



# OCM BOCES ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2017



# CONTENTS

1	Mission & Vision Statements
2	Message from the District Superintendent
3	OCM BOCES Board of Education
5	New Leadership
6	CTE Alumni Hall of Fame
7-11	Student Services
12-15	Instructional Support Services
16-18	Management Services
19-20	Technology Services
21-22	District Partners



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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!

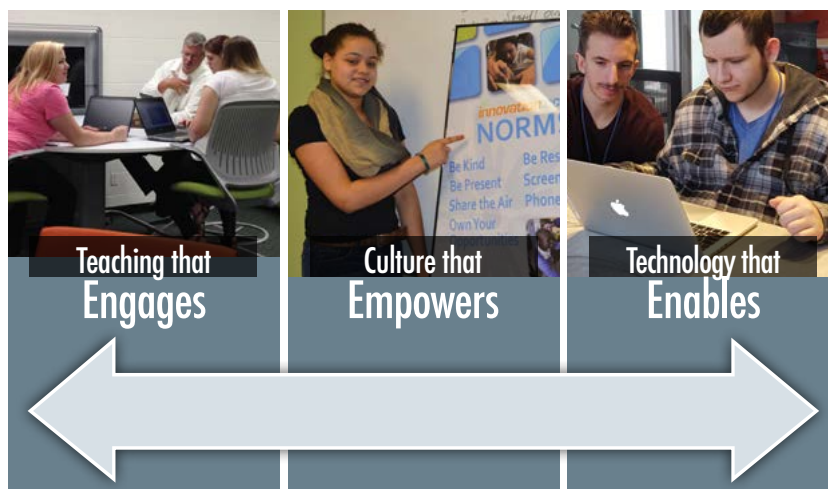
The educational community of Central New York knows that the world has changed and a regional vision for college, career and citizenship readiness has emerged. Our regional vision is founded on an uncompromising and relentless commitment to preparing students for college, career and citizenship – in 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

At OCM BOCES, we truly value our partnerships with our 23 component school districts, our state education leaders, our government representatives and our business and community partners. It is these trusted, committed partnerships that help us accomplish our collective goal: preparing our students for the future.

This 2016-2017 Annual Report demonstrates the power of our partnerships in every division of OCM BOCES. You will see it in our student programs, our instructional support services, our management services and our multitude of offerings through the Central New York Regional Information Center.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016-2017:

### New Tech Milestones

We are proud to announce that our inaugural New Tech school, Innovation Tech in Liverpool, celebrated its first graduating class of 23 students in June. At the same time, Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland celebrated its first full year of success with 46 students. Neither school was possible without the support from our component districts and our elected leaders.


### At the Forefront in Science

Last fall, our regional science center completed its move to the Main Campus in Salina. It was the final step in a wider re-configuration plan that allowed us to let go of leases and provide state-of-the-art space for many OCM BOCES programs. More significantly, our science center is front-and-center in presenting and implementing the state's brand new science learning standards to teachers and administrators in the region. OCM BOCES has been partnering with Syracuse University to be at the forefront of this change.

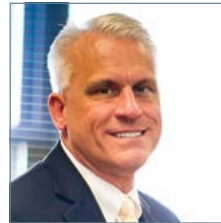
### Our New Home at Upstate

Last year, more than 30 students in our physical therapy and New Vision medical programs found a new "home" on the campus of SUNY Upstate Medical University. The setup is ideal. Students are surrounded by medical professionals in dozens of specialties. They have easy access to hospitals, doctors' offices, clinical labs and other medical facilities. Again, our partnerships made this happen.

As we continue full-steam ahead into the 2017-2018 school year, we will continue to value our partnerships as a critical ingredient in our students' success. If you are one of those partners, we cannot thank you enough for your support.

