, through 2023.

“Elizabeth Public Schools places an emphasis on social emotional learning as it helps create safe, caring environments in which our students can excel,” said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. “Our six schools recognized by the NJASECD have proven to be exceptional in building character and creating a positive culture in their learning community and I am very proud of their efforts.”

“This recognition by the NJASECD shows that our students not only can perform at high levels academically, but also that they are of high character,” said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. “Both of those traits will serve them well as we continue to prepare them for college and career opportunities.”



EPS Receives \$95K Advanced Computer Science Grant

Competitive grant will help develop, implement new computer science course at Dwyer Technology Academy

Elizabeth Public Schools has been awarded the Advanced Computer Science Competitive Grant in the amount of \$95,101 by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

The grant, which runs from January 15, 2019 to June 30, 2020, will be used to develop and implement a new computer science course at John E. Dwyer Technology Academy. The proposed course to be added to the school's catalog of class offerings is Developing Augment and Virtual Reality Applications.

According to the NJDOE, the grant is a 100-percent state-funded initiative that is intended to expand student access and opportunities to participate in high-quality advanced computer science education.

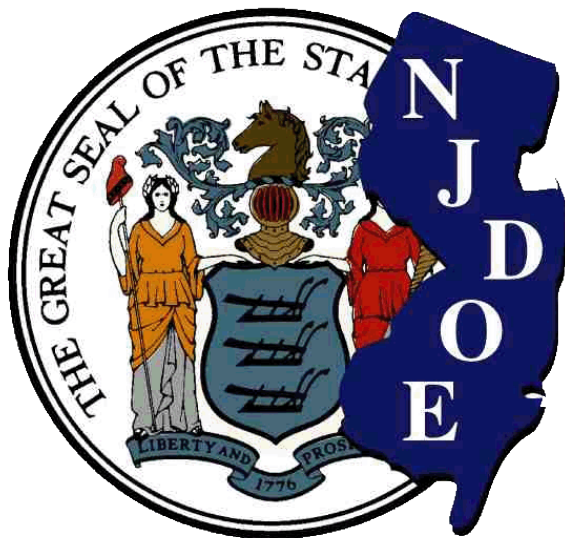
Elizabeth Public Schools will collaborate with Unity, Inc., New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Oculus, to develop a rigorous course with student opportunities for postsecondary and industry credentials that is aligned to national and state learning standards.

The grant is expected to create a new course sequence that allows students who complete the proposed course to choose to continue with AP Computer Science Principles or to choose another pathway that will provide industry certification and postsecondary credits in an interactive application design.

A sustainability plan will also be created based on the continuous evaluation of the course implementation and recruitment plan. An advisory board will be maintained as well as partnerships with NJIT and Unity while seeking additional industry partners to ensure alignment to learning standards and sustainability of the course. The Developing Augment and Virtual Reality Applications course is expected to have very little recurring cost since the curriculum will be designed and created in-district and the application software is free for educational institutions.

"As a district focused on providing an innovative and personalized learning environment for its students in part through the use of technology, we are very excited to have been selected for this grant," stated Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "The curricula developed through this grant will provide Dwyer Technology Academy students with another rigorous course that will prepare them for college and STEM career related opportunities."

"Elizabeth Public Schools continues to look for any and all available resources to provide its students with a high quality education, including through grant applications," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. "I commend the diligence and determination of our educators, which has brought another great academic program to the students of our schools that will help them to be competitive in the 21st century global marketplace."



EHS Student Named 2019 NJ Affiliate Winner of NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing

Goncalves to be presented Award for AiC at Kean University ceremony

Elizabeth High School senior Beatriz Goncalves was named a 2019 New Jersey Affiliate Winner recipient of the National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing.

The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing (AiC) honors female high school students who are active and interested in computing and technology. Award for AiC recipients are chosen for their demonstrated interest and achievements in computing, proven leadership ability, academic performance, and plans for post-secondary education.

Eligible students throughout all 50 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and all U.S. overseas military bases compete to receive winner, honorable mention, and certificate of distinction designations at national and regional levels. Regional Affiliate Award programs are hosted in 79 locations nationwide by NCWIT Alliance member organizations that work to increase the meaningful participation of girls and women in computing. More than 12,000 women have been honored with the NCWIT Award for AiC to date.



Goncalves was one of 100 students to be selected as a 2019 New Jersey Affiliate Winner. New Jersey Affiliate Winners are exclusively eligible for several college scholarships, including from Rutgers University, The College of New Jersey, and The Kean Foundation.

All 234 students who were selected as affiliate winners, honorable mentions, or rising stars will be honored at an event at Kean University's North Avenue Academic Building (NAAB) auditorium on April 2.

"Excellence and equity are integral parts of our district's core beliefs and are guiding principle to prepare each and all of our students for college and career success," stated Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "Beatriz's recognition shows not only that we are offering rigorous curricula, but also equitable programs of study that are positioning our students to achieve at high levels. She is a shining example to all Elizabeth Public Schools students and an inspiration to other female students who are considering STEM related courses and careers."

