

OCM BOCES
ANNUAL REPORT
2015 - 2016





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OCM BOCES MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

MISSION STATEMENT

The OCM BOCES exists to develop and provide educational programs and services of the highest quality for the component school districts and the community.

A REGIONAL VISION FOR COLLEGE, CAREER & CITIZENSHIP READINESS

The world has changed. Work has changed. Technology has changed. Communication has changed. The pace of the world has changed. Interconnectedness has changed. Collaboration has changed. Just about everything has changed!

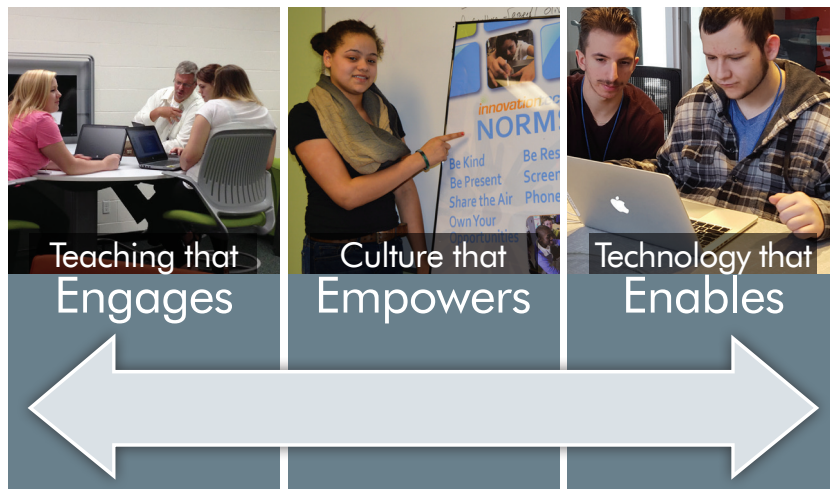
The educational community of Central New York knows that the world has changed and a regional vision for college, career and citizenship readiness has emerged. Our regional vision is founded on an uncompromising and relentless commitment to preparing students for college, career and citizenship – in other words, preparing students for their future. At the heart of our regional vision are three commitments: instruction that engages, culture that empowers, and technology that enables.

Instruction that truly engages is instruction that is meaningful and anchored in the real world. In the regional vision, project-based learning is the defining model of learning – project-based learning that is standards-based and learner-centered.

A culture of empowerment helps provide efficiency and agency to our students. These characteristics will not only help our students be college, career and citizenship ready, these characteristics will help our students all of their lives.

Technology plays an important role. The regional vision for Central New York has every student armed with technology to connect them to the world, allowing them to connect with the information they need when they need it and to connect them to the people in the world with whom they need to connect.

REGIONAL VISION FOR EDUCATION IN CNY



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

The 2015-2016 school year marked an unprecedented period of growth for OCM BOCES and outstanding progress toward our ultimate mission: preparing students for the future. I am proud to share our accomplishments with you in this Annual Report and extremely grateful for the ongoing support from our 23 component districts, our state education leaders, our elected representatives in government and our many business and community partners.

As always, our mission at OCM BOCES focuses on the three key tenants that support our Regional Vision for College, Career and Citizenship Readiness: instruction that engages, culture that empowers and technology that enables. As you will see, our 2015-2016 accomplishments contributed greatly to that mission and set us on a continued course of success for this year and beyond.

Here are a few highlights:

Our new Main Campus:

In April, the opening of our new Main Campus at 110 Elwood Davis Road in Salina paved the way for a myriad of program shifts that saved money and offered new, state-of-the-art spaces in these areas: Adult Education, Special Education, our STARS alternative high school, Instructional Support Services and our administrative, business and management services departments. As this report goes to print, our regional science center is also moving into a new space on the lower level of our Main Campus.

Business-embedded Career & Technical Education programs:

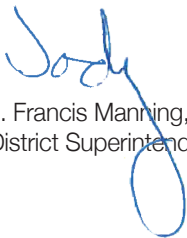
We continued to pursue research-driven initiatives for our 23 component districts, including the launch of two new business-embedded Career & Technical Education programs in Cortland in the areas of physical therapy and early childhood education. These embedded programs will continue to expand in 2016-2017 with New Vision medical and physical therapy programs opening at SUNY Upstate Medical Center.

Another New Tech school:

As promised, planning in 2015-16 resulted in a second “New Tech” high school that opened this fall in Cortland. Forty-three students and eight staff members are starting this journey at Seven Valleys New Tech Academy on Port Watson Street. Our first New Tech school, Innovation Tech, opened in Liverpool in 2014.

And so much more

As you will see from this Annual Report, OCM BOCES offers student programs, instructional support, business and management services and a wide range of behind-the-scenes assistance to educators in our region. We look forward to another productive year of working with you and **for** you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or ideas.



J. Francis Manning, Ed.D.
District Superintendent

OCM BOCES LEADERSHIP



J. Francis Manning
District Superintendent



Deborah Ayers
Assistant Superintendent
for Administration



Jennifer Spong
Assistant Superintendent
for Instructional Support
Services



Colleen Viggiano
Assistant Superintendent
for Student Services



Pamela J. Mazzaferro
CNYRIC Director



Mark Pettitt
Director of Personnel
and Labor Relations

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

The 2015-2016 “puzzle” year at Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES has been amazingly successful. I have likened the various moves and restructuring of buildings and programs to a puzzle with many parts. We, the 11-member Board of Trustees, would like to thank a multitude of people who made it all possible. To do this, I’d like to repeat a portion of my address at our ribbon cutting for the new Main Campus in Salina on May 19, 2016.

THE DREAMERS

The first group, the DREAMERS, began with a small, key group who learned of the possible availability of this location. There had been other attempts to find property to serve the needs of OCM BOCES, but those were to no avail until the Elwood Davis location came available. Upon learning that this property was a possible fit, the group expanded to include a few more DREAMERS, including the Board of Trustees. So I offer a hearty “thank you” to the DREAMERS for their vision.

