

May 2019

BOCES BITS



Message from the Superintendent



I hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial start to summer and an important holiday to honor and remember those who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. I hope you all had a chance to rest and rejuvenate before heading into this final rush of activity before the end of another school year.

The month of May has always been one of the busiest times of the school year, but this year has been especially busy in light of significant changes for our organization.

With the unexpected loss of the Regional Partner Center grant (a trend that occurred for BOCES across the state), we are now working on a long list of consulting services to fill the void for special education and other related services for our component districts. We are also committed to working with Syracuse University, the recipient of the grant, to provide the best possible services for our students.

In other developments this month, we had great news May 21 when voters in all 23 of our component districts approved their school budgets for 2019-2020. It is always a relief when the taxpayers in our communities make a conscientious decision to head to the polls and

support their schools. I commend all of our school superintendents and their staffs for a job well done.

Earlier in the month, we celebrated National Teacher Appreciation Week and National Nurses Week. I don't think anyone will disagree when I say teachers and nurses are among the most influential people in our lives. I applaud and thank all the teachers and nurses who work and study at OCM BOCES, as well as all the teachers and nurses who work in our component districts.

Finally, with graduation season soon upon us, I want to thank each and every one of you for all your hard work this past year and throughout my tenure at OCM BOCES. We all need to finish the year strong, but we can certainly look forward to the sunnier and more relaxing days of summer that lie just ahead.

Sincerely,



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

Celebrating our fellow employees for a job well done

Several OCM BOCES employees were recognized for their exemplary work during an Employee Recognition Luncheon held May 23 at the Main Campus. Congratulations to all of our award recipients!

Standing in the photo, from left to right, are **Jody Manning**,

Ed.D., district superintendent; **Aislyn Spencer**, information aide for Educational Programs in Instructional Support Services (ISS); **Vincent Thide**, special education teacher at our Cortlandville Campus; **Janet Judd**, teaching assistant in Career & Technical Education (CTE) at our Thompson Road Campus; **Theresa Smith**, assistant to the district



superintendent; **Kevin Auyer**, welding teacher in Cortlandville; **Doreen Bergman**, director of Educational Programs in ISS; **Mary Anne Wilson**, audiologist with the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program; **Sheena Russell**, administrative assistant for ISS and Student Services; **Doug Rice**, English teacher at Cortland Alternative School; **Pam Dowse**, coordinator of Educational Programs in ISS; **Lisa Benedict**, special education teacher at Cortland Alternative School; **Angela Eichorst**, teaching assistant at Cortlandville; and **Maria Gimma**, facilitator at Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland.

Five OCM BOCES students take home big honors at State SkillsUSA competition

OCM BOCES had a proud showing April 25 at the New York State SkillsUSA competition at the New York State Fairgrounds. Five students placed at the state level in written and performance tests.

Two of those students took first place and are now planning to attend the National SkillsUSA competition in Louisville, Ky., at the end of June. They are **Wolfgang Groetz** of North Syracuse, who competed in Information Technology Services, and **Jenna Knout** of Marathon, who competed in Early Childhood Education. Read more about the event and see a full listing of the participants [here](#).

Here all the students who placed in the competition:

1. **Wolfgang Groetz** / North Syracuse – 1st place in Information Technology Services
2. **Jenna Knout** / Marathon – 1st place in Early Childhood Education
3. **Declan Coe** / Baldwinsville – 2nd place in Medical Math
4. **Evan Cronk** / Liverpool – 2nd place in Carpentry
5. **Tim Kramak** / LaFayette – 3rd place in Collision Repair



Coming in the next BOCES Bits: Read more about our first-place Skills USA winners.

#OCMBOCESintheNews: Students shine on the track during this year's Special Olympics

Students from OCM BOCES were among 850 athletes from across Central New York who competed in the Special Olympics May 23 at Cicero-North Syracuse High School. The event received excellent media coverage — click here to view the coverage from [CNY Central](#), [NewsChannel 9](#) and [Syracuse.com](#).



Congratulations to all of our great competitors from OCM BOCES!



Are you addicted to your phone? Does social media affect your health? Could an old Twitter post end your career?

Students presented to their peers on these topics and more at the second annual Student-Led Media Arts & Literacy Conference held May 21 at WCNY. The event featured students from OCM BOCES, Baldwinsville, DeRuyter, East Syracuse Minoa, and Fabius-Pompey. Students took an active role by planning the event, facilitating it, and presenting to their peers on a variety of topics, such as student films, women in media, social media trends, cyber addiction, and more. See

social media interactions from the day by using [#MediaLitCon](#). Thank you to everyone who helped make this conference a success! The conference was also featured on [NewsChannel 9's "Cool Schools."](#)



OCM BOCES Auto Students Honored for Exceptional Work

Eight graduating seniors from the Thompson Road Campus were recently honored for their outstanding achievement during the Snap-On Tools for Success awards program. The students were selected by their teachers for their excellent skills in automotive technology and math and science, as well as their outstanding classroom participation, attendance and attitude. For their achievement, students received a certificate of excellence and a Snap-On Tools screwdriver worth more than \$100.



