

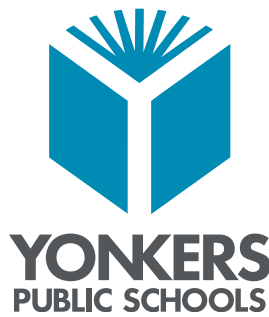
YONKERS  ...CREATING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE



**YONKERS**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**2022–2023**

**CAREER & TECHNICAL**  
**EDUCATION AWARDS**



Rev. Steve Lopez, President

Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio, Vice President

The Trustees of the Board of Education

and

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada

Superintendent of Schools

and

Yonkers Career and Technical Education Advisory Council welcome you to the

# 2022-2023 Celebration Breakfast

Honoring the Outstanding Career and Technical Education  
Students, Teachers, Business Partners, Post-Secondary  
Institutions and Community Organizations for their active  
support of Yonkers Career and Technical Education Initiatives

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

**Robert Halmi**

Founder & CEO, Great Point Studios

**Thursday, May 11, 2023 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

**Castle Royale • 92 Waverly Street • Yonkers, NY 10701**

YONKERS  ...CREATING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**ROBERT**  
**HALMI**



**ROBERT HALMI**

**Award-Winning Producer | Visionary CEO | Patron of the Arts**

Emmy and Golden Globe winner Robert Halmi is a producer of more than 400 film and television projects, the founder of the Hallmark Channel, and the visionary behind Great Point Studios, a media-focused company specializing in film and television infrastructure.

Robert has been the Chief Executive Officer of four public companies, the first at age 25. As President and CEO of Hallmark Entertainment, he transformed the business from a small production company into one of the first modern studios, with production, distribution, and broadcast all under one umbrella. Under Robert's leadership, Hallmark Entertainment produced over 2,000 hours of original content. These productions received 458 Emmy nominations and garnered 133 Emmy Awards. Among Robert's many acclaimed productions is Lonesome Dove, which earned seven Emmy Awards and a Golden Globe for best miniseries.

In 2019, Robert Halmi embarked on bringing to life his vision of creating major new film and television production facilities across the U.S. and abroad. He formed Great Point Studios, a studio investment/management business specializing in film and television infrastructure. In January of 2022, Halmi's vision became a reality with the opening of Lionsgate Studios Yonkers, which is the first of many purpose-built TV and film production studios that Great Point intends to build, own and operate. The Company has since announced additional studio locations in Newark, NJ; Atlanta, GA; Buffalo, NY and the UK.

Halmi is an active member of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and serves on the board of the International Emmy Committee. He is also on the board of The Cold Water Conservation Fund.





YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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# **YONKERS** PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Dr. Edwin M. Quezada**  
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**Ian Sherman**  
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**Jamie Morales**  
*Gorton High School*

**Rodney Arthur**  
*Yonkers Middle High School*

**Andrew Hara**  
*Barack Obama School for Social Justice*

**Steven Mazzola**  
*Saunders Trades & Technical High School*

**Dr. Eileen E. Rivera**  
*Yonkers Montessori Academy*

**Edward DeChent**  
*Roosevelt High School - Early College Studies*

**William Shaggura**  
*Riverside High School*

**Principal of Career & Technical / Adult Education**  
**Sanah Susan Naber**

# YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# 2023 CTE AWARD

# NOMINATIONS

<b>LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b><u>Students:</u></b> Cindy Ochoa, Paulina Ledwon <b><u>Teacher:</u></b> Drilon Gojani <b><u>Partner:</u></b> Caroline Tzelios, Junior Achievement
<b>GORTON HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b><u>Students:</u></b> Christie Lemaire, Patricia Soriano <b><u>Teacher:</u></b> Dawn Myers <b><u>Partner:</u></b> Bernadette Amicucci, White Plains Hospital
<b>YONKERS MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b><u>Students:</u></b> Jayson Burt, Jose Rojas Ulloa <b><u>Teacher:</u></b> Leonela Perez
<b>BARACK OBAMA SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE</b>	<b><u>Students:</u></b> Diego Campos, Tamoya Lewin <b><u>Teacher:</u></b> Nicholas Cacciola <b><u>Partner:</u></b> Yonkers Empress
<b>SAUNDERS TRADES &amp; TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b><u>Students:</u></b> Joseph Macdonald, Alejandra Maqueda, Matthew Petrella <b><u>Teacher:</u></b> Carmen Caramihai <b><u>Partner:</u></b> Justin Romano Oil Energy Service Professionals
<b>YONKERS MONTESSORI ACADEMY</b>	<b><u>Students:</u></b> Stefanie Serratore, Jessica Hegarty <b><u>Teacher:</u></b> Carol Westphal <b><u>Partner:</u></b> Westchester Community College
<b>ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL EARLY COLLEGE STUDIES</b>	<b><u>Students:</u></b> Jovan Thompson, Rafael Valle <b><u>Teacher:</u></b> Marc Roennau <b><u>Partner:</u></b> Chris O'Shea, Great Point Studios
<b>RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b><u>Students:</u></b> Ebenezer Wontumi, Kayley Rodriguez <b><u>Teacher:</u></b> Emmanuel Michalakís <b><u>Partner:</u></b> Westchester Community College
<b>VIVE SCHOOL PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS</b>	<b><u>Students:</u></b> Xiomara Fuentes, Blandina Tapia <b><u>Teacher:</u></b> Angela Argyros <b><u>Partner:</u></b> DeCicco & Sons



# LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE  
STUDENT AWARD**

**CINDY  
OCHOA**

- Cindy Ochoa has been with the Academy of Finance, a Certified Career and Technical Education Program, since ninth grade; she has excelled in all her classes and serves as Treasurer for the department.
- She gets involved in all the opportunities we present to her such as internships, volunteer work, as well as teaching other students.
- Cindy does not miss an opportunity to go above and beyond; she is doing a double major in the Academy of Finance and the Scientific Inquiry magnet.
- In 2022, Cindy conducted research for the Urban River at Beczak Sarah Lawrence College, where she analyzed different environmental factors that affect the Hudson River and the community, collaborating with local environmental scientists and mentors.
- When an opportunity arose with Junior Achievement High School Heroes, she volunteered to teach elementary school children about finance; she led her team and created roles for her group so they could quickly adapt to the grade level they were teaching that day.
- Cindy is also participating in the Her Honor Mentee Program, which aligns chosen candidates with professional businesswomen who mentor and guide the participants in all aspects of business and life.
- Cindy is an outstanding student who strives to improve in every aspect of her education; she deserves all the good things that will inevitably come her way in her post-secondary years.



# LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE  
STUDENT AWARD**

**PAULINA  
LEDWON**

- Paulina Ledwon is a member of the Academy of Finance Business Program, an honors student who has taken advanced placement classes, and a member of the National, Science and Business Honor Societies.
- Throughout her time in high school Paulina has participated in many extracurricular activities, including volleyball, peer mediation and several student clubs, all while working a part-time job.
- This past July and August, she worked as an intern in the Yonkers Public Schools Summer School Program, and her job was to aid the administrators, teachers, and staff.
- During her senior year she completed the Her Honor Mentoring Program, where she was able to shadow her mentor, a judge.
- Paulina is a Student Ambassador for Junior Achievement, where she acts as a liaison between business partners and students.
- She is also a three-time participant in the High School Heroes program that teaches elementary students about personal finance and entrepreneurship.
- Paulina has a promising future; she has been accepted into Marist College as a political science major and plans to study abroad in Ireland.



# LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE  
TEACHER AWARD**

**DRILON  
GOJANI**

- For the past 2 years, Drilon Gojani has committed his work to supporting all Academy of Finance activities, and advancing the learning of career and technical education within the school community.
- Mr. Gojani is responsible for teaching students in grades 10 and 11, and he uses career and technical education as the hook that helps students achieve at very high levels.
- His students receive a 21st Century education and enjoy participating in classes where respect and trust drive the learning environment.
- Mr. Gojani not only teaches the AOF classes, but also ensures that the students participate in our Junior Achievement High School Heroes' program.
- The Academy of Finance is once again a thriving learning community, due in part to Mr. Gojani's commitment, dedication, and genuine desire to seeing career and technical education at the forefront of students' learning.





# LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**2023 CTE**

**Business / Post-Secondary /  
Community Partner Award**

**CAROLINE  
TZELIOS**

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT  
SENIOR MANAGER OF PROGRAMS

- Following the pandemic, and an explosion in the work from home model, Junior Achievement pivoted their program offerings to create meaningful and interactive virtual experiences for students.
- As businesses started opening again, JA was quick to revert to in-person options, providing many opportunities for our students to participate, including the following programs:
- Finance Park is a budgeting simulation that allows students to manage their expenses through various stages of life. In April, our students will participate in Building a Financially Capable Generation pilot program where they will engage with professionals from HSBC.
- In March, students participated in the Inspire Virtual Career Expo, where they were able to engage with over 40 different companies, including PepsiCo, PayPal, American Express, and FedEx, ask them questions and get responses in real time.
- Be Entrepreneurial Rapid Business Planning allows students to be coached through the process of coming up with an idea for a socially conscious business, using the Lean Canvas to determine the potential of their business ideas.
- The High School Heroes program allows the students to become teachers for the day, visit elementary schools and teach lessons in personal finance and entrepreneurship; this year students visited School 21 and Hostos Micro Society School.
- This year our two JA Student Ambassadors, Paulina Ledwon and Gabriela Zuniga, will receive grants for college for attending events and speaking about their JA experiences.





YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**STUDENT AWARD**

# GORTON

## HIGH SCHOOL

**CHRISTIE  
LEMAIRE**

- Christie Lemaire, a hard-working senior currently enrolled in the Clinical Medical Assisting Program, aspires to become a nurse.
- She is a member of the Community Wellness Center, a student run organization that promotes health and wellness.
- Christie has volunteered on numerous projects, including the College and Career Fair, the Yonkers School Choice Fair, COVID vaccine distribution at Gorton and Riverside High School, and various Community Health Fairs, where she conducted blood pressure screenings and educated community members regarding exercise and proper nutrition.
- She also helped create a TikTok video as part of the mayor's initiative to raise awareness for the safety of the Covid vaccine.
- Within the Medical Assisting program, Christie has learned how to perform vital signs, take a past health history and chief complaint, perform EKG's, phlebotomy, and how to navigate patient management software.
- She is getting ready to start her internship at White Plains Hospital, where she will complete the required 72 hours for her Medical Assistant certification.
- Christie will be one of the first students who graduates with a certificate from Gorton since the program's inception 7 years ago.



YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**STUDENT AWARD**

# GORTON

## HIGH SCHOOL

**PATRICIA**  
**SORIANO**

- Patricia Soriano, a senior in the EMT Program, achieves academic success in all subject areas but excels in all her medical classes; she currently holds a class rank of 5th and has a GPA of 99.83.
- Patricia has volunteered on numerous projects, including the College and Career Fair, the Yonkers School Choice Fair, COVID vaccine distribution at Gorton and Riverside High School, and various Community Health Fairs, where she conducted blood pressure screenings and educated community members regarding exercise and proper nutrition.
- Within the EMT Program, Patricia has learned how to perform vital signs, take a chief complaint, transport a patient into and out of an ambulance, run a dispatch, and effectively perform first aid.
- In addition, Patricia excels in patient care scenarios during lab days and is always the first to volunteer to be the leader in her group.
- Christie aspires to become a surgeon and the CTE program at Gorton has given her a strong foundation for this career.



YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**TEACHER AWARD**

# GORTON

## HIGH SCHOOL

**DAWN  
MYERS**

- Dawn Myers, one of the leaders for the Academy of Medical Professions, teaches our Junior Medical classes, which are College Link Anatomy and Physiology.
- She delivers instruction passionately and with enthusiasm, engaging her students in exciting activities on a daily basis, including hands on clinical labs, virtual reality medical programs, computer-based software platforms and instructional technology.
- The full integration and participation of Dawn's instructional practices in all aspects of Gorton's learning community is what sets her apart.
- Among the activities that she either heads or participates in are the Advisory board, Creators Club (after school program with Iona Liberty Partners that teaches students how to use 3D printers, laser cutters and fabrication equipment), Head coach for the Varsity Girls Basketball Team, Medical Academy Awards Ceremony and Dinner, and Guest Speakers Program.
- Dawn was instrumental in creation of the Emergency Medical Technician program, including the course, curriculum, supplies, and obtaining a donated EMT ambulette from Empress Emergency Services.
- Dawn also led the efforts in applying for and obtaining New York State Education Department approval for two CTE pathways, Medical Assisting and Marketing.



# GORTON

## HIGH SCHOOL

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**2023 CTE**

**Business / Post-Secondary /  
Community Partner Award**

**BERNADETTE**

**AMICUCCI**

WHITE PLAINS HOSPITAL  
DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL EDUCATION &  
NURSE RESIDENCE PROGRAM

- Bernadette Amicucci, Senior Director of Clinical Education & Nurse Residency Program at White Plains Hospital, has worked tirelessly to support our students in the Medical Assisting Program, ever since she joined the Advisory Board.
- The goal of our program is to prepare students to enter the workforce, and White Plains Hospital has provided the work-based learning opportunities our students need to gain technical skills in the medical field.
- Bernadette has organized and coordinate several student trips to White Plains Hospital; during these trips students were able to practice clinical skills (such as how to assess vital signs, conduct EKGs, measure blood glucose, perform phlebotomy and use EPIC software) and observe various wards in the hospital (such as the lab, radiology, ORs, hyperbaric chamber and endoscopy).
- During their last trip to the hospital, students were able to debrief surgical rounds with nurses from the hospital, which included the following scenarios: Thyroid Surgery post-op care, neurosurgery post-op care, glycemic control in the surgical patient, bariatric surgery and post-op care, and anesthesia.
- Bernadette was also instrumental in setting up work-based learning opportunities for students in the satellite offices of White Plains Hospital; as a result, 10 students received internships, during which they accumulated the 72 hours needed for state certification.
- The success of our program has a lot to do with Bernadette's love of the program and the support that she provides.