THE PLANNERS

The PLANNERS, including some of the DREAMERS, then moved into action. They examined costs, leases of other facilities, extended expectations of the student body, possible difficulties in the purchase, expectations of the State Education Department and what it would mean to component districts. They did an admirable job of presenting a favorable climate for purchase as opposed to further leasing. So “thank you” to all of them for moving the project into the LEGAL EAGLE phase.

LEGAL EAGLES

By this designation, I include State Education Department personnel, attorneys, real estate agents, property owners, architects, legislators and a public referendum that was required to be approved by residents -- heady stuff that took time and was required before the purchase. But it did begin moving to completion into the next phase. So “thank you” for using your expertise. We could not have moved forward without it.

Continued on next page

OCM BOCES BOARD OF EDUCATION



V. Ann Wright
President
Jamesville-DeWitt &
Fayetteville-Manlius



Wayne Brownson,
Vice President
East Syracuse Minoa



Robert A. Crabtree
North Syracuse



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Marcellus, Onondaga &
Solvay



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West Genesee



William Pedrick
Homer & Cortland



Margaret Peri
McGraw, Marathon &
Cincinnatus



Joan Reeves
Baldwinsville



Maryam Wasmund
Fabius-Pompey,
LaFayette & Tully



Continued from page 3

THE WORKERS

And on to the WORKERS. This involved the architects, construction management, tradesmen, vendors, members of our staff and administration and many others. They worked hard and effectively to produce a high-class facility that looks like a brand new building. We are proud of your work and your work ethic. Your accomplishments speak for themselves and are visible for all to see. Thank you very much.

THE MOVERS

One final phase of this puzzle involved the MOVERS. Not just the big trucks, but the many office staff who were affected by moves into temporary facilities or additional reconstruction of their offices, requiring them to pack up early and decide what to bring and what could be stored. And to the adult education staff and programs that made the move here (to the first floor of the Main Campus) from the Career Training Center on Crown Road. This has been a massive undertaking for all involved. So thank you, thank you, thank you.

THE CHEAPSKATES

And there is one additional group involved. This group I irreverently have labeled the CHEAPSKATES. These people wisely found ways to save money by reusing some of the items already in the building and using OCM BOCES staff to refurbish some things. This move saved a bundle for the project. Again, thank you! Your efforts are truly appreciated.

With the completion of the Main Campus facility, the other puzzle parts were able to move ahead with full steam. They included the Thompson Road Building B for alternative education and special needs students, the Crown Road facility for Innovation Tech High School and additional classroom spaces, and, in Cortland, the highly anticipated Seven Valleys New Tech Academy. All of these projects were completed on time and within their anticipated budgets. It has been wonderful to watch all of the planned changes come to fruition because they will benefit all of our 23 component districts and their students.

We look forward to the benefits that will result during the 2016-2017 school year and far into the future.



V. Ann Wright
President
OCM BOCES Board of Trustees

THANK YOU BARB



Barb Closson

During the 2014-2015 school year, Barb Closson retired as an OCM BOCES Board of Education member. Many thanks to Barb for her years of service and dedication to OCM BOCES.

THANK YOU JEFF



Jeff Craig

Jeff Craig joined the OCM BOCES leadership team in 2008 as the assistant superintendent for Instructional Support Services, where he supervised 89 employees and was a huge asset to the region in representing our community's educational interests at the local, state and national levels. We thank Jeff for his tireless and dedicated work and wish him nothing but the best in his new role as an assistant superintendent for the Cortland Enlarged City School District, where he is continuing his work for students.

THANK YOU MIKE



Mike Fay

Mike Fay worked 11 years at the helm of CNYRIC, developing and overseeing a multitude of top-quality services for 50 school districts in four BOCES regions: Onondaga-Cortland-Madison, Cayuga-Onondaga, Oswego and Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga. Mike retired from OCM BOCES during the 2015-2016 school year. We greatly appreciate his dedication to BOCES.

JENNIFER SPONG BECOMES NEW ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Jennifer L. Spong, a former administrator at southwestern New York's Cattaraugus-Allegany Board of Cooperative Educational Services, is now the new assistant superintendent for Instructional Support Services (ISS) at OCM BOCES.

ISS assists our 23 school districts in Central New York with a wide range of services, including professional development, curriculum and instruction, school library systems, science resources, summer school, youth development, special education support, teacher evaluations and more.

Spong oversees 89 employees and manages an annual budget of \$7.6 million. She replaced former Assistant Superintendent Jeff Craig, who became the new assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for the Cortland Enlarged City School District in July of 2016.

Spong's most recent work at the Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES focused on assisting districts with online learning, science resources, educational

media and technology, school library systems and environmental education.

Prior to that, she worked as a staff development specialist for the same BOCES and as a middle school English Language Arts teacher for Cattaraugus-Little Valley Central Schools.

Spong received her bachelor's degree in adolescent education and English from Houghton College in New York and her master's degree in risk and prevention from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

She also earned her administrative degree from Buffalo State.



Jennifer Spong
Assistant Superintendent
for Instructional
Support Services

PAMELA J. MAZZAFERRO BECOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL NEW YORK REGIONAL INFORMATION CENTER

Pamela J. Mazzaferro was appointed July 14, 2016, to become the new director of the Central New York Regional Informational Center (CNYRIC), which provides a broad range of technology services to 50 school districts in the region.

Mazzaferro replaced former CNYRIC director Michael Fay, who retired after 11 years at the helm.

The appointment is significant because the CNYRIC provides a wide range of technology services to school districts across four BOCES regions: OCM, CiTi (Oswego), Cayuga-Onondaga and Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga.

Services include instructional technology, assessment and scoring, data services, classroom and instructional applications, financial services, data services and more. (See more on page 18.)

