

Message from the Superintendent



Spring is officially upon us, and I am thankful that the weather is finally catching up to what the calendar proclaims. With the warm weather comes the realization that the end of the school year will soon be here.

Our CTE programs at the [Henry](#) and [McEvoy](#) campuses recently held induction ceremonies for

the National Technical Honor Society. As the students recited the NTHS pledge and lit ceremonial candles, I realized what I wanted to write about this month – the home stretch.

While I'm certain many of our students are anxiously anticipating the end of the school year, I want to remind everyone to stop and just BE in the moment. There are going to be many graduations and award ceremonies these next few months. Your parents, families, friends and teachers will be coming to those events to celebrate your success. My advice to just stop and be in the moment – savor the many enjoyable and memorable ones that will happen this spring.

Dr. Jody Manning
District Superintendent

Committed to the Cure: Because cancer has touched so many of our lives, OCM BOCES is inviting employees, employees' families and friends to join us in a very

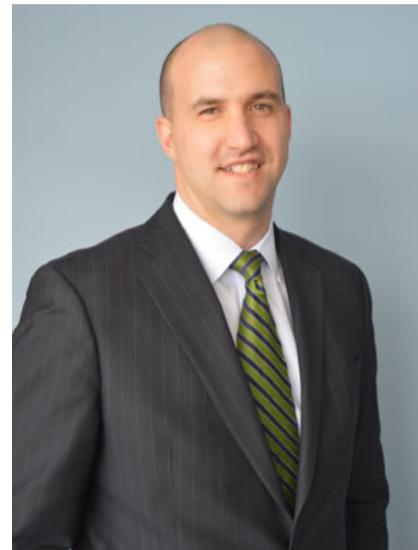
special event: the [2017 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure](#). The 5K run/walk will be held on Saturday, May 20, near the Lakeview Amphitheater at the New York State Fairgrounds. Runners and walkers will gather in the Orange Lot before enjoying a course along the scenic



Onondaga Lake Park West Shore Trail.

The cost to participate is \$40 (\$35 for cancer survivors), but participants are also encouraged to raise money beyond the registration fee to support the fight against cancer. At OCM BOCES, we hope to, as a community, raise at least \$1,000. Please [join our OCM BOCES team by registering here and selecting the pink button that says "JOIN OUR TEAM."](#) More details will be available soon about how to win the coveted Golden Sneaker award and other exciting awards/incentives. OCM BOCES has chosen to focus on this event this year rather than the Corporate Challenge. Please feel free to invite family and friends to join our team. If you cannot participate but [would like to make a donation](#), you can do so on our team page. Our captain this year is Adult Education Director Mari Ukleya.

OCM BOCES appoints new director of Human Resources/School Attorney: [OCM BOCES is pleased to announce the appointment of Syracuse attorney Joseph J. Bufano](#) as its new director of Human Resources/School Attorney. He previously represented OCM BOCES for eight years as an attorney for Ferrara Fiorenza PC, a law firm with offices in East Syracuse and Rochester that focuses on employment law. Be sure to check back as we will be introducing you to Mr. Bufano in an upcoming edition of *BOCES Bits*!



School Library System coordinator recognized for distinguished service: The New York State Educational Media/Technology Association (EMTA) recently presented OCM BOCES' School Library System Coordinator Doreen Bergman with their 2016-2017 [Distinguished Service Award](#). The award is given annually to an EMTA member who demonstrates outstanding service in the field of media technology and excels in areas of professional leadership, information sharing, creative services, quality of programs and professional service to the organization. Doreen, who is the EMTA Literacy Grant Committee Chair, was chosen for having "courageously stepped up to leadership positions from the beginning of her EMTA membership." It was noted that Doreen "continually participates in many activities and brings in information from beyond the state" and "always has great ideas for improving the organization!"



Congratulations, Doreen! The EMTA annually awards three grants of up to \$1,250 to New York State K-12 teachers to implement media literacy projects in the classroom.

