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September 2018



Message from the Superintendent



Save

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year, a very special one for OCM BOCES as we celebrate our 70th anniversary! Back in 1948, New York State lawmakers created BOCES as a way for small, rural school districts to combine their resources and provide services for students that otherwise would have been uneconomical, inefficient, or unavailable. Today, OCM BOCES is one of 37 across the state that continues to expand and thrive because of our practical and cost-effective model for providing shared services to districts.

For seven decades, we have been partnering with districts to achieve consolidation wherever it makes sense. In those 70 years, **together**, we have achieved great things and helped our students and teachers succeed. As the school year unfolds, please share your stories of success and special memories on Facebook and Twitter using **@OCMBOCES** with the hashtag **#OCM70**. I look forward to celebrating our collective achievements throughout the 2018-2019 school year.

First-time Invitation

As all of you know, the beginning of each new school year brings the end of another beautiful summer in Central New York. I always feel a sense of excitement mixed with a hint of sadness when I hear the New York State Fair is upon us. This year's State Fair was a special one because I had the exceptionally unique honor of being a guest of Onondaga County Executive Joanne Mahoney and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo as they kicked off the Fair and unveiled the exciting new Expo Center. The kickoff event was a great way for our community to be recognized and celebrated for its accomplishments.



Welcome New Employees

I would like to officially welcome our new OCM BOCES employees! We welcomed 80 new instructional staff with an all-day orientation Aug. 28 that included my favorite event — an ice cream social. In 1948, when OCM BOCES was formed, an ice cream cone with sprinkles cost just a nickel. The price has increased quite a bit since, but we still enjoy treating our new staff and taking time to socialize. I hope all of our new employees enjoy their experience at OCM BOCES.

Hats off to Facilities Workers

For our 11- and 12-month employees, thank you as well for all the hard work you've done this summer and continue to do every day. Each and every person is an integral part of this organization and the opportunities we provide for



students and teachers. I would like to especially thank our facilities staff for all the tremendous work they performed this summer to get our buildings and grounds ready for another school year. I have toured many of our locations and am incredibly pleased with the welcoming environment. An exceptional amount of time and effort was also spent creating the new home for our **Innovation Tech** students and staff at our Thompson Road Campus. Many thanks are due to everyone involved.

Finally, I hope all of you are excited about the new school year and are experiencing a smooth transition from summer during these first few weeks. I wish you all the best for a safe and successful year! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Dr. Jody Manning
District Superintendent



911: A Very Special Tribute

OCM BOCES was honored to fly a special flag on Sept. 11 to honor the 2,753 victims of the 2001 terrorist attack. The flag was donated by **Mary Ellen Michalenko**, our highly regarded OCM BOCES hospital school teacher at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital. Mary Ellen's brother, Michael Seaman, died in the attack on the World Trade Center. He was working as vice president and partner of Cantor Fitzgerald in One World Trade Center on the 101st floor when the planes hit. The company had the greatest loss of life of any company. Mary Ellen continues to mourn for her brother with her family. "After all these years, we still have tears," she wrote in a recent letter to Dr. Manning, "but laughter and wonderful memories are the mainstay. I have always wanted to donate a flag in Michael's name to OCM BOCES."



Tackling School Safety from all Directions

At OCM BOCES, we are implementing several school safety initiatives that address both our immediate responses to threats as well as long-term efforts to promote the physical and mental well-being of all students. [You can read about all of them in detail on our web site.](#) All of these initiatives fall in line with the research and findings of the Onondaga County School Safety Task Force, which released its [final report](#) in August. "No one can guarantee that nothing bad will happen," District Superintendent Jody Manning said, "but we can guarantee that we will do everything possible and reasonable to provide a safe and conducive learning environment for our students and staff."



