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# BOCES BITS

February 2018

## Message from the Superintendent



It is always this wintry time of year when the holidays become a distant memory and the school year kicks into high gear.

For our administrative team at OCM BOCES, winter brings another annual event: budget season. With the statewide push for government agencies to

share services, become more efficient and preserve taxpayer dollars, I am proud to say that OCM BOCES has long been a role model for this kind of fiscal stewardship. Our collaboration with 23 component districts has resulted in millions of dollars in shared savings over the years and a notable return on investment in the quantity and quality of programs we provide for our communities.

This year, that collaboration will once again become a key strategy for maintaining educational excellence because of the challenging economic pressures facing school districts across the state. At OCM BOCES, all initial program budgets have been completed for 2018-2019 and will be presented to the OCM BOCES Board of Education on Feb. 15. Later, I will present those budgets to district superintendents at our Annual Meeting set for April 4 at our Thompson Road Campus. As always, I will be proud to share the highlights of all that we do — the people, programs and services — that come with our districts' valued investments in OCM BOCES.

Until next time, I would like to thank you for all the hard work you perform each day to make this collaboration successful. It is truly a team effort. Before long, amazingly, another challenging budget season will be over, and spring will arrive.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jody Manning  
District Superintendent

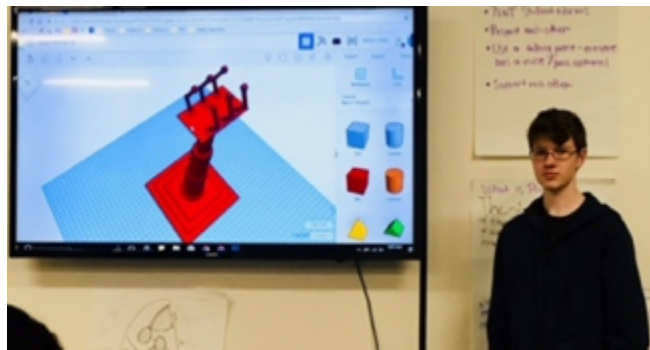
## **Kudos to OCM BOCES Maintenance Staff!**

As Central New Yorkers, we know winter typically brings lots of snow our way...and this winter has certainly not let us down! Homeowners and drivers are very aware how daunting the task of snow removal is from our own personal property. Just imagine how monumental the task must seem for those who remove large amounts of snow from parking lots and roads! To that end, we would like to offer a big “THANK YOU” to all the maintenance and operations staff here at OCM BOCES for their tremendous work keeping our parking lots and walkways clear and safe. Your hard work is very appreciated!

## **Authentic Work**

Students studying physics at Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland have been working on an impressive project: designing an “Astro Arm” that would be mounted to the International Space Station to capture and release satellites.

Recently, the class toured the factory of one its community partners, Incodema 3D in Freeville, to learn about their three-dimensional printing of light metal alloys for aircraft parts and how they could integrate these principles into their final design. Students are also using TinkerCAD, a computer-aided drafting program that allows models to be created and printed on a 3D printer. Students will pitch their final designs to the staff of



Incodema 3D for feedback and suggestions. In the photo, **Matt Kelly** of Tully presents his team's model of the Astro Arm complete with spider-like grips and an electromagnetic grip pad.

- Submitted by Facilitator **Jake Melnyk**

## Gold Key Winner

Congratulations to Cincinnati senior **Mary Rose**, a Career & Technical Education student who won a first-place Gold Key award in



photography in this year's annual Scholastic Arts & Writing Contest. Rose and other winners were honored Jan. 11 at Onondaga Community College. Rose, a student in **Tanya Komar's** Graphic Communications class at the Cortlandville Campus, took a photograph from the haunting and vaulted ruins of Eastern State Penitentiary in



Philadelphia, one of the most famous prisons in the world because of its grand architecture and notorious criminals, including drug lord El Capo and mobster Al Capone.

## Employee Recognition Luncheon

This year, OCM BOCES will periodically recognize and honor employees and/or teams of employees from across the organization for their contributions and demonstrated leadership in helping OCM BOCES achieve its 2017-2018 goals.

Supervisors can nominate individuals using the Employee Recognition Luncheon Nomination Form found on the Personnel website.



The first OCM BOCES Employee Recognition Luncheon was held Dec. 18 and recognized the following employees: In front, from left to right: **Lindsey Knight, Emily Behan, Elaine Liszewski and Heather Conto**. In the middle: **Gina Morabito, Karen Clark, Kim Vitello, Jason Graham and Pat Berry**. In back: **Dale Pepe, Holly Baldwin (partially hidden), Kevin**

## Smith, Michael Riley, Jake Melynk, Jon Easton and Chris DiFulvio.

Human Resources Director/School Attorney **Joseph Bufano**, Esq., said he is excited about sharing the accomplishments of OCM BOCES employees. “We would like to take this opportunity to thank our first honorees once again for all that they have done for our organization,” he said.

