

Message from the Superintendent



I was recently talking with one of my colleagues about the Thanksgiving holiday and commiserating about Mondays how they can sometimes be difficult and tiring. Our conversation turned to our children and how the same feeling must hold true for them. With the luster of a new school

year wearing off, Mondays could be particularly challenging for them as well. They might even think of excuses for not going to school at all.

That conversation got me thinking about the importance of each and every day for our students. Each year, we see our children advance to the next grade level and witness their increasing knowledge and skills. But for students to make large gains over a period of time, they need to make small gains each month, week, day and even each moment. Of course, this means that students must not only **be at** school, they must **be engaged** in school.

In my mind, one of the greatest things about OCM BOCES is the way we engage our students. Through hands-on lessons, project based learning, real-life experiences and embedded programming, our students are living the lessons they are learning. I truly value this great organization and the unique and extraordinary learning opportunities that we provide for thousands of students each year.

Please accept this message as my sincere season's greetings to you and your families. I appreciate you and the invaluable contributions you make to OCM BOCES. May the holiday season bring you peace, joy and laughter among your colleagues, family and friends. And as we welcome a new year, may you and your loved ones have health and prosperity and a renewed sense of hope and promise. Thank you for all you bring to our students and staff.

Dr. Jody Manning
District Superintendent

Fantastico Dinner: Students in the McEvoy Campus Culinary Arts program recently hosted a dinner for members of the Cortland and Madison Boards of Education. Members were greeted by the culinary students of Chef Lori Rossi's class with strawberry lemonade, spinach-artichoke crostini, and crispy panko-parmesan tortellini. A classic variety of Italian music played in the background while members enjoyed a salad of fresh mozzarella, arugula and cherry tomato. The molto bene main course featured chicken saltimbocca, roasted garlic mashed potatoes and "Action Stations," where the culinary students showed off their sautéing skills with pasta, vegetables, shrimp and a variety of homemade sauces. To cap off the evening of La Dolce Vita, Board members were treated to red and green grape granita and hand-filled cannolis. Chef Rossi says the evening was "Grande Successo" and enjoyed by all who attended. See many more photos [here](#).



Upstate partnership: About 30 motivated students from our component districts have been getting an up-close look at medical professions through an exciting new partnership this year with SUNY Upstate Medical University. These Career & Technical Education programs include the two-year Physical Therapy & Rehabilitative Professions and the one-year New Vision Medical Professions programs. Students take classes every day in an embedded classroom at Upstate, earn college credits through Onondaga Community College and experience rotations in a variety of clinical settings and at a variety of medical facilities in the area. NewsChannel 9's Jeff Kulikowsky paid a visit Dec. 7 and featured a segment on that [evening's newscast](#).



Focus on English Language Learners:

About 120 educators gathered at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool on Dec. 9 for a conference called "Teaching ELLs Across the Content," a Teachers' Institute event sponsored by the New York State Department of Education and the Mid-State, West and Mid-West RBE-RN's (Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network). The event kicked off



with inspirational words from New York State Assemblywoman Pamela J. Hunter, followed by a keynote address from (pictured) Lisette M. Colón-Collins, the newly appointed assistant commissioner for bilingual education and world languages at the state Education Department. Afternoon sessions focused on assessments, conversational skills and scaffolding for English Language Arts and social studies. [OCM BOCES Mid-State RBE-RN](#) Coordinator Tanya Rosado-Barringer said the day was a huge success.

Getting ahead of new science standards:

OCM BOCES is at the forefront of regional training and implementation for the new state science standards approved Dec. 12th by the New York State Board of Regents. Elementary teachers (left) recently received training in engineering practices at OCM BOCES as the result of a \$200,000 “100Kin10” grant through the Smithsonian Science Education Center. The training followed a groundbreaking conference on Nov. 8 for more than 300 educators in the region. For more conference information, [check out the event resource page](#). Also, OCM BOCES Science Coordinator Jessica Whisher-Hehl and Dr. Sharon Dotger of Syracuse University’s School of Education recently wrote a blog about the conference and related topics that was published on the Smithsonian’s web site. You can [read it here](#).



Reading tool gains popularity:

Second-grade teacher Rick Mace, left, of the Westhill Central School District, spoke to a room full of teachers, media specialists and administrators at the OCM BOCES Main Campus on Dec. 13 to explain the benefits of myON an online literacy platform that gives students and teachers access to thousands of books, data collection, audio narration and more. Those who attended the workshop will be able to use the myOn platform at no charge through the end of the year. Mace, an 18-year teacher, said his students have no problems accessing myOn, love the program and do much more reading as a result. “In all my time teaching, I’ve never found a more influential tool,” he said, adding: “It blew me away.”



Special guests: With the whirlwind of activity that takes place each day at the OCM BOCES Main Campus in Salina, it was no surprise that our building offered a convenient, central location for a statewide Native American Conference last month. The conference included a visit from New York State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia, who viewed our new facility and tweeted this photo about the conference [@NYSEDNews](#).



