

EDUCATION

Dr. Anna Webb-Storey is the principal at Miller Career and Technology Center



Robert Holmes oversees the criminal justice program



Chef Chelsea Gumm runs the culinary arts program



MILLER CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

STEERING STUDENTS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Written by Anna-Catherine Rose | Photography by Sara Isola

Did you know 50 to 70% of college students change majors at least once, and most switch at least three times before graduation? Lost time, money, and burgeoning frustration from parents can present real challenges when it comes to college expenses, personal debt, and overall family harmony.

Fortunately, Katy has a cutting edge resource dedicated to helping high school students sort through career considerations with exposure, hands-on experience, and coaching from industry professionals - the Miller Career and Technology Center (MCTC). Located in Historic Katy, adjacent to Rhodes Stadium, this auxiliary campus and its highly talented staff guide students through the maze of high-demand career options and better yet, immerse them into their desired field with internships and assigned mentors.

Course Catalog

They offer a breadth of courses including culinary arts, audio engineering and film, criminal justice, and PACE

(professional advancement through career education) programs.

Chef Chelsea Gumm oversees the culinary arts discipline as well as the Old Town Bistro, an on-campus restaurant open to the public where students deliver a weekly menu, interact with guests, and rotate through all facets of restaurant operations. From food cost and preparation, to urban gardening and dish creation, Gumm believes, "This is the closest thing to real life you can find on a high school campus." The facility is equipped with a larger-than-life commercial kitchen as well as seating for up to 60 guests.

With more than 35 years of experience in audio engineering, studio production, and live-action broadcasting, John Bertram knows his stuff. As head of the audio engineering department, and in partnership with the Film Studio, his students produce a variety of media applications for both entertainment and commercial purposes. Graduates from his program have been accepted as freshmen into

junior-level extracurricular film production programs at the university level due to their experience. Others have gone directly to work with opportunities in local radio as well as media production companies such as Mogul Media and CBS Radio. Next time you're at Rhodes Stadium, look for Bertram's students on the field and in the media box capturing real-time shots and feeding them to the scoreboard.

Robert Holmes, a 30-year veteran of the Houston Police Department, with an MS in criminal justice management from Sam Houston State University, oversees the criminal justice program. Students interested in law, law enforcement, the American court system, and rules of evidence are not only provided internships, but their classroom and active learning environment is a simulated courtroom.

The PACE program is directed by Eileen Paulus. The program is crafted for seniors identified as gifted and talented. Additionally, students with a 3.8 GPA or higher are also eligible, pending remaining program capacity. What makes this program compelling is the fact that it's an elective class with an honors credit. After coaching on topics such as communication and professionalism, students are responsible for securing their own unpaid internships with a mentor who works within their chosen field. Additionally, PACE has ongoing partnerships with more than a dozen companies, including oil and gas engineering firms, world-renowned hospitals and private medical practices, as well as marketing firms and the Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition.

How to Apply

Programs at MCTC are accessible to juniors and seniors within Katy ISD, so students need to apply during their sophomore or junior year. The center conducts campus tours in October and their counselor visits each Katy ISD high school the following January, delivering presentations and distributing course catalogs and formal applications.

Applications should be submitted to each student's home campus counselor by the published deadline (typically mid-February). Almost every program has a wait list, so be sure to note the specific date. Criteria used to assess applicants include attendance, behavior, and academic performance. MCTC's open house, extended to all prospective students and their parents, is held in February and is then followed by new student orientation in May.

With the addition of new programs, the physical expansion of the campus, and in turn, the ability to serve more students, MCTC's administrative team works diligently when it comes to communication. They host all junior high and high school counselors via a yearly district meeting to share updates and provide administrative tours. Additionally, they plan to begin reaching eighth graders in early 2017 by attending parents' nights at high school campuses.

Expansion in Progress

Principal Dr. Anna Webb-Storey has been with the center for 18 years, leading the way. "I look for people with a heart for kids. They must also know their content well, deliver it in a relevant and engaging way, exhibit professionalism and a great work ethic, and demonstrate excellence when it comes to interpersonal and team-working skills," she says.

With a 40,000-foot expansion planned for completion in 2017 and an upgrade to the veterinary medical applications lab this summer, to the incorporation of a state-of-the-art allied health area, and the inclusion of both cyber security and manufacturing engineering programs, MCTC is in tune with the job market, their students, and the community. **KM**

ANNA-CATHERINE ROSE lives in Katy with her husband and 5-year-old son (aka future student of MCTC).

LEARN MORE
Visit katyisd.org and search for Miller Career and Technology Center

Eileen Paulus directs the PACE program for seniors identified as gifted and talented



MCTC provides additional opportunities to Katy ISD high school juniors and seniors



John Bertram is head of the audio engineering department

