



# MAKING THE Connection

TO  
Career Technical Education

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## MAKING THE CONNECTION

# Warren Woods Tower helps next generation of medical professionals

By Jessica Wells

Warren Woods Tower High School (WWT) offers many Career Technical Education (CTE) programs in the Health Science domain, including Anatomy & Physiology, Nursing Assistant, and Medical Assistant to assist students in setting and attaining their goals. These programs help students make decisions about their future career choice. Taking CTE courses often confirms a student's career goals or in some cases may lead them to a different career pathway.

Dr. Georgette Cooke (formerly Abou-Jaoude), who graduated from WWT in 2006 took three years of Health Science classes at WWT. Currently, she is a resident physician in internal medicine at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, Michigan. Cooke explained that her high school CTE courses, "provided exposure to different areas of the health science field by giving me time to step away from academics to explore meaningful job experiences in high school as well as to research career options for after graduation."

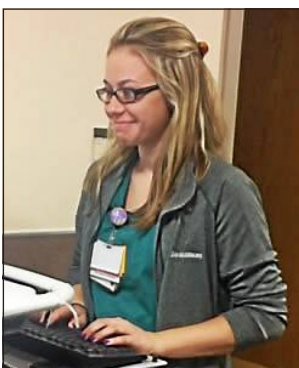
Ms. Domenica Rutkowski and Mrs. Marie VanHuyse were the teachers who Cooke had admired and learned from the most. "They both had a tremendous amount of knowledge in their field and dedicated part of their careers to guiding and teaching their students. I recall that when I shared with them that I wanted to pursue medical school, but was apprehensive about my ability to survive such an endeavor, they were nothing but encouraging. They always vocalized their belief in me, which helped me to believe in myself and ultimately pursue that dream. As nurses and educators, they modeled a standard of professionalism and compassion that has remained with me throughout all these years," Cooke

remembers fondly. By taking health science classes at WWT, Georgette Cooke had a solid foundation for pursuing a career in medicine. Her long term career goal is to be a hospitalist and/or outpatient general medicine internist. She is well on her way.

Another WWT alumnus, Kayla Dempsey, who graduated in 2014, took the Nursing Assistant (NA) class. Dempsey, who earned her NA certification soon after her high school graduation in the summer of 2014, is currently working at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak as a Nursing Assistant. She spoke about things she remembered doing in her Nursing Assistant class. "One of the things I remember about the course was going to St. John [Hospital] to job shadow. It was an eye opening experience because it allowed you to see first hand what goes on in a hospital setting. It also got me very excited to start working in a hospital setting because I thought it was so interesting."

Dempsey also shared her thoughts on the program WWT offers. "Tower offers so many ways for you to succeed after high school. If there was any advice that I could give to the students right now, it would be use the tools and guides that Tower has to offer. If it weren't for this nursing class, I don't think I would have the same opportunity as I do right now".

Mrs. VanHuyse has been working in the healthcare field since 1979 and teaching CTE Health Courses at WWT since 2001. "Taking the NA class is a great option for students at WWT who are either thinking about or very sure they are going to pursue a career in healthcare. The course allows students to learn about patient care and the healthcare system. There are also opportunities to actually see and be a part of the healthcare system through



Kayla Dempsey charts patient care information on the Medical Surgical floor at Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak.

job shadowing, field trips, and the certified nursing assistant portion of the course," Mrs. VanHuyse shares. "The Certified Nursing Assistant program is part of the Nursing Assistant class. Students have the opportunity to apply for the program second semester. If selected, students will first become proficient in patient care skills in the classroom, then use those skills in a clinical setting, taking care of residents in a long-term care facility. After completing 26 hours of clinical skills, students can then take the State certifying test and on passage of that, pursue a job as a Certified Nursing Assistant." VanHuyse adds. WWT students have been completing their clinicals at the Shelby Crossings Health Campus in Shelby Township for the past three years.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, between 2014-2024 the job outlook for Nursing Assistants will increase by 17%. Students enrolled in the WWT Health Science Classes are learning the skills needed for their future career in a field that is growing and in need of trained workers. If you are interested in enrolling in this program or learning more about it, please contact the Southwest Macomb Technical Consortium (SMTEC) office at (586)439-4456.



Dr. Cooke is completing her Family Practice residency at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing.

## MAKING THE CONNECTION

# WWT Foods and Hospitality grad secures job in Chicago food industry

By Peyton Marnon

The success of a student is not due solely to the efforts they make, but in tandem with the opportunities presented to them and their willingness to take advantage of these opportunities. Career Technical Education (CTE) programs aid students in early training for career fields in rising popularity such as Arts & Communications, Business, Management, Marketing & Technology, Health Sciences, Human Services, and Foods and Hospitality. These programs provide students with basic knowledge of the field as well as hands on lessons and experiences.

The Foods and Hospitality program at Warren Woods Tower High School (WWT) has given many students the chance to learn about the food service industry. After participating in this program, many have decided they want to

continue to study the field after high school. One student positively influenced by this WWT program is Sarah Rumpz, a graduate of the Class of 2013.

Rumpz went into the Foods program her sophomore year of high school and continued the class into her junior and senior years. Sarah started out learning the basics such as food preparation and proper sanitary measures like hand washing. Her second year was spent familiarizing herself with different international cuisines. Her third year in the program, Sarah was finally working for the school run restaurant, the Titan Terrace. In the Titan Terrace, Sarah says she gained knowledge of the inner workings of a real kitchen environment.

"This really helped me because not only was I able to go into the kitchen and experiment with food, but



Sarah Rumpz, a graduate of the Class of 2013, makes creations at the Union League Club of Chicago.

I also got to work through a service in many different stations throughout the kitchen," Sarah says. She also cites the instruction she received from her teachers as a big part of her success in and out of the kitchen.

"My teachers, Mrs. Adams and Mr. Silwanowicz, helped me by giving me the opportunity to have lead-

ership roles in the kitchen. They also showed me the fun in cooking and gave me a good base of knowledge of flavors and how to put things together," she explained.

Sarah went on to study at the Culinary Institute of Michigan, through Baker College where she graduated with an Associates Degree in Applied Science.

After graduating, Sarah found a position as a chef at the Union League Club of Chicago, a nonprofit, private club in the Loop of Chicago.

According to Sarah, a great aspect of the job is being part of the hustle and bustle of food service. She currently juggles work within three of the club's restaurants, runs banquet services, and helps out with room services.

"What I like most about my current position is that I am experiencing a little bit of everything." The experience Sarah had within the school embedded in her the ability to adapt to chaos in the kitchen as she works in all different aspects of the service industry, not just food preparation.

With every day, Sarah is one step closer to achieving her dream of owning and operating her own catering company. Sarah feels that her time as a student in the

Food's program and her current job has helped her prepare for such a big career venture. "With this being my first job out of college, it is giving me great experience and has really helped me realize my passion for banquets and catering."

Regarding advice, Sarah had a few words she wanted to offer to current high school students who are still deciding on what career pathway to pursue. "The CTE program is more than just "fun" classes to take in High School. They are there to aid you and prepare you for college. As long as you are dedicated and work hard, there is nothing that can stop you from achieving your dreams," she explains.

Sarah has been able to apply the knowledge she gained from her CTE classes to her everyday life and hopes other students will be able to do the same.

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For more information about CTE, contact  
Scott Palmer at 586.228.3488 or spalmer@misd.net



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the MISD and the 21 school districts, go to  
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