## Legends of Learning

If you happened to see School Library Systems Coordinator **Doreen Bergman** in a bright red cape last month, your eyes did not deceive you. Her Instructional Support Services team is offering districts [Legends of Learning](#), a resource of “learning games that will give your lessons super powers,” according to its web site. The “games” are actually a comprehensive library of curriculum-aligned middle school science games that teachers can use to enhance their instruction.



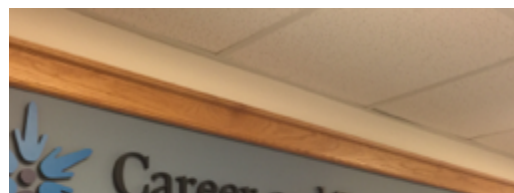
## Celebrate CTE Month

An annual statewide celebration of CTE programs will take place this month to recognize the importance of rigorous and innovative programs that prepare students for college or careers in a changing economy. If you would like to share the news about your CTE students through social media, please use the **#CTEMonth** hashtag. You can also learn more about our programs by visiting [ocmboces.org/cte](http://ocmboces.org/cte) to watch short videos about any of our programs. Finally, check out this [article about our successful CTE programs](#) that appeared in the Jan. 15 edition of the Central New York Business Journal.

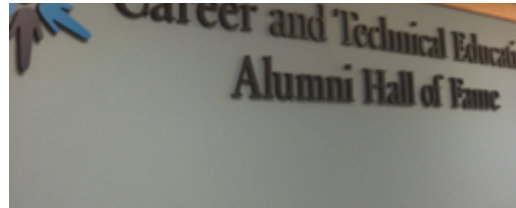


## CTE Alumni Hall of Fame

OCM BOCES is currently seeking nominations for its Career and Technical Education (CTE) Alumni Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame honors OCM BOCES

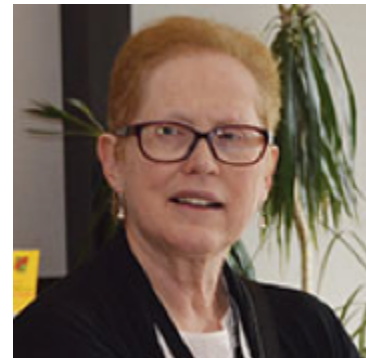


CTE program graduates who demonstrate leadership in their field. Two individuals will be selected for recognition as 2018 Hall of Fame inductees: one graduate from the Thompson Road Campus in Syracuse, and one graduate from the Cortlandville Campus in Cortland. [Nomination forms](#), available to download, are due March 31.



## YMCA Award Recipient

While many of us may have already given up on our New Year's Resolutions, one OCM BOCES employee has certainly not. **Kathy Miller**, who works in the Youth Development Department of Instructional Support Services, was recently recognized by the East Area Family YMCA as one of the top 100 users of the Y among 20,000+ members in 2017. Miller, who participates in yoga, free weights, body combat and other programs, said her exceptional commitment stems from her battle with breast cancer after an initial diagnosis in March 2015. "I know we have many cancer survivors who work at OCM BOCES, and I thought it might be encouraging to them to know there can be good quality of life even after cancer diagnosis and treatment," said Miller, who initially received a free year of membership through Laurie's Hope, a breast cancer survivor program at the Y.



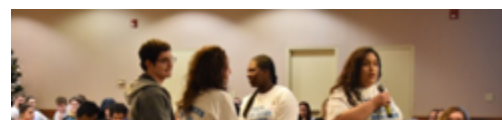
## Mark your Calendar

OCM BOCES Construction students in the Career & Technical Education program at our Thompson Road Campus will be demonstrating their skills on Saturday, March 17, at the CNY Home and Garden Show at the State Fairgrounds. Please check out the [Home and Garden Show website](#) for more information about the event.



## Rachel's Challenge

As gun violence persists in schools across the country, students at OCM BOCES are



continuing their pledge to [Rachel's Challenge](#), a program aimed at promoting a culture of kindness and compassion in schools. In January, national speakers from Rachel's Challenge conducted all-day, mid-year events in Syracuse and Cortland to keep the momentum rolling with OCM BOCES students and staff at the secondary level. The sessions were high-energy, full of bonding activities and sharing exercises to promote the goals of the program.



## Reward Schools

Congratulations to two of our component districts, Jamesville-DeWitt and Fayetteville-Manlius, for being recognized by the New York State Education Department (SED) as Reward Schools as a result of exceptional progress on their state assessments. SED identified 155

Reward Schools (including 18 charter schools) in 89 districts based on 2016-17 assessment results. Schools that have made the most progress and/or schools that have the highest achievement in the state without significant gaps in student achievement between subgroups were identified for the honor. Each will receive special recognition from SED Commissioner MaryEllen Elia.