  
Jody Manning, Ed.D.  
District Superintendent, OCM BOCES  
jmanning@ocmboces.org

## OCM BOCES LEADERSHIP



Jody Manning, Ed.D.  
District Superintendent



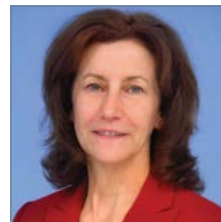
Andrew DiBlasi  
Assistant Superintendent  
for Administration



Jennifer Spong  
Assistant Superintendent  
for Instructional Support  
Services



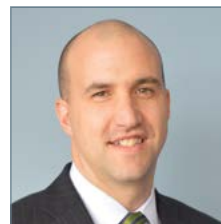
Colleen Viggiano  
Assistant Superintendent  
for Student Services



Pamela Mazzaferro  
Director, Central  
New York Regional  
Information Center



Mark Pettitt  
Director of Labor  
Relations

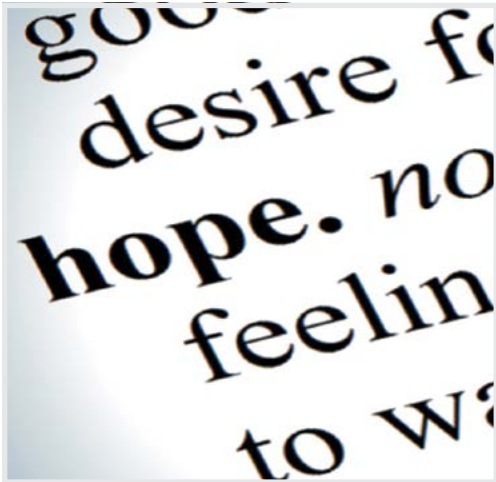


Joseph Bufano, Esq.  
Human Resources  
Director/School  
Attorney



# A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

In reviewing the 2016-2017 school year, it became clear to me that one element was present throughout:



## HOPE

The students, staff, programs and services, the 23 component districts and their communities ... all play vital roles in producing this important part of the learning environment at Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES. **HOPE** is seen through student participation, activities, evaluations and graduation.

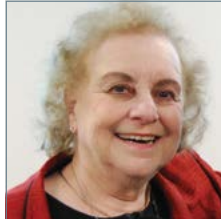
### SEVERAL PROGRAMS & LOCATIONS ARE INVOLVED:

**HOPE** is present in the enthusiasm apparent at the Innovation Tech and Seven Valleys programs, where students are encouraged to pursue Project Based Learning.

**HOPE** is present, as usual, in the mainstay of the OCM programs: Career & Technical Education (CTE). These include auto, computer, construction, cosmetology, culinary arts, early

*Continued on page 4*

## OCM BOCES BOARD OF EDUCATION



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



Wayne Brownson  
Vice President  
East Syracuse Minoa



Robert Crabtree  
North Syracuse



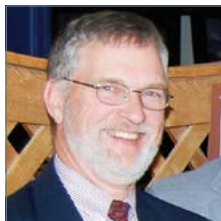
Mark Gilbert  
DeRuyter, Cazenovia &  
Chittenango



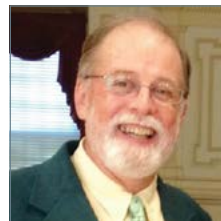
Michael Murphy  
Liverpool



Lisa O'Reilly  
Westhill, Lyncourt,  
Marcellus, Onondaga &  
Solvay



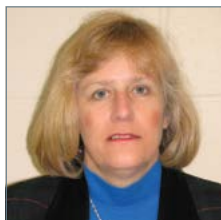
David Paczkowski  
West Genesee



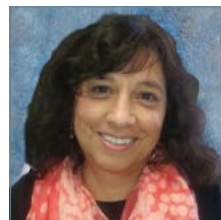
William Pedrick  
Homer & Cortland



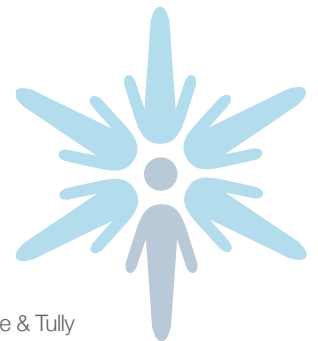
Margaret Peri  
McGraw, Marathon &  
Cincinnatus



Joan Reeves  
Baldwinsville



Maryam Wasmund  
Fabius-Pompey, LaFayette & Tully



Continued from page 3

childhood, graphic communications, laboratory technology and welding. These programs steadily turn out young adults who have decided to learn a specific trade and often move on to college, some with college credits already earned through their CTE classes.

