



From the District Superintendent —

Dear Staff,

2010! It is hard for me to believe that we are beginning the second decade of the 21st century. As I think about my hopes for the next ten years at the OCM BOCES, they are shaped by the discussions that we have been having about a vision for our BOCES. The draft of the vision is in the process of being shared throughout the organization to solicit comments and feedback. Originally developed this summer at an administrative retreat, the ideas and language have been modified through discussions with a variety of groups.

A vision for OCM BOCES in 2015

OCM BOCES will prepare students for success through innovative instruction, support to schools, and collaboration among school districts and municipalities. Innovative instruction will result in students who graduate equipped with the skills to be successful in their careers and further education.

- All students will be regularly engaged in relevant and real world experiences with an emphasis on solving problems that are meaningful to them and their community. Collaboration with industry and the community will enhance learning opportunities.
- Classrooms will be centers of learning that embrace team work, focus on the exchange of diverse ideas, and value innovative thinking.
- Technology will be an integral part of the learning and work of all our programs and services.
- BOCES will be a model of leadership and leadership support. Leaders will be identified, grown, supported, and sustained through professional development, coaching and networking. Current research and promising thinking will guide the management of educational institutions, instructional practice, and decisions impacting student achievement.
- Our facilities will be modeled after the world of work with cutting edge technology that is adaptable and flexible to meet student and work force needs.
- BOCES will be seen as a driving force for collaboration among districts, agencies, municipalities, and business to develop and enhance cost effective opportunities.

I encourage you to think about how this vision describes your position and how it may influence the work that you do. Let us know your thoughts.

Jessica

USDA Grant will Aid 23 Schools in Southern Region



On December 14, 2009, Rep. Dan Maffei (NY-25) presented a check for \$469,012 to OCM BOCES on behalf of the USDA Department of Rural Development. Pictured above from left to right: Mike Fay, Amy Spath, Jessica Cohen, Jill Harvey (USDA Rural Development State Director), Rep. Dan Maffei and Rick Pollard.

In December of 2009, OCM BOCES was presented with a grant for nearly \$500,000 from the USDA Rural Development office to install interactive video conferencing systems that will connect schools in 11 rural Central New York school districts. The video-conferencing systems will enable students to take courses that are generally not available at their schools, including advanced placement classes and college courses. Systems will also provide a cost-effective method for professional development and job retraining. Video conferencing provides students with excellent instructional opportunities, including collaborations with other students across the state and nation, virtual field trips to museums and organizations like NASA, and interactions with professionals from a variety of fields. The 11 districts involved in the project are Tully, Onondaga, McGraw, Marathon, LaFayette, Homer, DeRuyter, Cincinnatus, Chittenango, Fabius-Pompey and Cazenovia.

For more information, contact OCM BOCES RIC Assistant Director, Rick Pollard at 315/433-2652 or by email at rpollard@cnyric.org.

Floral Arts Students Instruct Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students in Craft



Pictured above: (Left) OCM BOCES Career Academy and Floral Arts Program student, Jamie James from Liverpool High School works with Deaf Program student Maddox Garvey from Chittenango School District to create a holiday bud vase. (Right) Carlos (Charlie) Velasquez takes a break from working on his bud vase to smile for the camera.

Linda VanVoorhis, a student from Otselic Valley attending the OCM BOCES Deaf Education Program at Solvay High School, has taken the Floral Arts Program with OCM BOCES for the past two years. On December 11, 2009, Linda and her classmates in Sue Nagen's Floral Arts class were visited by students and staff from OCM BOCES Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at Solvay Elementary School. Linda served as the hostess for the class, with her job being to interpret and explain Ms. Nagen's lesson to the younger children. Each of the visiting students and staff was provided with the materials to make a holiday bud vase, which they could then take home. The students in the Floral Arts class assisted the others as they worked on their crafts and staff and students from both programs were pleased with the finished projects!

McEvoy and Henry Construction Technology Students Hear Presentation Simultaneously Via Distance Learning



Pictured left: Allison Rutherford, General Manager of Pyrus Energy out of Weedsport, New York, speaks to OCM BOCES McEvoy and Henry Construction Technology students via distance learning technology.

An important part of what OCM BOCES Construction Technology students learn in their classes includes incorporating alternative, renewable energies into their building. As energy costs continue to rise, home buyers and businesses are seeking ways of managing expenses through the use of renewable energy sources.

