

## **Gloucester County Institute of Technology**

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### **GCIT Honors First Inductees into Career-Technical Wall of Fame**

Deptford Twp.- The Gloucester County Institute of Technology will inaugurate its first group of Wall of Fame honorary recipients on March 10. The wall will honor graduates of the school as well as business partners who have aided in the institution's success and the betterment of career and technical education.

This year's first alumni recipient is Chef Randy Wagner of Mantua. Wagner is a 2000 graduate of GCIT's culinary arts program and now serves as executive chef of Carolina Blue, also in Mantua. Wagner was a student competitor in the FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) organization and has since served as a professional advisor for GCIT's chapter of the organization. Mr. Wagner has served as mentor to the many GCIT students he has aided in finding work in the local restaurant industry.

The second alumni recipient is Greg Thom of Monroeville. Thom is a 2007 graduate of GCIT's transportation technology program. While attending GCIT, Thom was an award-winning competitor for the SkillsUSA career technical organization. Since graduating, Thom has helped to support students through mentorship and as a SkillsUSA judge. Thom serves on the transportation program's advisory board in addition to holding previous positions with both CarMax and Pep Boys, where he hired and trained many GCIT students for the industry.

This year, GCIT will also honor longtime business partner, Lowe's of Mantua Township. Most recently in December, Lowe's and GCIT SkillsUSA held a "Build with the Community" event, where over 100 local families joined in to build a holiday-themed train engine. Store manager, Fred Cassi will accept the award. Lowe's is a national sponsor of the SkillsUSA national conference. GCIT was Lowe's 2015 recipient of the national "Models of Excellence" award.

Nominees for the honor were selected during the fall and the final decision was made by the established committee based on the driving characteristics of leadership, character, achievement, service and suitability as a role-model to future technical education students. Alumni nominees must have graduated at least four years prior to their nomination while business partners must have collaborated with the school for at least five years. In both cases, the nominee must have been affiliated with one of the school's Career and Technical Student Organizations including SkillsUSA, FCCLA, HOSA, FBLA, DECA and the International Thespian Society.

The honor is permanent and will be commissioned during the ceremony to be held at the school, followed by a photo being placed upon the wall which lies at the center of GCIT's campus.