**HOPE** is present in the new “embedded” programs in which classes are conducted at actual work sites. These include automotive technology, media marketing, early childhood and physical therapy.

**HOPE** is present in the New Vision programs that focus on criminal justice, environmental science and medical professions. These classes give high school seniors insights into related fields and help them make career choices.

**HOPE** is especially present for many special needs students for whom there is no appropriate placement in their district. These programs include STAR, TEAM, SKATE, Stellata, the Deaf & Hard of Hearing program and many more. They provide a lifeline for the students, their parents and their home districts.

**HOPE** is alive and well at the OCM BOCES Regional Summer School, a popular and needed program for districts throughout Central New York. Summer school is held at a variety of locations, allowing students to improve their scores and their standing.

And last but not least ...

**HOPE** is a lifeline for adult students in Onondaga and Cortland counties. Both places offer full-time certification programs and part-time classes that are self-sustaining through course fees or scholarships. Large numbers of students avail themselves of this training.

A continuation of these benefits at OCM BOCES and in Central New York are HOPE-d for in future years by all involved.

  
V. Ann Wright  
President  
OCM BOCES Board of Education

## THANK YOU, DEB



Deb Ayers

Deb Ayers retired from OCM BOCES in October 2017 after 17 years of exemplary service to the organization and its school districts. Deb is recognized as one of OCM BOCES' most dedicated and influential administrators.

Deb was valuable, effective and highly respected in her role at OCM BOCES and as a liaison to business officials in our 23 component districts. She played a critical role in maintaining and improving the overall fiscal health of OCM BOCES and was instrumental in initiating and expanding many new and cost-effective services.

During her tenure, she added the Central Business Office; Central Food Management Services; Medicaid billing; STAC; Affordable Care Act tracking and reporting; and additional cooperative purchasing opportunities for districts, resulting in millions of dollars in savings for local taxpayers.

Most recently, Deb spearheaded the purchase and renovation of the OCM BOCES Main Campus in Liverpool, a 3½-year process that also included renovations at the Thompson Road Campus and the consolidation of several leased spaces. The result was new, cost-effective, state-of-the-art spaces for many BOCES programs.

OCM BOCES would like to thank Deb for her many years of service, dedication and commitment to our organization.

## NEW LEADERSHIP

### JOSEPH BUFANO, ESQ., BECOMES NEW HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR/SCHOOL ATTORNEY

Joseph J. Bufano became OCM BOCES' new director of human resources/school attorney in April 2017. He previously represented OCM BOCES for eight years as an attorney for Ferrara Fiorenza PC, a law firm with offices in East Syracuse and Rochester that focuses on employment law.

Bufano said he was attracted to the new position because he had "several rewarding and successful experiences representing OCM BOCES" and enjoyed working with its leadership team.

This new position was created due to staffing changes in the OCM BOCES Labor Relations Service, as well as increased needs in the Personnel Department. OCM BOCES was able to split the position of director of personnel/labor relations held by Mark Pettitt, who now serves solely as the director of Labor Relations.

Bufano was an ideal candidate for the human resource/school attorney job because of his legal expertise, his familiarity with OCM BOCES and his previous education experience as a social studies teacher in Syracuse and Liverpool before attending law school, said OCM BOCES District Superintendent Jody Manning.

"We are very excited and fortunate to have Joe on board because of his long-time experience with OCM BOCES, his knowledge and experience in public education and his enthusiasm for everything we do," Manning said.



Joseph Bufano, Esq.  
Human Resources  
Director/School  
Attorney

### ANDREW DIBLASI BECOMES NEW ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION

Andrew J. DiBlasi, an 18-year school business official, is the new assistant superintendent for administration at OCM BOCES.

DiBlasi spent the past 16 years as the assistant superintendent for business for the Red Creek Central School District. Encompassing portions of Wayne and Cayuga counties, Red Creek is a high-need, high-performing district located along the shore of Lake Ontario.