"Women have been steadily becoming more influential in the technology sector and it brings a great sense of pride that some of our own students are poised to further lead that charge in the years ahead," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. "I am so proud to see Beatriz, as well as young women in school districts throughout the country, empowering and being empowered by other young women to excel and make their mark in technology related fields that have traditionally been male dominant."

Jefferson Arts Student Earns 2019 Scholastic Art Award

Pineiro-Widejko to be presented Silver Key Award by Montclair Art Museum

Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy junior Sophia Pineiro-Widejko was selected to receive the Silver Key recognition for the 2019 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards are presented by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

The awards program provides students recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarship opportunities. Students throughout the United States submitted nearly 350,000 original works in 29 different categories of art and writing for the award competition.



Pineiro-Widejko's "Have We Forgotten," received the Silver Key award in mixed media. Her award-winning art piece was recently exhibited in Summit at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, a dedicated partner of Jefferson Arts Academy and Elizabeth Public Schools.

The Montclair Art Museum (MAM), who will present her with the Silver Key award, has served as the sole affiliate sponsor of the Scholastic Art Awards in the Northern New Jersey Art Region since 2009. MAM partners with the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers to identify and recognize outstanding teenage artists in Bergen, Essex, Passaic, Hudson, Morris, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties.

Pineiro-Widejko's talents extend beyond the visual arts, having also completed extensive study in piano and musical composition. In tandem with her creative accomplishments, she is currently ranked third in her class and is a member of the National Honor Society and the school's Destination Imagination Team. She recently attended Middlesex County College to take her first college courses during the break between her sophomore and junior years and looks forward to taking further dual enrollment courses through Elizabeth Public Schools' partnership with Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Jefferson Arts Academy's award-winning artist will be honored along with the other Silver Key and Honorable Mention awards recipients at the Northern New Jersey Region Awards ceremony on February 28 at the Montclair Art Museum.

"The unique and inspiring talents of students at Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy continue to shine brightly in artistic competition," stated Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "Sofia is a very artistically gifted young lady who clearly is passionate and dedicated to achieving excellence not only in the arts, but academically. Jefferson Arts Academy has been recognized as a Model School in the Arts and it is students like Sofia whose creativity and ability show us why."

"We are proud of Sofia for receiving such an amazing honor and to be competing admirably among students throughout New Jersey and the country," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. "I look forward to seeing more of her artistic work and creativity in the years to come."

Jefferson Arts Student Earns Honorable Mention in Playwright Competition

Cruz Rodriguez to receive citation at Theater Project Award Ceremony in Cranford

Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy freshman Angel Cruz Rodriguez has been selected as an Honorable Mention in the 17th Annual Young Playwrights Competition, sponsored by The Theater Project.

The Theater Project, founded in 1994, is a New Jersey based, 501(c)(3) non-profit theater company whose mission is to bring out the artist in its patrons by engaging their creativity and igniting thoughtful discussion; introducing children and young adults to the excitement of seeing plays performed live and expressing their own creativity; and providing New Jersey playwrights a venue to explore themes they contend with daily.

The goal of the Young Playwrights Competition is to encourage the next generation of theater practitioners by honoring their work and bringing it to life. The competition was originally inspired by a generous donation from Bill Mesce, Jr., an award-winning playwright/screenwriter whose novels have been published by Bantam Books.

Jefferson Arts Academy's award-winning playwright will be honored along with nine other student playwrights at an award ceremony on March 9 at the Cranford Community Center in Cranford, NJ.



In addition to the award ceremony, the Theater Project is offering a free workshop to everyone who entered the competition, including a half hour consultation on each entrant's script with one of the adult playwrights or directors from the Theater Project.

"Through this competition sponsored by the Theater Project, Angel has already established himself as one of the highly talented high school playwrights in our area," stated Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer. "I'm sure he's going to have a significant impact on the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy learning community during the next three plus years as he continues to grow and develop his unique abilities."

"I am really impressed that as a freshman, Angel has already earned this level of recognition for his playwriting ability," said Elizabeth Board of Education President Stephanie Goncalves. "Maybe someday it will be one of his plays that is performed by the students of Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy."

Dwyer Students Excel at Special Olympics Area 5 Bowling Competition



Several John E. Dwyer Technology Academy students earned medals and advanced to the sectionals at the Special Olympics Area 5 bowling competition on January 27 at Bowlero North Brunswick.

Students from Union and Middlesex counties participated in the competition with the following results for Dwyer Technology Academy students.

Senior Chantelisa Mills (1st Place- gold), junior Luisa Felix Sanchez (2nd Place- silver), and senior Gilberto Saucedo (2nd Place- silver) all medaled by finishing in the top two places of their respective competition and have advanced to the sectionals on February 23 at Strathmore Lanes in Matawan, NJ. Senior Kyron Hall also medaled, earning a bronze for his third place finish.