Mazzaferro worked 16 years in the Rome City School District, where she started as a local area network technical support specialist. She later

worked as the district's network manager before becoming its director of information technology in 2008.

Prior to her work in Rome, Mazzaferro worked 15 years as a network administrator/systems analyst for Rome Cable Corp. She also worked for Magnavox CATV in Manlius as a manufacturing system engineer and for Medical Management Services in Buffalo as a programmer.

Her education includes a bachelor's degree in computer science from SUNY Utica/Rome and a master's degree in education assessment and measurement from Ashford University, which is based in San Diego.



Pamela J. Mazzaferro
CNYRIC Director



From left to right: Maryam Wasmund, Mark Gilbert, Joan Reeves, Barb Closson, Dave Paczkowski, John Cifaratta, Ann Wright, William Pedrick, Lisa O'Reilly, Michael Murphy, Wayne Brownson and Robert Crabtree.

MAIN CAMPUS GRAND OPENING DRAWS LARGE CROWD

OCM BOCES achieved a major milestone in its 64-year history with the grand opening of its new Main Campus at 110 Elwood Davis Road in Salina. A ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration was held on Thursday, May 19, 2016, as the culmination of the two-year, multi-million dollar overhaul of the former Nationwide building, which had stood vacant for several years.

The building was purchased by OCM BOCES in 2014 with the intention of it becoming the core of operations for serving 23 component school districts throughout Central New York. The building also provides state-of-the-art space for 15 full-time adult education certification programs and hundreds of part-time continuing education courses on the first floor. On the second floor, it houses more than 150 employees who make up an administrative team, business and personnel offices and the division of Instructional Support Services. The Innovative Center for Science Education occupies the entire lower level of the building.

At the ribbon cutting, OCM BOCES Board of Education members and District Superintendent Dr. Jody F. Manning joined together behind the ceremonial ribbon for an historical photo opportunity. The officials were joined by John Cifaratta, son of long-time OCM BOCES Board of Education Member Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton, who passed away in March of 2015.

Board of Education President Ann Wright had the honor of cutting the ribbon and symbolically welcoming BOCES to its new home. Several local media organizations attended and highlighted our new facility.

Guest speakers included New York State Senator John DeFrancisco; Jhone Ebert, Senior Deputy Commissioner for Education Policy at the New York State Education Department; Chris Rudderow, an ambassador for CenterState CEO; and Lucretia Hudzinski, Executive Director of the Greater Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.

CTE ALUMNI HALL OF FAME: HONOREES SPEAK AT GRADUATIONS

The OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education (CTE) Hall of Fame was established in 2011 for the purpose of honoring CTE graduates who have proven success in their field of study and demonstrate leadership. Each year, an impartial selection committee chooses one OCM BOCES CTE graduate from the McEvoy Campus in Cortland and one from the Henry Campus in Syracuse for recognition at their respective campus graduation ceremonies. Here are the winners from 2015-2016:

Suzanne Osterhoudt

Suzanne Osterhoudt of Preble is a 1998 OCM BOCES graduate and recipient of the Rose Lawn Award for outstanding citizenship. After graduation, Suzanne earned an associate's degree from Tompkins-Cortland Community College and went on to become a registered nurse. She then pursued a bachelor's degree in nursing at SUNY Utica-Rome (now known as SUNY Polytechnic Institute). In her career, Suzanne has been a nurse and an educator to many members of the Cortland County community.



Suzanne Osterhoudt



For the past 15 years, Suzanne has worked for the Cortland County Health Department. Her responsibilities include a variety of public health programs, including communicable disease investigation and prevention, lead-poison prevention, immunizations, and the coordination of Narcan kits.

Ken Ciccarelli

Since 2007, Ken Ciccarelli has filled the role as Subaru Service Manager for Bill Rapp Subaru of Syracuse. As a model employee, Ken's strong work ethic and commitment to providing outstanding customer service helped the franchise earn the coveted Subaru Stellar Performers Award for six consecutive years.



Kenneth Ciccarelli



Ken serves as a member of the dealership's Advisory Board and has been a longtime member of the Syracuse Auto Dealers' Association.

Ken credits OCM BOCES as a large contributing factor toward a very fulfilling and successful career in the automotive industry.

SUCCESSFUL PLANNING RESULTS IN SECOND NEW TECH SCHOOL

Months of planning throughout the 2015-16 school year resulted in the successful opening of our second “New Tech” school, called Seven Valleys New Tech Academy.

Located in a refurbished shopping center at 240 Watson St. in Cortland, this pioneering school has eight staff members and 43 students in grades 9 and 10. Eventually, OCM BOCES hopes to add grades 11 and 12 and grades 7 and 8.

Two years ago, in 2014, OCM BOCES opened its first New Tech high school, called Innovation Tech, in Liverpool. It started the 2016-2017 school year with 145 students in grades 9-12.

Like other New Tech schools across the country, Seven Valleys and Innovation Tech focus on four design pillars: outcomes that matter, teaching that engages, culture that empowers and technology that enables. Students work collaboratively, use technology on a regular basis, become self-directed learners and focus on projects that involve making connections with businesses and higher education partners to produce relevant, real-world results.



Heather Decker

STUDENT PROFILE FINDING SUCCESS AT SEVEN VALLEYS

Heather Decker was perfectly content as an eighth-grader at Cortland Junior-Senior High School in 2015-16 until a presentation about Seven Valleys New Tech Academy made an impression she just couldn't shake. As the year rolled by, she became more and more intrigued with the promise of simply “doing something different.”

Today, Heather is one of 43 students at Seven Valleys. She loves studying with her peers because they all seem motivated to be there. She enjoys working with facilitators “who know you and your name, which is huge.” She told a packed crowd at the school's ceremonial ribbon-cutting that she came to the school for “something different from the traditional learning process.”