# YONKERS

## MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**STUDENT AWARD**

**JAYSON  
BURT**

- Jayson Burt is a 12th grader who has taken numerous International Baccalaureate accelerated college level courses where he is able to receive college credit; this includes IB Business Management SL, in which he scored a 5.
- He has also taken the CTE course Virtual Enterprise and participated in the Business Olympics competition with his classmates to create a business product.
- Jayson's interest in business extends well beyond the classroom.
- He takes a particular interest in entrepreneurship and the fashion world, buys and resells fashion NFTs, is currently studying the stock market, and wants to work specifically in fashion marketing.
- Jayson plans to attend Mercy College, where he was accepted with a full scholarship for the Business Honors program at Mercy College.



# YONKERS

## MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**STUDENT AWARD**

**JOSE**  
**ROJAS ULLOA**

- Alison Jose Rojas Ulloa is currently a 12th grade bilingual student, as well as the Treasurer for The Doghouse – the Yonkers Middle High School Store which serves as the hands-on training hub for students in the Career and Financial Class.
- Jose is a hard-working student that stepped up to the challenge of becoming the Store's Treasurer.
- He is involved in merchandise selection, ordering, pricing, and in-person selling.
- The exposure in the school store has given Jose the skills to not be shy and be able to easily voice his thoughts and opinions.
- He prides himself on his dedicated work ethic, both in retail and in his academics; Jose is a student you can always count on to want to learn something new.
- Jose is a great role model to other students in the bilingual program, as a young person that is dedicated to their self-improvement.





# YONKERS

## MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**TEACHER AWARD**

**LEONELA**  
**PEREZ**

- Leonela Perez has been dedicated to meeting the needs of students with different academic abilities and language acquisition for 11 years.
- Over the years Ms. Perez has become more involved in ways to improve student success at Yonkers High.
- She is the CTE teacher of the Doghouse, the YMHS School Store, where she trains students in running a retail store in order to improve their work-readiness skills.
- She is part of the I-GO Advisory Team, whose goal is to improve graduation rates, particularly among bilingual students and students with disabilities.
- Ms. Perez is always on the lookout for the latest training in math, science, differentiation, career training, and college-readiness in order to always have an informed answer to satisfy her student's curiosity about the world.
- She has made lasting connections with the entire school community by evoking professionalism, academia, acceptance of differences, and the belief that all students can be successful, they just need to discover their key to it!



# BARACK OBAMA

## SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2023 CTE  
**STUDENT AWARD**

**DIEGO  
CAMPOS**

- Diego Campos is a kind, thoughtful, compassionate young man who is admired by his classmates, both younger and older.
- Diego has performed magnificently in his Century Honors Emergency Medical Services class since the inception of this school year, demonstrating a strong commitment to this career pathway.
- As a participant in the voluntary Empress EMS Cadet Program, Diego is able to sharpen his skills pertaining to Basic First Aid, CPR, Splinting and many other life saving techniques.
- Exemplary students, like Diego, who are enrolled in this program, are also able to ride along in an ambulance with certified EMS personnel on real calls within the community.
- Upon graduation from the Empress EMS Cadet Program, Diego will have his foot in the door to join the Empress EMS Academy, a paid employment program which further teaches all the relative information needed to sit for the New York State EMT Exam.
- The program will provide Diego with a job in his field of interest for at least one year, which will allow him to make a real difference in his, and our, community.



# BARACK OBAMA

## SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2023 CTE  
**STUDENT AWARD**

**TAMOYA  
LEWIN**

- Tamoya Lewin, a junior, is a very joyous person who serves as a role model for her peers and teammates, as well as a source of advice and counsel for younger students in the school.
- It can be overwhelming for any student to excel in academics and extracurricular activities concurrently, and a starting varsity basketball player for the last three years, Tamoya has shown the ability to put forth great effort in both aspects.
- Tamoya has performed magnificently in her Century Honors EMS class since the beginning of this school year, demonstrating a strong commitment to this career pathway.
- As a participant in the voluntary Empress EMS Cadet Program, Tamoya has sharpened her skills in Basic First Aid, CPR, Splinting and other life saving techniques.
- Upon graduation from this program, Tamoya will have her foot in the door to join the Empress EMS Academy, a paid employment program which further teaches the information needed to sit for the New York State EMT Exam.
- The positivity that Tamoya receives from the adults that know her is a true testament to the exceptional young woman she truly is.



# BARACK OBAMA

## SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2023 CTE  
**TEACHER AWARD**

**NICHOLAS  
CACCIOLA**

- Forensics and Emergency Medical Services Teacher Nicholas Cacciola is dedicated, engaging, caring, and keeps high expectations for his students.
- Moreover, he has helped to develop the EMS program at Obama through a sustained partnership with Empress EMS, that now sends several of his former students who work as EMTs to deliver EMS workshops to our students.
- Mr. Cacciola is constantly seeking out new ideas to enhance hands-on learning in his Forensic Science and Emergency Medical Services classes.
- In addition to his teaching excellence, Mr. Cacciola is the Science Department Leader.
- He is highly respected by his colleagues for being a team player who is always willing to share his expertise and collaborate on projects to benefit the entire learning community.
- Mr. Cacciola is an extraordinary teacher who embodies the school's mission and vision.



