

## Student Contests Celebrate America's 250th

By State Rep. Ann Flood

Students across Pennsylvania are encouraged to participate in contests created by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Historical Commission to mark our nation's 250th birthday. The contests celebrate our state's and nation's history, while encouraging students to learn about the work and role of the courts. Winners will be notified May 8 and recognized by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court at the May 18 oral argument session at the Capitol in Harrisburg.

The first is a coloring contest open to students ages 5-11 and gives young students the opportunity to create their own judge.

The second is an essay contest open to students in grades 3-12. The essays are being judged on creativity and overall quality when answering the following questions:

- Question (Grades 3-5) – Why is the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania important?
- Question (Grades 6-12) – Which Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice inspires you and why?

Instructions for the coloring contest can be found here.

Information about the essay contest can be found here.

Students and parents are encouraged to submit photo entries on Instagram by tagging @pennsylvaniaicourts or essay entries can be submitted by email to CommunicationsOffice@pacourts.us or mail to: AOPC Communications, c/o Stacey Witalec, 601 Commonwealth Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17106. The deadline for entries is April 24.



## Executive-in-Residence Features B. Braun CEO

NCC brings in executives annually as a part of a program designed to connect students with industry leaders

By NCC

Bethlehem, PA - On March 24, Northampton Community College (NCC) held their 41st annual Hal Shaffer Memorial Executive-in-Residence program, featuring Robert (Rob) Albert, CEO of B. Braun of America.

The Executive-in-Residence program is made possible by an endowment established by Cecile and Jack Shaffer in memory of their late son, Hal.

President of NCC, David A. Ruth, Ph.D., opened the fireside chat by welcoming the executive and highlighting the significance of the event. "This event has brought us some of the Lehigh Valley's most successful business leaders. This truly is a flagship event for the College each year. Today, we're honored to host Rob Albert, CEO of B. Braun of America. Rob also is a member of our Foundation Board, so he has long been a supporter of NCC and our students," Ruth said. He also noted that Albert invited interested students to take a tour of B. Braun's Allentown facility.

This is an exciting year for the program, as NCC's Center for Career Development launched the Hal Shaffer Memorial Executive-in-Residence Leadership Certificate. This professional development opportunity allowed students to strengthen their leadership skills, build career readiness, and connect directly with industry executives.

Today, B. Braun is a global leader in the manufacturing of medical supplies, focusing on improving clinical outcomes and developing solutions for medical care. Its North American operations began in 1979, and soon after, Albert began his career with the company.

The biggest lesson he's learned is how important collaboration is. "We need teamwork. We need people supporting us, and we need to support the people around us in order to get things done and done well."

He compared this to Formula 1 racing. "There are two race cars on every Formula 1 team, and for each team, there are about 1,000 team members from the pit crew to the planning. These teams create success around them by trusting each other to do their jobs efficiently. And, trust is a big part of any job as well. Knowing that your team members are going to get their job done allows you to stay focused on what you have do."

At the end of the program, a \$1,000 scholarship was presented to first-year marketing student, Kaitlyn Zile, in Rob Albert's name. NCC's Alumni Association committed to endowing the Executive in Residence Scholarship Fund to be presented annually in the name of that year's Executive-in-Residence.

When a student asked Albert what his definition of success is, he said, "Success goes beyond my career. It's having a loving wife and family to go home to, but professionally, as long as what you're doing makes you happy, you don't need to worry about your title. As long as when you wake up Monday morning, you want to go to work, that's success. That's what matters."

Whatever your definition of success is, Albert recommended always learning something new. "I was fortunate enough to learn a lot all in one company, but I made sure to step outside my comfort zone to find what I really enjoyed."

To read more about Albert's journey, visit <https://www.northampton.edu/news/>

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## Well Water Quality and Your Family

By Janel Gist

SLATE BELT - Do you know what's in your water? If you have public water, you should receive a yearly report and most likely can drink your water with confidence. However, if you have a private well like many people in this area, it's your responsibility to monitor and maintain it.

Many homeowners with well water either skip drinking it completely or choose to stay ignorant of the quality of their water. Relying on bottled water can be costly and creates unnecessary plastic waste, but many homeowners with wells choose to buy water. Reasons for not utilizing their wells range from not liking the taste, not trusting the quality of the water or believing it's unsafe because of the color or odor. Homeowners can take the guess work out of well water safety by having their water tested for common contaminants.

Getting your well water tested will give you peace of mind and save money from buying bottled water. There is a plethora of things you can test in well water, which can make deciding what to test difficult. Depending on where you get it tested you can choose from a basic package that may test for a few things, up to comprehensive testing that will do a whole panel of tests. With all these different options for testing it can be overwhelming and difficult to tell how in depth to go. Luckily the EPA has guidelines for what well owners should be testing yearly.

The EPA recommends testing well water once a year for Total Coliform, pH, Nitrate and Total Solid. These tests are considered water quality indicators. These water quality indicators can help give well owners a better idea of what's going on in their well. If the results of these tests are all good, it's a good sign of the quality of your water. Test failures indicate the well may be compromised and more in-depth testing is needed.

Wells change year to year, which is why yearly testing is needed. One of the most common ways for wells to get contaminated is if they are exposed to runoff or are affected by flooding. It's also a good idea to test if any work has been done on any part of the well system, as contaminants are more likely to be introduced then. Another sign that it's time to test your well water is if you have any sudden changes in the taste, odor or appearance of your water.

For well-owners regular testing will provide them with the information they need to be confident in the quality and safety of their water. Add well testing to your to-do list today to ensure your families health and hydration year after year.

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