DiBlasi said the challenge of working for a larger educational institution, as well as the opportunity to have an impact on a greater number of students, appealed to him.

"Red Creek is a great district," he said. "It wasn't an easy decision to leave, but a coveted position within such a highly-respected organization was worth the risk associated with change."

An Oswego native, DiBlasi received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the

University of Delaware. He later returned to Oswego and earned his Bachelor of Science in Accounting and his MBA from SUNY Oswego.

Later, he received a Certificate of Advanced Study in School Business Administration from SUNY Brockport. Prior to joining the administrative staff at Red Creek, DiBlasi worked for the Pulaski Academy & Central School District, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, and the Buffalo Sabres professional ice hockey team.

OCM BOCES District Superintendent Jody Manning said DiBlasi's experience and expertise as a school business administrator will make him an excellent fit for OCM BOCES, which is supported by a \$132 million budget.



Andrew DiBlasi  
Assistant  
Superintendent  
for Administration



# ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

## CTE ALUMNI HALL OF FAME: GRADUATES RECOGNIZED FOR GIVING BACK

In June of 2017, OCM BOCES recognized the accomplishments of two outstanding alumni by inducting them into the OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education (CTE) Alumni Hall of Fame, which was established in 2011 to honor individuals who graduated from CTE programs and demonstrate leadership in their field.



### **Dean Catlin, Class of 1978**

Dean Catlin, a graduate of Automotive Technology, is the owner of Skyline Raceway in Blodgett Mills and the DC Construction and Remodeling Company.

Dean has been a strong supporter of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at the OCM BOCES Cortlandville Campus, assisting with projects and speaking with students about career readiness.

As a community leader, Dean is a longtime volunteer at the Cincinnatus Fire Department and serves as a Level 3 EMT and Interior Firefighter. He developed the junior emergency responders program at the fire station and volunteers for many department fundraisers. Dean is also a lead organizer of his community's popular lawnmower races that benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.



### **Anthony Nappa, Class of 2008**

Anthony Nappa, a 2008 graduate of Cosmetology, is a young entrepreneur with a true passion for his work.

After graduating from high school and OCM BOCES in 2008, Anthony opened the Saving Face Barbershop in Camillus. The shop, created with a contemporary approach to a traditional barbershop, has received accolades for its excellent customer service, customer incentives, creative marketing, cutting-edge services and unique experiences for customers. Nappa's customers are treated to complimentary beverages, a pool table and large, flat-screen televisions.

With one successful business under his belt, Anthony recently replicated his forward business model by opening a second location in Manlius.

Not only does Anthony embody the characteristics of leadership in his chosen field, he also serves his local community by supporting several non-profit organizations.

"Here's what I do know, what you've gained here at BOCES is a real asset. You've acquired talents you can take anywhere in the world and hit the ground running in your respective fields! Think about this: You have a debt-free, four-year head start to most of your peers! What an advantage!"

– Anthony Nappa, 2017 CTE Hall of Fame inductee, in remarks to CTE graduates



OCM BOCES partnered with the WCNY public broadcasting station in Syracuse in 2016-17 to create one-minute videos and three overview videos that feature all of our CTE programs in Syracuse and Cortland. Just click on the MENU tab at [ocmboces.org](http://ocmboces.org) and find "Career & Technical Educational Programs."



# STUDENT SERVICES

## EMBEDDED PROGRAM AT UPSTATE OFFERS ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCE

In 2016-17, Upstate Medical University became the new home for students in two OCM BOCES programs: Physical Therapy & Rehabilitative Professions and New Vision Medical Professions.

In its first year, 21 juniors and seniors took part in the two-year physical therapy program led by OCM BOCES instructor Jennifer Tucker-Locke, a doctor of physical therapy. An additional 11 seniors were part of a one-year medical job-shadowing program called New Vision Medical Professions, led by OCM BOCES instructor Robin Wiley, a registered nurse.