“On my first day, however, I could tell there was so much more here,” she said, “... dedicated, hard-working facilitators, the new creative minds of my peers, and even access to amazing technology and resources.

“But none of that would have been possible if not for all of you and our wonderful community members,” she added. “So I would like to say thank you for giving me the personal chance to say I am a proud Seven Valleys New Tech Academy student.”

Heather's advisor, Shawn Waterman, said he is amazed at her progress.

“During my time with Heather, I've watched her manage the roles of leader and listener, facilitate real-world academic conversations in BioLit, forge collaborative friendships with peers and represent her school at our ribbon cutting ceremony,” he said.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

In 1990, Charlie Wilson had just retired as a DeWitt police officer and was about to move to Alabama when an ad for a criminal justice teacher caught his attention.

Since then, the one-year high school program has grown from 20 students to become one of BOCES' most popular academic offerings. The year 2015-16 school year marked its 25th anniversary, and Wilson is still at the helm. Students meet inside the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department in Syracuse and study everything from forensic science to homeland security.

"We have discussions about every aspect of law enforcement," Wilson said. "Other programs don't necessarily show the gritty side of this field, so kids make life decisions based on things they see in the media."

To counter that trend, Wilson invites former students who are now in law enforcement to speak in his classroom. Wilson says about 40% of his students have returned to give students a realistic view of the profession.

One of the regular visitors is Nick Layou of the sheriff's SWAT team.

"It exposes students to what the job really is and, more importantly, what it isn't," Layou said.



Nick Layou, right, a former student of the OCM BOCES Criminal Justice Program, regularly visits current students in the program to discuss law enforcement topics. He is pictured with Patrick Crosley, a Marcellus graduate, explaining and demonstrating the equipment used for SWAT operations.

STUDENT PROFILE



Jade Hendricks, an OCM BOCES physical therapy student from the Tully Central School District, works with fellow classmates to learn proper measurement techniques for range of motion.

JADE HENDRICKS, EMBEDDED PT PROGRAM

Jade Hendricks enrolled in the Physical Therapy Professions embedded Career and Technical Education (CTE) program in September 2015. Because it is located at the Fadden and Associates Physical Therapy office in Cortland, students get an opportunity to learn in an authentic work environment.

OCM BOCES began embedding CTE programs in businesses during the 2013-2014 school year and has now opened the doors to five of these unique learning environments. With programs housed at businesses, experts in the field also become the teachers.

For Jade, that's her favorite part of the program.

"BOCES is different because I actually get to be in the work force and see what a physical therapist does," she said.

Jade's instructor, Christine Bosco, agreed.

"Jade is learning about multiple careers within the rehabilitation field," Bosco said. "Equally, important, she is learning the communication and professional skills needed for college and career."

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP AWARD

OCM BOCES and the Cortland Regional Medical Center were honored as “Partners of the Year” for a job-shadowing program that exposes students to a variety of medical-related fields.

The award was presented by the not-for-profit group Partners for Education & Business (PEB). The primary goal of PEB, which includes a broad representation of business and educational leaders, is to promote workforce development of youth, especially in large growth areas such as healthcare.

Cortland Regional Medical Center has opened its doors to OCM BOCES students for the past 24 years through the New Vision Medical Professions Program, which draws in seniors from surrounding school districts to explore the hospital community and shadow professionals during clinical rotations.

“Our partnership with Cortland Regional is invaluable,” said Christopher DiFulvio, principal of the Career & Technical Education Program at

the OCM BOCES McEvoy Campus in Cortland. “Nothing beats the opportunity for students to stand side-by-side with working professionals.”



Left to right: Phil Grome, director of the Career & Technical Education (CTE) Program at OCM BOCES; Bonnie Georgia Griffith, director of marketing and communications for the Cortland Regional Medical Center; Scott Mayberry, director of rehabilitation services for the Cortland Regional Medical Center; OCM BOCES Assistant Superintendent Colleen Viggiano, who oversees student programs; OCM BOCES CTE Principal Chris DiFulvio of the McEvoy campus; and Joe Vargo, executive director of Partners for Education and Business.



TRANSITIONS PROGRAM OFFERS COLLEGE EXPERIENCE



At the start of the 2015-16 school year, OCM BOCES opened two special education programs at a unique location – a college campus.



Twenty special needs students had the opportunity to interact and learn with their peers at SUNY Cortland and Onondaga Community College.



Benson Wodi was one of the first students to attend the OCM BOCES Transition Program at SUNY Cortland. Benson’s teacher said his communication skills have improved greatly. Benson enjoys the daily activities, social interaction, and work-based learning experience at Price Chopper in Cortland.

Forged from existing partnerships between OCM BOCES and these higher education institutions, the Transitions Program gives OCM BOCES students the opportunity to continue their education in college classrooms and – at the same time – gain social experience in a college setting. The program focuses on assisting students as they transition out of high school by giving them work and community-based learning opportunities as well as academics that support vocational opportunities.

“When special-needs students graduate from high school, many of their peers have moved on to college,” said OCM BOCES Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Colleen Viggiano. “This program allows our students to attend college as well. They can transition from high school to the real world more comfortably. Most importantly, they get the confidence they need to make that transition.”

STUDENT PROFILE



IN THEIR OWN WORDS: STUDENT DISCOVERS CONFIDENCE AT WCNY EMBEDDED PROGRAM

Fear of failure is no longer a persistent state of mind for Jarod Ryan of Liverpool, one of 15 students who participated in 2015-16 in an OCM BOCES Career & Technical Education (CTE) embedded program at the WCNY public broadcast studio in Syracuse.

Sporting a suit and tie at a meeting of the Central New York School Boards Association, Jarod told the audience that fear of failure – something he always had in high school – quickly kicked into gear when a WCNY colleague first handed him the controls of a large television camera during a live show. He envisioned tripping, or hitting something, or making the screen go black. The staff at WCNY had no worries.

