

Message from the Superintendent



Now that we have landed firmly on our feet after leaping into the school year, I would like to thank you and congratulate you for making this transition a smooth and successful one. No matter what you do for OCM BOCES, I hope you feel invigorated and motivated by the start of a new school year. Of

course, it is hard to believe that Halloween (and the holidays!) are right around the corner.

What's new:

In addition to running our regional summer school as well as countless conferences, workshops and training sessions, OCM BOCES worked hard over the summer to begin the new year with some exciting new programs:

- **STARS**

Students in our **STARS Alternative High School** stepped into a newly renovated facility on our Henry Campus after previously attending limited quarters in Solvay. Principal **Andy Muller** welcomed students on the first day and even joined me at 5:30 a.m. during the first week of school to be featured on [Channel 9](#). As you may recall, the building used to house our administrative offices.



- **Crown Road**

Because of the move to our Main Campus, we freed up space at our Crown Road facility (the former Career Training Center) for special education programs. Middle- and high-school programs from our Kasson Road site came to Crown Road. Spaces were designated in the building for elementary, middle school and high school students. Before the move, several updates and improvements were completed, including multiple classroom and office renovations, new activity rooms for special education and Innovation Tech, and a significant amount of mechanical, electrical and plumbing work. Finally, a new playground, which the students love, was installed over the summer. A PBIS event was held early in September to celebrate the new playground and

officially mark its opening.



- **Seven Valleys**

Finally, shortly after school started, we held a grand opening and ribbon cutting for our new **Seven Valleys New Tech Academy** in Cortland. More than 60 people attended the event: local and state elected representatives, education leaders, guidance counselors, business partners, media and OCM BOCES staff. I want to thank everyone who assisted, especially Principal **Renae Montroy** and her excellent cadre of **student tour guides**. ([Click for more.](#)) You can also see hear about opening on [Time Warner News](#) and listen to us on [WRVO](#).



Now that we are settled in to a new routine, I wish you all the best during this school year and thank you for all you do for our children. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

As a final item, I want to mention that this Oct. 24 through 28, we celebrate School Board Recognition Week. This is a time to promote awareness and understanding of the important work performed by school board members. OCM BOCES is joining all public school districts across the state to celebrate School Board Recognition Week to honor local board members for their commitment to Central New York and its children. It takes strong schools to build a strong community, and these men and women devote countless hours to making sure our schools are helping every child learn at a higher level. Please take time to join me in thanking our nine tremendous board of education members for their service. Click the banner below to learn more about School Board Recognition Week.

Dr. Jody Manning
District Superintendent

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In Other News

Welcome, all new OCM BOCES employees: OCM BOCES would like to officially welcome all of our OCM BOCES employees! It is always nice to see fresh faces and experience new perspectives from new co-workers. I hope you enjoy your time here and had a smooth transition into the year.

Welcome new BOCES leadership: OCM BOCES begins the 2016-2017 school year with the tremendous support of two new leaders: **Pamela Mazzaferro** and **Jennifer Spong**. Pam was appointed July 14 to become the new director of the Central New York Regional Informational Center (CNYRIC) and Jen started Sept. 12 as OCM BOCES new assistant superintendent for Instructional Support Services. We welcome our two new leaders who bring decades of leadership and expertise to OCM BOCES and our component districts.



Pam comes to us from the Rome City School District.

[Click here to read more about Pam and her work with the CNYRIC.](#)



Jen comes to us from the Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES and has already made a great impression on our ISS staff.

[Click here to read more about Jen.](#)

In our local school districts, I would like to welcome three new superintendents: **Melinda McCool** in McGraw, **Michelle L. Branter** in Marcellus and interim **Jaime Alicea** in Syracuse. Please let us know if we can help you and your districts in any way.