Athletes who place first or second in both area and sectional competition become eligible to compete at the 2019 Spring Games which will take place at Bowlero North Brunswick on March 23-24.

Other Dwyer Technology Academy students who participated at the Area 5 competition include senior Bill Sanchez, Jr. (4th place), junior Manny Chapman (5th place), junior Wakeem Hunter (5th place), junior Evan Torres (5th place), senior Justin Rodriguez (6th place), senior Daniel Velasquez (6th place), and senior Alexis Ventura (6th place).



Elizabeth Boys Basketball Earns Top Seed in North 2, Group 4

Elizabeth, the No. 5 team in NJ.com's Top 20, has earned the No. 1 seed in the 2019 NJSIAA North 2, Group 4 State Tournament. Currently 23-1, the Minutemen will look to claim their first state sectional championship since 2012. After several losing seasons, expectations have been high for Elizabeth with a talented roster and the return of Elizabeth head coach Phil Colicchio

Those expectations have been met and perhaps even exceeded thus far through the strength of a balanced attack. Several players have made valuable contributions to victories this season, including guards Al-Fatir Connor, Brenden Kelly, and DJ Watkins, who was voted among the top juniors in the state; as well as forwards Jordan Price and Jesiah West, who was recently selected to appear in New Jersey's annual North-South game.

Battle-tested Elizabeth opens up the tournament on February 25 at home against No. 16 seeded Plainfield, a team they have already defeated twice this season, including a 64-58 victory at home on January 15 and a 69-36 win in Plainfield on January 26.

Several Elizabeth Wrestlers Advance to Region 4 Tournament ***Cristian Luzua earns District 16 title at 106 lbs.***

Several Elizabeth Minutemen wrestlers finished among the top three in the District 16 tournament in Scotch Plains-Fanwood on February 16, led by No. 1 seed Cristian Luzua, who earned the 106 lbs. district title with a 6-3 decision over Joseph Sciarrone of Seton Hall Prep.

No. 2 seed Nour Sayed finished second at 195 lbs. with a 3-2 defeat to Zachary Zimmerman of Scotch Plains-Fanwood.

Three other Elizabeth wrestlers finished third, including No. 3 seed Jesse Fornes III with a 15-3 major decision over Liam Burgos of Linden at 170 lbs., No. 4 seed Gerome Abad with a 6-4 decision over Eddie Smith of Scotch Plains-Fanwood at 220 lbs., and No. 4 seed Moses Olowoopejo, who pinned CJ Estevez of Scotch Plains-Fanwood at 1:44 in the 285 lbs. third-place match.

As a result of finishing in the top 3 of the District 16 tournament, the five Elizabeth wrestlers have advanced to the Region 4 tournament at Union High School beginning on February 21. Luzua (bye due to district championship) and Fornes III (pinned Jordan Malanga of Somerville at 2:38) both advanced to Round 2 of the Region 4 tournament before falling to the eventual Region 4 champion in their respective weight classes.

EQUITY

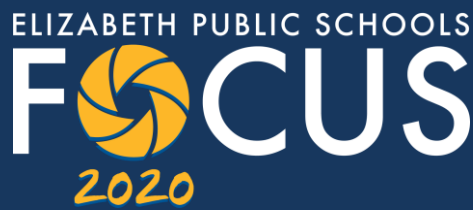
As a nation, America's Promise is that every child, regardless of race, ethnicity or social class, should receive a high quality, academically rich and rigorous public education.

EXPECTATIONS

The concept of high expectations is premised on the philosophical and pedagogical belief that a failure to hold all students to high expectations effectively denies them access to a high quality education, since the educational achievement of students tends to rise or fall in direct relation to the expectations placed upon them.

EXCELLENCE

Educational Excellence is defined as students performing at high levels or where students are making significant gains in academic achievement helping to prepare every child for global competitiveness.



Student

We believe ALL students can learn and achieve at high levels regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, neighborhood, household income or home language.

ALL Means ALL. We will narrow the achievement gaps of students by providing a high quality education to ensure that ALL of our students are college and career ready.

Teacher

We believe teachers make a positive difference in student achievement. Teachers will prepare ALL students for success in college, career, and our technological global society.

We believe that teachers are central in a child's life. Having an effective teacher is the single most important factor in student success.

Leader

We believe that effective leaders demonstrate unwavering commitment to high levels of achievement for ALL students.

Leaders will exemplify and support practices that promote high levels of achievement for ALL students.

Family

We believe that parents and caregivers are both valued partners and active participants in their children's learning. A shared sense of mutual responsibility for learning is the foundation for family involvement to ensure student success.

We are committed to engaging parents and caregivers in their children's education. We will develop a coordinated strategy that enables parents and caregivers to play an active role in building and sustaining family support for their children's learning and academic success.

Team

We believe that every member of the Elizabeth Public Schools Team has a responsibility in producing and supporting high levels of achievement for ALL students.

Every member of the Elizabeth Public Schools team will make a measurable contribution to the success and achievement for ALL students by ensuring equitable distribution of resources throughout the organization.