

From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff:

July 31 marks my last day at OCM BOCES. It is hard for me to believe that 9 ½ years have passed since I began as District Superintendent.

The past few months have been a very interesting time for me...a time of anticipation and trepidation, of happiness and sadness, of looking forward and looking back. In Roman mythology, the god Janus is thought to represent beginnings and endings. Janus has a distinctive appearance...he is often depicted with a face looking forward and a face looking backward. I feel much like Janus, looking both backwards at everything that we have accomplished together and forward toward a time for family, friends, and other challenges.

Like the god Janus, I've done a lot of looking back lately to see...

- An incredible staff whose mission of “committed to your success” applies to everyone. I am in awe of the work that our staff does, the way they do it, and how easy they make the hard work look. That only happens when solid and trusting relationships exist.
- A leadership team that cares about student and staff success and is committed to the BOCES organization. When I think of a legacy that I leave to OCM BOCES, it is the legacy of an amazing leadership team.
- A board of education that has been supportive of me but more importantly a board that cares deeply about the importance of the mission of the OCM BOCES.

I have been blessed with a great career, incredible colleagues, wonderful friends, and a loving family. I am now ready to leave my position as District Superintendent and, as the Chinese proverb says, begin to take emergencies more leisurely.

Thank you for helping to make my time at BOCES so successful.



Students Attend PRHYLI in Albany



Each year the New York State Assembly's Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force sponsors a *Somos Uno* conference in Albany, New York. In conjunction with the conference, a Puerto Rican Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (PRHYLI,) introduces Hispanic high school students to New York State's legislative process and civic issues affecting the Latino community while fostering such skills as debate, citizenship and leadership. The institute is a collaborative effort among Regional Bilingual Education Resource Networks (RBERNS), The NYS Education Office of Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies, The NYC Department of Education, ASPIRA of NY, Inc., and the NYS Assembly's Hispanic Task Force.

Thirteen Hispanic students were selected from five mid-state high schools: Cicero-North Syracuse – Joseph Stokes, Lauren Ramos and Bianca Gonzalez; Fowler – Lizandra Alcantara, Ana Díaz Cruz and Carlos García; Marcellus – Anetxy Barnes; Syracuse City School District's Institute of Technology – Jacob Delgado, Rosalía Hernández, Deanna Martínez and Maura Medina; Ithaca – Maria Porrás Torres; and Solvay – Salina Fasulo. These students formed the Syracuse Delegation and trained together at Onondaga Community College in areas directly linked to the NYS Social Studies Standards. The goal of the trainings is to carry out a mock assembly while practicing their leadership skills.

The Syracuse Delegation had the opportunity to meet with members of the NYS Assembly, representatives from the NYS Education Department, and United States Congressman Paul Tonko. During a visit to Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli's office, the students discussed issues of importance to the Syracuse community as he commended the students for their involvement.

Westhill Assistant Superintendent is 2012 SLS Administrator of the Year



Dr. Carol Ilacqua, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for the Westhill Central School District, has been honored by the OCM BOCES School Library System as their 2012 Administrator/Advocate of the Year. Dr. Ilacqua was nominated by several of her district's librarians: Karin Backus, Beth Doolittle, Karen Fenner and Aneisa Linton. She was recognized at a reception held in the OCM BOCES Rodax 8 Conference Room.

The intention of the award is to honor an educational administrator or library advocate in the OCM region who has made significant contributions to school librarianship.

Dr. Ilacqua was chosen to receive the award for her professionalism and support of school library programs and services. She is a former member of the SLS Council, a supporter of the PALS initiative, and encourages Project Based Learning by providing extensive training.

Carol's coworkers value the support she provides to them, saying, "Carol is an active listener and when she hears a concern being voiced, works to find a solution. She is approachable and accessible to everyone in the district. Our staff regards her highly because she exhibits fair judgment and reason in any situation."

She is also recognized for her ability to utilize technology to teach her peers. Cited in her nomination, "Carol embraces technology, using her Blackboard site to post agendas and meeting minutes. By using this medium exclusively, she leads by example and creates a successful opportunity to use technology for those teachers that might otherwise be hesitant."

For more information about the OCM BOCES School Library System or their Administrator/Advocate of the Year Award, visit their website at <http://sls.ocmboces.org/>.

TEAM ATTACK!

By: The OCM BOCES TEAM Classroom
at Solvay Middle School

What do you do?
When gardens are needing,
and people are noticing,
They could use a good weeding?

Who you going to call?
The Clean TEAM from Room 409
We all worked together
And had a great time

We shoveled and hoed
We worked as a TEAM
We picked and we cut
To make it all clean!