[Read more about the event and see the full list of award recipients.](#)

OCM BOCES Social Studies Teacher Named Distinguished Educator for 2019

Congratulations to **Jennifer "Jenny" Fanelli**! Jenny recently received the Distinguished Educator Award for 2019 for her contributions to Social Studies education. She was recommended by her peers and the Central New York Council for Social Studies (CNYCSS) Award Committee. The CNYCSS cited her commitment to giving students a strong foundation in the field of Social Studies.



"It is truly a great educator who continues to pursue excellence with such optimistic and innovative enthusiasm," said **Erica Martin**,

president of the CNYCSS.

Jenny was presented with her award at the annual CNYCSS Spring Dinner. Congratulations, Jenny!

Calling all golf teams & sponsors: Gallaher tournament to raise money for Adult Education hardship fund is Aug. 14

It's almost time for our annual Jack Gallaher Scholarship Golf Tournament! Since 1997, the Jack Gallaher Helping Hand Fund has provided scholarships and other financial assistance to students who face hardships during their workforce training programs.

This year, the annual tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 14, at Sunset Ridge Golf Club in Marcellus. Please let us know if you are interested in playing, providing a raffle prize or taking advantage of one of our sponsorship opportunities. For more

information, please contact Adult Education Coordinator **Matt Tarolli** at mtarolli@ocmboces.org. [Click here to view the registration form.](#)



These moms needed a little pampering... and BOCES provided

Students in our OCM BOCES Adult Education cosmetology program recently decided to give back to the community with some pampering for clients who might need it more than others: moms of children with special needs.

The event, part of the church's "Hope Network," was held in April at the North Side Baptist Church in Liverpool. By all accounts, the mothers who attended appreciated the chance to relax and feel special, Cosmetology Instructor **Dawn Iozzo** said.



13 Seven Valleys students inducted into National Honor Society for the first time

Congratulations to 13 students from Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland who were inducted May 17 into the National Honor Society.

To be accepted into NHS, students must demonstrate excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, and character. This includes having a GPA of 85% or above, holding a leadership position at work or in an extracurricular activity, performing community service, and writing an essay describing their character.



[Read more about the inductees and see photos from the event.](#)

Syracuse Auto Dealers Honor Exceptional BOCES Students

Congratulations to six OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education Auto Technology and Collision students! Every year, the Syracuse Auto Dealers Association recognizes students who have shown exemplary work and dedication in the fields of auto technology and collision. Students were nominated for the award by their instructors.

[Read more about the award ceremony and see a full list of recipients.](#)



'Imagination Celebration' features artwork from students at Seven Valleys

Ten students from Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland recently took part in the Imagination Celebration Art Show at Homer High School. The annual art show invites art teachers from throughout Cortland County to submit artwork by their students. Among the entries, Seven Valleys student **Maddison Tobin** was awarded third place for her painting (pictured).

Additional students participating in the show included: **Heather Decker**, **Elizah Horn**, **Evelyn Hull**, **Brennan McMahon**, **Phoenix Rice**, **Jayden Staats**, **Rachel Stone**, **Abigail Warner**, and **Ethan Westbrook**. [See more of their artwork on our website.](#)



Congratulations to these students and thank you to Seven Valleys Art Teacher **Alissa Main** for submitting this story.

Helping our communities: CTE students build Adirondack chairs, police barricades, theater stages and more

Students in our Career & Technical Education programs engage with local communities on a regular basis, taking on projects that help local municipalities and other groups save significant time and money. Here are just a few recent examples:

1. Under the supervision of Instructor **Mike Cavender**, construction students at our Thompson Road Campus built and painted 18 Adirondack chairs for the town of Lysander, so they can be used in a town park off Smokey Hollow Road.
2. Construction students in **Jim Bender's** classes at our Cortlandville Campus recently built four stages, a ramp and a set of stairs for the Cortland Youth Bureau so they can be used for concerts and other events this summer in Courthouse Park.
3. Students in Cortlandville gave the Cortland Police Department a huge assist by building 12 wooden police barricades for the annual Cortland County Dairy Parade on June 4.



Find more photos and information related to these projects at ocmboces.org. **Coming up in the next BOCES Bits: If you like Doug's Fish Fry in Cortland, thank our OCM BOCES welders. You'll find out why.**

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 once each month, please contact Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@ocmboces.org or Katie Jensen at kjensen@ocmboces.org.

OCM BOCES Board of Education

Ann Wright, President
Wayne Brownson, Vice President

Robert A. Crabtree
Mark W. Gilbert
Luke Morenus

Mike Murphy
Lisa O'Reilly
David Paczkowski

Peg Peri
Joan Reeves
Maryam Wasmund

© 2019 *OCM* BOCES. For more info, contact [Jackie Wiegand](mailto:Jackie.Wiegand)