“To them, it’s alright if we mess up because it’s an opportunity to learn,” Jarod said. “It’s what they want. And it’s really amazing because we really don’t feel that way in our actual school.”

Jarod said his confidence flourished at WCNY, where students use state-of-the-art equipment and work side-by-side with the station’s professional staff in areas such as television, print, radio, the internet and social media. They also study under the guidance of professors from Onondaga Community College, who help the students secure up to 18 college credits before they’re even out of high school.

“It’s the greatest thing that’s probably happened to me to date, to be honest,”
-Jarod

The class, called “Media Marketing Communications,” is taught by OCM BOCES instructor Kathleen Labulis. It is an example of a two year, business-embedded CTE program that offers students a chance to become college- and career-ready in a real-world environment.

In his speech, Jarod did not hold back about his love for the program. When he first arrived, he was awed by the cameras, the lights and the control room – an environment so different from rows of desks in a standard classroom.

His parents noticed a profound change: finally, excitement about school. They encouraged him to sign up.



OCM BOCES HELPS EDUCATORS ENGAGE STUDENTS, CONNECT WITH THEIR COMMUNITIES

OCM BOCES is dedicated to helping educators across all grade levels and subject areas present effective, enjoyable learning experiences so students can develop deeper learning competencies required for success in college, career and civic life.

Project Based Learning (PBL) is central to that effort. It is a teaching method in which students work for an extended period of time on an authentic and complex question or problem. Partnerships with local businesses, government officials, community agencies and higher education institutions – where the student’s work will have a real-world impact – make the inquiry-based PBL process even more engaging for students.

Here are just a few highlights of our accomplishments in 2015-2016:

- Our Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment department’s PBL team trained 1,103 educators and administrators across the region in these areas: PBL 101, PBL Coaching, PBL for Administrators and PrBL (Problem Based Learning) for math and science educators. Training in the math/science arena was new.
- Planning throughout the year resulted in a four-day conference at the Syracuse Oncenter that drew more than 250 educators from across the country. Called “Making Learning Happen@PBLNY,” the event included a partnership with the esteemed Buck Institute for Education and offered a wealth of training and expert speakers, including former astronaut and NFL player Leland Melvin. Melvin served on a White House task force for STEM education and continues to be a national education leader. In collaboration with the School Library System department at OCM BOCES, a large part of the conference also focused on the hands-on, exploration-centered Maker Movement.
- For the second year in a row, OCM BOCES spearheaded a well-received “Connections” event aimed at uniting 100 teachers with 100 business, community and government leaders. Teachers pitched ideas for classroom projects, received feedback and developed contacts for their students’ work. A third event is scheduled for the 2016-17 school year. **(See related story on next page.)**



In one year, the PBL team at OCM BOCES trained 1,103 educators and administrators.

SUCCESS STORY

FAYETTEVILLE-MANLIUS STUDENTS CREATE LOCAL & STATE VACCINATION PROJECT

Ben Gnacik came to a Project Based Learning conference a year ago at OCM BOCES and pitched an idea to local businesses in a setting that mimicked “Shark Tank,” a hit TV show for aspiring entrepreneurs.

One year later, Gnacik is still marveling at the wildly successful outcome of that PBL project, which has resulted in his students working on a local and statewide initiative to promote the value of immunizations and debunk myths fueled by celebrities and other public figures.

“There’s no doubt that without that BOCES conference, I would still be doing the same boring stuff,” said Gnacik, a science teacher at Fayetteville-Manlius High School.

PBL touts the idea that students become more engaged and excited about their learning if their work is authentic and offers real-world applications. Students in Gnacik’s Anatomy, Physiology & Epidemiology course brainstormed the idea of promoting infant and childhood vaccines, which piqued the interest of Marc Stress, owner of Stressdesign Brand Communication and adjunct professor of Communications Design at Syracuse University.

Stress worked periodically with Gnacik as students developed a logo, created a web site, produced videos and generated other materials, such as a children’s activity book, that ended up in local pediatricians’ offices. Their work caught the attention of the New York State Health Department, which is



now working with students to target teenagers as well as parents of infants. A formal mobile app, another brainchild of these students, is also in the works.



Amazingly, students who started the one-semester course in the fall of 2015 continued to work on the project during the second semester and into the

summer – in their free time. Over the summer, students presented their work to hundreds of educators at an OCM BOCES conference called “Making Learning Happen@PBLNY.”

This year, they are meeting every Wednesday after school.

“It’s now eight months after the class has ended, and they are still looking forward to working,” Gnacik said in September, shortly after the new school year started.

“The kids loved it and had fun because it was really an authentic project,” he said. “Without Mark, without that conference, there’s no way this would have gone anywhere.”

Find more: #VAXN8
vaxn8.weebly.com

*“There’s no doubt that without that BOCES conference, I would still be doing the same boring stuff.”
-Ben Gnacik*

CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE SCIENCE EDUCATION TAKES LEADERSHIP ROLE

The 2015-2016 school year highlighted the leadership role of our OCM BOCES Center for Innovative Science Education.

Here are some highlights:

- The Science Center was selected as one of two field partners in the state by the Smithsonian Science Education Center for a \$200,000 grant called “100Kin10,” which focuses on supporting early elementary students in engineering practices.

The grant allows at least 50 kindergarten, first- and second-grade teachers from across the region to participate in curriculum development during the first year of the grant. In the second year, teachers will receive professional development on lesson study. Teaching teams will then conduct one full lesson study research cycle.

- Science Coordinator Jessica Whisher Hehl spearheaded a regional effort with science education leaders to provide awareness and understanding of the new New York State Science Learning Standards, which are still being reviewed by the New York State Education Department. The newly expanded Science Leadership Network is made up of district, building and teacher leaders to continuously collaborate on the standards and any issue related to improving K-12 science learning.

