



SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# DIGEST

## SMITHTOWN INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD: *A true collaboration with our schools*

Celebrating more than 40 years of partnership, Smithtown Central School District and the Smithtown Industry Advisory Board are a true collaboration between the schools and the community. The relationship between these two entities has created a bridge that has allowed Smithtown teachers, administrators and students to meet with industry professionals and to understand the continuously changing workforce world.

The IAB is comprised of more than 300 representatives from the business, government, parents, alumni and educational communities. During the past four decades, the organization has provided students with the opportunity to gain extensive knowledge in areas of study that interest them. Whether students are interested in the arts, fashion, accounting and finance, journalism, business management, health care, real estate or technology, the IAB allows students to explore career paths and learn the best way to showcase their talents.

A diverse group of members who are willing to help students explore potential careers and college majors make up the IAB. Being part of the advisory board also provides business professionals the opportunity

to expand their connections in Smithtown and beyond. IAB members can choose different levels of commitment, from being a mentor, guest speaker, or event sponsor to even creating and offering paid or unpaid internships.

“Students who take advantage of all the benefits of the IAB have the opportunity to experience hands-on learning in a way that can’t be replicated in the classroom,” said Mary Pat Grafstein, executive director of the IAB and work experience and internship coordinator. “They also build connections with possible future employers during networking events and internships. These experiences help students stand out on their college applications.”

Students also build confidence as they learn networking skills and business etiquette, as working with the IAB helps them learn the first steps in becoming a professional. The IAB has helped them create their professional image through talking about college, careers and work-based learning opportunities in Smithtown.

The IAB has had many themes over the years to coordinate with the times. In 1991, it was exploring the “New Compact for Learning.” In 2016, it was

“Celebrating 40 Years of Authentic Learning.” This year’s theme is “Building Relationships to Expand Horizons.”

Two community members are the business co-chairs of the IAB. Bob Mattson from Sanna Mattson MacLeod has been involved in the IAB for more than 20 years and has been the business co-chair for the past eight years. Tom Ambery from Estee Lauder has been the business co-chair for the last eight years as well and an IAB member for more than 15 years. They have both seen firsthand the impact of IAB’s work.

Currently, there are 13 active committees on the IAB. Many committees are co-chaired by one school district employee and one or two representatives from the business community. These committees each have individual goals and sponsor events throughout the year. “The chairs, teachers and administrators work collaboratively with the members of the IAB to put together events that enhance the education happening in the classrooms of the Smithtown Central School District,” Ms. Grafstein said.

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*Mary Pat Grafstein,  
Executive Director of the  
IAB and Work Experience  
and Internship Coordinator*

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# A Look Inside the IAB

## Business Olympics:

Working with the business department, the IAB implements and coordinates activities and meetings of businesspeople to assist with the annual Business Olympics. More than 85 judges, including many longstanding members of the IAB, help to make this competition a success. Prior to the contest, the business department also coordinates a mentoring session with IAB members who give advice to the more than 200 students participating regarding their projects and presentations.



## Career Exploration Internship Programs:

Through the high school Career Centers, organized by Work Experience and Internship Coordinator Mary Pat Grafstein, students connect with companies to jumpstart their work experiences. Many members of the IAB are geared toward the promotion of their specific industry sector and are looking for particularly inspired individuals to help spark interest in it. In addition, IAB members often offer internships and/or jobs throughout the year, which help build students' skills as they enter a competitive job market. This exposure also fosters responsibility and reinforces leadership qualities. Students can also receive career counseling and self-assessment testing at the Career Center.

## International Business Career Day:

Members of the IAB come together for the annual International Business Career Day each December. Business and World Language department teachers invite approximately 80-100 students from HSE and HSW to the full-day networking event. IAB members who specialize in foreign language and/or international business help mentor students who may be looking toward those career paths. This year, Family and Consumer Science students prepared international foods for the event. A true collaboration of students in various curriculums coming together to learn!



## Fashion Forward:

For students interested in the fields of fashion design, fashion marketing, buying and styling, Hampton Models in Smithtown offers Career Exploration internships. Both paid and unpaid internships provide valuable work experience for Smithtown students.

## Pitch Perfect:

During the IAB's January meeting, students present a 60- to 90-second elevator pitch about themselves to boost their communication skills. IAB members are on hand to provide constructive feedback.

## Health Care Partnerships:

For students interested in the health care field, several options are available. The Health Care Career Exploration Internship program launched eight years ago in partnership with St. Catherine of Sienna Medical Center. Approximately 25 seniors attend seminars given by health care professionals at the medical center each week for one semester. In addition, they must intern for 30 hours throughout the semester. Another opportunity is the mini-internship program through Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital offered to 10th and 11th grades. Last year, 20 students were chosen to be part of the program, which included a field trip and seminars and presentations by various industry professionals. Additionally, the district has partnerships with Northwell Health, Pederson-Krag, Stony Brook Medical Center and several doctors, dentists and physical therapy practices in the area.

## DECA Mentorship:

IAB members annually assist more than 150 DECA students with projects, manuals and practice through role-playing. More than 30 IAB members work with HSE and HSW students from February to April to mentor them for the state and national DECA competitions.



Scan this code to hear first hand IAB experiences from students and mentors.

## Female Power Brunch:

The Career Tracks committee of the IAB plans and implements a women's empowerment brunch for approximately 70 different female students each year. Twelve to 14 guest speakers in different careers present their stories, ranging from authors to small business owners to doctors and lawyers. During the brunch, students have a chance to mingle and connect with the many female presenters to learn more about how they chose their career path.

