

February 2019

# BOCES BITS



## Message from the Superintendent



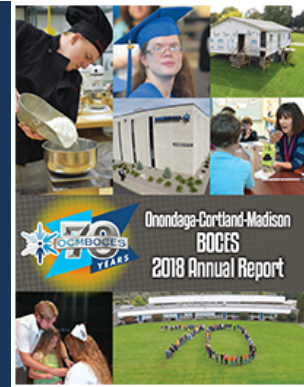
Despite the occasional snow day, school is in full swing and so many exciting things are happening at OCM BOCES. As you read this edition of *BOCES Bits*, I hope you will take pride in all of the accomplishments of our students and staff. The stories you read here are *just a fraction* of all we achieve as an organization.

As you may already know, my duties as a District Superintendent extend beyond OCM BOCES. In my role as a state employee, I represent our component districts to the New York State Education Department and am expected to assist them in times of need. In that capacity, I recently served two weeks as acting superintendent for the West Genesee Central School District. I was honored to serve, but I am also relieved to pass the baton to a long-term interim superintendent, retired Chittenango Superintendent Michael Schiedo. He will take the helm while the district chooses a new superintendent. I am writing this because I could not have done this work without your help and support. Because I have such a great team at OCM BOCES, I was able to wear another “hat” for one of our districts. Thank you.

### Annual Report Online

Finally, I hope you will take a look at our [2018 OCM BOCES Annual](#)

[Report](#), which offers many highlights of the year and, again, so much to celebrate. As our 70th anniversary continues, it is so exciting to see what we have accomplished and endured across **seven decades** (just think of it!) and how our model of shared services has truly stood the test of time.



Naturally, I am also excited to look ahead as we dive into 2019. We recently finished [renovating and expanding our welding lab in Cortlandville](#), where students are incredibly excited about taking on bigger and better projects, many for the community (see below). In Syracuse, we are launching a [New Vision Engineering Professions program](#) with Lockheed Martin, one of Central New York's premier employers. In this new, business-embedded program, students will have a wonderful, one-of-a-kind opportunity to work side-by-side with engineering professionals in Lockheed's facility off Electronics Parkway.

Until next time, I hope all of you stay safe, warm and healthy during these winter months.

*Sincerely,*

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

## **Welding lab renovation offers more space, more opportunities for students**

A large crowd of visitors joined students and staff Feb. 5 for a ceremonial ribbon cutting and open house at our newly renovated welding lab at the Cortlandville Campus. [Check out this great story in The Cortland Standard.](#)



The lab grew from 14 to 21 booths and now offers state-of-the-art equipment and more than twice the space as before, allowing students to work on bigger projects in a safer, more flexible environment. Best of all, students learned from the renovation: They took part in the demolition, learned from contractors about piping techniques and career possibilities, and created much of the equipment that complements the project: storage shelves, a scrap bin, booth numbers and more. They even welded the posts to hold the ribbon for the ribbon cutting. At the Open House, students demonstrated their skills and impressed their guests, which included numerous school and industrial leaders. In the photo, OCM BOCES Board President **Ann Wright**, McGraw senior **Sam Parks** and welding instructor **Kevin Auyer** cut the ribbon.

(We are [#CTEProud](#) at OCM BOCES! Search for the hashtag [#CTEMonth](#) on social media to find out more about our CTE students and other CTE students across the state during the month of February.)

## New Lockheed Martin engineering program draws interested students to Open House

Representatives from Lockheed Martin joined OCM BOCES for an Open House in January about an exciting new program for high school seniors: New Vision Engineering Professions. The program will allow about 20 seniors from our component districts to work side-by-side with engineering professionals next fall at the Lockheed Martin facility off Electronics Parkway. In the photo, Lockheed Hardware Engineering Senior Manager **Christofer Petrella** (at right), a member of the company's Advanced Technical Leadership team, talks to a family about the benefits of the program. Another Open House to learn about the program will be available from **6 to 7 p.m. March 5 at our Thompson Road Campus**.



## Longtime OCM BOCES District Superintendent Irvin Irv Henry passes away

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Irvin “Irv” E. Henry, 94, who passed away Feb. 4 at the Upstate University Hospital Campus. Henry served as district superintendent of Tompkins-Seneca BOCES before taking on the same role as district superintendent of OCM BOCES for many years. He retired in 1984. As many of you may know, the “Henry” Career & Technical Education building at our Thompson Road Campus is named after Irv Henry because of his longtime dedication and commitment to the students and staff of OCM BOCES. [Read his full obituary.](#)



## "Imagine a world in which all children can see themselves in the pages of a book."

That quote is espoused by Ellen Oh, an author many teacher-librarians describe as a “rock star.” Oh visited OCM BOCES recently to talk about the importance of culturally diverse books. She is the founder of [We Need Diverse Books](#) and author of the Prophecy trilogy (*Prophecy*, *Warrior*, and *King*) for young adults. *Spirit Hunters* is her fourth book and her first for middle-grade readers. It is the first in a duology that follows 12-year-old Harper Raine as she adjusts to a new city and realizes something supernatural and dangerous is afoot.



