

2021 PACTESP LIFE/WORK CHALLENGE AWARD RECIPIENT



Jose Marrero is in his third and final year of the Pastry Arts Program at Lebanon County Career and Technology Center (LCCTC). It has provided him with a fresh opportunity for personal growth and success. He is able to focus on a career of interest, master a new curriculum, and refine his pastry skills. Jose constantly strives to improve himself, plan for his future, and make decisions to be “the man he knows he can be.” Staff members at the LCCTC are proud of what Jose has accomplished as he has grown and matured, both academically and socially. He has received numerous recognitions, including Academic and Appearance Excellence, Overachiever Award, Customer Satisfaction Award, Most Improved Student in June 2020, and was honored as the Rotary Student of the Month in December 2020.

Jose’s internship at the Hotel Hershey garnered him outstanding reviews. He is always professional and reflects the values of career and technical education programs. He has received guidance on financial and career planning on his path to graduation. The realization of his life/work potential is further evidenced by his receiving rave reviews from his first internships. He gets along with other employees, is prompt, and is always ready to learn/try new skills. His abilities were also recognized when he won the district and local competition for Skills USA for two years. He recently competed at the state level and earned a silver medal. Jose has been an important part of our community, raising the bar within his program and inspiring those behind him.

Jose’s instructor, Brian Peffley, stated, “He assisted in the operation and management of our student-run retail pastry shop (The Pastry Shoppe) and restaurant (Hilltop Cafe) which is open to the public and serves lunch to approximately 60-80 people every day. Now Jose is starting his culinary career at the Hotel Hershey. He will be a tremendous asset to our country's workforce. His talents, coupled with his hard work and determination for perfection will prove to be valuable to a professional team.”

Jose was nominated by Janet Garchinsky, Special Education Facilitator, Lebanon County Career and Technology Center.



Pictured from left to right: *Crystal Hower, Instructional Aide; Karen Gulotta, Special Populations Coordinator; Janet Garchinsky, Special Education Facilitator; **Jose Marrero, 2021 Life/Work Challenge Award Recipient;** and Sandy Phillips, Special Education Facilitator*