In 2015-16, this network engaged in a study of the Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Core Ideas (NRC 2012). It is now positioned to lead the region and their districts into the new science standards. During the 2016-2017 school year, the network will focus on developing a plan for standards implementation and supporting science teacher learning associated with the new standards.

- One major outcome of the work in 2015-16 was a sold-out conference on Nov. 8, 2016, called, “It’s Go Time: Seeing the Future through the NEW New York State Science Standards.” The conference was sponsored by OCM BOCES in conjunction with the Syracuse University School of Education and several local teacher centers.

The conference kicked off with a keynote address from Dr. Carol O’Donnell, Director of the Smithsonian Science Education Center, and included four “live” research lessons that allowed educators to see the standards in action.



Seeing the Future through the **New**
New York State Science Standards



FIRST-EVER CNY SCHOOL COUNSELOR SYMPOSIUM

More than 220 school counselors from across Central New York converged on Onondaga Community College Nov. 3, 2015, for the



Liz Murray

first-ever “CNY School Counselor Symposium.” The day kicked off with a keynote speech from Liz Murray, whose best-selling memoir, “Breaking Night,” recounted an amazing life’s journey from poor, drug-addicted parents

in the Bronx to eventual success at Harvard. Workshops focused on new state regulations,

the impact of poverty, diploma requirements, engaging students in career exploration, using data, transition planning, college admission information and more. OCM BOCES teamed up with OCC, the Cortland Counselors Association and the Directors of Guidance Services of Onondaga County to organize the event, which was very well received.

One attendee noted the impact of the keynote speech and a subsequent “poverty simulation” exercise, saying it really opened her eyes to the emotional hardships students face when their families are struggling for survival.

“It’s hard to put into words,” she said of the conference, “but I just want to thank you for those experiences.”



2015 CNY SCHOOL COUNSELOR SYMPOSIUM

E-NORMOUS ACCESS OFFERED FOR E-BOOKS

As more and more educators utilize online resources as professional teaching tools, the ability to access free e-books has become a tremendous and invaluable benefit. In March of 2016, OCM BOCES School Library Services (SLS) helped provide this benefit to a greater audience through the re-launch of its professional digital library. SLS added new books and combined titles from multiple companies to offer hundreds of free digital books to help teachers and administrators in every aspect of their profession. Additionally, an improved web page now provides more streamlined access and search capability.

In addition to the incredible amount of professional resources available to educators through the SLS, students can also access free e-books through SLS. Resources such as Overdrive, Capstone Interactive and Britannica E-Stax have been available to component district students for several years. This year, the OCM BOCES SLS provided additional access through a pilot program with myOn digital books.

The OCM BOCES School Library System began its pilot program in May and, because of its incredible success, decided to extend the program so students and teachers could utilize it during the next school year. MyOn provides access to thousands of books that can be read on computers, laptops and other devices.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT: NEW TRACKING & REPORTING SERVICE GAINS MOMENTUM AMONG DISTRICTS

Under the requirements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), employers must report details of their health insurance coverage to the IRS. This employer mandate, which includes school districts and BOCES organizations, has opened up a world of potential fines and penalties for organizations that do not comply. Because of this, many employers have been nervous about the process – and in need of help. To help local school districts navigate the complexities and requirements of ACA employer reporting, OCM BOCES began an ACA Tracking and Reporting service.



In creating the ACA service, BOCES worked hard to ensure that districts would receive a comprehensive product with minimal interruption to their everyday operations. ACA staff members were trained by Ginny Jacob's CNYRIC staff to utilize four different financial software packages – WinCap, Financial Manager, nVision and Infinite Vision.

Dennis Hill, Manager of Payroll & Specialized Services said, “Because our staff has been trained in all the software platforms, we are able to work with any of our districts and utilize their HR & financial software to do everything necessary for the tracking and reporting requirements.”

OCM BOCES can extract and analyze the data for the year, complete and file the necessary IRS forms, and print and mail 1095-C forms to employees.

“Districts are paying for and getting a soup-to-nuts product,” Hill said.

In the service's first year, 20 districts (including one BOCES) signed up for the ACA service. A successful first year led to another six districts signing up for the 2016-2017 school year, and other districts are interested in joining in 2017-2018.

“AT THE TABLE” DIGITAL NEWSLETTER REVIVED

The OCM BOCES Office of Personnel and Labor Relations has revived its “At the Table” newsletter, offering updates on the most pertinent issues facing labor relations in the public education realm. The most recent issue offered updates on contract settlements, reflections on a New York State Appellate case involving teacher certification and insights into the limits on “free speech” when it comes to teachers and other staff sharing their personal political views. That article was called, “To Trump or not to Trump?”



Mark Pettitt, director of the Office of Personnel and Labor Relations, said the ease of distributing a digital newsletter offered a great opportunity to share information across districts.

Each issue begins with an “Around the BOCES” update from Mark, followed by articles from David Cirillo, Assistant Director for the Office of Personnel and Labor Relations, and David Maestri, an OCM BOCES Labor Relations officer. “At the Table” is expected to be produced and distributed every other month during the school year.

OCM BOCES GOES GREEN

Through its Energy Conservation committee and with staff dedication, OCM BOCES continued making strides toward being “green” during the 2015-2016 school year.

Among the highlights of the 2015-2016 school year:

Staff had the opportunity to attend the Greenbuild 2015 Expo at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. The forum provided an outstanding learning opportunity to move OCM BOCES forward in sustainability and reduction of its carbon footprint. Education sessions included presentations from teams of architects, educators, and energy analysts discussing building design for maximum energy efficiency, catalyzing behavior change to save energy in schools, measurement and analysis of data to reduce plug loads, building of strong energy teams in the education sector, and a review of lessons learned from the ‘greenest’ schools in the United States.



A cooperative bid that our purchasing department prepared last year for districts in the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES for waste and recycling removal was expanded to include 12 districts in OCM BOCES plus our own BOCES.