OCM BOCES School Library System Coordinator **Doreen Bergman** said 56 educators attended Oh’s presentation last month and loved it. “It is incredibly important that our library and classroom collections celebrate the diversity of our communities as well as give our students



an opportunity to ‘read their world’ and interact with characters, people and events in the pages of books,” Bergman said.

## Remembering Crystal R. Smith with an honor for future LPNs

LPN graduate **Adelaide Runyan** received the first-ever Crystal R. Smith Award last month in memory of Ruth and Bob Anderson’s daughter, Crystal Smith, MSN, RN, who served as the Health Occupation Coordinator at OCM BOCES in Liverpool from March 2015 to August 2018. Crystal passed away in August after a 1 ½-year battle with breast cancer. Runyan received the award because she exemplifies many of the characteristics of Crystal.



Adult Education Director **Mari Ukleya** told graduates and their loved ones that Crystal “was a true educator and mentor to students and staff alike. She gave the program great leadership. Crystal was an individual who believed ethics and integrity were paramount. Crystal believed in our students and in their potential, even when students themselves did not believe.”

## Welding student earns Eagle Scout rank

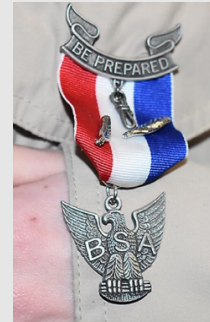
In the world of Boy Scouts, the highest possible rank is Eagle Scout. In fact, only four percent of all Boy Scouts earn the honor, according to the Boy Scouts of America website. One of our students, **Joshua Dashnaw**, achieved that designation recently after managing a 20-person crew to enhance a train exhibit last summer at the New York State Fair. Working 12-hour days in the month leading up the Fair, Dashnaw and



his team built staircases to reach a caboose and a bridge between train cars so Fair-goers could avoid walking on the tracks.

In a recent interview, Dashnaw said it took eight years of work and growth through Boy Scouts to achieve Eagle Scout. His love of the State Fair project, which involved welding, led him to the welding program at OCM BOCES for his senior year. He plans to pursue welding as a career through our Adult Education programs. No matter what his future holds, Boy Scouts will be part of it.

Dashnaw is an assistant scoutmaster for Troop 210 in Kirkville, which has 24 members. His uniform sports 56 merit badges, a welding badge included. “It feels great,” he said of his Eagle Scout honor, “because it’s been a long journey.”



## Pipeline to Leadership: New partnership focuses on developing strong school leaders

A new program aimed at recruiting teachers and preparing them to become top-quality school administrators will kick off next fall as the result of a partnership between OCM BOCES, 22 Central New York school districts and five higher education institutions in New York State.

The **Aspiring Leader Institute** will address a growing need for effective administrators by building a pipeline of candidates who are “motivated, trained, mentored and dedicated to providing excellent leadership in our schools, one of the essential ingredients for student success,” OCM BOCES District Superintendent Jody Manning said.

The program was developed over the past several months under the direction of District Leaders, Superintendents, and OCM BOCES Educational Programs Coordinator **Pam Dowse**, who works for Instructional Support Services. [Read the full article on our website.](#)



## Students partner with Rotary to help their community

Congratulations to 27 students from Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland who were inducted Jan. 14 into the Rotary Interact Club, a community service organization that will offer opportunities for students to do meaningful volunteer work. Through the Interact Club (“Interact” is short for



International Action), students have already volunteered at the pancake breakfast on Election Day at the Cortland Elks Club and helped with a river cleanup and food drive. Seven Valleys Spanish Facilitator **Maria Claudia Gimma** initiated the partnership through the Cortland Breakfast Rotary because, as a 12-year-old girl who had immigrated here from Columbia, the organization helped pay for her education. In the photo (left to right) are students who participated in the Election Day pancake breakfast: **Maddison Tobin** (Cortland), **Timothy Geiger** (Homer), **Brennan McMahon** (Onondaga Central), **Megan Lawrence** (Marathon), **Daniel Dohanich** (Marathon), **Megan Porter** (Cortland), and Seven Valleys facilitator **Maria Claudia Gimma**, the club advisor.

