Holland senior Shawn Cummings always knew who he was — even before he entered P-TECH. He didn’t have to find himself but his experience thus far has reinforced his ambitions.

“I knew who I was before I came here but that was nice, I didn’t have to find myself here. I knew I always liked to work hands-on which was great,” he said. “Looking back at how good I’ve done at welding and hearing how good I’m doing from my teacher Mr. Bryant, that really encouraged me; it’s reinforcing.”

When he isn’t welding at P-TECH Shawn is working with his father renovated houses and working on vehicles. His family owns a number of Chevy trucks which they’ve been working on, including a ’76 and ’81 Chevy pickup.

“I always had a dream to open my own auto mechanic shop. My brother went to school for auto body and with my skill in welding, adding it all together, it’s what I want to do,” he said. “If it doesn’t work out I’ll still have a career in welding.”

Eager to enter the workforce, Shawn is still enjoying his time in the classroom because of the project-based application to general curriculum.

“I enjoy learning here, being in the programs,” he said. “The teaching is different and more hands-on so there’s less reading out of a textbook. You get to get up and do some stuff.”

When Shawn completes his associate degree through Jamestown Community College he will be the first in his family to attain a higher-education degree. He is the only WNY P-TECH student and joins four CAM P-TECH students enrolled from the Holland Central School District. He is also one of 2,545 students in New York state who are advancing their learning through a Pathways in Technology Early College High School program.

WNY P-TECH is tailored specifically for students interested in one of two educational pathways: Welding Technology or Mechanical Technology with specializations in CADD or machine tool. The up-to-six-year program allows students to earn an associate degree from Jamestown Community College in a high-demand field with no out-of-pocket expense.
Dear Board Members, District Administrators and School Community

E2CCB is continuing its ongoing effort to share student stories and outcomes through our Educational Collaborations which highlights how E2CCB is impacting your students, programs and operations.

Thank you for your on-going collaboration as we work together to provide programs and services to support students and districts throughout the region. We continually strive to build and strengthen our programs and services for students in your district as well as maximize operational efficiencies through shared services. We look forward to our continued partnership and making opportunities to best serve the needs of your students, teachers and administration.

David O’ Rourke, Ph.D.  
District Superintendent

Danielle O’Connor  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

John O’Connor, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent for Management Services

Sophomore Eyes Early Graduation From Baker

Holland sophomore Haley Tilly has increased her course load this year and is planning on graduating early from the Baker Road Educational Center. The atmosphere and attention she’s receiving from her teachers are helping to make this ambitious venture a reality.

“It’s different here because (there’s more personalized learning) in the classrooms and it’s more hands-on,” she said. “You also have more time to work with the teachers and they can focus on you. You get a lot more help.”

When she’s not in school, Haley enjoys drawing, singing and hanging out with friends. She’s also enjoying her time at Baker and plans to continue her education after graduation to pursue a career as a lawyer.

“I’m passionate enough about wanting to become a lawyer that I see myself doing that,” she said. “I think law and the justice system is kind of messed up and I want to help change it, especially for people who don’t have money to hire a lawyer. I’d be the person who helps them.”

Haley describes Baker Road as one big class, where everyone has a different story but can relate to one another.

“Being at Baker has definitely helped me with my grades and I’ve been able to calm down. I don’t have to be so nervous here,” she said. “There aren’t as many distractions. You get what you need, get your credits and then you graduate.”

Holland sophomore Haley Tilly is taking extra credits this year and plans on graduating early from Baker Road Educational Center.

CTE By the Numbers

Automotive Body Repair: 2 students  
Automotive Technology: 3 students  
Conservation/Natural Resource Management: 11 students  
Construction Technology: 1 student  
Cosmetology: 5 students  
Criminal Justice/ CSI Forensics: 4 students  
Culinary Arts: 1 student  
Emergency Medical Services: 5 students  
EMT: 1 student  
New Visions: 1 student  
Power Equipment Technology: 4 students  
Small Animal Science: 2 students  
Small/Large Animal Science: 9 students  
Sports Conditioning and Exercise Science: 1 student  
Welding and Metal Fabrication: 3 students

Career & Technical Education

Students enrolled in an approved CTE program acquire the skills, knowledge and professional practices necessary for success in college and the workforce. Students experience relevant, challenging, industry-aligned curricula supported by current technology in learning environments that foster high academic achievement and skill development. Course work is organized to provide both theory and hands-on.

Students have an opportunity to participate in internships with business, industry and education partners. Curriculum is assessed against national industry standards and meets the Common Core Learning standards.

Upon the successful completion of the two-year program, CTE students meeting specific criteria will earn a Technical Endorsement on their Regents/Local Diploma.
Jenna Dietz could have enrolled in the Auto Technology program at the Ormsby Educational Center and passed with flying colors. However, the Holland senior knew she wanted to challenge herself by enrolling in a program she was passionate about.

“I wanted to challenge myself. I thought about going into the Auto Technology program and then I thought, my dad owns a car shop and I’ve grown up around it my whole life so let’s go for the challenge,” she said. “I want to coach and I want to be a personal trainer. That’s why I joined the Sports Conditioning and Exercise program and I love it.”

Jenna is no stranger to the automotive world, racing go-karts and cars in her free time, but she’s also a dedicated athlete, playing field hockey year-round for Holland and the Buffalo Hurricanes Field Hockey Club. Through the Tropixs program, she coaches young girls how to play the sport of field hockey. Enrolling in a program she had less familiarity with was a challenge but it’s benefiting her in more ways than one.

“It was hard because I was always asked ‘if you know so much about cars why didn’t you go into Auto Tech’ and I’d always say because I wanted to challenge myself. The hardest part was knowing that it’s not something I really do know,” she said. “I’ve found that I do have time management skills and I can work through a challenge and complete it. It’s a challenging course but I enjoy it. Here I’ve been able to find out who I really am and that I can challenge myself.”

Jenna plans to continue her journey in college where she’ll major in Exercise Science and minor in coaching. She is one of the 37,313 students developing college- and career-ready skills through Career and Technical Education programs in New York state.
The Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES does not discriminate in its employment and/or admission to programs and activities as applicable, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, economic status, marital status, veterans' status, political affiliation, domestic victim status, use of a guide dog, hearing dog or service dog, disability, or other classifications protected under federal or state law, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Visit www.e2ccb.org for more information.