

From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff:

June is such a wonderful month at BOCES. It is a time that we celebrate with our students, parents, and staff the success of our work. For me, this June has been especially poignant as I watch each graduation and award ceremony and know that it will be my last as District Superintendent.

Whether it is the success of an adult who has passed the GED after dropping out of school 20 years ago or the comments of a high school senior who has found passion in the field of lab technology through our CTE program, we change the lives of many each year.

I was very pleased to be able to attend a luncheon sponsored by the Cortland Rotary Club recognizing Terri Wood from BOCES as their Teacher of the Year. Terri has worked for us for 26 years, currently serving as a teacher in the TEAM classroom at McEvoy.

This June has also been a very busy month as we roll out the new Annual Professional Performance Review plan that will be in effect for the 2012-2013 school year. Public thanks and recognition should go to our very collaborative and hard-working committee led by Colleen Viggiano and Tracie Clark. Thanks to the members of the committee – Veronica Budelmann, Karen Clark, Beth Cooper, Jeff Craig, Nancy Diniro, Steve Duffy, Cindy Foran, Tom Garni, Rosanna Grund, Bonnie Huslander, Bob Leslie, Deborah Vibbard, and Terri Wood who met from October to May to develop a fair and useful plan.

There's so much good news that we will be extending our BOCES BITS year and having a final issue in July to include it all. Look for an email from Theresa Smith in mid-July to access your online version of BOCES BITS.

And, finally, let me offer congratulations to Jody Manning, who will be the next District Superintendent beginning on August 1. I know that Jody is excited about his new challenge as District Superintendent and is committed to the success of the BOCES. Please join me in welcoming him to his new position.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me over the past nine years to make the OCM BOCES the wonderful place that it is.



Welcome Mr. Jody F. Manning as New District Superintendent

OCM BOCES is very pleased to announce that Mr. Jody F. Manning was appointed by the Board as the new District Superintendent of Schools.



Mr. Manning currently serves as the Superintendent of Schools at the Solvay Union Free School District and has demonstrated extensive leadership experience throughout his career in education. He has served as a business administrator and district clerk, a grade level administrator, assistant principal and teacher. He has also had experience as a summer school principal, adult education instructor and chaired a Superintendent's Issue & Analysis Team.

Mr. Manning is actively involved in his community, has received numerous awards and recognitions for his work and is a member of several professional educational organizations. He has also participated in multiple professional development opportunities over the years.

The extensive search and selection process began in January and Mr. Manning was chosen by the Board as the final candidate from a pool of nine applicants. He met with specific stakeholder groups, including component superintendents, BOCES administrators and both instructional and non-instructional staff. Mr. Manning also met with the Commissioner of Education for the purpose of a final interview and assessment of his qualifications and experience. That interview was completed and the Commissioner communicated his approval of Mr. Manning's proposed appointment.

Mr. Manning will assume the position of District Superintendent on August 1, 2012.

Board President Ann Wright stated, "The OCM BOCES Board of Education enthusiastically welcomes Mr. Manning. We are looking forward to working with him to continue to provide quality services for students, school districts and the CNY communities that OCM BOCES serves."

OCM BOCES Lab Tech and Medical Students Experience Forensics



This school year, OCM BOCES students from Janet Clark's Laboratory Technology class and Robin Willey's New Vision Health Occupations Technology class traveled to the University of Rochester to participate in a case study involving DNA Fingerprinting in order to solve a crime that had been committed. While there, the students reviewed antigen and antibody reactions involving blood typing and DNA and the enzymes used in the testing of DNA. The students were then actively engaged in laboratory testing, such as blood typing and gel electrophoresis, and successfully solved the crime using these assays.

Pictured are Kevin Hernandez from Henninger High School and Mikayla Baker from the Tully Central School District in the lab at the University of Rochester.

OCM BOCES District Superintendent is Education Leader of the Year

Congratulations to OCM BOCES District Superintendent, Dr. Jessica F. Cohen, for recently having been named Education Leader of the Year by Partners for Education and Business (PEB,) an affiliate of MACNY, the Manufacturers Association of Central New York.

Among the many reasons Dr. Cohen was selected for the award, PEB cites her dedication to improving the quality of education, commitment to public support and ability to build good employee relations among teachers and staff. PEB Executive Director, Joseph C. Vargo said, "We are pleased to recognize Dr. Jessica Cohen for her commitment to youth and the needs of employers in our region. Dr. Cohen's prior appointments as an Educational Consultant, School Psychologist and Director of School Improvement Services have helped to form the virtues that can mean the difference between an average and an inspired education experience."



Got Art?

Congratulations Dr. Cohen! Your leadership will be greatly missed!