## **BOCES artists win prestigious Scholastic Art awards**

Three students from **Tanya Komar’s** graphics classes in Cortland received honors in the 2019 Central New York Scholastic Art Awards. This year’s competition was fierce, with more than 5,000 pieces submitted by students throughout the region.

For OCM BOCES, these winning artists each captured an Honorable Mention award: **Alexander Wiers**, a Tully senior, who won in the Design category for a piece called “Venari Daemonium Trifold”; **Branden Riley**, a senior from Homer, who won in the Digital Art category for a piece called “Calico Spirit”; and **Halie Colledge**, a junior from Marathon, who also won in the Digital Art category for a piece called “Let Your Spirit Run Wild.” You can still check out the winning pieces, which are on display through March 1 at the Whitney Applied Technology Center at Onondaga Community College.



## Captivating photo reveals amazing talent of BOCES employee

Administrative Assistant Terri Redhead of the Central New York Regional Information Center has an amazing talent for photography, especially for wild animals. Many of her photos have adorned the desk and walls in her office. Others appear in publications like the



*Best of Upstate New York Winter Guide* for 2018-2019, which showed her captivating image of two snow leopards in [a feature about winter activities at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park in Syracuse](#). In another connection to the zoo, Redhead's daughter, Ashley, once picked the winning name for the first baby Humboldt penguin born there. Ashley suggested "Marisol," a combination of Spanish words that translates to "sunny sea." Redhead says her interest in wildlife photography began about 10 years ago, when she first started volunteering for the zoo. "It's my Zen," she says.

## 3D printing and robot design: Seven Valleys students connect with Incodema

Students taking Regents Physics at Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland recently visited Incodema 3D in Freeville, N.Y., to learn about their metal manufacturing process. Science Facilitator Jake Melynk said students toured the factory, where engineers 3D-print their own proprietary nickel-based alloy to design parts for aeronautics, engines, and Department of Defense projects. Sound impressive? Students are learning about Newton's Laws and Forces and will be using a CAD-based program similar to that used by the Incodema engineers to design their own robots.





## They did! Welding and auto students join forces at Thompson Road to create I can podiums

Shiny blue podiums with the words “I can” stand outside the Career & Technical Education classrooms at our Thompson Road Campus. The podiums are designed to hold colorful Post-It notes, written by teachers, that show “expected learning outcomes” for students. The podiums were part of a Project Based Learning initiative that combined the talents of two classes: Students in **Duane Debejian's** welding classes built the podiums, and students in **Matt McGivney's** auto collision classes painted them to perfection. In the photo are three junior auto collision students who oversaw the podiums' finishing: **Dylan Dunn** (North Syracuse), **Devon Robinson** (Onondaga Central), and **Derek Laxton** (Baldwinsville).



## Research + Food = Great PBL Project with Wegman's

The smell was intoxicating: Shepherd's Pie, fresh pierogis, sushi, spiral pasta, and Chinese chicken and vegetables. The foods created by Chef Corey Jordan at the Wegman's on Taft Road represented a culminating event for middle-school Reach students engaged in Project

Based Learning. Students researched countries, pieced together tri-fold presentations, and displayed them at the grocery store so patrons could walk by, answer questions and taste authentic food. Students researched Italy, China, Japan, Poland and Ireland. They calculated the nutritional value of the food, graphed immigration trends, compiled statistics and wrote descriptive “letters” pretending to be new immigrants to the United States. **Tamil Hordge** of Liverpool said he loved his country of interest, Japan, where the concept of drifting, a driving technique, was born. “If I could live anywhere,” he said. “I’d pick Japan.”



## OCM BOCES employees recognized

Several OCM BOCES employees were recognized for their exemplary service at an Employee Recognition Luncheon in January. Culinary students from the Thompson Road Campus offered a variety of entrées and desserts for the honored guests.



Standing in the photo with District Superintendent **Jody Manning** are (from left to right): **Bethany Puhlman**, a teaching assistant in Special Education in Cortlandville; OCM BOCES Marketing Coordinator **Jackie Wiegand**; **Jen Kilpatrick**, a social worker in Special Education in Cortlandville; **Brenda Cussen**, a secretary in Special Education at our Crown Road Campus; **Annette Rivera**, a teacher in Special Education in Cortlandville; **Sue Kline**, a library clerk in the School Library System at Main Campus; **Colleen Bader**, a literacy instructor in Adult Education; **Sue Peck**, a social worker in the Alternative to Homebound Program; **Tammy Jones**, an administrative assistant at Main Campus; and **Deb Kordziel**, a receptionist and attendance officer in the Henry building at our Thompson Road Campus.

## 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](http://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](mailto:jwiegand@ocmboces.org).*

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