In constructing its new Main Campus building in Liverpool, OCM BOCES re-used 80 cubicles that were left behind by Nationwide, the previous occupants of the building. The Nationwide building had previously sat vacant for more than two years before OCM BOCES bought it, renovated it, re-purposed it and made it a state-of-the-art campus.

In 2015, districts also saved nearly \$1 million in energy costs through the OCM BOCES electricity and natural gas cooperative (NYSMEC).

SAVINGS SIGNIFICANT THROUGH COOPERATIVE PURCHASES

During 2015, OCM BOCES saved its 23 component districts more than \$50 million through these cooperative business services: Workers’ Compensation Consortium, Central New York Health Insurance Cooperative, Electricity and Natural Gas Purchasing (NYSMEC) and general Cooperative Purchasing.

The largest savings during the 2015-2016 school year was more than \$44 million by the 21 component districts and BOCES participating in the Central New York Health Insurance Cooperative. A total savings of \$3,354,977 was realized by all 23 component districts through the OCM BOCES cooperative purchasing service, which coordinates the consolidated purchase of hundreds of various school district equipment items.

Additionally, 16 of OCM BOCES 23 component districts saw individual savings of more than \$1 million by participating in cooperative efforts with OCM BOCES.



Total Savings
\$50,743,215

CRITICAL THINKING THROUGH CODING: PILOT PROGRAM INSPIRES STUDENT LEARNING

Ten Central New York school districts participated in the CNYRIC's Critical Thinking Through Coding (CTTC) pilot program during the 2015-2016 school year. For one-month increments, districts received access to a variety of robotic devices, CTTC curriculum, and onsite instructional technology support. The program was used in kindergarten through eighth-grade classrooms, but can be adapted for all grade levels. As a result of the pilot program's success, CTTC is now available as a CNYRIC service. Districts can customize the service to meet their needs and budgets.

About CTTC

Critical Thinking Through Coding was developed by the CNYRIC's Model Schools Program, led by Instructional Technologists Jason Clark and Nick Lefort. With the recent popularity and success of Hour of Code, the pair identified a need to provide students with enhanced, hands-on critical thinking opportunities focused on computer programming skills. "Students are being asked to think critically, but not always taught how to do so," said Clark. "Learning how to code with robotics is a great way to introduce students

to a new way of thinking. Using robots gives students real world challenges that they won't get from a computer program."

Following the completion of the pilot CTTC program, educators have seen student improvement in other subject areas. "Learning to solve coding challenges encourages students to persevere through other difficult courses such as mathematics," said Clark. "Exposing students to computer programming encourages them to think differently and problem solve with the ability to fail and try again."

Learn more about CTTC at www.cnyric.org.



CNYRIC EARNS SOC II CERTIFICATION FOLLOWING YEAR-LONG AUDIT



The CNYRIC earned Service Organization Control (SOC) II certification, following the completion of a year-long, thorough SOC audit. Conducted by independent accounting firm Mountjoy Chilton Medley, LLP, the audit included extensive review of all CNYRIC data systems used to contain and manage school district information.

“The SOC audit was an excellent opportunity to confirm the processes we have in place for managing school districts’ private information are secure,” said CNYRIC Data Privacy and Information Security Officer Steven Tryon. “Maintaining the integrity of district data is our No. 1 priority – earning a SOC II certificate reinforces that commitment.”

In order to earn a SOC II certificate, the CNYRIC management team had to provide an abundance of details to auditors regarding their approach to issues of data privacy and security. The audit also included two on-site visits by the auditing team, where they sought demonstrable proof of the CNYRIC’s assorted processes. Included in the assessment were all systems used to contain and manage school district data such as student information systems, financial systems, the data warehouse, food service solutions, digital records, and more.

The auditing process concluded in late summer 2015 with receipt of a final approval letter from the auditing team. The letter acknowledged the suitability of the design and operating effectiveness of the controls the CNYRIC put in place to address data security and privacy. In order to maintain SOC II certification, the CNYRIC will undergo annual reviews of its security and data privacy procedures.

CNYRIC PRODUCES AWARD-WINNING WEBSITES, E-NEWSLETTER

The Central New York Regional Information Center (CNYRIC) earned three 2015 New York School Public Relations Association (NYSPRA) awards in the organization’s annual communications contest.

The CNYRIC won awards for the design and development of the Union Springs Central School District’s website, as well as www.cnyric.org. The CNYRIC also won an award for its external e-newsletter, CNYRIC Connections.

NYSPRA is a state chapter of the National School Public Relations Association, nationally recognized for its efforts on behalf of school public relations professionals.

For more information about the CNYRIC’s e-Communications services, including website design, please visit <http://www.cnyric.org/e-communications>.



CNYRIC CONTINUES TO PROTECT BOCES AND OTHER DISTRICTS FROM CYBER-SECURITY THREATS

The CNYRIC implemented a Cisco Firepower appliance that provides the organization with state-of-the-art defense from the inherent threats on the Internet. Firepower provides both real-time threat detection and remediation from known malicious locations and malware signatures.

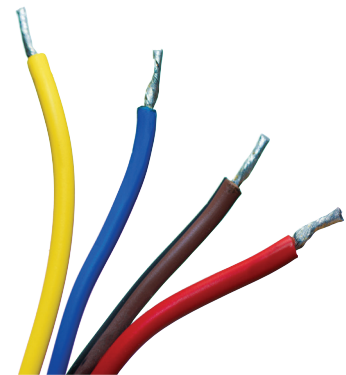
The appliance gives the CNYRIC total visibility of all traffic between its network and the Internet, adding another level of security beyond the capabilities of traditional firewalls.



The CNYRIC continues to enhance the wide area network and strives to protect all BOCES and districts from the evolving cyber-security threats that exist.