# BARACK OBAMA

## SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2023 CTE

**Business / Post-Secondary /  
Community Partner Award**

**YONKERS  
EMPRESS**

- Yonkers Empress offers a variety of educational support and learning opportunities for our students.
- The Yonkers Empress EMTs coordinate regular visits to the Century Honors Emergency Medical Services classroom to support Mr. Cacciola's students.
- In addition to their school visits, Yonkers Empress offers the Empress EMS Cadet Program to all high school students in Yonkers.
- As a participating cadet, students receive instruction and hands-on training that will prepare them for a future in the emergency medical service field.
- After successful graduation from the Empress EMS Cadet Program, high school students are encouraged to enroll in the EMS Academy, a program which opens doors to many career opportunities, including certified EMT, paramedic, firefighter, doctor, nurse, and others.
- This year, two graduates of the school and current Empress EMTs, Ariel Mendez and Jada Singletary, have come back to the school to run EMT workshops.
- Yonkers Empress has been a valued partner in the educational journey of thousands of Yonkers Public School students, and we look forward to strengthening this partnership over time.



# SAUNDERS

## TRADES & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**STUDENT AWARD**

**JOSEPH  
MACDONALD**

- Joseph Macdonald from our BioChem Magnet is a born leader.
- In lab Joseph is the person all other students go to for help.
- He would make solutions for the teacher and try the labs before they were presented to the rest of the class.
- He helped modify labs and get them ready for the class.
- If that is not enough Joseph also has designed and run many of our Freshman Friday programs.
- Freshman Friday is a student run lab activity in which seniors design a basic lab to present to the Freshman and aid them in completing the lab.
- We have been doing the Freshman Friday program for many years, and there is no question that this year's is the best, due in large part to Joseph's efforts.





# SAUNDERS

## TRADES & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**STUDENT AWARD**

**ALEJANDRA  
MAQUEDA**

- Alejandra Maqueda is dedicated to her academic coursework and to her development in Cosmetology.
- While on the quieter side, she consistently demonstrates passion, respect and great empathy.
- Alejandra is smart, polite, respectful, sweet, helpful, and kind.
- Because she is quiet, her other wonderful qualities can sometimes get overlooked.
- However, we are proud to say we see her and appreciate her greatness!



# SAUNDERS

TRADES & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**STUDENT AWARD**

**MATTHEW  
PETRELLA**

- Matthew is an extremely creative & hardworking student, especially in his Architecture magnet.
- Matthew is dedicated to his academic work and very responsible for meeting deadlines with classwork and projects.
- Matthew has mastered many technical skills, including running the laser cutter, using the 3d printer, and designing and building models.
- Among his many admirable personal characteristics, he is very committed, a good listener and great at giving class instructions.



# SAUNDERS

## TRADES & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**TEACHER AWARD**

**CARMEN**  
**CARAMIHAI**

- Carmen Caramihai, a Saunders High School Cosmetology Class of '89 graduate, and a current Cosmetology Teacher, has been committed to her students and program for almost 20 years.
- She is diligent in her work, dedicated to her students, and goes above and beyond for the advancement of her magnet.
- With over 95% of her students receiving their NYS Cosmetology license, Mrs. Caramihai continues to align her curriculum to industry standards and trends.
- She maximizes her students' learning experiences outside of the classroom and works closely with her Craft committees to obtain cooperative experiences the Seniors.
- In addition to the work Mrs. Caramihai does in the Cosmetology department, she extends herself to the school community and is the Advisor for our Italian American Club.
- The highlight of this club is having her members work with Cerebral Palsy of Westchester, where students there receive a "day of beauty" from students in the Italian American Club and Cosmetology.



# SAUNDERS

## TRADES & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**2023 CTE**

**Business / Post-Secondary /  
Community Partner Award**

**JUSTIN ROMANO**

PRESIDENT, OIL ENERGY SERVICE  
PROFESSIONALS (OSEP)

- Saunders High School is proud to honor Justin Romano, President of the Oil Energy Service Professionals (OSEP) Westchester/Putnam Chapter, as our 2023 CTE Partner.
- Mr. Romano provides ongoing curriculum development to our HVAC teachers that is aligned to industry standards and current trends.
- He assists with the donations from local OSEP participants that donate tools, equipment and materials to Saunders' HVAC program.



