

# Passaic County Technical Institute

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

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## Holiday Performing Arts Program Gets Creative with “Worth a Thousand Words”

Wayne, NJ – **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – Passaic County Technical Institute’s (PCTI) Dance and Instrumental Ensemble recently premiered their holiday show “Worth a Thousand Words,” a production which transported guests to a fantastical realm of lyric, music, and choreographic mastery. The show’s theme utilized famous photographs as the inspiration for each number, allowing students and audience members alike to connect with the historic moments captured in photographs. This year’s theme pushed Dance Advisors Jennifer Ackerman and Cassandra Roberts, Instrumental Advisors Jim Dalton and Doug Smith, and students, to gain a deeper understanding of the events from which the photographs were taken.

One of the most memorable pieces entitled “Deaf President Now” recounted the struggle of Gallaudet University student protesters in electing a deaf president to the school board. This dance chronicled a number of firsts for PCTI. Not only was it performed in complete silence but the dance ensemble cast also teamed up with Teacher of the Deaf Stephanie Morgan, as well as deaf and American Sign Language students, in order to learn the signing performed in “deaf president now.”

Other performances in “Worth a Thousand Words” included musical interpretations of “Fix You” by Coldplay, “Kiss” by Prince, and “Down to the River to Pray.” PCTI’s Performing Arts Music students added an orchestrated flair to the production’s splendor by playing songs between sets. The collaboration between both Performing Arts institutions made the show a complete success.

The dance ensemble’s spectacular production was accentuated by the compassion of its dancers. Performers in the holiday show asked that half of their proceeds (a staggering \$800) be donated to the Jersey Strong Initiative—an organization set up to aid those who were affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Congratulations to all those involved in this wonderful production!



**Photo Caption 0441: PCTI dance ensemble students learned to sign in the performance of “Deaf President Now.”**



**Photo Caption 0099: Students of PCTI's dance ensemble perform as part of “Worth a Thousand Words.”**