CNYRIC TAKES PROACTIVE MEASURES TO PROVIDE CONTINUOUS POWER

The CNYRIC purchased a Liebert uninterruptible power supply (UPS). The UPS provides clean power and battery backup capabilities to the Data Center and Network Operations Center, which houses the regional wide area network and several phone systems. The UPS is made specifically for data centers and works in conjunction with the CNYRIC's generator to provide continuous power to the organization's operations regardless of the state of the electric utility grid.



PARTNER SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

Mr. Matthew McDonald (Acting)
Baldwinsville Central

Mr. Robin Price
Onondaga Central

Dr. Christopher R. Brown
West Genesee Central

Mr. Matthew Reilly
Cazenovia Central

Mr. Lawrence Wright
Solvay Union Free

Mr. Jaime Alicea (Interim)
Syracuse City Schools

Mr. Michael Shiedo
Chittenango Central

Mr. Robert Hughes
Tully Central

Mr. William Crist
Syracuse Diocese Schools

Mr. Steven Hubbard
Cincinnatus Central

Mr. Casey Barduhn
Westhill Central

Mr. Michael Hoose
Cortland City

Mr. Charles Walters
DeRuyter Central

Dr. Donna DeSiato
East Syracuse Minoa Central

Mr. Timothy P. Ryan
Fabius-Pompey Central

Dr. Craig J. Tice
Fayetteville-Manlius Central

Ms. Nancy S. Ruscio
Homer Central

Dr. Alice Kendrick
Jamesville-DeWitt Central

Ms. Laura Lavine
LaFayette Central

Dr. Mark Potter
Liverpool Central

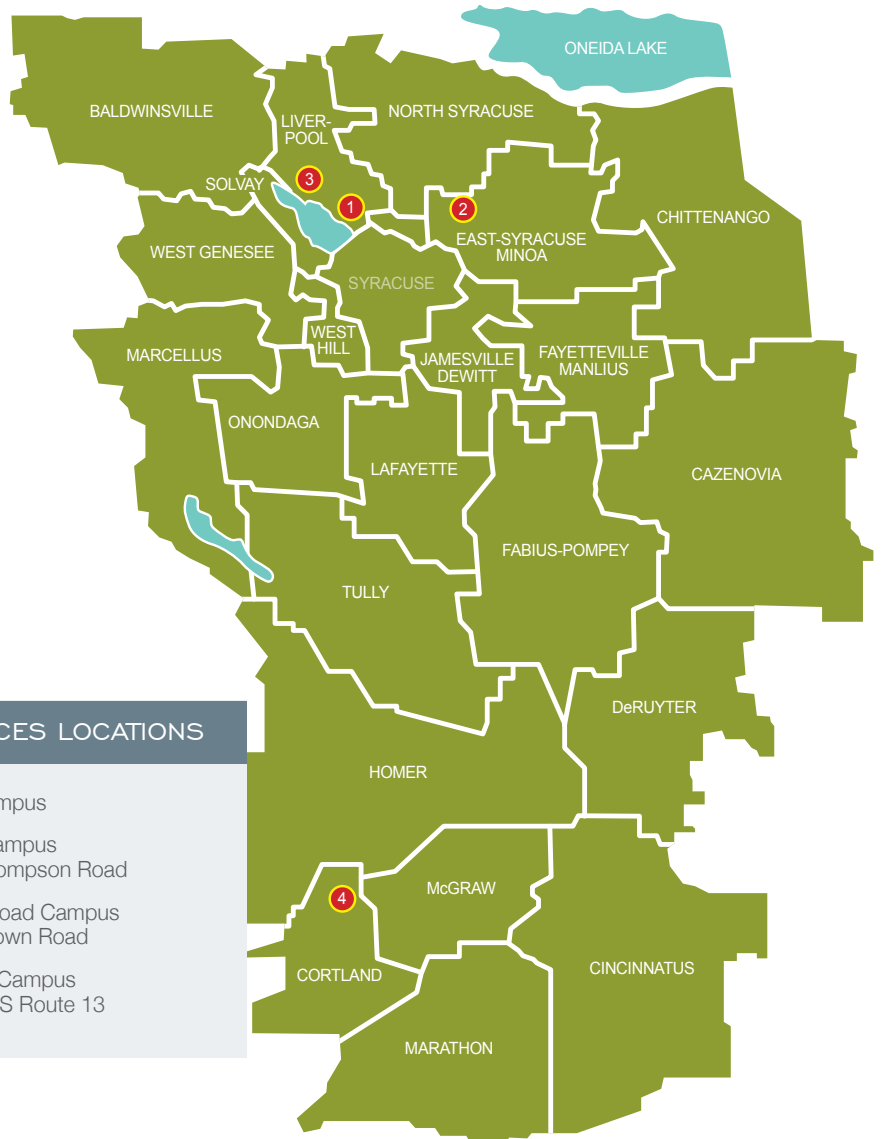
Mr. James J. Austin
Lyncourt Union Free

Ms. Rebecca Stone
Marathon Central

Ms. Michelle Brantner
Marcellus Central

Ms. Melinda McCool
McGraw Central

Ms. Annette Speach
North Syracuse Central



OCM BOCES LOCATIONS

- 1 Main Campus
- 2 Henry Campus
6820 Thompson Road
- 3 Crown Road Campus
4500 Crown Road
- 4 McEvoy Campus
1710 NYS Route 13

OCMBOCES



BALDWINSVILLE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



CAZENOVIA
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



CHITTENANGO
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



CINCINNATUS
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



CORTLAND
ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



DERUYTER
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



ESM
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



FABIUS-POMPEY
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



F-M
SCHOOL DISTRICT



HOMER
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



J-D
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



LAFAYETTE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



LIVERPOOL
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



LYNCOURT
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



MARATHON
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



MARCELLUS
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



MCGRAW
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



NORTH SYRACUSE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



ONONDAGA
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



SOLVAY
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



TULLY
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



WEST GENESEEE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



WESTHILL
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

