

2015-2016 UCVTS Teachers of the Year



Mrs. Marcela Iturregui, Teacher of Spanish, Academy for Allied Health Sciences

Mrs. Marcela Iturregui has been a Spanish III and IV Teacher at Academy for Allied Health Sciences since 2012. She is the Spanish Honor Society District Advisor and AAHS HOSA advisor. She was born in Argentina, where she taught Biological Science. She moved to the USA in 1989 and she previously taught Bilingual English-Spanish Biology at Union Hill High School and Spanish at Pope John the XXIII, Sparta High School, and Wallkill Valley Regional High School. Her classroom is an active learning environment, where students learn in a challenging, fun, and rigorous way. In her classroom, she uses technology creatively to help students feel comfortable about taking the necessary steps to grow in their reading, speaking, writing, and thinking skills.



Mrs. Laura Burkhour, Teacher of English, Academy for Information Technology

Laura Burkhour is a progressive English teacher who has taught at the Academy for Information Technology for nine years. Dedicated to cultivating her students' critical thinking skills, Mrs. Burkhour designs student-centered and engaging lessons that challenge her students to reach their full potentials. She sees herself as a learning facilitator and uses student-driven activities like discussion circles and collaborative projects to create meaningful learning experiences where students take an active role in their education. Students rise to the challenge and willingly share their thoughts, raise questions, and critically respond to classmates' ideas about course material. As one who firmly believes in the importance of writing effectively, Mrs. Burkhour uses Google Classroom and Google Apps for Education to encourage students to write frequently and to provide them with the feedback needed to reflect on and hone their writing skills. Mrs. Burkhour continually reflects on the learning opportunities she offers her students.

2015-2016 UCVTS Teachers of the Year



Mr. Bill Hilferty, Teacher of History, Academy for Performing Arts

The Academy for Performing Arts would like to congratulate Mr. Bill Hilferty as the 2016 Teacher of the Year. Bill is one of the most dynamic teachers you will meet. As a fourth year history teacher, he is able to inspire his students by teaching them to value the importance of hard work, diligence and creativity. Students leave his classroom eager to learn more about history and how to make a difference in the lives of others. It is not just what he does in the classroom that makes him a remarkable teacher, it is his commitment to his students outside of the classroom as well. As the advisor for the Student Government, Relay for Life, and National Honor Society, Bill demonstrates his ability to lead students in a way that shows patience and kindness. We appreciate his commitment to the success of all students and we celebrate him.



Mr. Peter Nowakoski, Teacher of English, Magnet High School

Mr. Peter Nowakoski is in his third year of teaching English at the Magnet High School. During this time, he has gained the respect of staff and students, and has demonstrated an ability to connect content with authentic experiences that drive student engagement and motivation across the curriculum. He employs instructional strategies that foster student choice, has constructed a classroom atmosphere that promotes healthy student discourse, and has a genuine “get-to-know-you” demeanor with his students, which is felt throughout the school. Our students, both past and present, are fortunate to have worked with Mr. Nowakoski, and we are lucky to call him a member of our school community.

2015-2016 UCVTS Teachers of the Year



Dr. Anne Marie McNamara, lead teacher, UCTECH Teacher Education Academy

The Union County Vocational Technical High School would like to congratulate Dr. Anne Marie McNamara as the 2016 Teacher of the Year. Dr. McNamara serves as lead teacher in our Teacher Education Academy and teaches Algebra 2/Trigonometry to students throughout the district. Dr. McNamara is a dedicated, innovative and supportive educational professional. She works diligently to tailor classroom instruction to meet the individual learning needs of her students. She spends countless hours outside the classroom planning dynamic and innovative lessons for her students as well as authentic learning experiences for her Teacher Education Academy students. Her continued efforts in growing the relationship with our postsecondary partners have only strengthened the program as well as improving the learning opportunities she provides to her students. Her commitment to her students, her classes and our school does not go unnoticed.