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# BOCES BITS

May 2018

## Message from the Superintendent



I hope everyone is enjoying these bright days of spring after such a cold and dismal April. For many of our students, one of the brightest influences in their lives — no matter what the weather — is their teacher. Almost all of us can remember a teacher who believed in us, inspired us, and pushed us to be our best. That's

why National Teacher Appreciation Week (through May 12) offers an annual opportunity to thank and celebrate our teachers. If you are a teacher at OCM BOCES, **thank you** for your dedication to our students. In addition, the month of May offers National Nurses Week, a chance to thank and celebrate our nurses. If you are a school nurse or part of the instructional staff in our adult LPN program, **thank you** for treating and teaching our students.

### **#StudentSafety**

Efforts to address the threat of school violence continue to take center stage for OCM BOCES and all of our districts. I recently attended a town hall meeting at Liverpool Middle School that was sponsored by CNYCentral (local television stations 3 & 5). The segment aired live at 7 p.m. May 8. If you missed it, [you can still view it online](#). (OCM BOCES is highlighted around 1:02.) In addition, as you will see below, OCM BOCES hosted a Student Safety Symposium sponsored by [Gaggle](#), a company that offers digital products related to school security. Finally, on a continuing basis, we are having our regular monthly discussions with school superintendents, our regional task force meetings with the district attorney's office, our discussions with the New York State Education Department, and our internal discussions about safety initiatives within OCM BOCES.

## Thank you to the RIC

I would like to give a special thanks to our employees at the Central New York Regional Information Center who worked tirelessly during the state testing period to address a malicious denial of service (DOS) attack aimed at obstructing our internet connections. While the attack did not breach our internal network, it consumed all internet bandwidth resources available to our districts. This problem, compounded by additional connectivity issues stemming from Questar, the state's testing vendor, made for an exceptionally challenging and difficult week. I am grateful for the extra efforts from our RIC team in addressing these problems with speed and professionalism.

## School budget votes and elections

Please remember that Tuesday, May 15, is the date to vote on school budgets and elect school board members in all public districts except the Big Five Cities, which includes Syracuse. Please remember to check polling times and locations so you can exercise your right to vote and support your schools.

Until next time, I wish you all a safe and healthy spring.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jody" followed by a large, stylized "M" that loops back under the name.

Dr. Jody Manning  
District Superintendent

## Hats off to our SkillsUSA state competitors, including one state champion!

The SkillsUSA championships held recently at the New York State Fairgrounds included a large number of students from OCM BOCES who performed at the top of their game. Included in that group was **Kayla Helfeld** (in photo), a cosmetology senior from Westhill who won a first-place state championship in the nail care category. Helfeld plans to pursue a pharmaceutical degree next year at Syracuse University. Please go to

our [web site to learn about the other top-place finishers and competitors](#). At OCM BOCES, we are #CTEProud.



## First-ever media literacy conference is by kids, for kids

OCM BOCES students in our embedded program at the WCNY broadcast station are joining other students from local districts in



a first-ever media literacy conference on May 11. Students in grades 8-12 will come together at WCNY to explore and develop deeper understandings of the mass media and its impact on their lives. Julie Smith, a national media literacy expert, will deliver the keynote address, but all other sessions will be presented by students! This conference is co-sponsored by the OCM BOCES School Library System and WCNY.

## #StudentSafety is the top priority — for everyone

A packed room of school administrators, law enforcement officials, business representatives and other professionals set the stage for a recent Student Safety Symposium sponsored by [Gaggle](#), a company that offers digital products to help create safe learning environments. Thank you to everyone who presented and participated.



The symposium May 2 at our Main Campus included an expert panel with (left to right) **Joseph Bufano**, OCM BOCES human resources director and school attorney; **Kieran O'Connor**, executive director of planning, development and technology for East Syracuse Minoa schools; New York State Police Senior Investigator **Karl**

Stonebarger; and Ted Love, director of instruction for Homer schools.

## McEvoy teacher named Rotary Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Cortlandville Campus math teacher **Julie Allen** for being named Teacher of the Year by the Rotary Club of Cortland. Allen was chosen because she exemplifies the Rotary motto, “Service Above Self.” She will be honored at a luncheon May 22 at the Cortland Elks Club.



## OCM BOCES science initiatives featured on Channel 9

Second-graders at Burton Street Elementary School in Cazenovia became the stars on NewsChannel 9 after employing their engineering skills to tackle erosion using kits from the Smithsonian Science Education Center. Be sure to check out this link to both the [on-air segment](#) and an [online piece](#) that discusses OCM BOCES’ instructional leadership role in implementing new science standards and in employing a professional development practice called “lesson study” to improve instruction. All this work stems from our [Innovative Teaching & Learning Center](#) and [Science Center](#).