*"Experiential learning is the wave of the future. Learning in context is the most important aspect of real-world opportunities like this."*

– Katherine Beissner, PT, PhD, professor and chair of Physical Therapy Education and interim dean of the College of Health Professions

In both programs, students ventured into clinical settings and learned first-hand from working professionals. Students in physical therapy observed physical, occupational and speech therapy on acute patient floors of Upstate University Hospital. New Vision



**UPSTATE**  
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY



students observed wound care at the Crouse and VA hospitals and toured operating rooms.

OCM BOCES Career & Technical Education Director Phil Grome said the experience is "incredibly exciting for our students and a true break from the school routine. Where better to learn than Upstate Medical University, our region's healthcare leader."

Students in the program also earn college credit through Onondaga Community College.

Other business-embedded programs include the WCNV public broadcast station for Media Marketing Communications; Driver's Village for Automotive Technology; Cortland Community Head Start for Early Childhood Education; the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department for New Vision Criminal Justice; and Lime Hollow Nature Center in Cortland for New Vision Environmental Science.

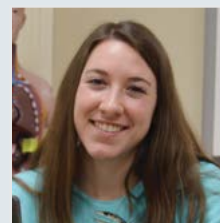
### STUDENT PROFILE: KIERA BERTELLA

Kiera Bertella of Chittenango has a strong passion for helping people with neurological disorders and physical challenges. Her career goal—hippotherapy— involves using horseback riding as therapy or rehabilitation for people who need help with coordination, balance and strength.

Bertella, now a senior, is pursuing her passion through the two-year OCM BOCES Physical Therapy and Rehabilitative Professions program. Her classes are embedded at SUNY Upstate Medical University, where students have access to professors, hospitals, clinics, doctor's offices and facilities.

Instructor Jennifer Tucker-Locke says Kiera is a "rock star" student who comes to class with an exceptional work ethic, a zest for learning and positive attitude that seems to fill the room.

"Kiera always has something good to say," Tucker-Locke said. "Her study skills, curiosity, and drive to put knowledge into practice really define what a great Career & Technical Education student is all about."



Kiera Bertella  
Chittenango

## STUDENT SERVICES



The first class of high school graduates from the first “New Tech” school in Central New York walked across the stage in June 2017 to accept their diplomas and celebrate their successes.

Twenty-three graduates from Innovation Tech in Liverpool graduated June 21 at Onondaga Community College’s Storer Auditorium. The school opened its doors in September of 2014 through OCM BOCES. Students in the Class of 2017 came from six Central New York school districts: Baldwinsville, Fayetteville-Manlius, Liverpool, Marcellus, North Syracuse and West Genesee.

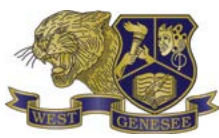
One student, Avery Pearl Frank, attended through the Fayetteville-Manlius School District. During her graduation speech, she praised Innovation Tech for helping her excel.

“Innovation Tech, thank you for existing,” Frank said. “Looking at myself now as compared to two years ago, the changes are unreal. I’ve become a happier, more genuine person. Innovation Tech, you gave me a safe space to learn and grow and I am eternally grateful.”

Innovation Tech is part of the New Tech Network, a non-profit organization that offers services and support nationwide for districts to develop public schools in which Project Based Learning is the primary instructional approach. In the Project Based Learning approach, students work collaboratively and for an extended period of time on a real-world question, problem or challenge. Projects are self-directed and often include partnerships with outside businesses and organizations. (For more information, go to [newtechnetwork.org](http://newtechnetwork.org).)

In addition, all students at Innovation Tech earn college credits, participate in internships and give back to the community through service learning.

