

December 2018

BOCES BITS



Message from the Superintendent



Earlier this week, I sent out warm holiday wishes to all of you at OCM BOCES and our partners in component districts. Here it is again, in case you did not see it:

The holiday season is always a time for celebration and reflection. As we wrap up 2018 and look forward to the excitement and promise of another new year, I am so proud to celebrate the collective accomplishments of our OCM BOCES staff and everyone who supports our organization: our component districts, community organizations, businesses, and higher education institutions.



I am also pleased to reflect on how fortunate I am, as a district superintendent, for your dedication, encouragement and belief in our organization. The ultimate goal of our partnerships – a high-quality education for all students, no matter what their age, abilities or backgrounds – is well worth the effort. This holiday message comes with a special thank you to all OCM BOCES staff, school administrators, board members, teachers, staff, parents, students, and

agency and business partners who work so hard, in so many varied roles, to support this mission. I look forward to serving you again in 2019.

Until then, may all of you and your loved ones enjoy a safe, warm and wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,



Jody Manning, Ed.D.
District Superintendent, OCM BOCES

Coming in 2019! New Vision Engineering Professions at Lockheed Martin

OCM BOCES is pleased to announce a new and exciting partnership with one of our most reputable local employers, Lockheed Martin.



Beginning in the fall of 2019, the New Vision Engineering Professions Program will serve as a one-of-a-kind immersion program for high school seniors, one that puts them side-by-side with Lockheed professionals at the Electronics Park campus in Salina. Students will work with Lockheed engineers on projects in aerospace, defense, security and advanced technologies. In addition to benefitting from an invaluable experiential learning opportunity, students across the region will be able to earn college credits through Onondaga Community College (OCC). We are very excited to offer this amazing opportunity with Lockheed Martin!

Rachel's Challenge in full swing during the holiday season

Since the kickoff of Rachel's Challenge this fall, students and staff have been working hard to instill a culture of kindness and compassion in schools through *Friends of Rachel* (FOR) clubs. The holiday season brought plenty of opportunities for putting compassion into action.

Students at Crossroads and Innovation Tech, for example, volunteered Dec. 18 at OnCenter to help the Salvation Army pack and staple hundreds of bags of gifts for its annual holiday "Distribution Day" for those in need. About 30 students attended. Other activities included Salvation Army bell-ringing, Vineyard Church food pantry work, Letters to Santa for the Make-a-Wish Foundation, a "Thankfulness Tree" and "Caught Red-Handed" campaign at Cortland Alternative School, and the setup of many "Rachel's Closets" – closets full of free clothing for students in many of our schools. In addition, a BOCES-wide theme in Student Services, "Culture Counts," has resulted in a [monthly in-house newsletter](#) for staff.



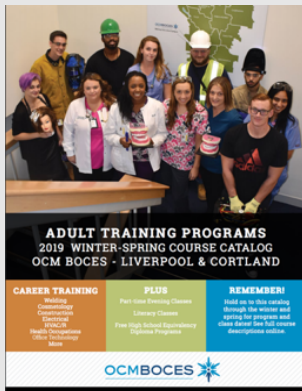
Syracuse firefighter offers fire-extinguisher instruction

Liverpool junior **Austin Souva**, a first-year Career & Technical Education student in **Duane Debejian's** Welding Technology class at our Thompson Road Campus, recently received fire-extinguisher instruction from Randy Allen of the Syracuse Fire Department. Souva was one of several CTE welders selected to demonstrate proper extinguisher use for his classmates. Firefighter



Allen's daughter, **Olivia**, is a Baldwinsville student and CTE welder in the class.

Give the perfect gift – and get a great discount – for a fun class at OCM BOCES



Know someone who likes to cook? Dance? Or maybe they want to learn about computers, welding, sewing, yoga or managing money? We have dozens of part-time classes to suit any interest. For a limited time, gift certificates will be available for continuing education courses at OCM BOCES **at a discounted price**. Get a \$50 gift certificate for \$45 or a \$100 gift certificate for \$90. This promotion ends on January 31, 2019. Just stop by our Main Campus at [110 Elwood Davis](#)

[Road](#) in Liverpool between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. For a full list and detailed descriptions of our current part-time offerings, please go to [our current course catalog](#).

