



OCM BOCES plans development of New Tech School



One of the goals OCM BOCES has established for the 2013-14 school year involves the research and planning necessary to create its own New Tech school in September 2014.

In working toward this goal, BOCES has been meeting with superintendents and learning from successful models. On October 24, 2013, OCM educators joined together with two central New York lawmakers to tour Tech Valley High School® in Rensselaer New York.

Superintendent Jody Manning, Assistant Superintendent Colleen Viggiano and Career Academy Principal Pat Mahunik accompanied Assemblymen

Samuel Roberts and Al Stirpe, and representatives from TC3 to the school looking for ideas in creating a New Tech School which uses the elements of the Tech Valley High School and New Tech Network models.

The group was led on a tour of the school by sophomore Nafisa Rahman and junior Ben Johnson. Under their leadership, the group learned how TVHS students work online, prepare presentations for large groups of adults and peers, and participate collaboratively on nearly every part of their heavily project-based education experience. The educators also visited a class where they asked freshmen students and their teacher questions.

“At Tech Valley, we witnessed firsthand how relevant instruction creates enthusiasm in students as they work together in project-based learning experiences. It is exciting to think about bringing this to our area,” said Manning.

The educators and elected officials also met with a panel of TVHS experts, including Questar III District Superintendent James N. Baldwin and Capital Region BOCES’ Lynne Wells, and took part in a question-and-answer session with faculty.

“It is always a pleasure to be able to share the TVHS model and the successes we have had with educators and education supporters who are clearly looking to improve the education delivery model,” said TVHS Principal Dan Liebert.

Photos courtesy of Tech Valley High School.



Extra, Extra!! We want your news for BOCES Bits!

Please submit your ideas and suggestions for publication in future issues of *BOCES Bits* by e-mailing Laurie Cook at lcook@ocmboces.org.



From the District Superintendent



Dear staff;

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is already upon us and the end of the first half of the school year isn't that far away. It doesn't seem like all that long ago that we were welcoming our students back for the new year.

At this time of year, I can't help but think of all the things for which I am thankful. Of course, family and friends immediately come to mind. But doing work every day that directly impacts the future of so many people is something that also gives me pause. I want you to know that I appreciate the opportunity to work with all of you here at OCM BOCES, and I am thankful for the good work you do. I believe in our organization because I have seen how we change lives for the better.

So during this season of thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to thank YOU for your dedication and commitment to our students' success and to our districts' success. I wish the best to you and your families and sincerely thank you for the work you do every day. Your commitment to OCM BOCES is recognized and truly appreciated.

The past few months at OCM BOCES have been filled with exciting things that I want to make sure you all know about. Our new embedded CTE programs at Drivers Village and Strength in Motion are off to great starts. Look for articles on these programs in upcoming issues of *OnBoard* and *Cicero Life* magazine.

Colleen Viggiano, Pat Mahunik, and I recently traveled to Tech Valley High School with Assemblymen Al Stirpe and Sam Roberts, Victoria Zeppelin, John Conners and Carl Penziul from TC3. We were given an engaging tour of the school and had the opportunity to talk with both administrators and students. All those in attendance were very impressed with the New Tech concept and support the development of such a program at OCM BOCES.

On October 30, WCNY opened the doors to their new broadcast and education center at 415 West Fayette Street in Syracuse. I was asked by WCNY President Bob Daino and WCNY Education & Community Engagement Director Debbie Stack to speak at the grand opening of the new facility. New York State Education Commissioner John King also spoke at the event. We are very proud to partner with WCNY in New York's first hands-on experiential learning program, Enterprise America. We'll be giving more information about this program throughout the school year.

It is exciting to envision the future of all of these great things that I get to be a part of through OCM BOCES. I will keep you updated as the school year continues. In the meantime, please be safe during your time off and take care of yourself, your loved ones and your friends. Thank you again for your dedication to OCM BOCES.

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Words of Wisdom

“ Feeling grateful to or appreciative of someone or something in your life actually attracts more of the things that you appreciate and value into your life. ”

Christiane Northrup, M.D.



EAP News...

Your EAP is a free, voluntary, and confidential assessment/referral service for employees and their family members who are experiencing personal or work related problems.

Your OCM BOCES EAP - Employee Assistance Program has been offering a variety of FREE workshops once again this fall. The final fall workshop, Holiday Survival Guide: Food, Family & Finances with Michelle Stolicker, will take place on Tuesday, November 19. The session will take place from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the OCM BOCES McEvoy Campus Conference Center (Room 701) in Cortland.

HOLIDAY STRESS? THINK EAP!

Holiday time can be a joyous and wonderful time of the year but it can also be very stressful. Gift and food shopping, parties, family gatherings, and cooking can all be overwhelming. If the holidays are stressful for you, please remember that the OCM BOCES Employee Assistance program can help. Call EAP at 315-471-1361 or visit their website at www.eap.ocmboces.org...don't let holiday stress overwhelm you. Remember your EAP is available to help year-round!

~November~

National Caregivers Month



For Information Contact:

EAP

1-800-EAP-8764
(315)-1361

www.eap.ocmboces.org

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OCM BOCES Personnel Office News & Notes...



Flexible Spending Plan Enrollment

OCM BOCES employees wishing to participate in Flexible Spending (Medical, Dependent or Premium Reimbursement) during the 2014 plan year (January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014) must enroll or re-enroll by completing a Flex Spending form. Forms are available online at <http://www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=1103> and need to be returned to Tammy Jones in the Personnel Office by **December 13, 2013**.

In addition to enrolling in a flex plan for 2014, this website will allow you to download forms for the following:

- SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION - FLEXIBLE SPENDING BENEFIT PLAN WITH BENIVERSAL MASTERCARD PREPAID CARD
- PLAN HIGHLIGHTS
- MEDICAL CARE EXPENSE WORKSHEET
- DEPENDENT CARE EXPENSE WORKSHEET
- REIMBURSEMENT CLAIM FORM
- DIRECT DEPOSIT AUTHORIZATION
- SAMPLE OVER-THE-COUNTER ITEMS

For additional information on flexible spending through Benefit Resource, Inc., visit their website at <http://www.benefitresource.com>.



McEvoy Career Fair draws large crowd of job-seekers



On Friday, October 25, the New York State Department of Labor, in conjunction with Cortland Works, hosted a Career Fair at the OCM BOCES McEvoy Center. The fair was a huge success, attended by hundreds of job seekers from across Central New York. More than 60 local employers were on hand at the fair to meet with job seekers and provide information about their organizations. Participants could fill out applications on the spot, meet with potential employers and were also able to receive assistance with their resumes.

Many thanks to Steve Duffy for helping organize the event and to the many business in attendance!

Did you Know...

Items plugged into outlets are the fastest growing energy use items in buildings?

95% of total energy use comes from desktop computers, imaging equipment and monitors--with computers being the largest portion at 69%

So power down this equipment at the end of each day and you'll be surprised that when everyone does "a little" it becomes "a lot"!

The OCM BOCES Energy Committee has set a goal of reducing energy usage by 10% this year. Help us to achieve that goal by doing your part. Thank you!

OCM BOCES Board Members

Ann Wright, *President*

Wayne Brownson, *Vice President*

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Barb Closson

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