OCM BOCES Students Certainly Do



OCM BOCES students from Cedar Street recently had an opportunity to participate in a special art exhibit at the Syracuse Museum of Science and Technology (MOST) in downtown Syracuse.

Pam McNabb, an art teacher at Cedar Street, worked with her students around the theme "Heroes of Hope," encouraging children to create artwork (drawings, poetry, photography, music, sculpture, paintings and dance) celebrating people that helped them overcome challenges and reach their dreams.

The Got Art? Exhibit was presented by OnCare, an agency committed to building a strong network to support the success of children with emotional and behavioral challenges.

Zach, an OCM BOCES student in the Cedar Street program, is pictured with one of his works of art on display at the 2012 Got Art? Exhibit.

Congratulations & Best Wishes to our Retirees!

Congratulations to the following staff members who retired this year from OCM BOCES. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our students, districts, clients and the community.

Barbara Allen, Teaching Assistant – 28 Years of Service

Donna Baker, Office Machine Operator – 15 Years of Service

Denise Ballou, Teacher of the Deaf – 32 Years of Service

Susan Brigham, Teaching Assistant – 11 Years of Service

Jessica Cohen, District Superintendent – 9 Years of Service

Brenda Comolli, Special Education Teacher – 26 Years of Service

Lorraine Conger, Graphic Arts Teacher – 30 Years of Service

Felice Dunlap, Photocopy Machine Operator – 15.5 Years of Service

Judith Dzikowski, School Library System Coordinator – 12 Years of Service

Hervey Forward, Automotive Technology Teacher – 34 Years of Service

Halina Gagne, Physical Therapy Assistant – 23 Years of Service

Cassandra Galbreath, School Social Worker – 26 Years of Service

Kathy Grabowski, Teaching Assistant – 22 Years of Service

Elizabeth Holland, Speech Therapist – 34 Years of Service

Victoria Isaac, Teaching Assistant – 16 Years of Service

Judith Johnson, Teaching Assistant – 19 Years of Service

Faith Marshfield, Teaching Assistant – 17 Years of Service

Mark Osborne, School Social Worker – 10 Years of Service

Karen Over, Health Teacher – 18 Years of Service

Richard Pepper, Social Studies Teacher – 26 Years of Service

Ruth Plank, Typist II – 43 Years of Service

Cheryl Rehwinkle, Special Education Teacher – 34 Years of Service

Maureen Stack-Hartley, Typist I – 32 Years of Service

Susan Thorne, Administrative Aide – 26 Years of Service

Anna Williams, Teaching Assistant – 22 Years of Service

Lab Tech Students Support Local Charity



On Tuesday, May 1, 2012, OCM BOCES students from the Laboratory Technology Program at the Irvin E. Henry Campus in Syracuse delivered approximately 135 pounds of “pop tabs” to the Ronald McDonald House of Central New York. The tabs were collected during the group’s seven-month campus wide effort with all Career and Technical Education (CTE) students.

Earlier in the school year, the students were learning about recycling and reducing as part of their science curriculum and decided to do some recycling of their own for a good cause. In October, the students began collecting pop tabs to support the charity.

Ronald McDonald Houses collect pop tabs instead of whole aluminum cans as a way of raising funds for their centers. After the Ronald McDonald house collects tabs, they are brought to local recycling centers, where they are weighed to determine the value. The recycling center then sends the charity a check for the value of the tabs.

The Laboratory Technology students involved in the collection efforts brought the donations to the Ronald McDonald house and also performed a variety of community service projects while they were there. Some of the tasks that the students completed at the home included helping to clean the kitchen, reorganizing the pantry and vacuuming hallways in the house.

*Congratulations
and Thank You
for you
service!*

CONGRATULATIONS! KUDOS! GREAT JOB! WELL DONE! BRAVO!

If you know of an OCM BOCES student or employee that has done a great job on a project or if you know someone that should be recognized for an achievement they've made, please let us know about it! We'd like to get the word out about the great things that are going on in our organization. Send your information to Laurie Cook at lcook@ocmboces or call at 431-8597.

BOCES Students from C-NS Place in Ford AAA State Competition

Congratulations to Joe Daley and Joe Lottermoser, two of Erick Dodge's Automotive Technology students from Cicero-North Syracuse High School for recently having placed in the New York State Ford AAA Auto Skills Competition at Morrisville College. The students were among the twenty from across the state to take part in the competition. The two-student team from OCM BOCES placed first in the written test and fourth in the hands-on competition. Congratulations Joe Daley and Joe Lottermoser!



STARS Student Participates in Teenage Art Exhibit



Joel Bowman (pictured left) is a 2012 senior at STARS Alternative High School.