Grant Writing Service helps component district secure \$5.3 million grant! Did you hear the big news? [OCM BOCES played a key role in helping the Solvay Union Free School District secure a five-year, \\$5.3 million grant to boost student achievement.](#) Solvay took

advantage of the OCM BOCES Grant Writing Services in our Educational Programs division – a service that links districts to a multitude of grant resources and writers. In this case, OCM BOCES secured the services of Fairport grant writer Chris Semler, who worked closely with the district to secure a federal 21st Century Learning Centers grant. “This is a huge boost for us,” Solvay Superintendent Lawrence Wright said. “We will be able to do some really creative and innovative things to connect with families and help students be successful.” The grant will have a significant impact in a district with 1,500 students and a \$32.4 million budget. It will mostly provide before- and after-school programs with the help of several community partners, including OCM BOCES.



Kuwaiti educators visit OCM BOCES program: Twenty-seven education dignitaries from Kuwait recently spent time at Lime Hollow Nature Center in Cortland to learn from high school seniors and staff about an on-site, hands-on program offered through OCM BOCES. One of the visitors to the OCM BOCES' New Vision program,



Assistant Undersecretary Fatma Alkandari, serves as second-in-command in Kuwait's Ministry of Education. She took copious notes during the presentation and later used one word to describe her impression: “Amazing.” [Learn about the visit here.](#)

McEvoy culinary students create recipes for local eatery:

What can a high school senior do to leave his or her mark on their school and community? For some OCM BOCES Culinary Arts students, that concept meant creating a signature recipe for a local eatery. Dean Catlin, owner of



Skyline Raceway in Blodgett Mills, recently made a “pit stop” to the OCM BOCES McEvoy campus for the purpose of enlisting culinary arts students’ help in creating a signature culinary creation for the track’s restaurant. [Find out the winning creation here.](#)

CTE students inducted into National Technical Honor Society:

OCM BOCES recently inducted 71 Syracuse-area students and 84 Cortland-area students into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS). Students who qualify represent the highest achievers in CTE programs. To be inducted into the technical honor society, students must have an 85 average or higher, 12 or fewer absences from their program and a teacher endorsement. Students must also demonstrate attributes that include: respect, honesty, skill, responsibility, leadership, service and citizenship. View the list for [Henry inductees](#) and [McEvoy inductees](#).



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Students head to Albany as part of Puerto Rican Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute:

Seventeen teens from school districts across Central New York spent a recent weekend in the legislative chambers in Albany as part of a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience. Through OCM BOCES’ Mid-State Regional Bilingual Education Network (RBERN), the



students came together to make up the Syracuse Delegation for the annual Puerto Rican Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (PRHYLI). [Click here to find out more about the Syracuse delegation](#) and their experiences.

Congratulations, LPN Graduates!

OCM BOCES recently celebrated the accomplishments of 19 Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) students at a graduation ceremony held at Gillette Road Middle School in Cicero. Molly English-Bowers was selected at the student speaker and provided an inspirational speech for the audience and her fellow students. [Graduate names and some pictures from the ceremony are online.](#)



New leader in the Go GREEN Challenge?

After the Crown Road campus jumped to an early lead last month in the Go Green Challenge, our McEvoy campus has now taken over FIRST PLACE. As you will see from our updated [Go Green chart](#), McEvoy's progress stemmed from purple-colored bonus points awarded for schoolwide "Go Green Ambassadors" – students who spread the word and monitor proper recycling. Students at McEvoy also created large and easy-to-read signs to help students and staff discern trash from recyclables. These signs were in place even before our shiny new receptacles were delivered.



Still, as with the initial update, other OCM BOCES buildings are neck-and-neck and could easily surpass McEvoy. Are you willing to help? Are you willing to do what it takes to earn the coveted Go Green Championship Lamp and an all-building pizza party? [Find out more on the Go Green website.](#)

Update on the no-cell-phone project: In the March edition of *BOCES Bits*, you may have read about students in the New Vision Criminal Justice program who gave up their cell phones for a week. The students' story was featured on [NewsChannel 9](#) the first day of the experiment. Students kept journals during their week-long phone fast to describe their feelings about the project. One student, Betsy Davis, wrote in her journal on day one: "I felt super anxious



today. ... I have noticed that I'm talking to my mom a lot more and I actually have some numbers memorized. I have definitely had a few phantom rings but I guess that's to be expected. I keep finding myself looking for my phone." [The station also followed-up with students on the final day of the project to give curious viewers an update on how things went.](#)

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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