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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PENNSYLVANIA’S 2014 NEW CAREER & TECHNICAL HORTICULTURE & LANDSCAPING INSTRUCTOR

JOE LUTHER OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR
Joe Luther was inspired to help prepare young men and women for employment in the Horticulture and Landscaping field. He began his career in the landscaping field during high school as a result of financial support from his parents. In addition to owning and operating his own business at age 16, Mr. Luther attended the Pennsylvania College of Technology where he received his Associate’s Degree in 2002. He is currently enrolled at the Pennsylvania State University in the Workforce Education Program where he expects to receive his Bachelor of Science Degree in the very near future.

Joe believes in giving back to his students, the teaching profession, CPI, and the Centre County region. His membership/participation in the following professional organizations and activities demonstrates his understanding of the need to be involved in all aspects of the school and the Horticulture and Landscaping industry in order to provide additional opportunities for his students.

Mr. Luther is dedicated to his own professional development and willingly shares his successful practices with other instructors at CPI. He has also made several presentations at local and state workshops. He has presented at both the PA Career and Technical Education and Integrated Learning Conferences for the past two years. Further, Mr. Luther has worked with Penn State University’s Department of Agricultural Sciences as an adjunct instructor for several years. He attends monthly Central Intermediate Unit meetings as our Literacy Coach where he shares his best practices in career and technical education with academic teachers.

Mr. Luther is a past or current member of the following organizations: Association of Career and Technical Education, National Concrete Masonry Association, Central Intermediate Unit #10 Literacy Coach, CPI Recruitment Core Team Member, Professional Learning Community Member at CPI, National Home Builders Association, American Federation of Teachers, PA Association of Agriculture Educators, and Phi Theta Kappa Member.

Mr. Luther believes in giving back to his students.

“MR. LUTHER BELIEVES IN GIVING BACK TO HIS STUDENTS.”

He understands the importance of giving back to the community and providing his students with service learning experiences. These service learning opportunities include: landscaping/horticulture completion for the local American Legions Wounded Warrior project, landscaping of the Bellefonte T-Baller League Field, Construction for Centre County Conservation District, Planning of Wetlands for Centre County Conservation District, Planning of Wetlands builders Association Home and Garden Show, greenhouse and floral arrangement demonstrations, instruction at local retirement communities, and setup of the Centre County United Way Festival of Trees at CPI.

Joe Luther is a teacher who is about helping the entire school improve, not just the students enrolled in the Horticulture and Landscape Construction program. In summary, Mr. Luther exemplifies all of the qualities of an outstanding teacher.

“A TEACHER WHO IS PASSIONATE ABOUT IMPROVING ALL OF CPI TO BENEFIT OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY.”

CPI’s Horticulture & Landscaping Instructor

As the owner/operator of his own landscaping business at age 16, Mr. Luther was inspired to help prepare young men and women for employment in the Horticulture and Landscaping field. He was hired as the Horticulture and Landscape Construction instructor at the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology (CPI) in 2009. As part of this program, students gain first-hand experience in all aspects of greenhouse crop production while honing their business skills through direct customer sales of poinsettia, rose, and spring flowers to CPI faculty and staff, as well as to local community members.

Mr. Luther requires the students to run the greenhouse like a business, which teaches them both the financial aspect and customer service skills necessary for industry success. Also, Mr. Luther and his students ensure that all of our community events at CPI have the fresh, colorful floral arrangements to add the “special touch” needed to better welcome our guests. Students in Mr. Luther’s program also grow leafy vegetables and herbs that are used by our Culinary Arts program to prepare the meals for the same events.

To teach students about reusable resources and green technology, Joe applied for and received a $5,000 Lowes Toolbox grant in 2012. He used this money to retrofit the greenhouse with a rain water harvesting system. More recently, Mr. Luther applied for a Monsanto Applicator Certifications and have the opportunity to receive their commercial certifications as well.

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