He recently created a glass mosaic designed on a door entitled, "For the Road to Your Future, You Hold the Key." He participated in the 40th Annual Teenage Competitive Arts Exhibition which is sponsored by the Community Folk Art Center located at 805 East Genesee Street in Syracuse.

The CFAC was founded by professors and students through Syracuse University and provides an opportunity for quality exhibition space for talented high school art students from the Syracuse City Schools, Onondaga County schools and urban community programs. This is the 4th year that STARS Alternative High School has participated in the Teenage Competitive Arts Exhibition. Each year students have been awarded certificates and honors for their work.

Joel applied to donate his mosaic to the Community Folk Art Center and it was accepted to be kept in their permanent student gallery collection.

Joel's donation to the Community Folk Art Center is in appreciation for the opportunity that STARS Alternative High School students have had to show their

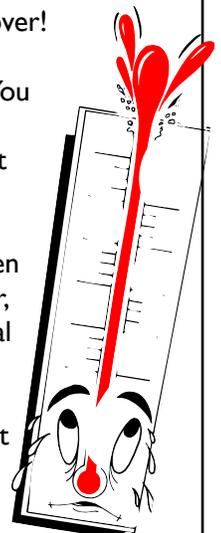
artwork in such a high quality gallery.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program Interpreter Earns Masters Degree

Congratulations to Evelyn Hanna, who has worked for the past 20 years for the OCM BOCES Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program as a TA/Interpreter. This past January, Evelyn earned her Masters of Social Work degree from Syracuse University. She has worked long and hard going to college part time to earn her degree. Her coworkers in the OCM BOCES Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program are very proud of Evelyn and wish to extend their congratulations for a job well done!

EAP Offers Help Year-Round!

Don't let summer stress make you boil over! Your OCM BOCES Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a 12-month program! You can contact the EAP during the summer and a counselor will be there for you just the same as during the school year. The summer could be a good time to call the EAP for the things that you may have been too busy to get to during the school year, including short-term counseling, a referral for therapy, or information on a variety of topics. Call EAP all summer long at 315/471-1361 or 1/800-EAP-8764 or visit their website at www.eap.ocmboces.org.



BOCES Educator is 2012 NYACCE Outstanding Teacher of the Year



Congratulations to Celia Volbrecht, an OCM BOCES adult education teacher, who was recently named NYACCE (New York Association for Continuing and Community Education) 2012 Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Celia has been teaching at OCM BOCES for more than 20 years. According to Mari Ukleya, the OCM BOCES Adult and Family Literacy Coordinator, who nominated Celia for the award, she has a “passion for working with adult students.” Mari said that Celia goes above and beyond in supporting her students academically as well as emotionally. If students need help with transportation or have a scheduling conflict, Celia works with them to find a solution. Mari also points out the excellent rapport that Celia has with her students

saying that her students “share an appreciation for [Celia] who believed in them and who, even when they had dropped in and out, always welcomed them back and supported them with open arms, always believing they could do it.” Great job Celia Volbrecht! Celia is pictured above at the 2009 Adult Literacy Celebration with one of her GED program graduates, Betty LaFaver.

Animal and Environmental Science Students Place in CNY Envirothon



Congratulations to Cheryl Spada’s New Vision Animal and Environmental Science students, Ben Trowbridge, Todd Lowe, Chris Arnold and Tim Yeatts, who recently placed in the Central New York Envirothon at Roger’s Environmental Education Center in Sherburne, NY. Making up the team, “The Nature Ninjas,” the students took 3rd place out of 30 teams from Onondaga County. The Envirothon provides a unique approach to environmental education, combining the proven concepts of hands-on education with the excitement of competition and the fun of spending a day in the outdoors.

The Envirothon is designed to test students’ knowledge and understanding of topics including soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, current environmental issues and oral presentation; cultivate their desire to

learn more about natural resources and environmental issues; stimulate interest in environmental concerns through the spirit of competition; and to motivate students to further develop their skills and grow into environmentally-aware, action-oriented adults.

Cheryl said that this is the first year her students have participated in the event and she is very pleased with the outcome, “I am so proud of the team’s effort, they did an amazing job!”

BOCES is Finalist in United Way Awards



Congratulations to Mark Pettitt and Donna Robillard from OCM BOCES Department of Personnel and Labor Relations for having been recognized as finalists for the “Campaign Volunteer of the Year” in the United

Way’s 2012 Achievements in Caring awards. While they were not chosen as award recipients, being selected as finalists is a testament to the great job and generosity of all OCM BOCES employees in the 2012 United Way Campaign!

OCM BOCES Board Members

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