

## OCM BOCES REACH Teacher is Mission US Educator of the Year



Congratulations to OCM BOCES alternative education teacher Marc Cizenski, for having been selected as Mission US Educator of the Year! New York Public Media recently named Cizenski, a classroom teacher

for the OCM BOCES REACH program in Liverpool, as the National Mission US Educator of the Year. The award is in recognition of Marc's outstanding efforts to use the innovative multimedia resource to enrich the teaching of American history with students in his classroom and educators across the state.

Mission US is a series of free role-playing games developed to transform the way middle school students learn U.S. history. The games, together with a rich variety of supplemental resources for students and teachers, are available at [www.mission-us.org](http://www.mission-us.org).

"When I was first introduced to Mission US by my principal, it seemed too good to be true," said Cizenski. "My students have had the opportunity to make the history of America come to life, through the eyes of people their own age. As an educator at an alternative school, 'Flight to Freedom' and 'For Crown or Colony?' have been extremely encouraging – my students are truly excited to be learning."

Cizenski was chosen as National Mission US Educator of the Year from among six finalists across the country. He will appear with the Mission US team on a panel about how scholarship, technology, and active learning are combining to bring American History to life at WNET's annual Celebration of Teaching & Learning in New York City on March 16, 2012.

Marc was nominated for the national award through his selection as local Mission US Educator of the Year by WCNY, Syracuse's local public television station.

Congratulations Mark Cizenski!

## From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff:

We received good news in early February. Commissioner John King informed Ann Wright, OCM BOCES Board president, that:

*As a result of the survey, I have determined that the Supervisory District and the Board of Cooperative Educational Services shall be maintained as currently organized, and the position of District Superintendent shall be filled upon the retirement of the present District Superintendent, Dr. Jessica Cohen, effective July 31, 2012.*

The OCM BOCES Board has begun the search under the guidance of Jackie Starks, District Superintendent of the Madison-Oneida BOCES. The board will be asking for staff feedback on the process during meetings and in a survey. I encourage you to participate in these initiatives.

Our BOCES Adult Education graduations provide a lot more good news for our students and staff. I don't think that I will ever stop being amazed at the impact that BOCES and its staff have on our region. Last evening, as I watched the graduates of our adult education programs at McEvoy receive certificates, I thought about the many lives that were changed because of the career training that the students received, about the additional income that will be generated by the graduates, and at the increase in the economics of the area due to the newly trained medical assistants, auto technicians, HVAC workers, and electrical technicians. The CTC adult education ceremony was several weeks ago and more than 150 graduates entered the workforce as pharmacy technicians, cosmetologists, welders, medical assistants, dental assistants, and other skilled workers. Our follow up data for our programs shows significant success in passing the occupational tests and, most importantly, in becoming employed. Congratulations to the graduates and to our adult education staff.

Enjoy March!

*Jessica*

# Words of Wisdom



“ If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome. ”

- Anne Bradstreet (1612 - 1672)

## **No Excuse for Abuse!**

By Torie Gendron, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Reach student from ESM

Mr. Raheem Mack is the Men's Outreach Program Assistant Coordinator and an OVW Engaging Men Project Assistant Director from Vera House in Syracuse. He came and met with students in the Reach program for four days, teaching them about healthy relationships, bullying and forms of abuse. He told them about his job and what he does to help people. REACH students shared stories and expressed stereotypes about relationships. Everybody was fully engaged in activities and had meaningful conversations. Everybody had a good time as Mr. Raheem Mack joined our classes and taught us new things.



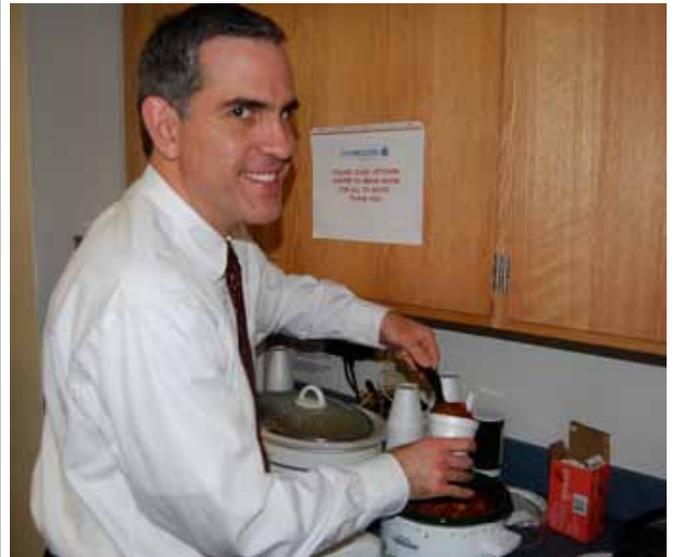
## Chili & Soup Cook-Off Spices Things up at Henry Campus



On Tuesday, February 28, OCM BOCES employees at the Henry Campus Administration Building held their first ever soup and chili cook-off sponsored by the OCM BOCES Personnel Department. Employees brought in crock-pots filled with different varieties of homemade soup and chili to be sampled and voted on by their coworkers. Employees got together on their lunch break to taste the culinary creations and in the end, a winner was chosen in the soup category and one in the chili category.

First prize in the soup category was presented to Tammy Jones for her sausage & pasta soup. The variety of chili taking home the top honor was a spicy red chili made by Darlene McCann. Congratulations to winners and many thanks to all contributors and tasters!

