

# BOCES BITS

March 2010 Vol. 6 Issue 3

Jessica F. Cohen, District Superintendent • Laurie Cook, Editor

## From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff,

Funding of education in New York State is at a point where it has not been in recent history. State aid provided to our schools is anticipated to be less than it is this year. Salary, health insurance, pension costs, and utilities are all increasing. As a result, our school districts are facing the choice of large local tax increases or major cuts to staffing. Stories in local newspapers have highlighted some of the cuts that are being considered. They range from the elimination of programs to cutting staff.

BOCES revenues come directly from districts buying our services. Our administrative staff have developed program budgets that reflect the understanding that costs must be controlled. However, given the fiscal pressures that our districts are facing, I anticipate that there will be reductions in some of our programs. We will be working to minimize

the impact on our staff as this process continues.

I was reminded of the impact that the economy has on BOCES at a recent Adult Education graduation. During a time of high unemployment and job loss, enrollment in our adult education programs increases significantly. Looking at the overflowing audience supporting the many graduates, it was apparent that BOCES is an integral part of helping people change and improve their lives. Many congratulations go to all of the graduates, their teachers, and the entire adult education staff.

One of my colleagues reminded me that it is much easier to lead in a time of growth than in a time of uncertainty. With the hard work of our staff, our districts, and our Board of Education, we will be able to transform the uncertainty into effective, high quality programs and services.

*Jessica*

### OCM BOCES Proposed 2010-2011 School Year Budget

Initial OCM BOCES 2010-2011 Programs & Services	Proposed Budget 2010-2011 Proposed
Career & Technical Education	\$9,162,608
Instruction of the Handicapped	20,820,882
Itinerant Services	3,626,862
General Instruction	7,773,535
Instructional Support	3,413,244
Other Services	4,859,512
Regional Information Center	35,611,197
Total Programs	\$85,267,840
Administrative & Rental (Includes Capital)	\$7,415,461
<b>Total General Fund Budget</b>	<b>\$92,683,301</b>

#### Important Budget Dates

- April 7 - Annual Meeting @ Henry Campus in Syracuse
- April 16 - Final Request & Contract for Services Due
- April 26 - Annual Election & Administrative Budget Vote
- June 30 - Final 2010-2011 Budgets Distributed

### Pharmacist Administered Vaccines

While law now provides for pharmacists to be able to administer certain vaccines, Excellus BlueCross BlueShield will only provide coverage for identified vaccines when administered by a nurse or physician. However, Excellus has made an exception so that the administration of the **H1N1 vaccine** by a pharmacist will be covered.

### OCM BOCES Board Members

- Michael J. Brady
- Wayne Brownson, *Vice President*
- Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton
- Mark W. Gilbert
- Mary Ann Haley
- Mike Murphy
- Lisa O'Reilly
- David Paczkowski
- Sandra Rausa
- Joan Reeves
- Ann Wright, *President*

## BOCES Students Compete at ProStart State Competition in Albany



On February 4 and 5, 2010 three teams from OCM BOCES competed in the 6<sup>th</sup> annual New York State Restaurant Association/ProStart culinary competition at the Crown Plaza in Albany. There were two groups of competitors – Restaurant Management and Culinary Arts. The McEvoy campus sent a team of four students: Emily Williams, Fred Thomas, Eric Randazzo and Tess Fahey, led by their instructor, Melissa Adams. The Henry campus sent two teams, one for Restaurant Management and one for Culinary. The Restaurant Management team was composed of Meghan Abold, Bridgette Mulvey, Clarissa Robinson, Juliane Alys Gibbs and Melissa Curtis and led by their instructor, Marilyn Davis. The Culinary Arts team was made up of Nicole Lees, Brandon Horner, Melissa Hayes, Josh Robinson and Alexis Shelton and led by their instructor Robert Canorro.

The Restaurant Management team did a presentation to a group of chefs on the opening of a new restaurant that included layout, costs, and menus. The Culinary Arts competition is based on cooking skills, including sanitary operations, food preparation, knife skills, menu development, and presentation.

Though none of our teams placed in the top four, they did an excellent job, the food looked and smelled great and the presentation material was very professional. The ProStart Competition is a great event that allows our students and staff to meet with others from around the State and compare what they achieve to others. Congratulations to one and all for an outstanding job representing OCM BOCES!



## Herbie Will Ride Again...Thanks to OCM BOCES Automotive Students

In the fall of 2009, a 1969 Volkswagen Beetle was brought to OCM BOCES Automotive Technology and Automotive Collision classrooms for a tune-up and makeover. The car, formerly owned by Jeff and Myrne Markley of Cazenovia, had been donated to Habitat for Humanity and the organization came to BOCES with the car in hopes that our students would be able to get the car running again and restore it to its former glory. Habitat for Humanity fondly named the vehicle "Habitat Herbie" and hopes that its sale will help raise money and awareness for a home building project currently underway in Chittenango.

The car has not been used since 1995 so in order to get the Volkswagen back on the road, students in Sam Azria's Automotive Technology class did a lot of work on Herbie. Some of that work included installing new brakes and a battery, cleaning the engine's ignition points, fixing a small gas leak and changing the wheel cylinders. The car will now go to Matt McGivney's Automotive Collision class for bodywork. Officials at Habitat for Humanity hope to be able to show the restored vehicle at Chittenango's Oz-Stravaganza parade in June.