On December 16, 2009, two representatives from Pyrus Energy, a company based in Weedsport, NY, offering sales, service and installation of solar, geothermal and wind

energy solutions, came to OCM BOCES Henry Campus to speak with Henry and McEvoy Construction Technology students via video-conferencing technology. Students heard from Court Rutherford, the company's Vice President, and Allison Rutherford, Pyrus Energy's General Manager. Together, the two discussed various alternative, renewable energy sources such as solar electricity and hot water, geothermal heating and cooling and wind turbines. Students also listened as Mr. Rutherford, a graduate of OCM BOCES CTE programs, talked about what their company looks for when they are hiring new employees. According to Pyrus Energy's Vice President, one of the most important qualities for their new hires is that they have undergone formalized training such as our program at BOCES, putting them ahead of the competition.

New York State Education Commissioner Visits Career Academy



Pictured above: New York State Commissioner of Education David Steiner with OCM BOCES student, Teddy Barbuto.

Pictured below: Career Academy Spanish Teacher Ingrid Hatt discusses with Commissioner Steiner a lesson on Spanish foods that she was working on with her students. As part of the lesson, Ms. Hatt provided an in-class demonstration and sampling of a traditional Mexican food, quesadillas.



On Monday, December 7, 2009, students and staff at the OCM BOCES Career Academy at the Lee G. Peters Career Training Center were paid a special visit by New York State Commissioner of Education, Dr. David Steiner. Accompanying Commissioner Steiner, were Regent Anthony Bottar and Senior Deputy Commissioner John King. The visitors came to the school as part of the New York State Education Department's Listening Tour of New York State schools.

In addition to touring the Career Academy, the group visited the Expeditionary Learning Middle School at McCarthy, McKinley-Brighton Elementary School and the Independent Living Center at ARISE. After the visits to the schools, the group, along with Superintendent Cohen, took part in an editorial board meeting at Syracuse's *Post-Standard* newspaper.

Five Career Academy students provided tours of the school for the Commissioner, Regent and Senior Deputy Commissioner. Those students were Cory Laris, a Construction Technology student from C-NS High School; Ryan Misener, a Laboratory Technology student from Liverpool High School; Sarah Newton, an Early Childhood Education student from Liverpool High School; Teddy Barbuto, a Culinary Arts student from Liverpool High School; and Justin Hathaway, an Automotive Technology student from C-NS High School. All the students were very well spoken and did a wonderful job of representing the excellence of the Career Academy. Many thanks!

Flexible Spending Accounts

The 2009 Plan Year has ended!

A reminder that the 2009 Flexible Spending Account (FSA) plan year ended as of December 31, 2009.

Use it - Don't lose it!

Check your balance at the Benefit Resource, Inc. website at www.BenefitResource.com. According to IRS regulations, you will forfeit any money left in your account at the end of the run-out period. All claims for unpaid monies must be postmarked to Benefit Resource, Inc. by March 31, 2010 for expenditures from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

EAP Has Moved....

Employee Assistance Program



As of December 10, 2009

Our New Address will be:

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
C/O PREVENTION NETWORK
906 Spencer Street
Syracuse, New York 13204

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.

Reach Program Supports United Way/Salvation Army Christmas Bureau



During the months of November and December, OCM BOCES Reach Program, an Alternative School for 7th and 8th grade students, was involved with the United Way and Salvation Army to support their Christmas Bureau initiative. The students created posters to advertise and support the project and placed drop-off boxes throughout the Career Training Center to obtain new toy donations that were distributed to needy families on December 23rd, 2009 at the Oncenter. Reach students also donated their time with the Salvation Army at the Oncenter on December 21st, 2009 to help organize and prepare the donations for distribution on the 23rd. Many thanks to the Reach Program staff and

students for organizing the drive and helping to make the holidays brighter for many children. Thanks also to everyone who donated to the Christmas Bureau!

Criminal Justice Teachers Honored As Newborn Twin Babies' Godparents

Congratulations to OCM BOCES Criminal Justice students Alyssa Wirth-Armstrong (LaFayette, class of 2006) and Elvis Armstrong (Baldwinsville, class of 2006) on the birth of their twin son and daughter, Tyler and Kaci in December of 2009. Elvis and Alyssa honored their former instructors Charlie Wilson and Denise Mecca by asking them to be the Godparents of their newborn twins. Pictured (right) from left to right: Elvis Armstrong with his son Tyler, Alyssa Armstrong, Denise Mecca holding Kaci and Charlie Wilson.



MacNabb and Wendy MacLachlan (Students) Rhiannon Clark, Wayne DeNardo, Chad Phillips, Lynn Olmstead, Harley Hawker, Jillian Sartwell and Nicole Lilly.

STARS Brings Holiday Cheer to VanDuyn Residents

Many thanks to the students from STARS Alternative High School who visited Van Duyn Nursing Home in December and worked on Christmas crafts with the elderly. The visit provided a wonderful experience for students, staff and residents of the facility. Pictured are: (Staff) Pam

OCM BOCES Board Members

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