# YONKERS

## MONTESSORI ACADEMY

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**STUDENT AWARD**

**JESSICA  
HEGARTY**

- Jessica Hegarty has demonstrated commitment, dedication, and competence in the Pre-Teaching Program.
- She is requested by intermediate teachers to work with their students because of her professionalism, preparedness, and good rapport with their students.
- Jessica engages in deep critical analysis of content and applies it to her community service work-based learning.
- She connects developmental theory to her practice with students, and works with and individualizes strategies to meet their academic and social/emotional needs.
- Jessica is an exemplary student who will be graduating as Salutatorian in June, and her plan is to matriculate into a teacher education program.
- Jessica desires to become a teacher and hopes one day to return to Yonkers and teach in her community.



# YONKERS

## MONTESSORI ACADEMY

**YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**2023 CTE**  
**STUDENT AWARD**

**STEFANIE**  
**SERRATORE**

- Stefanie Serratore is currently enrolled in the CTE (Career and Technical Education) Pre-Teaching program.
- In her community service work-based learning she has been working closely with a primary student trying to improve her literacy skills, applying both developmental theory and learning strategies to help her student develop reading proficiency.
- In her interactions with her student, she engages in formative assessments not only of her student's reading abilities, but also of her learning styles and social/emotional well-being, and also considers how cultural influences (such as English not being the language spoken at home) this impact her learning.
- In the next few weeks Stefanie will be accepting admission into one of the many colleges who have accepted her, will be enrolled in a teacher education program and will prepare for an education career.
- She can use the credits and experience she gained from the CTE Pre-Teaching program towards her degree.
- Stefanie hopes to one day be able to teach in Yonkers and give back to the school system that educated her, and gave her the opportunity to learn and practice the career she has chosen to pursue.





# YONKERS

## MONTESSORI ACADEMY

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**TEACHER AWARD**

**CAROL**  
**WESTPHAL**

- Carol Westphal, our Library Media Specialist, is commonly seen as a “facilitator” in the classroom, giving her students the capability and the opportunity to work together to achieve their educational goals.
- Students in her class work on the development of “Soft Skills,” resume writing, and they participate in the interview process as both the interviewer and the person being interviewed.
- Mrs. Westphal has been an instrumental part of our Early Childhood CTE Application Professional Learning Community, and her background as a Montessori teacher was invaluable to the design of the program.
- She assisted in the design of the courses and course progressions, as well as the research component of each course.
- Her library has served as the backdrop to many events in the Early Childhood program.
- Mrs. Westphal is a model teacher and truly exemplifies the Maria Montessori philosophy of Respect, Peace, Hard Work, Learning, and Community.



# YONKERS

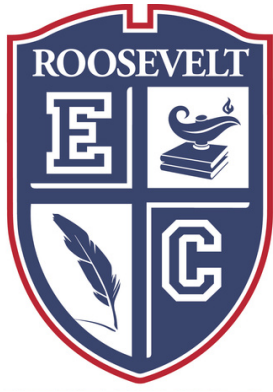
## MONTESSORI ACADEMY

**YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**2023 CTE**

**Business / Post-Secondary /  
Community Partner Award**

**WESTCHESTER  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE**

- Westchester Community College has supported our Pre-Teaching Intensive Intercession Programs for years, in which students travel to WCC's campus to attend classes and complete field work in the early childhood center.
- Now our partnership has expanded to the new Pre-Teaching Program, where students are learning about the teaching profession while earning college credits.
- Westchester Community College has been involved in the development this program from the earliest stages.
- They were been instrumental in the application development of our NYS CTE Accreditation, which was approved by New York State Education Department.
- WCC faculty has mentored and collaborated with YMA faculty in the implementation of the program.
- Westchester Community College also partners with YMA through the Early College Experience (ECE) Program, in which students enroll in Dual Enrollment courses taught by YMA teachers who are vetted to offer college credits through WCC.



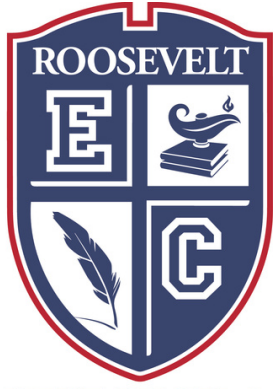
# ROOSEVELT

HIGH SCHOOL  
EARLY COLLEGE STUDIES

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2023 CTE  
**STUDENT AWARD**

**RAFAEL  
VALLE**

- Rafael Valle began the automotive program in 2021 with the Introduction to Auto Mechanics course, in which he earned a 92%.
- Although this is an introductory course, it is very hands-on, and the reading and writing skills needed mirror post-secondary classes.
- During this time, Rafael has shown the ability to take the lead on most major automotive repair jobs, including removing and reinstalling engines, basic maintenance repairs, brake system diagnosis and repair, and suspension repair and replace.
- By enrolling in college link English and Economics and Government classes, he has mastered soft skills such as verbal and written communication, and is able to model an excellent work ethic to his peers.
- Currently, Rafael is an apprentice at Extreme Auto Shop in Yonkers for his senior year, and is planning to attend Universal Technical Institute in Bloomfield, New Jersey.
- He is an outstanding student and a natural leader, and has already left a legacy that will inspire more students to enroll in our program.