## Opening doors to ... compassion

Career & Technical Education students at our Thompson Road Campus continued their pledge to follow Rachel’s Challenge, an initiative at OCM BOCES aimed at creating a culture of kindness and compassion in schools. At Thompson Road, students launched a door decorating contest to promote school spirit. The winning door came from Early Childhood, which said, “Kindness colors the world the most beautiful shade.” The winning class was treated to a pizza party. Other doors received honorable mention.



## Could you solve a major environmental problem?

Students in our New Vision Environmental Science program in Cortland did just that. **Dakota Kleefeld**

(Homer) and **Zane Potts** (Marathon) won a third-

place prize and \$250 in the 2018 CNY Innovation Challenge held April 7 at Onondaga Community College. The students converted Styrofoam — a major environmental problem — into a commercial insulation product. In their proposal, the students envisioned community drop-off locations for foam products that would later be chipped into pieces and pressed into boards with a binding agent. Prototypes for this idea utilized cheese wax as the binding agent; one sample added Borax to aid in fire suppression and rodent control. - **Submitted by Instructor Chad DeVoe**



## Planting pinwheels & wearing blue — all for a good cause

Staff at OCM BOCES went "Blue 4 Kids" and planted shiny pinwheels outside the front entrance to the Main Campus on a cold, blustery day in April to raise \$200 to support the McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Center to help end child abuse. Thanks to all who helped and supported this event.



## OCM BOCES hosts conference for superintendents' assistants

Our own **Theresa Smith**, administrative assistant to Dr. Jody Manning, recently organized and hosted an annual conference for her counterparts across the state. More than 20 members of DSOP — District Superintendents' Office Personnel — spent a few days at OCM BOCES to visit and learn about our programs. The conference took them to Innovation Tech,



Pictured: Cory Raichlan, who is standing in

WCNY and the Thompson Road Campus, where they were treated to a lunch from our culinary students and some pampering from our cosmetology students. In addition, Theresa awarded a DSOP scholarship worth \$250 to one lucky senior from our LaFayette transitional program, **Cory Raichlan**. After graduation, Raichlan will be working at Panera Bread and attending Onondaga Community College in the fall.

the photo with his instructor, **John Scharmach**.

## Students go above and beyond with Homer exhibit

Three OCM BOCES STAR students in Tim Whalen's 5th grade class in Homer were awarded the "Above and Beyond" award for their work in the annual fifth-grade science and social studies fair at Homer Intermediate School. The students' exhibit focused on Sig Sautelle, a Homer man who built the circus house and owned the David Harum Hotel. The exhibit later went on display at the CNY Living History Museum in Homer. - **Submitted by Amy Whittington, STAR special education teacher**



From left to right: **Summer Griest, Christian Stanton and Patrick Bloodgood** show off their certificates at the fair.

## OCM BOCES students shine with artistic talent

Several students from our OCM BOCES Cortlandville Campus were honored at the 2018 "Imagination Celebration" Art Show held recently at the Homer Center for the Arts. The annual event is community-wide art exhibit, with two shows divided by grade level. Outside artists judged student work from grades 7-12. [Read the full story and check out some of the art pieces at ocmboces.org.](#)



In the photo, graphics instructor **Tanya Komar** poses with student artist **Angela Panetta**.

## Check out this video about one of our New Tech schools

Check out our new [video about Seven Valleys New Tech Academy](#), one of two New Tech schools in Central New York administered by OCM BOCES. The video includes testimonials from many of our current students in hopes of recruiting additional students to the school.



In the photo, students **Greta Williams** (Cincinnatus), **Phoenix Rice** (Cincinnatus) and **Angel Fairbanks** (Cortland) welcome parents and other guests during a recent open house.

## WCNY program stars in “NYSSBA News” video

One of our business-embedded programs for Career & Technical Education students caught the attention of a reporter for NYSSBA News, a product of the New York State School Boards Association. Check out this [video about our Media Marketing and Communications program](#) embedded at WCNY, the public broadcast station in downtown Syracuse. Students in this program work side-by-side with professionals at the station.



## Interested in Student Data Privacy Law?

If you missed our May 8 public forum on the state’s Student Data Privacy Law, Education Law 2-D, you still have time to submit comments electronically. State education officials are collecting input from the public on the law and possible additions to its [“Parents’ Bill of Rights.”](#) Find out more at [nysed.gov/student-data-privacy](https://nysed.gov/student-data-privacy). Submit input to the state electronically at [PrivacyForumComment@nysed.gov](mailto:PrivacyForumComment@nysed.gov).



