

## Message from the Superintendent



I always feel a mix of hope and amazement with the onset of March. Hope comes with the near-arrival of spring and its highly anticipated gifts of sunshine, warmth and fresh green foliage. Amazement comes to the fore because, like you, I am always shocked at the break-neck speed of the school

year. It won't be long before we are celebrating high school graduations and other student achievements across the entire OCM BOCES region.

Until then, however, our busy pace continues. One important date is Wednesday, March 8, when OCM BOCES will host a regional public forum on New York State's draft plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). You can find more about that [here](#).

Budget season continues with our OCM BOCES Annual Meeting set for April 5 at our McEvoy Campus. At this meeting, OCM BOCES will present its budgets to component districts and share highlights of the previous year. For more information, check out our online [budget information](#) and our [district snapshots](#).

Until next time, I would like to thank you for all the hard work you perform each day for our students, staff and districts. Our overall success and ultimately, the success of our students -- takes a true team effort. I would also like to wish you all the best as you head full-steam ahead into the final quarter of our 2016-17 school year. Before long, amazingly, summer will be here.

Dr. Jody Manning  
District Superintendent

**Soup Champs:** Congratulations to OCM BOCES business office employees **Ivette Kashmer** and **Patti Decker** for preparing the winning soups in a fun cook-off Feb. 28 at our OCM BOCES Main Campus in Salina. Kashmer won the chili contest, citing the secret ingredients of brown sugar and a cinnamon stick;



Decker won the any-soup-besides-chili award for her shredded chicken with pastina. Both won decorated soup ladles for their culinary achievements. The staff at OCM BOCES would like to express hearty congratulations to all the chefs who participated: **Kate Walters, Donna Robillard, Mark Pettitt, Patti Sherlock, Cyndi Isgar, Mari Ukleya and Dave Smith.** A special thank you goes to **Donna Robillard** for organizing the event.

**Cool bins:** You may have noticed those new, colorful receptacles in all of our BOCES buildings they are specifically designed to help us sort trash from recyclables. The bins are just another development in this year's "Go Green" contest, which pits building against building to see which group of employees can do the most to preserve the environment. As you may recall, the first update put our Crown Road Campus in first place, but with a very narrow lead and several other buildings in hot pursuit. Will your building rise to the top? Do you have what it takes to win the Go Green



Championship Trophy Lamp? Overall scores are based on which OCM BOCES building can demonstrate the largest improvement in energy reduction and recycling efforts by the end of the school year. Bonus points will be awarded for special sustainability projects. Are you contacting your building rep about these special projects? [Find all you need on the Go Green website.](#)

**NO CELL PHONE?** About 18 students in the OCM BOCES New Vision Criminal Justice Program at the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department are giving up their cell phones, completely, for an entire week. Instructor **Charlie Wilson** said he made the request because Police Academy instructors are seeing a huge



deficit in face-to-face communications skills among young recruits. “How can you be a cop if you can’t communicate?” he said. Wilson did the same experiment 11 years ago, in 2006. That was when **Courtney Venditte**, now an assistant district attorney in Onondaga County, was one of his students. She visited Charlie’s class Feb. 28, just before the students turned in their phones. “You need to be able to read people and establish relationships if you want to get anywhere in your career,” she told the students. One senior, **Michael Ackerman** of Chittenango (in photo), says he doesn’t text much. “But I’ll miss looking up any information I need with a click of a button,” he said. [NewsChannel 9 did a feature on the project](#) when the students gave up their phones on Monday. The station was expected to return to the classroom Friday, when the students get their phones back.

**Batty for information:** Students in **Ann Currie’s** STAR (Skills Toward Adult Responsibility) class at Homer Elementary School participated in project-based learning that involved researching bats, creating posters, presenting their findings and putting their work on display in a very prominent place: Lime Hollow Nature Center in Cortland.



The project began when students learned about bats during science and discovered a variety of facts about the mammals, including three types of endangered bats in New York State. Students delved into the reasons bats are endangered and sought ways to increase the population. They asked the question, “How can we, as bat scientists, inform the public about endangered flying mammals in New York State?” The students took their newfound information, put it together on a fact sheet, and transformed the information into posters about each endangered bat. The students also created a poster about helping bats. The class presented their findings to second-grade students and also brought the posters to Lime Hollow Nature Center, where they presented the information to the center’s staff. The posters were put on display at Lime Hollow so other students and visitors could learn about bats and what they can do to help.