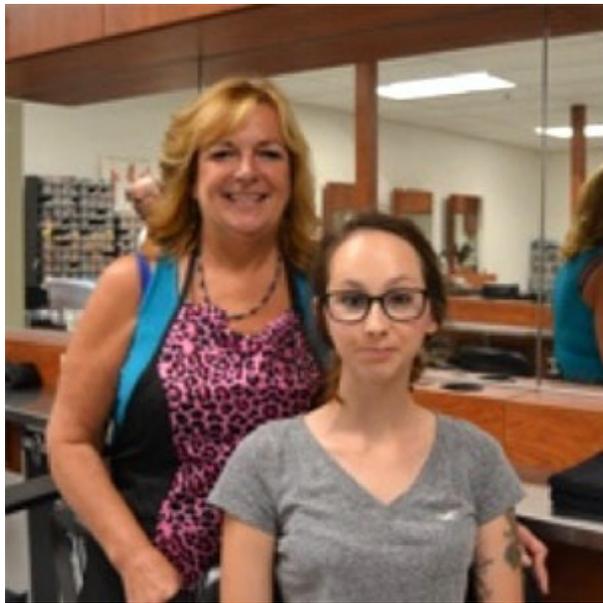
McEvoy special education principal receives “Community Partner” award: Congratulations to Carol Ann Davies, OCM BOCES’ special education principal at McEvoy, for recently receiving the “Community Partner” award from Cortland’s Franziska Racker Centers. The award is presented annually to a group or business that works to improve the lives of people with disabilities. In presenting the award to Carol Ann, Susan Thomas of Racker Centers, stated, “I can’t think of a more deserving partner than Carol Ann Davies and OCM BOCES.” Thomas went on to provide a glowing account of Carol Ann and the tremendous work she has done through OCM BOCES and beyond to enhance the lives of students with disabilities and break down barriers. “Carol Ann is an administrator who does everything possible to ensure kids, families and staff feel a sense of belonging to and acceptance in our school. On a daily basis, she tells people they are appreciated and valued. She sees the strengths in every person,” Susan said. “Sometimes our students act out in the most unlovable ways. Many come to us with histories of unsuccessful school placements, devastating losses and disrupted attachments. Carol Ann’s loving and respectful manner of talking to children has worked time and time again in breaking down the barriers. We have been more successful providing a safe, caring environment where healing can happen because of Carol Ann’s patience, character and stellar administrative style,” she continued. [Read more here.](#)

Summer Literacy Celebration: The Literacy Program that is part of our

Adult Education department at OCM BOCES offered a unique celebration this summer, with students enjoying manicures, pedicures and other spa treatments, courtesy of our cosmetology students. Three students enjoyed makeup/hair “makeovers” as part of the festivities. Check out these before-and-after photos:



Artist Donnie Williams with student Lúkwidzja Peterson



Left: Artist Susan Kincaid with Jaime Pickard and Right: Artist Jessica Neugebaer, Jaime Pickard and Susan Kincaid



Artist Fallen Sickhes with student Lynn Liangsiri

Welding for winners: Gordon McCaffer, a welder/fitter instructor in Adult Education, worked with Greg Nowak and John Sweeney recently to create unique, runner-shaped trophies for people who ran the Syracuse Inner Harbor 5K Road Race on Aug. 28. McCaffer said a new piece of shop equipment at OCM BOCES, the Scotchman Ironworker, was used to fabricate many of the pieces of the awards, which the runners loved.



All aboard for community service: Auto collision students at our McEvoy Campus played a key role last year in refurbishing a kiddie train for the Binghamton Zoo at Ross Park that was finally revealed in mid-September. Students in **Dale Gendron's** class took a rusty, dented industrial train that the zoo purchased online and worked on it for months so the zoo could use it as a new attraction. Toby Rice, the zoo's marketing and special events coordinator, said the zoo pursued the project because patrons fondly remembered a train ride from decades past and thought it might be nice to bring back.

Students sanded cars, filled in scratches, and primed, painted and clear-coated the panels. Many reflected on their experience and said it was a huge and sometimes overwhelming job but worth it. They presented the train to zoo officials last spring. Today the train sports three passenger cars and bright, animal-themed graphics. Zoo officials had a news announcement Sept. 14, formally unveiling the ride and declaring it "open."

"We are super happy with the way it came out," Rice said. "The students did a wonderful job."

Gendron said he was proud of his students. "They really rose to the occasion," he said. Later, Gendron was honored by the Cortland Rotary Club as a "Teacher of the Year" at its awards luncheon in May.



Left: Auto collision students from McEvoy visit the zoo to present the clean, primed, scratch-free train cars (middle). Far right: The zoo added graphics and other embellishments.

More time for free books: A pilot program that has provided free access to e-books for more than 60,000 students has been extended into the school year so teachers can use it as an instructional tool. Our OCM BOCES School Library System began the myOn digital library pilot program in May and, because of its success, decided to extend the program into December. Over the summer, students from 53 districts opened nearly 46,000 books and completed more than 23,500.

“Go Time” Science Conference: Anticipation is building for our highly popular regional science conference: “It’s Go Time: Seeing the Future through the NEW New York State Science Standards.” The event on Nov. 8 offers amazing keynote speakers and a series of live research lessons that will give teachers a chance to visualize the new state science standards in action. Dr. Carol O’Donnell, director of the Smithsonian Science Education Center, will kick off the conference at Roxboro Road Middle School. [Click here for more.](#)

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 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.

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 Laurie Cook at lcook@ocmboces.org or Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@ocmboces.org

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