

From the District Superintendent



Three years ago, flashlights in hand, members of our OCM BOCES Board of Education explored the building for our new Main Campus when it was nothing but a dark, messy, empty shell. Today, I can finally say it: We are official!



After a “soft” open house for you, our employees, and a formal open house with state and local dignitaries, our new Main Campus is officially open and ready to serve the students and staff in our 23 component school districts. Again, I want to thank **all of you** for your support, patience and hard work during this monumental effort. Everyone chipped in to make

this building – YOUR building – shine.

Speaking of transitions, it would not be spring without the opportunity to say good-bye to all of our OCM BOCES retirees, who are [listed here](#). I speak from the heart when I say THANK YOU for everything you have done, in so many ways, to contribute to the success of our organization. I wish you nothing but the best during this new chapter of your lives. Thank you, again, for all the time and hard work you gave to BOCES.

Finally, with warmer weather actually here, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful and relaxing summer. Whether you have extended time off, are taking a vacation, or simply enjoying your weekends, I hope you and your families get a chance to relax, refresh and rejuvenate.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jody". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline.

All of OCM BOCES' twenty-three component school district budgets pass:

Congratulations to all of the OCM BOCES 23 component school districts for successfully passing their proposed school budgets in the May 17 votes. We give our sincere thanks to everyone who voted. Voting on school budgets is an important right and one that too few citizens

exercise.



BOCES officially opens new Main Campus with ribbon cutting ceremony:

On Thursday, May 19, OCM BOCES officially opened the doors to their new Main Campus building at 110 Elwood Davis Road in Salina by hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration.

OCM BOCES District Superintendent **Jody Manning** and Board President **Ann Wright** welcomed guests by discussing the history of the building project and sharing their vision for the organization.

After being welcomed by the BOCES leaders, New York State Senator **John DeFrancisco** talked about his involvement and history with BOCES and publicly touted OCM BOCES for its vision and leadership. **Jhone Ebert**, senior deputy commissioner for education policy for the New York State Education Department, also applauded BOCES and its work for students. **Chris Rudderow**, Ambassador for CenterState CEO, and **Lucretia Hudzinski**, Executive Director for the Greater Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, also spoke at the ceremony to welcome OCM BOCES to the area and present certificates to Superintendent Manning.

After all speakers had the opportunity to address attendees, OCM BOCES Board of Education members and District Superintendent Manning joined together behind the ceremonial ribbon for an historical photo opportunity. The officials were joined by **John Cifaratta**, the son of long-time OCM BOCES Board of Education Member **Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton**, who passed away in March of 2015.

Board of Education President **Ann Wright** then had the honor of cutting the ribbon and symbolically welcoming BOCES to its new home. Several local media organizations took interest in the event. [Check out the Syracuse.com story here](#) or [click here to watch News Channel 9 coverage.](#)



BOCES students selected as nominees for Cortland County Youth of the Year: **Mackenzie Pendell**, left, a BOCES Cortland Alternative School (CAS) and culinary arts student from the Marathon Central School District, was recently nominated for Cortland County Youth of

the Year along with several other BOCES students who have exhibited the qualities of leadership, service and resilience. The organization, Cortland Area Communities that Care, honored many of our BOCES students among 17 nominees for the award at a ceremony on May 12.

In addition to Mackenzie, the other nominees who attend BOCES were:

- **Sara Brigham**, an 11th grader from Marathon High School who attends the health

occupations program at BOCES

- **Kayli Marshall**, a junior at McGraw High School who studies culinary arts at BOCES
- **Gwendolyn O'Neill**, a senior from Marathon High School who studies Graphic Communication at BOCES
- **Olivia Porter**, a senior at Homer High School who studies Physical Therapy at BOCES
- **Jacob Jensen**, a senior at Homer High School who studies Environmental Sciences at BOCES
- **Bridgette Bice**, a junior at McGraw High School who has enrolled in the BOCES Certified Nursing Assistant Program
- **Stephanie Wales**, a senior at Marathon High School who studies Graphic Arts at BOCES

[Click here to see additional photos and read more about our BOCES nominees and other award nominees.](#)



BOCES leaders man the phones at Tel Auc:

A trio of familiar faces appeared on television May 6 when OCM BOCES administrators volunteered to answer phones on WCNY's 50th anniversary edition of "Tel Auc." District Superintendent **Jody Manning**, left, answered phones with Assistant Superintendent **Jeff Craig**, middle, who oversees Instructional Support Services, and Assistant Superintendent **Colleen Viggiano**, who oversees student programs. The phone calls came from WCNY members bidding on products during the station's "live" auction, an annual fundraiser.



