

October 2019

# BOCES BITS

## To All OCM BOCES Staff:

With the school year in full swing, it seems like all of us have hit the ground running with open houses, staff workshops, professional development offerings, and all the important work we do — no matter what department is involved — that allows us to provide high-quality programs and services for our districts. I am grateful to all of you for ensuring a smooth start to the school year and for continuing to work hard as we head into these busy weeks leading up to the holidays. (Yes, I said it: *"The holidays."*)



### School Board Recognition Week is Oct. 21-25

October cannot go by without acknowledging a very special week set aside to honor the dedicated volunteers who serve on public school boards across the state. Please join me in celebrating School Board Recognition Week Oct. 21-25. I am especially grateful for our own 11-member Board of Education here at OCM BOCES. These Board members sacrifice a great deal of their personal time so they can support our organization and our mission. Please go to our website to find the [full list of our dedicated Board members](#).



### Crown Road Referendum

I hope all of you had a chance to read my email about our upcoming referendum to purchase the Crown Road Campus. Purchasing this site offers a wonderful opportunity for OCM BOCES to keep a well-designed and well-maintained home for many of our Special Education and Innovative Education students. It also makes sense from a financial perspective. OCM BOCES can end its 32-year lease at the site, take advantage of a sound investment opportunity, and offer long-term savings for our component districts.

As I said in the all-staff email, please mark your calendars for Tuesday, Nov. 19, the date of the public vote. We will be offering four voting locations: Crown Road, Main Campus, Thompson Road (Henry), and Cortlandville (McEvoy). The voting will take place between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. You are eligible to vote if you are at least 18 years old and have lived in one of our 23 component districts for at least 30 days.

### Staff Information Meetings - Crown Road

If you would like to find out more information about the referendum, we will also be hosting in-house presentations at many of our campuses for OCM BOCES staff.

The dates and times are:

- Friday, Oct. 18  
Main Campus, Seneca Large  
3 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 21  
Thompson Road, Large Group Instruction Room  
2:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct 29  
Crown Road, Room 103  
2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 6  
Cortlandville Campus, Auditorium  
2:30 p.m.

In the meantime, you can also check our [dedicated web page for referendum information, updates and materials](#).

Until next time, I hope you all get a chance to enjoy these cooler days of fall and the wonderful, golden colors that come with it.

*Sincerely,*



Colleen Viggiano  
Deputy Superintendent, OCM BOCES

## "Cyber Summit" draws large crowd of district representatives to Main Campus

In an era when ransomware, data breaches, and other cybersecurity threats are becoming increasingly common for educators in New York State and around the world, the Central New York Regional Information Center (CNYRIC) at OCM BOCES hosted a jam-packed Cyber Security Summit on Sept. 26 at the OCM BOCES Main Campus. The event drew more than 100 school



superintendents, technology directors, and business officials. The goal of the summit was to share information about the prevalence and impact of cybercrimes, as well as the steps districts can take to respond to this growing threat. In the photo, CNYRIC Director **Pam Mazzaferro** addresses the crowd.

# LETRS training focuses on developing stronger readers and writers

OCM BOCES recently hosted 160 teachers and instructional leaders, representing over a dozen school districts, for the first two days of training called Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS). These workshops focused on how language, reading, and writing are related to one another and other critical elements most effective in improving reading outcomes overall.



Over the course of the next two months, teachers will focus on what research tells us about how the brain learns to read, and how to translate that research into effective classroom practice that will help students become stronger readers and writers.

## Get the word out! Teaching assistants and job coaches needed at OCM BOCES

Why become a teaching assistant? Or a job coach? The reasons are many: authentic teaching experiences, convenient schedule, great benefits, professional development opportunities and so much more. If you know anyone who is interested, please tell them about our **free** upcoming job fairs at OCM BOCES:

- Thursday, Oct. 17  
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Cortlandville Campus, 1710 NYS Rt. 13, Cortland, NY 13045
- Friday, Oct. 18  
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Main Campus, 110 Elwood Davis Road, Liverpool, NY 13088

To register for the job fair, applicants should call 315-433-2638. [Find the full job fair flyer here.](#)

## What inspires someone to teach English to speakers of other languages?

That was the question **Tanya Rosado-Barringer** addressed after she was selected as the October “Member of the Month” for the New York State Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). Tanya is the coordinator of the Mid-State Regional Education Bilingual Network (RBERN), which is housed at OCM BOCES under Instructional Support Services. Tanya was chosen for the honor because of her outstanding commitment and service to the field. What inspired her? [Go to this YouTube video to find out.](#)



## Culture Counts ... Wellness Counts, even in the staff lounge

The Student Services division of OCM BOCES has a theme this year that everyone can take to heart: **Culture Counts ... Wellness Counts**. In September, a “Staff Lounge Grand Opening” was held at the Cortlandville Campus to highlight recent renovations that promote wellness. The renovations included updated flooring and furniture to create a peaceful, comfortable space for staff to take breaks and engage in mindful self-care. At the grand opening, staff members enjoyed a healthy start to the day with yogurt parfaits, fruit, and a raffle to win a self-care themed basket. Congratulations to **Jenn Kilpatrick**, a social worker, who won the basket.

Read more about this year’s themes in the [October edition of Culture Counts](#). If you missed the [September newsletter](#), you can find it here.