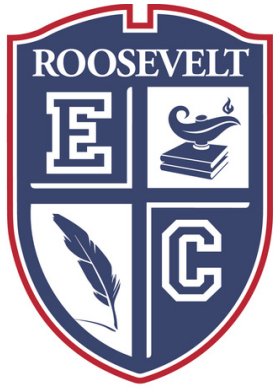
# ROOSEVELT

HIGH SCHOOL  
EARLY COLLEGE STUDIES

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2023 CTE  
**STUDENT AWARD**

**JOVAN  
THOMPSON**

- Jovan Thompson has been the CEO of Virtual Enterprise, the simulated business class.
- He runs a company called Money Drill that creates video content about financial literacy for young people.
- Jovan's insightful nature enables him to navigate the ins and outs of running this simulated company.
- He has created numerous scripts and video projects aimed at the company's target market.
- If a project turns out less than optimal he will shrug his shoulders, say "I'll just have to do it again" and then he actually does it again, this time with all sorts of improvements; that kind of a role model is exactly what you need in Career and Technical Education.
- Things like hard work and determination in the face of setbacks can't be taught from a textbook, they can only be modeled by people like Jovan. His innate curiosity and drive will serve him on his career journey.



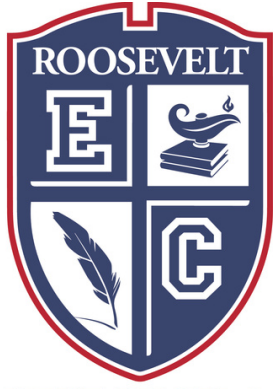
# ROOSEVELT

HIGH SCHOOL  
EARLY COLLEGE STUDIES

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2023 CTE  
**TEACHER AWARD**

**MARC  
ROENNAU**

- Marc Roennau embodies the role of a Business & Media Communications teacher facilitator who monitors student learning rather than direct teaching, which allows students to take ownership of their work, and builds the academic and technical skills needed to master a CTE program.
- Mr. Roennau's dedication and commitment to academic excellence has contributed to the success of Roosevelt High School Early College Studies.
- For the 2022-2023 school year, Mr. Roennau has been assigned a History Through Film course in which he has partnered with Great Points Studios/Lionsgate and Commercialmania.
- This partnership has allowed him to take a creative lead in creating the curriculum for the course and provide his students with professional opportunities with local businesses.
- Both companies provide our students with work-based learning experiences that mirror real world jobs.
- As such, students have developed professional relationships and practiced soft skills such as verbal and written communication.



# ROOSEVELT

HIGH SCHOOL  
EARLY COLLEGE STUDIES

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2023 CTE

**Business / Post-Secondary /  
Community Partner Award**

**CHRISTINA**

**O'SHEA**

VICE PRESIDENT  
GREAT POINT STUDIOS

- Great Point Studios is interested in developing local talent to staff the various productions that will be filmed in Yonkers.
- They recognize the value of Yonkers Public Schools graduates to help meet those goals.
- The driving force behind this is Chris O'Shea, Vice President at Great Point, and she has gone above and beyond to work with students throughout the District, especially at Roosevelt High School.
- She has co-taught a film class that introduced Roosevelt students to the multiple career possibilities in the film industry.
- Chris has personally invited students to the studios to show them the various aspects of film production, and she has arranged internships for two Roosevelt students at Lionsgate.
- Chris has been an inspiration to the students that she has worked with and has provided an experience that could lead many of our students to amazing careers in this field.





**YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**2023 CTE**  
**STUDENT AWARD**

# **RIVERSIDE**

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

**KAYLEY**  
**RODRIGUEZ**

- Kayley Rodriguez is a conscientious, committed, and responsible student; she works great with fellow classmates and has established a great relationship with all teachers at Riverside.
- In her spare time, Kayley enjoys working in Girls who Code, completing floor plans in AutoCAD, and exploring different concepts of Smart-Circuit.
- Kayley is currently enrolled in a Computer Draft & Design course, and although she is aware of her natural ability in this area, she is constantly challenging herself.
- Kayley is able to help her peers with difficult design concepts, but does so in a way that is both practical and non-condescending.
- She also uses her expert knowledge in 3-D printing to create customizable objects, which are then used for technology fundraisers at Riverside.
- Her qualities of being organized, hard-working, and responsible will definitely help her in pursuing her goals in completing the Engineering program at Westchester Community College through P-TECH by the summer semester of 2024.



**YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**2023 CTE**  
**STUDENT AWARD**

# **RIVERSIDE**

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

**EBENEZER**  
**WONTUMI**

- Ebenezer Wontumi has enrolled in several Cyber Security courses at Riverside since 9th grade through the P-TECH pathway.
- Currently, he is enrolled in a Computer Networking class, for which has shown great aptitude for this class.
- Ebenezer plays a role in helping teachers and students by troubleshooting hardware and software on computers and laptops.
- He assists Mr. Fanek, the Computer Technology Teacher, with preparation for workshops and assembly setup.
- Ebenezer is also part of the Riverside Tech-Team who, in his spare time will assist teachers with setting up a projector and laptop, and ensure all cables are properly connected.
- Ebenezer recently visited Westchester Community College and has been ecstatic to attend WCC next year as a senior part time through the P-TECH pathway.
- Ebenezer has set an academic goal to complete the Cyber Security program aligned with WCC by the end of the summer 2024 semester of college.



YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2023 CTE  
**TEACHER AWARD**

# RIVERSIDE

## HIGH SCHOOL

**EMMAUEL  
MICHALAKIS**

- Emmanuel Michalakis is an Engineering Teacher who has exceeded expectations in achieving high standards in pedagogical performance, and has demonstrated evidence of being resourceful for our students.
- He has brought in materials that allowed students to practice and apply engineering concepts in 3D designs.
- He continuously promotes college and career readiness by providing students with dual credit courses, and brings in his expertise as an adjunct professor.
- Mr. Michalakis has used his creativity to provide educational and work-based experiences for his students after school.
- He not only promotes learning for our students, but he also has a positive impact on his colleagues, as he has taken upon himself to mentor new CTE teachers within his department.
- Mr. Michalakis is a tremendous asset to our learning community and fully deserves to be recognized by the Yonkers learning community.



# RIVERSIDE

## HIGH SCHOOL

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**2023 CTE**

**Business / Post-Secondary /  
Community Partner Award**

**WESTCHESTER  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE**

- Westchester Community College has been instrumental to the development and expansion of our school learning community.
- Our partnership is allowing our students to earn college credits while in high school, and will continue to support our students after graduation.
- They have demonstrated commitment and dedication for our students by thinking of creative ways to provide more for our students.
- WCC has also provided many opportunities for students to actively participate in career exploration on the campus, and assists with our students' with professional skills that are needed in the work place.
- We will continue to meet regularly to discuss improvement of programs, building partnerships and course sequence for our pathways.



# YONKERS PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**STUDENT AWARD**

**BLANDINA  
TAPIA**

- Blandina Tapia is a leader, not only in her classroom but also in the school as well.
- She has taken both the Retail/Selling Skills and Culinary classes, learning many technical skills which will prove valuable in the job market, such as customer service, problem solving, register operations, food handling and preparation, inventory, and more.
- Blandina is a Student Ambassador, and her job is to escort all the new students around the school and explain to them what Pathways to Success has to offer.
- She takes the lead in her class without being asked, helping students that are struggling as well as the teacher.
- Blandina is always prompt, on time and polite, and a true joy to be around.



# YONKERS PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**STUDENT AWARD**

**XIOMARA  
FUENTES**

- Xiomara Fuentes always comes to class on time and is an inspiration to all.
- She watches closely the task on hand and repeats it remarkably well.
- Xiomara does not wait to be told what to do; she takes the initiative and runs with it.
- Her classmates look up to her for help, and she is always willing to help students that are having a difficult time.
- Xiomara is such a good student, and has learned so much, that the chef in our culinary class always asks for her to assist with food preparation and service for any events that we hold here at the school.
- Xiomara is polite, well dressed and fun to be around.





# YONKERS PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**2023 CTE**  
**TEACHER AWARD**

**ANGELA**  
**ARGYROS**

- Angela Argyros has implemented numerous enhancements to the Retail/Selling Skills Program.
- She introduced an entrepreneurial component to the program, based on the principles of Virtual Enterprise, providing the opportunity for students to learn about such concepts as product development, finance and marketing.
- For our CTE Showcase, Ms. Argyros had her students conduct spirited “pitches” to promote their products to the audience.
- In addition to entrepreneurship, her students learn such important concepts as inventory, register operations, problem solving, interpersonal communications and customer service.
- Ms. Argyros also has also assisted with resume preparation, our annual career fair and other employment-related assignments.
- She is hard-working, reliable, enthusiastic and always willing to take on additional assignments.



# YONKERS PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**2023 CTE**

**Business / Post-Secondary /  
Community Partner Award**

**DECICCO &  
SONS**

- DeCicco & Sons has greatly supported the Pathways to Success Adult Education Program.
- When they opened their Ardsley location two years ago, they came to our school to recruit students for the new location.
- Since then they have attended every one of our job fairs, and observed students in our Culinary Program in action in the kitchen.
- They have also interviewed and hired several students.
- Pathways to Success is proud to partner with a prestigious company such as DeCicco & Sons, and we look forwards to further developing our mutually beneficial collaboration.