TRIO WEAVES AWARD FOR WEB DESIGN



Their class earned \$500 for the students' work with the New Jersey Association of Technical Assistants.

WILLIAM JOHNSON / FOR THE BCT
Seniors James Schindewolf, Kraig Wilson
and Sagarika Kumar look over the revamp of the
NJAT.org website during their class at Burlington
County Institute of Technology in Westampton.

By JEANNIE O'SULLIVAN STAFF WRITER

WESTAMPTON — The work of three students at the Burlington County Institute of Technology has earned them not only valuable website design experience, but cash, too

As a gesture of thanks for its newly redesigned website, the New Jersey Association of Technical Assistants has donated \$500 to the information technology class at the school on Woodlane Road.

"It is definitely amazing what our students do," teacher Joe Rivera said.

The students will use the money to defray costs of attending the Future Business

Leaders of America's national conference, which will be June 29 to July 2 in Chicago.

Seniors Sagarika Kumar, of Burlington City, Kraig Wilson, of Willingboro, and James Schindewolf, of Lumberton, were tasked with making the association's content management system more intuitive. Using Rivera as the liaison with the association, which has a local chapter in Southampton, the students created templates using Weebly, a website-making program. The association representatives visited the school to review the templates and get familiar with the interface, Rivera said.

Website design and other subjects covered in the information technology major help

prepare the students for jobs such as computer technician, network administrator and help desk personnel. The major accounts for about 5 percent of the student body, according to Rivera.

An aspiring ethical hacker, Sagarika has his sights set on IT as a career.

"I learned how to troubleshoot problems with computers, and studied networking, Web development and programming," he said about the class.

Among his past projects is an artificial-intelligence robot he helped build.

Throughout the year, the IT majors provide computer services for staff members

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Students

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and other students. For one previous project, the students built computers for the IT classroom and now install the necessary software every year — an "invaluable hands-on experience that students have relished in and continue to grow in their troubleshooting skills," Rivera said.

"The most important

is being a troubleshooter, a problem solver," he said, noting that workplace readiness is part of the class.

The IT students also have competed in Future Business Leaders of America competitive events in the areas of network design, network concepts, computer applications, help desk, and introduction to information technology.

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