

Monthly Newsletter  
October 2023

BE SURE TO CHECK  
STUDENT GRADES!

## CTE ADVISORY BOARD HAS SUCCESSFUL MEETING

The Okeechobee High School Career and Technical Education Advisory Board met on September 2st at OHS. Over 30 members received an update on last years CTE results, current enrollment, and new programs added. The discussion then moved to the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) and Perkins V funding. Funding sources were discussed along with reviewing data that involves maintaining and starting new programs. The members then separated into their respective industry groups and met with instructors. They reviewed the accountability measures and discussed items in which to focus. The members developed a SWOT analysis of each program. They then reviewed local and state employment demand list and applied that information to the worksheet they were completing. The meeting was a working meeting and valuable input was received from all attendees. Look for the next meeting date in January.



Students in Automotive class working on tire machine in class.



## OMS WELCOMES NEW DIT INSTRUCTOR, MRS. MAGDA LEIVA

A “new” Digital Information Technology teacher was welcomed to Osceola Middle School. Ms. Leiva was working as a freelance graphic designer and brings an enormous amount of knowledge to the classroom. Her students will be completing the Digital Information Technology coursework and working toward earning a Wordpress Certification. DIT is the first course in many of the Business and Computer Arts programs within those career clusters. Upon completion of the DIT course, students then can continue in the Digital Design program where they will have the opportunity to earn multiple Adobe certifications.

## OKEECHOBEE HIGH SCHOOL AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAM SEEKS RENEWAL ASE ACCREDITATION

The Okeechobee High School Automotive Program is in the process of seeking a renewal ASE Accreditation. This is a rigorous process that involves multiple years of data collection, review of program materials, and a site visit review of the program and what it is has to offer. Staff is working diligently preparing for the ASE Accreditation and looks forward to the opportunity to show the extensive value of Automotive opportunities.

**A CAREER FAIR IS BEING PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY 2ND, 2024 FOR ALL OKEECHOBEE 5TH, 8TH, AND 10TH GRADERS. STUDENTS WILL BE EXPOSED TO CAREERS IN ALL OF THE 17 CAREER CLUSTERS. MORE DETAILS COMING.**

## **PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT - AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE & LIGHT REPAIR**

The Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair program is part of the Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics career cluster. The program consists of six core courses and an opportunity to complete a work-based learning experience. To be a completer of the program students must complete Auto 1, Auto 2, and Auto 3. They also can complete Auto 4, Auto 5, and Auto 6. The instructor, Mr. Jason Anderson, is married with three children, with his wife Belinda a teacher at North Elementary. Mr. Anderson is a 1997 graduate of OHS and worked in industry for nearly 15 years before becoming instructor at OHS 11 years ago. It did not take long for Mr. Anderson to start giving back and recognizing the importance of the program as he worked to dedicate the Automotive Shop to his former instructor Bobby Burke. He constantly exhibits his hard work and dedication to his students and the school and as evident in former students interviews, thoroughly prepares them in all facets of working in the automotive industry. He holds all necessary ASE certifications and constantly attends professional development during the summer to stay abreast of industry standards. He enjoys fishing with his family and visiting theme parks. Come and hear Mr. Anderson as he also is the announcer for home football games.



Mr. Anderson explaining to student proper lift operation.



Sal Medina, a 2018 OHS and OHS Automotive graduate, discussing a recent repair he performed.



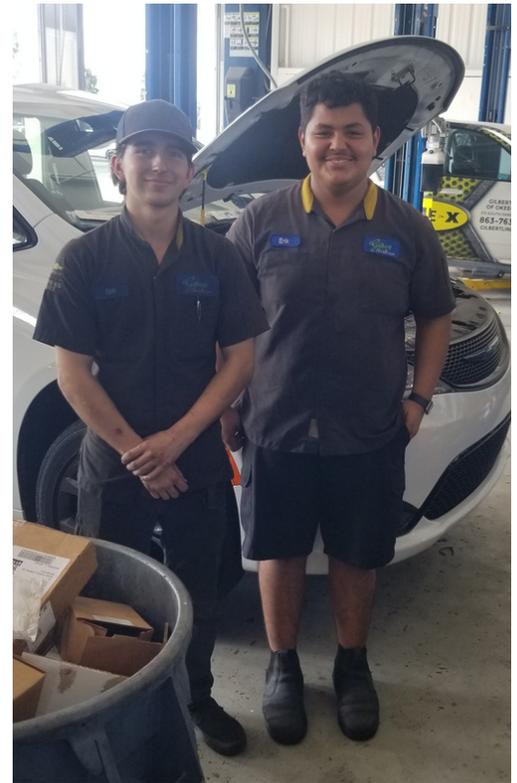
## **FORMER GRADUATES DISCUSS HOW THE OHS AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAM HAVE HELPED THEM**

A recent visit to Gilbert Chevrolet, where three former OHS and OHS Automotive program graduates are employed, provided the opportunity to interview the former students. Sal Medina, a 2018 graduation went to UTI after graduating high school, graduated from their program and began working in a dealership in Arizona. He then returned to Okeechobee. When asked why did he enroll in the Auto program he stated "I have always been around cars at my dad's business and was passionate about pursuing this as a career". He added that Mr. Anderson does a phenomenal job of helping students prepare for the workplace in the private sector. He mentioned that the benefits of pursuing a career in the automotive industry are numerous - job security - always have a need for automotive technicians, stable employment, employers empower him and show their appreciation for his abilities.

