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## From the District Superintendent



Every year, the return of spring marks a new beginning for all of us in Central New York, much like our move into the new Main Campus marks a new beginning for hundreds of us at BOCES.

Once again, I would like to extend my continued thanks to everyone who has been working diligently and patiently during our move. As I mentioned previously, all BOCES departments, with the exception of the Science Center, will be in the new building by April 8th. This includes Adult Education, which will begin its move this week. The Science Center will move this summer and fall.

Again, please know that I recognize and appreciate the sacrifices that have been made by so many of you over these past months. I am grateful for your patience and understanding and confident that you will enjoy the long-term benefits of this move for yourselves and the entire BOCES organization.

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## Annual Meeting

The return of spring also means it's time for our OCM BOCES Annual Meeting. This year's event will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 6th, at the Irvin E. Henry Education Campus on Thompson Road.

Representatives from our 23 component districts will view a pair of videos that highlight our BOCES achievements from last year as well as our "coming attractions" in the year ahead. District representatives will also vote on a proposed BOCES budget for the 2016-2017 school year.

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## Bleeding Orange



BOCES staff jumped into Final Four spirit last week by dressing in Syracuse University colors and posing next to a huge inflatable of Otto the Orange, which was brought to the Main Campus building by **Elaine Liszewski**, our regional teacher certification officer. Elaine says she comes from a family of SU alum, including her

father, who graduated in 1952. For the first time in history, both the men's and women's SU basketball teams made it to the Final Four tournament.

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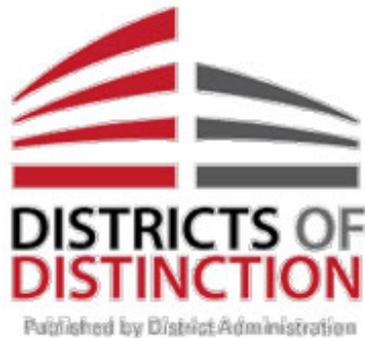
## Looking lost and learning fast



With two floors and 110,000 square feet of space to explore, administrators in Student Services were challenged with a scavenger hunt to give them a quick initiation of our new Main Campus. Assistant Superintendent Colleen Viggiano divided the staff into teams and gave them a special card to get stamped in various departments. Let's just say the teams were *competitive*. If you need information about the Main Campus, we have a new web site page you can [check out here](#).

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## Big honor



The embedded Career & Technical Education program at OCM BOCES was recognized as a "District of Distinction" by *District Administration* magazine for having a "first-of-its-kind pilot program." The three-year-old embedded program allows students to attend classes at area businesses, gaining on-site experience and expertise in areas such as physical therapy, automotive technology, early childhood care and media marketing communications. They can also earn college credit from Onondaga Community College, as well as a CTE endorsement on their diploma. For more information, [click here](#).

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## Not your father's BOCES



Educators and business leaders attending a recent meeting of the Central New York School Boards Association said they were extremely impressed with OCM BOCES' award-winning Career & Technical Education program offered at the WCNY studios in Syracuse. **Jarod Ryan** of Liverpool, left, and **Tori Savacool** of Baldwinsville spoke before 64 educators and business leaders March 30th at WCNY, sharing the value of their experience. Five days a week, high school students use WCNY's state-of-the-art equipment and work

side-by-side with the station's professional staff. They also earn college credits through visits from instructors at Onondaga Community College. **Kathleen Labulis** is their BOCES instructor.

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## McEvoy welcomes Otto



Even before the hoopla surrounding the Final Four, Otto the Orange made a grand appearance at the McEvoy Education Center for about 100 students and staff in the special education program. The appearance celebrated the success of a program called Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports, or PBIS.

Students were thrilled to see the furry Syracuse University mascot and offered hugs and high-fives between dozens of photo ops. For more information and photos from his visit, [click here](#).

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## Functional furniture



When you are deaf or hard of hearing, traditional desks can be a hindrance to communication. That's according to BOCES students at Solvay High School who worked closely with the staff at Yogibo, a New Age bean bag furniture company, to research and create their own classroom furniture. The

students, who use American Sign Language, are now teaming up with the Rochester Institute of Technology to do continued research on the effect of traditional desks on deaf and hard-of-hearing students. [Click here to learn more](#).

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## Winning silver



BOCES' Deaf and Hard of Hearing program made waves again by tying for silver in the Gallaudet University's Academic Bowl at the Fanwood School for the Deaf in White Plains. Students prepped for knowledge tests in history, science, math, English and current events. In a competition with 18 other schools, they ended up in a three-way tie, almost making

it to the national competition. Congratulations to **Nasir Clark, Dashae**

Reeves, Jacob Sikorski, and Vannessa Zurbruegg. Coaches for the team were Lisa Phinney and Penny Killeen. [Click here for more photos.](#)

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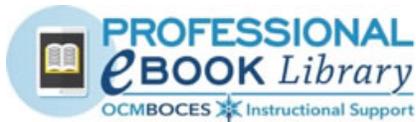
## Fantastic food



In another real-world project, students at Innovation Tech used Skype to work with the producers of CNN's hit television show, "Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown," before researching and cooking up traditional foods in Spanish-speaking countries. Students offered bite-sized portions of their efforts during a presentation that covered nearly table in the cafeteria of their school. This month, students will be traveling to New York City to visit the CNN studios in person. In the photo, **William Moore III**, second from left, and **Cheyenne MacDonald** present a three-milk cake, "Tres Leches," from Costa Rica. **Sam DiBernardo**, far left, enjoys a sample. [Read more here.](#)

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## eBooks galore



Could you imagine being able to download hundreds of free digital books to help you in nearly every aspect of your profession? That's what our staff in Student Library Services accomplished in March through a re-launch of its professional digital library. SLS added new books and combined titles from multiple companies to offer teachers convenient one-stop shopping for professional literature on a new-and-improved BOCES web page. [Click here to peruse the new library.](#)

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## Future leaders



Students in a program aimed at nurturing Hispanic and Latino leaders took a recent trip to Albany to participate in a full mock Assembly that focused on actual legislation affecting their culture and communities. Eighteen students in the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute made the culminating trip after attending five leadership training sessions with BOCES, including a daylong training session at the Onondaga County Legislature. The program was hosted by the Mid-State Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) at OCM BOCES. Students also met with legislative leaders during their trip to

Albany. In the photo, **Ashley Kelsey** of Ithaca poses in the legislative chambers. [Click here for more information.](#)

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## Best of the best



More than 180 students in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs from OCM BOCES in Syracuse and Cortland were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) during ceremonies in March at their respective schools. Students who qualify must have an 85 average or higher, 12 or fewer absences from their program for the year and receive a teacher endorsement. Students must also demonstrate respect, honesty, skill, responsibility, leadership, service and citizenship. In the photo, NTHS inductee **Caitlin Whiting** from Marathon lights a candle in the auditorium of the McEvoy Education Campus while **Shannon Cole** from Homer reads at the podium. Both are in the culinary program. For a full list of inductees from each area, [click here.](#)

*If you would like to contribute to the BOCES bits, which is generally distributed the first week of each month, please contact Laurie Cook at [lcook@ocmboces.org](mailto:lcook@ocmboces.org) or Jackie Wiegand at [jwiegand@ocmboces.org](mailto:jwiegand@ocmboces.org).*

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