Mersadies Bargabos - North Syracuse  
Cameron Burns - Baldwinsville  
Joseph Carey - West Genesee  
John Gurchik - Fayetteville-Manlius  
Edward Homer - North Syracuse  
Caitlin Jesgarzewski - North Syracuse  
Ashley Karl - Baldwinsville  
Jacob Kelly - Liverpool  
Megan Leahey - North Syracuse  
Jeremy Losurdo - North Syracuse  
Mikael Michlovitch - Liverpool  
Ashley Mincolla - Marcellus  
Damien Monteleone - North Syracuse  
Ethan O'Hara - North Syracuse  
Avery Pearl-Frank - Fayetteville-Manlius  
Hope Redfield - Marcellus  
Craig Rhodes - North Syracuse  
Quinn Rivera - North Syracuse  
Brendan Schram - Marcellus  
Layloni Vinson - Liverpool  
Truthe Watson - North Syracuse  
Diane Wayman - Liverpool  
Aliya Whitaker - North Syracuse



Liverpool Schools



# STUDENT SERVICES

## STUDENT PROFILE: RAVEN DAVENPORT

### "THIS IS MY BRAIN ON PAPER!"

McGraw sophomore Raven Davenport exclaimed this before long, scientific writings on a white board inside Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland. The display demonstrated Raven's self-initiated, self-taught ideas of "biological systems of organization eventually linking to the role of sub-atomic particles," explained Jenna Fleury, a science facilitator at the school.



Raven Davenport  
McGraw

More importantly, it demonstrated how Raven's experience at Seven Valleys – the newest OCM BOCES New Tech high school – has sparked a mental shift for Raven in terms of challenging herself and taking ownership of her learning. Being at Seven Valleys has given her the support she needs to work effectively in teams and as an individual. Her ultimate goal: to pursue a science degree in college and eventually become a chemist in the military.

"Raven has shifted her focus to engaging her brain in deep and challenging work, rather than simply doing what she should do to get the grades she wants. She is seeing that, as she digs deep in thought, her grades follow."

– Jenna Fleury, Seven Valleys Science Facilitator

Fleury says Seven Valleys is perfectly suited for Raven because it gives her "the freedom to expand on course requirements to suit her interests."

When Raven demonstrated that work on the white board, Fleury knew her work had paid off. "I was overwhelmed with pride and excitement," she said.



## GOING STRONG AT OUR SECOND NEW TECH SCHOOL

Students and staff at Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland celebrated a successful inaugural year in 2016-17 with 46 students from seven school districts. This year, interest is growing. The school now has 58 students in grades 9-11, with the goal of having all four high school grades next year.

A new freshman, Brennan McMahon of Onondaga Central School, said the use and availability of technology was a huge factor in his decision to join Seven Valleys. He also likes its non-traditional approach to teaching and learning.

"I decided Seven Valleys was a good fit for me because it's more hands-on," he said. "You learn more about real-world situations instead of just doing everything on paper and learning about it from a book."



Clockwise from top: Students visit a college/job fair; Students gather hardware for a pumpkin launcher as part of a physics lesson; The main entrance sports the new logo; Facilitator James Melnyk teaches jewelry-making in art.



# STUDENT SERVICES

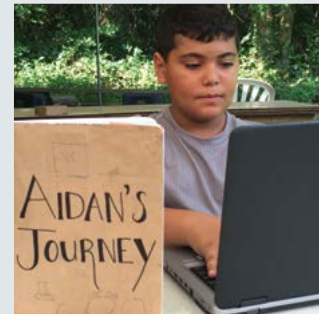
## OUTDOOR ADVENTURES: A PILOT PROJECT

Eight OCM BOCES students from a variety of special education programs in Liverpool and Cortland participated in a two-week pilot program in the summer of 2017 at Orenda Springs, a non-profit organization in Marcellus that provides outdoor adventures and other confidence-building experiences for individuals and groups.

Students spent two full weeks in the woods working with animals, challenging themselves physically and mentally and completing a unit of study about “The Hero’s Journey” using paired text (fiction/nonfiction), anchor charts and writing, said Special Education Administrator Julie Darmody-Latham. Outdoor adventures included low and high ropes courses and equine-assisted therapy.

The pilot was hugely successful, Darmody-Latham said. Teachers and administrators learned:

- They can teach the necessary standards in an outdoor setting.
- Students LOVE having access to animals and the outdoors. They even asked to attend on the weekend!
- Equine-assisted therapy is highly beneficial for our students.
- It is exhausting but satisfying to be outdoors all day!