**STUDENTS HAVE ALREADY STARTED EARNING CERTIFICATIONS. OVER 30 STUDENTS AT OFC HAVE EARNED WORDPRESS CERTIFICATIONS, WHILE OHS STUDENTS HAVE EARNED ADOBE CERTIFICATIONS. TESTING WILL CONTINUE AMONG MULTIPLE PROGRAMS IN NOV.**

## INTERVIEWS CONT.

Mr. Medina encourages young people/students to continually improve their communication skills and to get work experience when possible. Two more employees, both 2022 graduates, share similar sentiments. Erik Roman and Kamden Blow have both worked at Gilbert Chevrolet since graduating high school. When they were asked separately, what made you decide to enroll in Automotive courses in high school, they both said Fast and Furious movies. Erik continued that “Mr. Anderson and the automotive program did a fantastic job of preparing for ASE industry certifications”. He also is grateful that Gilbert Chevrolet invests in their employees. Kamden appreciated the fact that the shop at OHS was very up to date with the equipment and the materials. He plans to stay in the industry and enjoys working on vehicles. When asked what recommendations he had for younger students, Erik added that his career allows for continuous learning and allows him to grow as an individual. Mr. James Sarros, Gilbert Chevrolet Service Manager, adds that there are “excellent opportunities in all aspects of the automotive industry”

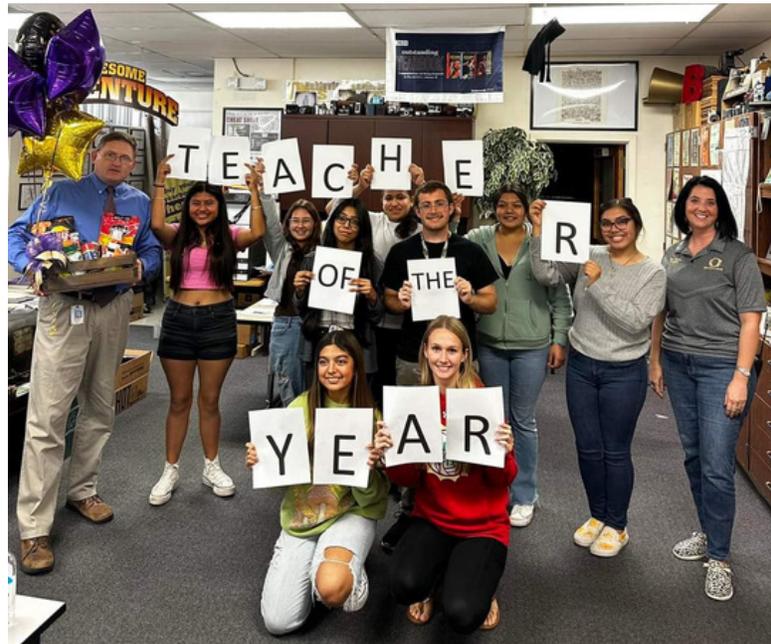


Left:  
Kamden  
Blow.  
Right:  
Erik  
Roman

*ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIANS IN FLORIDA? A RECENT SEARCH OF INDEED.COM FOUND OVER 5200 JOBS. JOB PAY RANGED FROM \$50,000 A YEAR TO ANOTHER UP TO \$200,000 A YEAR WITH AS LITTLE AS 2 YEARS OF AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN EXPERIENCE.*

## CONGRATULATIONS! OHS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

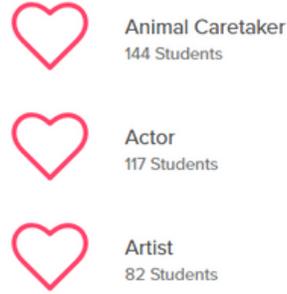
Congratulations are in order for Mr. Carey Pung, recently named Okeechobee High School Teacher of the Year. Mr. Pung has taught Digital Design at Okeechobee High School for over 25 years and continues to excel at preparing his students for their post-secondary and/or career pursuits. Students in his Digital Design program create the nationally recognized school yearbook, maintain webpages and social media sites, create monthly magazines, earn numerous industry certifications, and are continually being exposed to the latest technology and trends in the Digital Design arena. Thank you Mr. Pung for your dedication to your students and your profession. Well Deserved!



# XELLO AND CAREER PLANNING

Have you spoken to your child about XELLO? All students in Okeechobee Schools have access to the career planning platform. Students in grades K-12 have all had time to log into the site and start numerous activities that are directly related to career exploration and career awareness. Would you like to know what they are interested in and the careers they have explored? The next step is to connect parents to the students XELLO accounts. Parents/Guardians will need an email address to connect to the program. Once connected and you verify, you will be able to see the activities that your child has completed. This will be a great opportunity for you to discuss the careers they would like to pursue. Contact your child's school today to make sure your email address is correct in Skyward.

## SAVED CAREERS



Data above is current selection of 3-5 students for careers. Data below are saved careers for grades 6-12 up to this point.

## SUGGESTED CAREERS

By overall match



## TOP SKILLS

By Skills Lab



## PERSONALITY STYLES