Helping our soldiers: In their first Project Based Learning project, students in the SKATE program at Camillus Middle School collected items and sent them overseas “to our men and women in the armed forces fighting for our freedom,” teacher Annmarie Rossomano said. Students kicked off the project with a lesson on all branches of the military, then conducted online research to compile a list of needed items. Students were responsible for stuffing mailboxes at the school with their lists; creating three donation station boxes; collecting donations weekly; grouping and sorting items; packaging three boxes to send overseas; composing five large thank you letters to supporters; and writing letters to put inside the boxes. Students also collected money to send a Christmas tree to a 2014 West Genesee graduate stationed in Afghanistan. For more great photos of this project, check out this collage from Annmarie called [“Thanking our Veterans”](#) and another one called [“Project Support our Troops.”](#)



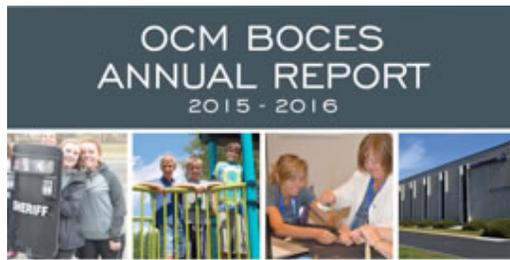
New on YouTube:

Transitions: When you visit the OCM BOCES [YouTube channel](#), check out a documentary video on our Transitions program, now in its second year. The program allows special needs students between the ages of 17 and 21 to spend their day at SUNY Cortland or Onondaga Community College to get work-based learning opportunities, academics to support those opportunities and community-based instruction.



Community Partnerships: One of the biggest strengths of OCM BOCES is our community partnerships. Check out this [video](#) that highlights a mix of our CTE, Transitions and New Tech programs, which depend on community partners to engage and inspire students.

Making



Progress: Our 2015-16 school year marked an unprecedented period of growth for OCM BOCES and outstanding progress toward our ultimate mission: preparing students for the future. Read about some of our biggest and best accomplishments in the 2015-16 Annual Report found at ocmboces.org.

Behind the Scenes: The OCM BOCES Media Marketing Communications' senior class recently participated in a taping of *Connect:NY* with host Susan Arbetter. *Connect:NY* is WCNY's statewide TV news and public affairs series. Students walked through all phases of production and discussed all the nuances associated with producing a news show of this magnitude.



In the photo, students gather in the green room with guests, including Alexander Marion (second from right), press secretary for Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Minor. The topic for this particular show: **Race, Policing and Respect in New York State** will air on November 17. View more photos and read more about it [here](#).

Community Service Fair:

Representatives from 28 service providers in the Central New York region packed the hallways and filled a conference room Dec. 5 in the Adult Education campus at OCM BOCES' Main Campus in Salina. Dozens of students and other guests visited tables to ask information and gather information. Service providers ranged from Centro to United Healthcare to the Spanish Action League to CNY Works to the Alzheimer's Association and more. See more photos on our Adult Ed [Facebook](#) page and "like" the page while you're there!



BOCES LPN Student Becomes U.S.

Citizen: LPN students in the OCM BOCES Adult Education Department recently celebrated a huge milestone for one of their classmates, Tara Khanal, who became a U.S. citizen after living most of his life as a Bhutanese refugee.



Khanal and his extended family were forced to leave Bhutan and live in refugee camps when he just an infant. They later lived as refugees in India before India, too, forced them to leave. Nearby Nepal offered asylum for most of Khanal's life, but education was minimal. Khanal said he tried to work as a teacher to raise money for his family, but it was difficult. An opportunity to leave the country changed that. "If I can work hard and balance my work life and school life, I can do it all here," he said. Khanal's hope is to finish the LPN program at OCM BOCES in January and continue his medical studies at Onondaga Community College.

SPREAD THE WORD! Our OCM BOCES Spring LPN program, which starts in February, is currently filling and accepting applications. Call 315-453-4400 or go to ocmboces.org/adulted for more information.

New Year, New You: Interested in cooking, healthy eating, gardening, karate, meditation, welding or learning a new language? Those are among dozens of classes being offered this winter and spring through our OCM BOCES Adult Education departments in Liverpool and Cortland. The newest course catalogs for both campuses are now available online. Please go to ocmboces.org/adulted to learn more.



Doing good in the community, Part I:

OCM BOCES Health Occupations Coordinator Crystal Smith, left, was "locked up for good" at Uno Pizzeria & Grill on Route 31 in Clay recently and raised \$665 to support the cure for muscular dystrophy. Crystal said she was inspired to do the fundraiser by one of her instructors.



Doing good in the community, Part II:

Christopher Rogers (left, in suit) an Instructional Technology Integration Specialist at our Regional Information Center, was recently on Channel 9's "[Bridge Street](#)" program because he directed a cabaret at a Manlius church for



a local theater group called Front Row Players. The organization offers theater for adults of all abilities so they can "try new skills and be fearless on stage," according to the organization's web site, frontrowplayers.org. Rogers was part of the Bridge Street show with theater founder Deborah Cavanagh and two of their actors. The group rehearsed 12 weeks to have a successful cabaret.

Non-Discrimination Policy: The OCM BOCES non-discrimination policy has been updated and added to our web site. Please [click here](#) to view it in full.

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 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. For all of our social media platforms, check out our **social media hub** at ocmboces.org.

Employee Assistance Program: Don't forget about our confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which can help you with anything from holiday 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 *OCM* 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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