## Students become immersed in American Sign Language

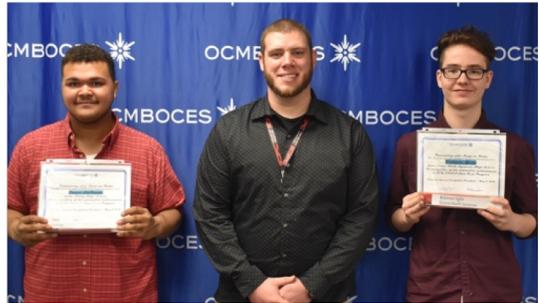
Students and teachers traveled from far across the state to be part of the American Sign Language (ASL) rally held recently at our Main Campus. The rally was a partnership between OCM BOCES and the Central New York Regional Information Center. Joining in the fun were students from the OCM BOCES [Program](#)



[for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#), who gave the ASL students a perfect opportunity to practice their craft with an invested audience of their peers. Check out the full story and photos at [cnyric.org](http://cnyric.org).

## Auto students honored in “Tools for Success” program

Eight students in our Automotive Technology and Automotive Collision programs were recognized May 3 as part of the “Snap-On Tools for Success” awards program. Students were selected by their instructors for demonstrating excellent skills in automotive technology,



math and science, as well as classroom participation, attendance and attitude. Instructors gave each student a certificate and a Snap-On Tools screwdriver valued at more than \$100. [Who were the students? Find out here.](#)

## Special Olympics set for May 17

More than 800 student-athletes from OCM BOCES and local districts will be competing in the 2018 Special Olympic Games on May 17 at Cicero-North Syracuse High School. A Parade of Athletes will kick off the day at 10:30 a.m., followed by athletic competitions until 1:30 p.m. (The rain date is May 24.) Special Olympic games promote fitness, coordination and cardiovascular health, not to mention self-confidence, discipline and self-esteem. If you have the opportunity, please come out and cheer on the athletes!

## New Vision Medical students explore rural medicine ...

New Vision Medical Professions students from our Cortlandville Campus recently participated in SUNY Upstate Medical University's rural medicine program. Our program was one of six from across the state to be invited to the inaugural program. Students worked with current medical students to learn about diagnosing and under-diagnosing heart attacks in women. They also learned about the university's many graduate programs.



In the photo: OCM BOCES students pose with second-year medical student Zada Liu (back row, far left). In front: **Antonia Murray** (Cortland), **Caitlin Snell** (Cortland) and **Rebecca Husner** (DeRuyter). In back: **Zada Liu Hunter Metzler** (Cincinnatus) and **John Davie** (Cortland).

## ... and attend HOSA Spring Leadership Conference

Seniors in the New Vision Medical Professions program also attended the 2018 New York State HOSA Spring Leadership Conference in Liverpool. HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) is an international organization to promote health-care occupations and quality care. Students also competed and performed well in several contests at the conference.



In the photo (front row): **Natalie Thomas** (Marathon), **Antonia Murray** (Cortland), **Nadia Sonnacchio** (Homer), **Mackenzie Conklin** (Homer), **Emily Levitsky** (Homer), **Kala Johnson** (Homer), and **Allison Kristof** (Homer). In the back row are **Hunter Metzler** (Cincinnatus), **John Davie** (Cortland), **Kelsey Gibbons** (Cortland), **Rebecca Husner** (DeRuyter) and **Caitlin Snell** (Cortland).

## Reminder: OCM BOCES Conference Rooms Relocated

In an effort to accommodate program needs, the Oneida and Onondaga conference rooms at our Rodax 8 building have been relocated. The Oneida conference room is now located at our Main Campus in Room 108 on the first floor, accessible through the Adult Education entrance facing the Thruway. The Onondaga conference room is now on the first floor of 200 Elwood Davis Road, adjacent to the Main Campus. Please contact your supervisor if you have any questions. [Here is a helpful map.](#)

## Employee Assistance Program

If you are experiencing a difficult time, the confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can help you with anything from job stress to aging parents to a death in the family. Please go [to ocmboces.org/eap](http://ocmboces.org/eap) for current offerings.

## Follow us!

Please follow OCM BOCES on social media and encourage others to do the same. While several OCM BOCES programs have their own social media outlets, our organization has a general [Facebook page](#), [Twitter account](#) and [YouTube channel](#) to share news and events across all departments. We are happy to share and retweet any and all of your important news. For all of our social media platforms, check out our social media hub at <http://ocmboces.org/follow>.

## How to reach us

If you would like to contribute to BOCES Bits, which is generally distributed the first or second week of each month, please contact Jackie Wiegand at [jwiegand@ocmboces.org](mailto:jwiegand@ocmboces.org) or Laurie Cook at [lcook@ocmboces.org](mailto:lcook@ocmboces.org). If you are looking for work from our communications department outside of BOCES Bits, you can send us an email or use [a request form](#) to get started.

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