## Business Etiquette Dinner:

For the past 15 years, business honors students have learned business etiquette during this annual dinner. During the event, etiquette consultants walk the students through a full dinner, preparing them for the real-world settings they may encounter. Sponsorships are provided by members of the IAB for this event.

## CTE/STEM Conference:

Helping students go full "steam" into the future, the IAB STEM committee works with the Career and Technical Education department and the Career Center to offer a day dedicated to STEM career paths. IAB speakers who work in careers within science, technology, engineering and math share their career insights and information about STEM career opportunities with students.



## Women in Technology:

Last year, the IAB developed a relationship with BAE Systems, a defense contractor in Greenlawn, to encourage and educate female students in the various STEM career paths. Four students were admitted to the Women in Technology program in the fall, which met once a week for nine weeks. All four students presented at their "graduation" on a group project that they worked on during the program. These students are going on to be engineers and IT professionals, and this event helped them see what their jobs may be and to meet other women in these fields.

## Junior Achievement:

The district's elementary schools and more than 200 high school students have participated in the Junior Achievement High School Heroes Program each year for the past 10 years. The high school students are trained to go into the elementary schools and teach five elementary lessons that coordinate with the social studies curriculum for specific grade levels. Last year, more than 650 elementary school students were reached, thanks to the programs given by our High School Heroes.

## Northwell Health SPARK Challenge:

In 2017 Smithtown was invited to participate in the Northwell Health SPARK Challenge to ignite student interest in STEM health careers. Students participated in a full-day workshop at Southside Hospital and worked closely with professional leaders in the field. They participated in a mock accident and trauma scene, having roles as patients, doctors and nurses in the trauma center. The 10 students who participated will now collaborate as a group on innovative projects, cultivating marketable skills such as teamwork and communication, that will make them highly sought-after when pursuing a career. They will present their team project in April 2018 at the SPARK Challenge final event.



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT

## PTA Council

The members of Smithtown's Parent-Teacher Associations are busy each and every day working to ensure district students are having a positive and fun school experience.

The PTA Council works to keep all the individual school's PTAs working as one unit. Its primary function is to oversee each school's PTA and make sure they run smoothly, efficiently and effectively.

The PTA Council meets monthly with a representative of every PTA participating. Members have the

opportunity to share what's happening in their buildings and collaborate on ideas. Every other month, district administrators, Board of Education members and building principals attend the PTA Council meeting to provide updates and stay informed about school and community activities. The PTA Council delegates are responsible for bringing that information back to their respective PTA.

Some of the districtwide events overseen this year by the PTA Council

include Smithtown Day at a Stony Brook University football game and Red Ribbon Week activities. Students in grades K-8 received a free ticket to a Stony Brook football game to show off their Smithtown pride at the event. For Red Ribbon Week, the PTAs work together with the PTA Council to set up different activities in each school.

The PTA Council works with district administrators on events and topics such as Parent University and health and wellness issues. The council helps promote these events through

the school PTAs.

"Basically, we are a liaison with the district, and we help get the word out for activities and events happening so parents can always be informed," said PTA Council president Jennifer Camilleri. "The PTA Council is a great way for parents to stay informed and get connected with the schools. Just get involved in any way that you can. Even for parents who work full time, there are many opportunities at night and on the weekends to get involved."

## Notes and Notices

### Wellness Corner

Be sure to check out our Wellness Corner online for tips on how families and students can stay healthy, active and engaged socially and emotionally.

### Interested in Joining the IAB?

If you would like to mentor students who will be our future workforce, join the IAB by calling Mary Pat Grafstein at 631-382-5210 or via email [mgrafstein@smithtown.k12.ny.us](mailto:mgrafstein@smithtown.k12.ny.us).

### Register Your Child for Kindergarten Now

Children in the district who will turn 5 years of age on or before Dec. 1, 2018, are eligible to register for kindergarten in the 2018-2019 school year. For more information and a kindergarten registration checklist, please visit the district website: [www.smithtown.k12.ny.us](http://www.smithtown.k12.ny.us).

### Incident Weather Procedures

In preparation for the upcoming winter weather, parents and students should familiarize themselves with emergency school procedures. The following radio and television stations have agreed to broadcast news about emergency school closings, delayed openings and early dismissal procedures: WALK (1370 AM, 97.5 FM), WBLI (106.1 FM), News 12 - Channel 12, FIOS 1. The district will also post important information on its website, [www.smithtown.k12.ny.us](http://www.smithtown.k12.ny.us).

If inclement weather makes it necessary to dismiss students early, the radio and television stations will be notified, and the district automated calling system will be activated.

### Transportation Requests

All requests for transportation to private and parochial schools for the 2018-19 school year must be made in writing no later than April 1, 2018. All new private and parochial students or anyone changing their school or address must register in person at SCSD Central Registration Office at 26 New York Ave, Smithtown, NY, 11787. Returning private and parochial students, without any changes from last year, may mail a completed application to 26 New York Ave, Smithtown, NY, 11787 (attn: Transportation). If you have any questions or concerns regarding transportation, please call the Transportation Department at 631-382-4100. Should you have questions regarding registration, necessary documentation or any other concerns, please call the Central Registration Office at 631-382-2024.

## SCHOOL COMMUNITY DIGEST

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Smithtown Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of handicaps or on the basis of sex, race, or ethnic background in the educational programs or activities which it operates.