## Rethinking BOCES

When you think of OCM BOCES, what comes to mind? Check out this short [testimonial from OCM BOCES student Alex Ladstatter of Westhill](#), who was interviewed recently by a reporter from the New York State School Boards Association for an upcoming piece in NYSSBA News. **Ladstatter** is a student in the OCM BOCES Media Marketing Communications program, which is embedded in the WCNY public broadcasting studio in downtown Syracuse.



## Go Green 2.0

The Go Green 2.0 challenge is truly a horse race. As



of December, the competition had come down to the wire, with Main Campus barely maintaining its lead with 120 points, followed by the Henry Career & Technical Education building (119 points) and the Cortland Alternative School (116). Go Green 2.0 officially ended as of Jan. 31, but the winner won't be announced until final scores are tabulated. Do you know where your building stands? Check out the newest update by going to our [Go Green web site](#).



Speaking of “going green,” OCM BOCES has been saving more green as a result our efforts. According to Facilities Director **John Wisniewski**, OCM BOCES sustainability efforts in 2016-17 resulted in an **annual savings of \$10,000** because the organization was able to reduce the size of dumpsters and the frequency of pick-ups.

Finally, here are some seasonal “Go Green” tips from John:

- For the cooler weather in winter months, open shades whenever possible (especially over the weekend or holidays) to maximize possible solar heating.
- Don't block inverts in classrooms and offices.
- Replace Ziploc bags with reusable containers.

## Can the Can

Speaking of Go Green, a big shout-out goes to the CNYRIC for starting a successful and clever "Can the Can" program, resulting in coveted bonus points for the Go Green Challenge. According to Go Green committee representative **Louis Lardear**, employees at the RIC were challenged to give up their personal trash cans/recycle bins and walk to some common trash/recycling stations. Employees who volunteer and sign up receive this sign placed outside their cubicle, which means custodians can pass over that cubicle when it comes to trash collection. **Brenda Mickol** put the idea before the committee.



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## Lights on the Lake: A Recap

A record 7,077 cars passed through the gates of Onondaga Lake Park on Friday nights this past holiday season for Lights on the Lake. Each of those 7,077 vehicles received informational materials about our Adult Education programs. In addition, more than 300,000 people saw our OCM BOCES banner and sign on their way into the annual holiday show. OCM BOCES would like to thank everyone who supported our first-time sponsorship of this community event. We would also like to thank all the OCM BOCES employees who received free tickets to Lights on the Lake by submitting a short video about why they like working at BOCES.



## LPN Graduation

Congratulations to the 39 LPN graduates from our Adult Education program who walked across the stage in January at North Syracuse Junior High School. Students participated in a traditional pinning ceremony in honor of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. Find out more about [the OCM BOCES LPN program](#) on our website.



## Empowering Students

A program aimed at empowering Hispanic/Latino high school students from across the state held two all-day sessions recently at the OCM BOCES Main Campus. The program, called the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (PRHYLI), is hosted by the Mid-State Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN). Students who qualify engage in five leadership training sessions before attending a culminating event in Albany called the Angelo Del Toro Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute. At that event, students participate in a mock Assembly session and debate legislation that affects their state and communities. In the photo, PRHYLI participants spell out "We are one" in Spanish.





## A Class for Everyone

Check out our OCM BOCES Adult Education course catalogs for Liverpool and Cortland. They offer the latest information about full- and part-time classes and literacy programs. During this long winter, you might want to check out dozens of part-time courses that could put a little zip in your step: dancing, cooking, karate, yoga, computer classes, art, essential oils and so much more. Find them online at [ocmboces.org/adulted](http://ocmboces.org/adulted).



## Employee Assistance Program

If you are experiencing a difficult time, the confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can help you with anything from job stress to aging parents to a death in the family. Please go to [ocmboces.org/eap](http://ocmboces.org/eap) for current offerings.

## Follow us!

Please follow OCM BOCES on social media and encourage others to do the same. While several OCM BOCES programs have their own social media outlets, our organization has a general [Facebook page](#), [Twitter account](#) and [YouTube channel](#) to share news and events across all departments. We are happy to share and retweet any and all of your important news. For all of our social media platforms, check out our social media hub at <http://ocmboces.org/follow>.

## How to reach us

If you would like to contribute to BOCES Bits, which is generally distributed the first or second week of each month, please contact Jackie Wiegand at [jwiegand@ocmboces.org](mailto:jwiegand@ocmboces.org) or Laurie Cook at [lcCook@ocmboces.org](mailto:lcCook@ocmboces.org). If you are looking for work from our communications department outside of BOCES Bits, you can send us an email or use [a request form](#) to get started.

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