Climbing Mountains, Creating Kindness

Opening Day for instructional staff on Aug. 30 proved exceptionally inspiring as a result of two guest speakers who addressed more than 500 OCM BOCES staff



members at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool. The first speaker, Fulton native **Tim Conners**, described his struggles as a blind cancer survivor as well as his physical and emotional victories in trekking up one of the tallest mountains in the world, Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. ([Find more information at MounTIMpossible.com](http://MounTIMpossible.com).)



Later, a speaker from the national Rachel's Challenge initiative kicked off the second year of our BOCES-wide effort to help students and staff create a culture of kindness and compassion in our schools. Students and staff will be continuing their Friends of Rachel (FOR) Clubs this year.

Exclusive back stage pass to ... the Smithsonian!

OCM BOCES Science Teacher Trainer **Holly Baldwin** was invited and sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute and OCM BOCES to attend a Smithsonian Science Education Academy for Teachers (SSEATs). The SSEATs Academies take teachers behind the scenes at the Smithsonian museums and other world-class research facilities throughout the greater Washington, D.C., area. They combine weeklong training in science pedagogy with content presented by scientists and researchers who are experts in their fields.



Holly attended the SSEAT for Earth's History and Global Change. She experienced private study experiences in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, the United States Geological Survey, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, and the Carnegie Institute for Science. She was able to deepen her content knowledge and bring back many resources to share with teachers in our region as they shift towards implementing the Smithsonian Science K-6 curriculum to support transition to the New York State Science Learning Standards. The science curriculum program is serving more than 1,500 classrooms in the region.

You may have seen this new face...

A new assistant superintendent, **Christopher DiFulvio**, has been overseeing and leading Instructional Support Services (ISS). Chris first came to OCM BOCES in 2015, when he worked as principal of the Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs at our Cortlandville Campus. He later served as director of Innovative Education, which is now under the direction of CTE Director Phil Grome. Prior to his administrative positions at OCM BOCES, Chris excelled in his previous educational experiences as a classroom teacher and K-12 instructional coach in districts located in Arizona, Virginia and New York State. Please help us in welcoming Chris to his new role at OCM BOCES.



And this one...

We are also pleased to welcome **Katie Regan** to OCM BOCES as our new director of educational technology. Katie came to OCM BOCES in 2015 and was appointed to her new position in July. In her new position, Regan will be in charge of planning and implementing technology at OCM BOCES for its 1,300 employees. She will also collaborate with the organization's instructional and technical staff to support quality teaching and learning in OCM BOCES' 23 component districts. Her office will be housed at the OCM BOCES Main Campus in Salina.



Golf Tournament Scores Big

Many thanks to everyone who attended and supported OCM BOCES annual Gallaher Golf Tournament. Turnout for the Aug. 15 event was tremendous, with 24 teams participating. Each year, funds raised through the tournament benefit the Jack Gallaher Memorial Helping

Hand Fund, which provides scholarships for students pursuing new careers through OCM BOCES Adult Education programs. [Click here to learn more about the OCM BOCES Jack Gallaher Helping Hand fund.](#)

Congratulations, Graduates!

OCM BOCES proudly celebrated the accomplishments of hundreds of adult education students at three graduation ceremonies this summer. Ceremonies held at North Syracuse Junior High School, SRC Arena at Onondaga Community College and our own Cortlandville Campus in July and August brought together the friends and families of LPN, Career Training, and Literacy graduates. Each year, hundreds of people come to OCM BOCES for education, training or retraining through our adult programs. To learn more about OCM BOCES Adult Education programs, visit our website at ocmboces.org/adulted.



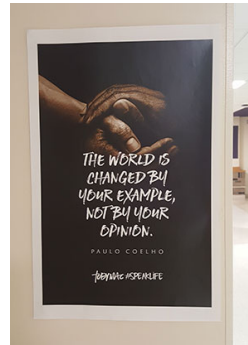
Pictured is Cortland Literacy graduate Jessica Hinkle at the ceremony with a family member.