*Pictured: OCM BOCES Labor Relations Officer David Maestri prepares to sample a variety of chili.*



## BOCES Employee Becomes US Citizen at a Ceremony Witnessed by Students

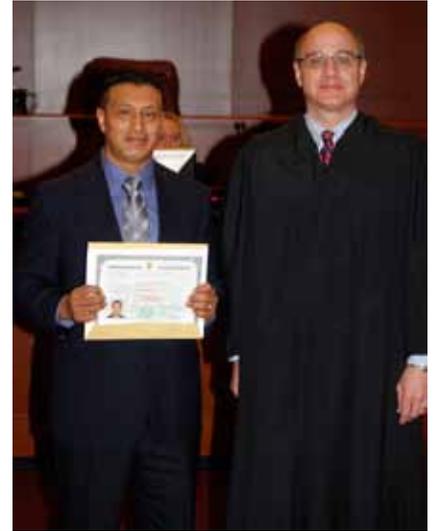


On Thursday, February 2, 2012, students from the OCM BOCES Career Academy in Liverpool took a different type of field trip to Syracuse's Federal Courthouse to witness the naturalization ceremony of Pedro Perez-Garcia, an OCM BOCES custodian at the Lee G. Peters Career Training Center.

Career Academy teacher Ingrid Hatt, who went through the naturalization process in the past, thought that giving students the opportunity to see the ceremony would provide a unique learning experience for them, while giving them the chance

to support Pedro.

Hatt's students were impressed by the experience with one student, Leah Simon, saying, "Today's experiences were, for me very joyful! Hearing the judge speak to the new citizens as individual people felt really rewarding. If someone asked me whether or not they should go and observe like I did, I would definitely say 'Yes! Go, it will be a great experience and you will be able to see something not many people ever will!' Go because you want to, and you will be rewarded as a citizen yourself to see first hand how lucky you are to be one! These people spent a lot of time and money to become a U.S. citizen, you should be able to see it happen! So I thank you Mrs. Hatt for letting me have this wonderful opportunity to come with you today."



### Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Spring 2012 Workshop Schedule

In addition to providing one to one counseling, the OCM BOCES EAP Program offers a variety of workshops each year. To download a registration form for any of the following spring 2012 workshops, visit the EAP website at [www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=599](http://www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=599).

March 14, 2012 Wednesday	<i>Assisting Your Aging Parents</i> with Michelle Stolicker	OCM BOCES, McEvoy Campus, McEvoy Conference Center, Rm. 701 1710 NYS Route 13, Cortland, NY	4:30-6 PM
March 21, 2012 Wednesday	<i>Employee Retirement System: Overview with NYS ERS Representative</i>	OCM BOCES, IEH Campus, Conference Center - Rodax Building 8 6820 Thompson Road, Syracuse, NY	4:30-6 PM
March 28, 2012 Wednesday	<i>Surviving Job Loss: Employee or Family Member</i> with Michelle Stolicker	Liverpool Public Library, Carman Community Room, 310 Tulip Street Liverpool, NY	4:30-6 PM
April 18, 2012 Wednesday	<i>Food &amp; Mood</i> with Michelle Stolicker	Oswego BOCES, CRC Conference Room, Main Building, Mexico Campus 179 Rte. 64, Mexico, NY	4:30-6 PM
April 25, 2012 Wednesday	<i>Managing Pain: Before it Manages You</i> with Michelle Stolicker	OCM BOCES, IEH Campus, Administration Building B, Henry B Large Conference Room, 6820 Thompson Road, Syracuse, NY	4:30-6 PM
May 1, 2012 Wednesday	<i>ABC's of ADHD</i> with Michelle Stolicker	Ithaca City School District, Boynton Middle School, 1601 N. Cayuga Street, Ithaca, NY	4:30-6 PM

## Pro Football Hall of Famer Floyd Little Videoconferences from CNYRIC



On Tuesday, January 17, 2012, the OCM BOCES Central New York Regional Information Center (CNYRIC) had the exciting opportunity to host Floyd Little, Pro Football Hall of Fame and former Syracuse University running back, for two videoconference sessions. Floyd Little presented his "Heart of a Hall of Famer" series via videoconference from the CNYRIC to 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students from districts across the United States, including Onondaga Central, right here in Central New York. Students heard about Little's accomplishments on and off the football field and had a chance to ask questions of the Hall of Famer. After his first videoconference session, Little took time to meet with the staff of the CNYRIC, answer questions and even sign autographs.



## March is Health & Dental Plan Open Enrollment Month

March is open enrollment month. It is the one time per year that you may enroll in our health and/or dental plans if you are not currently enrolled. It is also the time you may opt to change your current coverage level from individual to family (without a qualifying event). You must be employed 50% or more on a salaried basis in order to be eligible for this benefit.

**In order to take advantage, enrollment forms MUST BE RECEIVED no later than March 30, 2012. Any changes or enrollments will be effective April 1, 2012.**

All necessary forms and information can be obtained from the OCM BOCES open enrollment website at <http://www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=1728>.

Contact Tammy Jones with any questions ([tjones@ocmboces.org](mailto:tjones@ocmboces.org) or 315-433-2632)

## Flexible Spending Accounts

*The 2011 Plan Year has ended!*

A reminder that the 2011 Flexible Spending Account (FSA) plan year ended as of December 31, 2011.

**Use it - Don't lose it!**



Check your balance at the Benefit Resource, Inc. website at [www.benefitresource.com](http://www.benefitresource.com).

According to IRS regulations, you will forfeit any money left in your account at the end of the run-out period. All claims for unpaid monies must be postmarked to Benefit Resource, Inc. **by March 31, 2012** for expenditures from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

## OCM BOCES Board Members

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