Growing popularity of student-led IEPs highlighted in *On Board*

Check out [this article in *On Board*](#), the monthly publication of the New York State School Boards Association, about the recent growth in Student-Led Individual Education Programs (IEPs). This article focuses on a program facilitated by two transition specialists – **Patricia Ordway-Bennett** and **Colleen Crisell** – in the Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Center (RSE TASC) at OCM BOCES. The article highlights **Jonathan Bond** of Baldwinsville, a high school senior who participated in his IEP and later advocated for himself before beginning his freshman year at Le Moyne College.

Culinary students prepare delectable feast for Board of Education party

Culinary students at our Thompson Road Campus wowed OCM BOCES Board of Education members and the administrative leadership team on Dec. 13 with fabulous entrees, desserts and the

most courteous service imaginable for an annual holiday reception. The event showed why OCM BOCES has been [#CTEproud](#) for 70 years!



Students at Seven Valleys impress large crowd at Open House

Why choose Seven Valleys? Students at [Seven Valleys New Tech Academy](#) in Cortland shared their reasons with confidence, passion and eloquence to a packed room of potential students, parents and other guests during an Open House held Nov. 28. New and veteran students shared their love of the New Tech school and how they have thrived in an environment that embraces Project Based Learning.



Taking to the skies



Thank you to the students at our Cortlandville Campus who formed a “70” in the grass this past fall in honor of our 70th anniversary at OCM BOCES. This shot was taken by a drone supplied by our OCM BOCES School Library System (SLS) in Instructional Support Services. We are excited to continue our 70th celebration in 2019. Don’t forget to use **#ocm70** if you share anything related to our anniversary or our history on social media.

Bergman honored for work in educational media & technology



Speaking of our School Library System, SLS Coordinator Doreen Bergman was recently honored by the National Association of Media Technology Centers with the prestigious Herb Braselman Award at a conference in Colorado Springs. The Herb Braselman Award recognizes exemplary service and leadership for regional media centers and for outstanding contributions

to the field of educational media and technology. ISS Assistant Superintendent Chris DiFulivo said the award was well-deserved because Doreen is highly respected throughout New York State and a true leader in advocating for teacher-librarians and supporting their critical role in student learning. Doreen is in her fifth year as SLS coordinator at OCM BOCES, a role she also served for one year at Jefferson-Lewis BOCES. She is currently serving as the coordinator for CiTi BOCES as well. At the conference in Colorado, sponsored by the Association of Educational Service Agencies, Bergman presented on the topic, “How Student Learning Standards are Materialized through MakerEd: The Role of Partnerships.”

Educators play **The Brain Architecture Game** to learn effects of childhood stress

As the brain develops in the early stages of life, how do experiences and other influences promote positive growth? What factors derail it? Educators learned first-hand by participating in “The Brain Architecture Game” during a Mental Health & Wellness Meeting last month at OCM BOCES. Educators used pipe cleaners, straws and weights to build “brains” affected by positive and negative experiences and other kinds of stress. The goal of the three-part leadership series, which falls under the direction of Innovative Teaching & Learning in Instructional Support Services, is to build collegiality and collaboration among districts as they develop high-quality K-12 instruction to support mental health and wellness. New York State became the first in the nation last summer to require schools to teach mental health to elementary and secondary students as an important aspect of their overall health.



Innovation Tech students share a whirlwind of activity on social media

If you are not following Innovation Tech on their Facebook page, you should be! If you were, you would see all the amazing things these high school students have been doing over the past few months:



volunteering at the Samaritan Center; ringing the bell for the Salvation Army; visiting companies like Cryomech; creating a science-based workout routine (and consulting with Syracuse University strength and conditioning coaches); visiting Delaware Primary in Syracuse to speak with bilingual students; forming their own student government from the ground up; and more! Like them today on Facebook –

[facebook.com/4innovationtech/](https://www.facebook.com/4innovationtech/)

Non-Discrimination Policy

The [OCM BOCES non-discrimination policy](#) has been updated and added to our web site.

Get social with OCM BOCES

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. **This year, we have a special hashtag to celebrate our 70th anniversary: #ocm70. Feel free to use this hashtag if it reflects on our OCM BOCES pride and history.**

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 for more.

If you would like to contribute to the BOCES bits, which is generally distributed the first week of each month, please contact Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@ocmboces.org.

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