Teamwork = Job Fair Success

A job fair held Aug. 21 at the Main Campus drew 61 attendees and numerous successful applicants who are now working for OCM BOCES. Human Resources Director/School Attorney **Joseph Bufano**, Esq., said he was most impressed with the collaborative effort between three departments: Student Services, Personnel and Marketing. "It was really exciting to see this teamwork produce such a great result," he said.

Summer School booms for OCM BOCES

A record 5,109 registrations for courses and Regents exams were received this year for Regional Summer School. Our Educational Programs team, which falls under Instructional Support Services (ISS), offered summer school programs in four locations. "I am grateful for all the summer school administrators, staff and teachers who made it possible to offer students another chance to secure course credit and prepare for Regents exams and/or take initial courses," Educational Programs Coordinator **Pam Dowse** said. She added that she was especially grateful to the host districts (Baldwinsville, Cortland, Fayetteville-Manlius, and West Genesee) and their staff who welcomed the RSS staff and supported them.



Summer school in our OCM BOCES Special Education programs also boomed. Assistant Special Education Director Kim Koch and her leadership team coordinated another wonderful summer for students who qualified for Extended School Year programming. OCM BOCES served 290 students at Roxboro Middle School in the North Syracuse Central School District; 90 students at our Crown Road Campus in Liverpool; and 140 students at the Cortlandville Campus. The program not only helps students maintain and increase their academic knowledge and skills, it also ensures they have opportunities to build social skills and have fun.

In the photo: a sign outside a summer school classroom.

Sausage sandwiches, rides and... librarians!

[School Library System](#) Coordinator **Doreen Bergman** and members of her department joined other librarians at a fun, busy and popular booth that promoted libraries across New York State. They even had a visit from state Sen. John DeFrancisco, a long-time advocate of school libraries.

BOCES Instructor Receives Award



Congratulations to **Christine Bosco**, PT, DPT, an instructor of human anatomy & physiology at Tompkins-Cortland Community College (TC3) and a medical terminology instructor at OCM BOCES' physical therapy program in Cortland. Bosco was one of four instructors who was recognized with a TC3 CollegeNow Distinguished Instructor award. TC3's CollegeNow program promotes career pathways, allows high school students to earn quality college credit and exposes them to a college environment and college level work. "The Physical Therapy program (at BOCES) sets a new bar in how our institutions connect with each other by integrating both concurrent enrollment as well as direct instruction by TC3 adjunct faculty," said CollegeNow Director Victoria Zeppelin (at right). "We are excited to continue this collaboration, and others, that support OCM BOCES' efforts to prepare students for their college and career goals."



2018 Notice of Availability, Asbestos Management Plans

As provided under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (40 CFR 763), the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services hereby makes known the steps it has undertaken to comply with AHERA and the availability of asbestos management plans. In 1988, OCM BOCES contracted with the firm of O'Brien & Gere Engineers, Inc. of Syracuse, New York to survey our buildings and construct a management plan for each of our facilities. Mandatory re-inspections have been performed every three years since then. The last re-inspection was conducted in June 2016. Management plans for applicable facilities were updated accordingly. The re-inspection information was submitted to the State Education Department as required. Periodic surveillance is conducted on a six-month cycle. The Maintenance and Operations staff have completed an Awareness Training program. All response actions taken are within Federal and State guidelines. AHERA Management plans may be viewed by appointment at the Henry Campus, Administration Building, Health, Safety and Risk Management Office during the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For additional information or appointment, please contact David Daignault, Coordinator of Health & Safety at Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES Thompson Road Campus, Operations & Maintenance Building, Syracuse, NY 13211 or by phone at (315) 431-8591.

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, especially if you want to review the Opening Day video about our goals and targets. For all of our social media platforms, check out our **social media hub** at ocmboces.org.

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 the first week of each month, please contact Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@ocmboces.org or Laurie Cook at lcook@ocmboces.org.

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