## Construction students get a behind-the-scenes look at Parade of Homes



Construction students from our Thompson Road and Cortlandville campuses received a "contractor view" of the 2019 Parade of Homes in Clay. While there, they inspected the latest construction techniques, materials, and trends incorporated into the parade's new development, dubbed the "Wildflower" neighborhood. Construction company executives such as Joe Grosso of JMG Custom Homes shared details of current employment opportunities and how young people seeking to enter the home-building business can best prepare for that future.



In the photo, students **David Hildreth** and **Dylan Williams**, both of Baldwinsville, examine a roof truss feature for one of the homes. The technique was similar to one they practiced on a house they are building in instructor **Mike Cavender's** construction class at the Thompson Road Campus.

## Veteran Dental Assisting instructor returns to Adult Education

This fall, Adult Education welcomed a "new" instructor to its Dental Assisting program: **Nancy Chappell**. Nancy is actually a veteran to the program, having worked as the instructor at OCM BOCES for 14 years, from 2001 to 2015. She returned this fall after working for a few years as a dental sales representative and dental office manager in the area. Nancy says she is excited to be back, especially after coping with a recent tragedy that took the life of her 37-year-old son, Stephen Gudknecht. Stephen was killed during last



year's Sept. 15 shooting at the Chili's in DeWitt. "I am enjoying all my co-workers as well as my students," Nancy said. Her favorite part about her job, she added, "is making the students smile and laugh while learning at the same time." [Read more about Nancy's story on our website.](#)

## BOCES wins professional New York School Public Relations awards

Communications professionals at OCM BOCES and the Central New York Regional Information Center had an excellent showing this year in an annual contest sponsored by the New York School Public Relations Association (NYSPRA). Top-level "excellence" awards were given to the OCM BOCES marketing team at Main Campus and the CNYRIC eCommunications team. Overall, the teams earned recognition in the following categories:

### OCM BOCES Marketing Team:

- Annual Report - [OCM BOCES Annual Report: Celebrating 70 Years](#)
- Excellence in Writing - ["Student-directed IEPs - a trend to catch?"](#)
- Overall Graphics and Design - "OCM CAT" Logo Rebrands with Popular Literary Genres
- Poster - OCM BOCES Students Embrace a "Chain Reaction" for Kindness with School Poster

### CNYRIC eCommunications Team:

- Community Newsletter - [SpringBoard](#) (Union Springs Central School District)
- Excellence in Writing - ["Two Auburn teachers accepted into NYS Master Teacher Program"](#) (Auburn Enlarged City School District)
- Photograph - "Students at Veterans' Day Assembly" (Auburn Enlarged City School District)
- Social Media - [CNY Scholastic Art Awards](#) Social Media Campaign (Union Springs Central School District)
- Special Purpose Publication - ["Beyond the Buzz: Why Some Teachers Still Aren't Using Technology."](#)
- Website - [Syracuse City School District](#)

## Have you done your required training yet? Don't forget!

If you have not already done so, please complete these required online trainings:

- [Right-to-Know \(RTK\)/Bloodborne Pathogens \(BBP\)](#)
- [Orientation Training for Emergency Response Procedures](#)
- [Sexual Harassment Prevention Training](#)

Please contact your supervisor if you have any questions or concerns.



## Segregation, poverty, housing discrimination ... Students at Innovation Tech dive into serious topics

High school students at Innovation Tech jumped into serious and complicated topics to kick off the school year. Working with **Sally Santangelo**, executive director of CNY Fair Housing, as well as leaders of other non-profit organizations, students gained multiple perspectives on the history of racial segregation and housing discrimination in Central New York. Later, they pitched proposals for a variety of student-led projects aimed at increasing awareness, promoting diversity and helping those in need. In the photo, students gather at the Everson Museum of Art to hear from a panel of four community leaders about poverty and discrimination in Syracuse. [Read more about the kickoff on our website.](#)



## Important leadership changes take shape at the CNYRIC

The CNYRIC has implemented some exciting changes in an ongoing effort to better support our education and community partners. At the start of the school year, **Virginia "Ginny" Jacob** took on the role of Director of Finance for the CNYRIC. **Susan "Sue" Ackley** was named Project Manager for Financial Services, taking over the role from Ginny Jacob. In this role, Sue is responsible for managing the support of 46 school districts that utilize three financial management software systems. Congratulations to Ginny and Sue!

# Like us on Facebook! Follow us on Twitter! Check us out on YouTube!

While several OCM BOCES programs have their own social media outlets, our organization now has a general Facebook page, Twitter account and YouTube channel that we can use to share news and events across all departments. We are happy to share and retweet any and all of your important news! **PLEASE like us** on [Facebook](#) and **follow us** on [Twitter](#) (@ocmboces). Check out our [YouTube Channel](#) as well.

## Non-Discrimination Policy

The OCM BOCES non-discrimination policy is on our website. Please [click here](#) to view it in full.

## Need help? Don't forget about our Employee Assistance Program

Don't forget about our confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which can help you with anything from job stress to aging parents to a death in the family. Go to [ocmboces.org/eap](http://ocmboces.org/eap) for more.

*If you would like to contribute to the BOCES bits, which is generally distributed once each month, please contact Jackie Wiegand at [jwiegand@ocmboces.org](mailto:jwiegand@ocmboces.org) or Katie Jensen at [kjensen@ocmboces.org](mailto:kjensen@ocmboces.org).*

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