

March 2019

BOCES BITS



Message from the Superintendent



With warmer weather on the horizon, we are now approaching a very busy and exciting time at OCM BOCES.

Spring marks the peak of our budget season, with districts preparing for their upcoming budget votes on May 21. At OCM BOCES, we will hold our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 3, at our Cortlandville Campus. At this meeting, I will present our OCM BOCES program budgets to component districts and share a long list of highlights from the previous school year. As I like to explain to our school superintendents, the services they utilize at OCM BOCES offer a strong return on investment, or ROI. We provide services that not only save money — and provide excellent services to students and staff — but also allow districts to dedicate more of their own time and resources to what matters most: student success. If you are interested in learning more about our OCM BOCES 2019-2020 budgets, be sure to visit our website at www.ocmboces.org. I would also encourage all of you to mark your calendars for May 21, school voting day.

With the final quarter of our 2018-19 school year approaching, I know you will be working hard until the very end to wrap up another successful year. As always, I would like to thank each and every one of

you for being part of our success, no matter what your role at OCM BOCES.

Sincerely,



Jody Manning, Ed.D.
District Superintendent, OCM BOCES

Students at Seven Valleys create their own chemistry labs for classmates

Regents Chemistry students at Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland have been exploring solutions, acids and bases, and chemical reactions as a part of their latest project, "Be Part of the Solution." In this project, students worked to create and adapt their own Regents-level lab to share with the class. Each period,



individual student leaders have been facilitating their lab exercises for their classmates. Students will prepare and present an academic summary based on the results of their labs to share out to the larger student body and the public in the next few weeks. In the photo are students **Phoenix Rice** (Cincinnatus) and **Matt Kelly** (Tully), who are observing temperature changes of endothermic and exothermic reactions.

Pipeline to Leadership: New partnership featured in 'On Board'

One of our newest programs in Instructional Support Services, called the Aspiring Leaders Institute, will launch next fall. [Check out this recent article in On Board](#), the monthly publication of the New York

State School Boards Association, about the program and its mission to recruit and retain top-quality school administrators. The Aspiring Leaders Institute is the result of a partnership between OCM BOCES, 23 Central New York school districts and five higher education institutions in New York State. The new program was developed over the past several months under the direction of district leaders, superintendents, and OCM BOCES Educational Programs Coordinator **Pam Dowse**. [Read the full article on our website.](#)

37 BOCES take over 'The Well' in Albany for the first time

OCM BOCES joined 36 other BOCES from across the state March 13 at the “Well,” the lobby of the Legislative Office Building in Albany. Each BOCES brought students and teachers to highlight unique programs for legislators, staff, and other visitors. For OCM BOCES, our table focused on Innovation Tech and business-embedded Career & Technical Education programs. Attending were (left to right) WCNY CTE teacher **Kathy Labulis**; Innovation Tech Facilitator **Christine Alexander**; Director of CTE and Innovative Education **Phil Grome**; Innovation Tech student **Kayla Solosky**, a junior from Liverpool; and Marketing Coordinator **Jackie Wiegand**.



The event was coordinated by BOCES of New York.

Special guests visit OCM BOCES

Chancellor **Betty A. Rosa** and local Regent **Elizabeth S. Hakanson** stopped by OCM BOCES for a visit on March 13, our Staff Development Day. During their visit, they toured Innovation Tech and took a look at our Restorative Practices training. Dr. Rosa’s visit to the

area included several local sites, including the Syracuse City School District and Everson Museum.



Science conference in Homer features renowned speakers, 'live' lessons

For the third consecutive year, a large crowd of teachers, students, administrators and college representatives from across the region and state gathered for the "It's Go Time! Science for All" conference. This year's event, held March 18 at Homer Junior High School, was the result of a collaboration between OCM BOCES and the Syracuse University School of Education. As with previous conferences, it offered a dual focus on the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards and the professional development practice of lesson



study, which is a collaborative process for planning, analyzing, and continuously improving instructional practices. After listening to a pair of keynote speeches by internationally recognized scholars in science education, participants observed one of two 'live' science lessons: One featured Cazenovia second-graders studying water and landforms with Play-Doh; the second involved Marcellus High School students building a consensus model around exothermic and endothermic reactions. In all, 140 people participated, with attendees from 18 school districts, four BOCES, and four universities. Interested in learning more? Follow along on Twitter using #itsgotime or go to our [It's Go Time! website](#). An article will also be appearing soon in *Education Week*.

Students join forces at Henry to create a mobile 'Rachel's Closet'

Students at Henry have demonstrated a true team spirit as part of the “Rachel’s Challenge” initiative. Students have worked together to create a “Rachel’s Closet” on wheels so it can easily be moved from classroom to classroom. Construction Technology students from **Michael Cavender's** senior class designed and built the wardrobe (see photo). Members of **Brenda Daniels’** Career Development & Occupational Studies (CDOS) class have helped collect, launder, prepare, and display the clothing items. To keep the inventory fresh and seasonal, students have been focusing on apparel based on weather. A recent distribution had the closet sporting winter coats, gloves, boots, and long-sleeve shirts. Standing in front of Rachel’s Closet (with the doors closed) are **Porter Bristol** (Baldwinsville), **Tyler Daviau** (Chittenango), **Chad Havens** (Onondaga Central), **Shawn Szlamczynski** (Cazenovia), and **Zach Kline** (Baldwinsville).