We cleaned the Solvay flower beds
As quick as a wink,
Students, staff and a nurse
It looks great, don't you think?

We wanted to help
To make our Solvay school shine
So we assembled our Clean TEAM
Don't the gardens look fine?



BOCES Inducts 2 to Career & Technical Education Alumni Hall of Fame



The OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education Alumni Hall of Fame was established to honor individuals who have graduated from OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education programs and who demonstrate leadership in their field. Each year, nominations are solicited and reviewed by a subcommittee made up of members from the OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee. One winner is selected annually from the OCM BOCES Henry Campus in Syracuse and one winner from the OCM BOCES McEvoy Educational Campus in Cortland.

In order to be considered for the award, nominees must be a graduate of an OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education program, they must be engaged in an occupation related to their program of completion at OCM BOCES, they must demonstrate leadership in their field and they must exercise civic responsibility.

Each award winner has a commemorative plaque placed in the “Hall of Fame” in their respective campus of graduation.



The 2012 inductees to the OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education Alumni Hall of Fame are: Dave Ryder (top picture) for the Henry Campus and Kevin McMahon (bottom picture) for the McEvoy Educational Campus.

David Ryder is a 1977 graduate of the OCM BOCES Automotive Collision program at the Henry Campus. He has worked in the automotive industry for 35 years and for the past five years, David has been the body shop manager for Drivers Village in Syracuse. He oversees a crew of 27 trained technicians and estimators, 15 of whom are also OCM BOCES graduates.

David is a firm believer in the Automotive Collision program at OCM BOCES and has actively supported it by conducting group led tours and participating in Career Day recruiting events at BOCES.

Kevin McMahon is a 1974 graduate of the OCM BOCES Building Trades program at McEvoy. For the past 22 years, Kevin has been the owner of KJM Contracting Inc. in Homer, New York. He strongly believes in the value of continuing education and has earned certifications as a Graduate Master Builder, Certified Graduate Builder, Certified Green Professional and Certified Aging in Place Specialist.

Mr. McMahon is active in the community, currently serving as President of Tompkins Cortland Home Builders Association. He is a member of the National Federation of Independent Business, New York Farm Bureau, Better Business Bureau and the Cortland County Chamber of Commerce.

He volunteers his time to meet with OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education students and participates in career-focused panel discussions at the school.

Mr. McMahon exemplifies the characteristics of demonstrated leadership in his professional field and civic responsibility to service in the community. As a member of the OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education Hall of Fame, Kevin McMahon will continue to be a role model for OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education students.

OCM BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Jessica F. Cohen presented Mr. McMahon with his award at the OCM BOCES McEvoy Educational Campus graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 7, 2012. Upon receiving his award, Kevin spoke to the audience about the quality education he received at OCM BOCES and said, “After my first year at BOCES, when I was asked how I felt about the education I had gotten, I said ‘I only wish I had been able to take the program two years sooner.’”

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.

McEvoy's Terri Wood is Cortland Rotary's Teacher of the Year



Congratulations to Terri Wood, an OCM BOCES classroom teacher at the McEvoy Educational Campus in Cortland, for being named the 2012 Cortland Rotary Teacher of the Year. Terri, who has been teaching for nearly 30 years, works with students that have multiple disabilities.

Terri has been commended for serving every student as an individual with her coworkers noting, "Whether the struggle is with paralysis, blindness, deafness, seizures, autism, or other significant cognitive deficits, Terri's innovative, organized and supportive teaching has helped her students become successful adults in supported environments."

Terri is dedicated to enhancing educational experiences for students at the McEvoy Educational Campus. She chairs the building committee to organize enrichment programs,

coordinates the school's annual spring show and year-end awards ceremony and oversees publication of the school yearbook. Terri also rallies staff to provide service-oriented, interactive community visits for students.

Terri is referred to as an educational leader who puts service above self. Congratulations Terri Wood!

Pastry Arts Students Make Cake for Local Business' Open House

OCM BOCES Board Members

Ann Wright, *President*
Wayne Brownson, *Vice President*
Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton
Roseann DuBrava
Mark W. Gilbert
Mike Murphy
Lisa O'Reilly
David Paczkowski
William Pedrick
Joan Reeves
Maryam Wasmund

This past spring, OCM BOCES Pastry Arts students at the Henry Campus, were asked to provide a cake for Eastern Shore Associate's open house for their new office at 401 Main Street in North Syracuse. The students made a beautiful cake for the insurance company, which provides insurance for OCM BOCES.

"The North Syracuse office provides customer service and sales for both business and personal types of insurance coverage," said Martha Murray, Eastern Shore Associate President.

The company was very grateful to OCM BOCES students for creating the cake for their local opening!