# 185 Students Graduate From Adult Education Programs

As the economy continues into recession, adult training programs at OCM BOCES are seeing record numbers of students. On Tuesday, February 23, 2010 OCM BOCES graduated 185 students, one of the largest adult training classes ever. Prior to the economy's downturn, it was common for around approximately 135 students to complete training programs each February.

During February's celebration at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Liverpool, OCM BOCES helped celebrate the accomplishments of students in the following training programs: CAD Drafting and Design, Central Service Technician, Construction Technology, Cosmetology, Dental Assisting, Electrical Maintenance Technician, HVAC/R, Medical Assisting, Office Technology, Pharmacy Technician, Web Design and Welder-Fitter. The celebration was very well attended by students and their families and friends who came out to recognize their achievements.



*Medical Assisting Program Graduates (left) Kim Zarnowski and Chris Bartoszek. Kim has accepted a position NY Medical Research and Chris is currently looking for a job in her new field.*



*Brandon Pena, an attendee of the February 23 Adult Education Graduation, picks up two bouquets of flowers for graduates Sarah Mann and Katie Breeze. Both women completed the Dental Assisting program.*

## Think EAP for Wellness Information

This spring, try to focus on the following issues each month: March is "Healthy Relationships" month, April is "Caring for Aging Parents" month, May is "National Employee Health and Fitness" month and June is "Prostate Cancer Awareness" month. For information on these, and a variety of other wellness topics, link to EAP's website at <http://www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=623>.

## Unique Collaboration With Tully



On February 9<sup>th</sup>, students from Tully Central School District who are learning American Sign Language via distance learning, visited OCM BOCES Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at Solvay. The trip provided an opportunity for a rich cultural and language exchange between the Tully students and our Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. Tully Superintendent Kraig Pritts wrote a letter to OCM BOCES staff after the visit, thanking them for the opportunity and referring to the trip as "one of the most beneficial field experiences" he had ever seen in his years in education. Many thanks to everyone involved in arranging the visit!

## CONGRATULATIONS! KUDOS! GREAT JOB! WELL DONE! BRAVO!

If you know of an OCM BOCES student or employee that has done a great job on a project or if you know someone that should be recognized for an achievement they've made, please let us know about it! We'd like to get the word out about the great things that are going on in our organization. Send your information to Laurie Cook at lcook@ocmboces or call at 431-8597.



Congratulations to OCM BOCES Science Center Coordinator Dana Corcoran and her husband, on the February 2, 2010 birth of their son John Clayton Corcoran!

## Preparation Pays for Provisional Business Office Employees

Congratulations to Mary Weidman, Lorraine Marcille and Alicia Wagner, three (formerly provisional) business office employees, who began working at OCM BOCES in the Civil Service title of Account Clerk II this past July and who all now have been appointed probationary in the title. Prior to the Account Clerk II civil service exam this past October, business office employees Dennis Hill and Michelle Cretaro put together a civil service exam preparation program for the three ladies in order to help them take and score well on the test. Dennis and Michelle spent a great deal of time developing the training materials and teaching the technical content and test-taking strategies. Congratulations to Mary, Lorraine and Alicia, who have all done excellent jobs for BOCES and who worked incredibly hard studying and preparing for their civil service examination. Many thanks to Michelle and Dennis for their part in helping the ladies prepare for the civil service exam!

## OCM BOCES CTE Students Participate in Taste of Romance

Congratulations to students from our Pastry Arts program and the *Cause for Paws* program at the Career Academy who were recently invited to participate in the second annual Taste of Romance held at the Hotel Syracuse, sponsored by Clear Channel Communications. The invitation came after a CTE Advisory Council member viewed desserts prepared by our Pastry Arts students for an advisory council meeting. Also at that meeting, two Career Academy students made a presentation about the business they developed to raise money for the SPCA, which was impressive enough to also garner an invitation. Congratulations to all the students who participated!

## BETAC Prepares Students for Albany



Each year the New York State Assembly's Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force sponsors a *Somos Uno* conference providing a forum for Hispanic and interested individuals to share their concerns on Hispanic issues and suggest legislative remedies and programs to address these concerns. In 1990, the first Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (PRHYLI) was sponsored in conjunction with the *Somos Uno* conference. The 2010 conference is taking place in Albany from April 17-19.

Each year, OCM BOCES Bilingual Education Technical Assistance Center (BETAC) staff work with designated local 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade Hispanic students to prepare them for this youth leadership conference. The Syracuse youth delegates and their alternates this year are from the following high schools: Corcoran, Fowler, G. Ray Bodley, Henninger, Ithaca, Jamesville-DeWitt, Liverpool, Nottingham, Marcellus and OCM BOCES.

By the time of the conference in April, the students will have gone through four trainings with BETAC to prepare them for the Albany sessions. The group has already completed three of those trainings, including an introductory session, team-building exercises and training by a legislative assistant to Assemblyman Magnarelli. Their final training session will take place March 26<sup>th</sup> at Onondaga Community College. Ten student delegates will then travel to Albany to participate in the conference and a mock assembly in the State Assembly Chamber.