Exhibition of Excellence highlights three-week College and Career Readiness Term

Law enforcement, engineering, health care, business, insurance, law, advertising – these are just a few examples of the presentations Innovation Tech students were invited to attend during a three-week College and Career Readiness Term. As a culminating event, students presented at the “Exhibition of Excellence” on March 12 at Main Campus, showcasing what they learned to parents, administrators, facilitators, and other guests. Students have also been invited to share their presentations at an upcoming Board of Education meeting. In the

photo, **Kayla Solosky** of Liverpool gave a presentation about her job shadowing experience with an Onondaga County assistant district attorney, which has inspired her to become a prosecutor.



21 PRHYLI delegates participate in mock debate in Albany

The OCM BOCES Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) traveled to Albany recently to participate in the 29th Puerto Rican Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute. Twenty-one delegates from Baldwinsville, Solvay, Ithaca, Binghamton, and Utica represented the Mid-State Region to discuss mock bills within the stately legislative chambers in Albany. Three students received scholarships, including one student from the Solvay (for a scholarship of \$1,200) and two from Utica (for scholarships of \$800 and \$1,000). Additionally, an outstanding delegate from Ithaca will travel to Washington D.C. on an all-expenses-paid trip. Congratulations to the Mid-State RBERN team!



Did You Know? OCM BOCES has a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program

This program, which has been in existence for 40 years, is housed in the Solvay Union Free School District. Check out the [OCM BOCES Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program video](#) to learn more about the program and its success stories or [visit the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program website](#).

Inspiring students share their stories at Adult Education graduation

Before 150 graduates walked across the stage March 6 in the SRC Arena at Onondaga Community College, they heard from two inspiring classmates. The first speaker, Dawn Penson, who became blind as an adult, described her life as a journey.



"...our journeys help shape who we are as individuals, giving our character substance and texture that defines who we are," said Penson. *"Wherever we are in our journeys, there is no right or wrong way to go, as long as we embrace the roads traveled, the more we are able to accept ourselves and choices we've made."*

To hear more about Penson's journey, check out the [local media coverage on NewsChannel 9](#).

The second speaker, Christopher Hemingway, an HVAC/R graduate, offered insight on how OCM BOCES gave him a second chance at life following the loss of his grandfather to cancer. Later, with a family of his own, he turned to OCM BOCES to find a career and support his family.



"BOCES has given us the chance to turn our lives around," said Hemingway in his speech to his fellow graduates.

"BOCES has made me a dreamer, and it made my dreams bigger than ever."

Congratulations to the Adult Education graduates!

First 'Alumni Hall of Fame' recipient honored in Adult Education

Gregory Spears, a 2011 graduate of the Central Sterile Processing Technician program at OCM BOCES, was honored March 6 as the first person selected for the Adult Education "Alumni Hall of Fame." Spears received his award as part of graduation ceremonies at Onondaga Community College.



Spears is currently the Assistant Chief of Central Sterile Processing at the Syracuse VA Medical Center in Syracuse. His photo will be the first to appear in a wood-framed "Wall of Fame" on the first floor of Main Campus. Students in the Central Sterile Processing program learn about procuring, cleaning, decontaminating, processing, assembling, sterilizing, storing and distributing medical devices, among other duties. [Find our more on our website.](#)

OCM BOCES employees recognized for exceptional dedication

Several OCM BOCES employees were recognized for their exemplary service at an Employee Recognition Luncheon in March. Culinary students from the Thompson Road Campus offered a variety of entrées and desserts for the honored guests.



Standing in the photo with District Superintendent **Jody Manning** are (from left to right): **Kristen Calhoun**, a teaching assistant in Special Education; **Wendy Buck**, an admissions counselor in Adult Education; **Chris Nightingale**, a social worker in Special Education; **Janice Harwood**, a teaching assistant in Special

Education; **Cindy Seeley**, a Typist II in Instructional Support Services; **Twanda Turman**, a teaching assistant in Special Education; **Andrea Lane**, a teaching assistant in Special Education; **Gail Potter**, an employee in Food Services; **Andrea Corasaniti**, a teacher in Special Education; **Emily Adams**, a social worker in Special Education; **Katie Bartholomew**, a social worker in Special Education; and **Bob Canorro**, a culinary instructor for Career & Technical Education.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The [OCM BOCES non-discrimination policy](#) has been updated and added to our web site.

Get social with OCM BOCES

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. **This year, we have a special hashtag to celebrate our 70th anniversary: #ocm70. Feel free to use this hashtag if it reflects on our OCM BOCES pride and history.**

Need help? Don't forget about our 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 Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@ocmboces.org.

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