BOCES students volunteer at WCNY:

OCM BOCES has a hugely successful Career & Technical Education program at the WCNY studios on West Fayette Street. Students in the program work side-by-side with station employees and also earn up to 18 college credits through instructors from Onondaga Community College, who teach classes on site. In the photo, senior **Joe Green** worked as a volunteer "bid expeditor" during Tel Auc with fellow volunteers **Becky Badman**, left, and **Cheryl Holmes**. Students in the BOCES "Media Marketing Communications" class, as well as their instructor, **Kathy Labulis**, have routinely assisted WCNY with community projects and events on their own time.



Seven OCM BOCES students recognized by Syracuse Auto Dealers Association:

Each year, the Syracuse Automotive Dealers Association (SADA) presents awards for excellence to local Career and Technical Education students exploring the fields of automotive technology and automotive collision technology. This year's SADA awards were presented at a luncheon ceremony at the Henry campus on Tuesday, May 10. Congratulations to the following 2016 SADA award winners from OCM BOCES:

- **Jonathan Shanahan**, an automotive technology senior from the Chittenango CSD
- **Joshua Harris**, an automotive technology senior from the Marcellus CSD
- **Patrick Pallotta**, and automotive collision technology senior from the Solvay UFSD
- **Jacob Betts**, an automotive technology senior from the Solvay UFSD
- **Brandon Sweet**, an automotive technology senior from the Cortland City SD
- **Colby Lockwood**, an automotive technology senior from the Cortland City SD



Transitional Education Program students raise money for McMahon-Ryan Child Advocacy Center:

Students in the OCM BOCES Transitional Education Program (TEP) Jr. class at the Irvin E. Henry Campus recently spent time in class working on a Project Based Learning (PBL) assignment designed to answer the question "How can we help protect children?"

While researching the topic, students discovered the McMahon - Ryan Child Advocacy Center and decided as a class that they would like to support the center. Students considered ways to monetarily give to the center and decided that they would hold several fundraisers during the month of April, which is Child Abuse Prevention Month. [Click here to read more online.](#)



Reach students learn about forensic science hands-on:

Eighth grade students in the OCM BOCES Reach program recently had the opportunity to learn about real world forensics thanks to the Syracuse University (SU) Forensics Department. The department, represented by retired New York State Trooper **Adrian Grenier**, Forensic and National Security Sciences Institute Administrative Assistant **Christine Woods Heslin**, along with Syracuse University a senior

graduate anthropology student came to the Reach classroom on April 11. The visit was arranged as part of a Project Based Learning (PBL) assignment through which the students experienced Harper Lee's classic novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by learning about and recreating the trial of character Tom Robinson. [Click here to read the rest of the story online.](#)



Library advocates honored

In study after study, year after year, researchers have shown a simple concept: the more robust a school library program, the better students do on standardized tests. Rich or poor it simply does not matter. This year, the OCM BOCES School Library

System honored two outstanding library advocates who have made a difference for school libraries.



Michael Falls, director of business and finance in the Homer Central School District, won the 2016 School Library System Administrator of the Year award. **Maria Nastasi**, an ELA Teacher at LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School, was honored as Teacher Collaborator of the Year.

The ceremony was held May 11 at the OCM BOCES Main Campus.



Share the news of a sensational summer conference:

If you know anyone who still needs to sign up for a one-of-a-kind, inspirational summer conference that offers expertise on the Maker Movement and Project Based Learning, please tell them about our August 2-5 event called "Making Learning Happen@ PBLNY." The speaker lineup is

impressive, to say the least, and includes former astronaut and NFL player Leland Melvin. [Click here for more.](#) At OCM BOCES, PBL Coordinator Joanne Keim recently teamed up with Assistant Superintendent Jeff Craig to discuss the conference on Education Talk Radio. It's a lively discussion [check it out here.](#)



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.](#)

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 or Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@ocmboces.org.

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