

# Passaic County Technical Institute

*“Passaic County’s Award-Winning Public High School for Academics, Careers & Technology”*

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Graduating the Largest Class in PCTI History

**Wayne, NJ – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – On Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, an astounding 775 seniors from Passaic County Technical Institute (PCTI) paraded across the beautifully transformed football field for the very last time. Flowers, arbors, and banners adorned the turf as the blue sky and bright sun shined overhead. It was a celebration to remember as Tech graduated the Class of 2013 — the largest in the high school’s history! Over 3,500 guests, parents, family, friends, teachers, faculty and staff were present at the highly anticipated event.

PCTI’s 49<sup>th</sup> Graduation Exercises opened with the traditional processional of the high school’s Academy & Program flags and was led by NJROTC students who then presented the colors during the flag salute and the National Anthem. PCTI’s Alma Mater followed and was eagerly sung with the help of the Tech Tone Choir, American Sign Language Club students, and graduating seniors.

Class President Yasar Khan and class officers took turns introducing the speakers at the ceremony. Then the top two students took the stage. First, Nil Rawal delivered his Salutatorian address to the class. He was followed by Valedictorian Shadia Ahmed’s inspiring words which detailed her personal memories throughout her years at PCTI.

Following both speeches, Superintendent Diana C. Lobosco and Principal Dr. Michael Parent congratulated students and addressed the Class of 2013 about the importance of seizing opportunity and making the right choices in life. Their key message stressed that learning is an ongoing process, no matter the path that students take. The Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders were also present and Freeholder Director Bruce James gave a stirring speech to graduating seniors and their parents.

Then it was time for students of the Class of 2013 to receive their diplomas from Board of Education President Al Alexander, Vice President Damaris M. Solomon, and Commissioners Glenn Brown and Michael Coscia.

Cheers erupted from the crowd as dreams four years in the making were realized. This year’s graduation was a culmination of extraordinary accomplishments and achievements for both students and staff. The Class of 2013 is bound for greatness. Congratulations and good luck in all of your futures!



**Photo Caption: Seniors Yasar Khan (Paterson), Bryan Alcalde (Clifton), Andleeb Imran (Passaic), Randi Birch (Prospect Park), Larissa Krchmar (West Milford), and Bryan Kiel (North Haledon) pose for a pre-graduation photo.**



**Photo Caption: Danis Cespedes (Passaic) marches onto the field with her fellow classmates.**



**Photo Caption:** Seniors raise their roses into the air, celebrating their graduation ceremony.



**Photo Caption 0523:** Meagan Akins of Totowa (center) showcases her diplomas with fellow PCTI graduates.