Second-year students in the Media Marketing Communications program at WCNY studios in Syracuse have taken on the task of [reaching out to WCNY’s ReadOut Radio listeners](#) through a telephone survey aimed at improving the service. ReadOut is a 24/7 free radio service for the blind or visually impaired. It



features volunteers, including our OCM BOCES students, who read regional newspapers, magazines, books and even grocery ads. WCNY wanted to update its ReadOut listener records and ask listeners for feedback. They turned to the BOCES students to tackle this project. As a result, students are asking listeners a variety of questions, such as: What programs are the most popular? When are they listening? What would they like to hear more of? Students also created a radio promo to alert ReadOut listeners to the survey. Once the survey is complete, students will be responsible compiling the data and reporting the results to WCNY staff. In the photo, OCM BOCES student **Abin Boris** works with WCNY's **Bruce Paulsen**

**Chit Chat Train:** It was full-steam ahead for students at our Crown Road campus, where teachers and staff in our Stellata and K-8 special education programs recently piloted a social communication project, called the "Chit Chat Train," to encourage students to display positive and appropriate interactions with their peers. For four weeks, students earned paper train cars for using appropriate nonverbal gestures and social greetings, as well as for asking/answering each other's questions and making appropriate comments during peer interactions. The train cars started their long and meandering journey at the main entrance of the school and traveled down several hallways in the building to finally make it to the "train station." Speech therapists **Shari Fauer** and **Leah Kadlecik** said students celebrated their accomplishment with a pizza party.



**Culinary feast with Cornell:** For the second year in a row, four representatives from Cornell Dining traveled to OCM BOCES' McEvoy Campus in Cortland to take part in a continuing partnership with Chef Lori Rossi's Culinary Arts class. The result: a culinary masterpiece of fresh pasta and chicken parmesan, as well as fresh oven-roasted tomato sauce and cello basil leaves as a garnish. Chef **Timothy Oltz** of Cornell Catering, Chef **Steven Miller**, **Matthew Johnson**, and **Harry Ashendorf** made the trip to work with the class of 18 high school seniors from Homer, Cortland, McGraw, DeRuyter and Cincinnatus. [Read more.](#)



**Seeking nominees for CTE Alumni Hall of Fame:** OCM BOCES is currently seeking nominations for its Career and Technical Education (CTE) Alumni Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame honors OCM BOCES CTE program graduates who demonstrate leadership in their field. Two individuals will be selected for recognition as 2017 Hall of Fame inductees: one graduate from the Henry Center in Syracuse, and one graduate from the McEvoy Center in Cortland. Nomination forms are due March 31. [Read more.](#)



**LPNs in huge demand:** The demand for LPNs and a big shout-out to OCM BOCES kicked off a series on [syracuse.com](#) called "CNY's Job Hunt." The story by Sarah Moses says "licensed practical nurses make up the nation's second largest health care group and is one of the most in-demand health occupations in the country, according to the Onondaga Cortland Madison Counties BOCES' nursing program." Read the whole story [here](#). Jones is also interviewing Adult Ed Coordinator **Matt Tarolli** about manufacturing jobs for an upcoming piece.



**OCM BOCES helps inspiring student:** A [story in Syracuse University News](#) by local writer Sean Kirst describes an SU graduate student who achieved her goals despite exceptional challenges. OCM BOCES gets a mention because the woman received her high school equivalency diploma and a new start in life through us. OCM BOCES instructor **Sam Reppi** called her a "superstar."

Take a part-time class at your very own OCM BOCES! Our newest course catalog for our Liverpool campus is HOT OFF THE PRESSES and packed with any number of classes to pique your interest. It should arrive in your mailbox soon. You can also check it out [online](#).



#CTEMonth: A statewide celebration of CTE programs in the month of February produced plenty of tweets, stories, Facebook posts and other social media news. If you missed it, just use #CTEMonth in any social media search. You can also visit [ocmboces.org/cte](http://ocmboces.org/cte) to watch short videos about any of our OCM BOCES CTE programs.



**Do this now: 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. For all of our social media platforms, check out our **social media hub** at [ocmboces.org](http://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](http://ocmboces.org/eap) for more. For this month, March, the EAP wellness topic is: **National Nutrition Month**. For more information, go [here](#) to download a brochure.



In addition, the EAP is pleased to offer the following **FREE** workshops this spring:

- **March 9** ABC's of Adult ADHD from 4-5:30pm at Liverpool Public Library Carman Community Room, Liverpool
- **March 14** Food & Mood from 4:30-6pm at OCM BOCES, McEvoy Conference Center, Cortland
- **March 23** Clearing Clutter from 4:30-6pm at CIT/Oswego BOCES Stern Admin Bldg Boardroom, Mexico
- **March 29** NYS Employee Retirement System Overview from 5-6:30pm at OCM BOCES New Main Campus, Syracuse
- **April 4** Brain Games: Staying Sharp at any Age/Stage from 4:30-6pm at Boynton Middle School Library, Ithaca
- **April 27** Caregiver Camp: Caring for the Caregiver from 4:30-6pm at OCM BOCES New Main Campus, Syracuse

\*Please note that programs are on varying days of the week and have varying start times\*

You can register in the following ways:

1. Send an email to Michelle Stolicker, EAP Supervisor at [eap@ocmboces.org](mailto:eap@ocmboces.org) with the workshop title in the subject line and your contact information (name, preferred phone number and email) in the body of the message.
2. Call Michelle with the above registration information. She can be reached at (315) 471-1361 ext. 315 or (315) 952-6388.
3. Download the [online registration form](#) and return to Michelle via BOCES mail, US Mail or send as an email attachment to Michelle at [eap@ocmboces.org](mailto:eap@ocmboces.org) with the workshop title in the subject line.

**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.

*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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