Clockwise from top: Liverpool student Aidan Griffin works on his journal and enjoys the horses; Tyler Compagni of Solvay joins Orenda Springs staff member Christina Gonzalez on the rope swings; Isabella Willette-Niemczal of Westhill is confident on the ropes; OCM BOCES staff member Don Schiffer discusses “The Hero’s Journey.”





## STUDENT SERVICES

### OCM BOCES STUDENT RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FROM BUSINESS GROUP

Jade Hendricks, a 2017 graduate of the OCM BOCES Physical Therapy and Rehabilitative Professions program, was named “Student of the Year” by the not-for-profit group Partners for Business and Education (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.

Because the physical therapy program in Cortland is embedded at Fadden & Associates Physical Therapy, Jade had a unique opportunity to attend classes in an authentic work environment, working side-by-side with physical therapy professionals. She also took part in job observations in other business settings.

Jade says one of the best things she learned through her BOCES experience at Fadden & Associates was “how to be a professional.” She is currently working toward her degree in physical therapy at Nazareth College.



Jade Hendricks  
Tully

#### STUDENT PROFILE: KATHERINE GILLIGAN

Ask Katherine Gilligan her favorite subject in school, and she enthusiastically replies, “All of them.”

Katherine, a Fayetteville-Manlius junior with the OCM BOCES STARS program, certainly has the grades that reflect her love of learning.

She has worked hard to become a noticeably high achiever in her two years at STARS, consistently getting grades in the high 90s.

Katherine came to the STARS program during the 2015-16 school year, when it was still housed in Solvay. She admits feeling nervous about the program’s move in the fall of 2016 to our Thompson Road Campus, but she also felt relieved when she finally entered the new, spacious facility. She quickly realized it was the same STARS program with the same quality teachers and friends – just with an updated look, nicer furniture and a fresh infusion of technology.

Katherine is proud of her grades and credits STARS for helping her achieve her academic and personal goals. Although she is uncertain about her career, she has launched her college search.



Katherine Gilligan  
Fayetteville-Manlius

### STARS PROGRAM ENJOYS FRESH NEW SPACE

With the move to a new Main Campus in Liverpool, OCM BOCES was able to re-shuffle programs and give up costly leased spaces such as the STARS location in Solvay. As a result, the program moved into state-of-the-art space at our Thompson Road Campus.



Clockwise from top: STARS graduate Jake Ciferni from West Genesee gets his hat adjusted by teacher Denise Loder-Morris; District Superintendent Dr. Jody Manning greets students on the first day; STARS Principal Andrew Muller welcomes students; Graduate Julia Diaz of East Syracuse Minoa gets a hug.

# INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

## EMBRACING NEW STANDARDS

OCM BOCES has long been at the forefront of the new state science standards, which were approved by the Board of Regents in December 2016. That's why more than 300 educators from more than 50 school districts converged on the first-ever "It's Go Time!" science conference in the fall of 2016 at Roxboro Road Middle School in North Syracuse.

One year later, another sold-out crowd attended the second science conference on Nov. 7, 2017. Called "It's Go Time! Science for All," the second conference was expanded to include secondary-level science lessons that aligned with the new

Each conference was unique because attendees observed and took notes on "live" lessons conducted by teams of teachers and students from local districts. This observation was part of a research practice called "lesson study," which is generally defined as a collaborative process for planning, analyzing, and continuously improving instructional practices.

standards as well as a special focus on how the new curriculum promotes access and equity for students of all backgrounds and abilities.

The conference in 2016 broke ground as "the first conference in the U.S. to focus on the intersection of elementary science and lesson study," said Dr. Kelly Chandler-Olcott, Associate Dean for Research in the Syracuse University School of Education.

Jessica Whisher-Hehl, coordinator of the OCM BOCES Center for Innovative Teaching & Learning, organized the conferences in partnership with Dr. Sharon Dotger, Associate Professor of Science Education at Syracuse University and a lesson study researcher.



Clockwise from top: Eighth-graders from Jamesville-DeWitt Middle School develop models to explore energy transfer among magnets; Fourth-graders from Dr. Weeks Elementary School in Syracuse study the earth's topography; First-grade teacher Elizabeth Shepard from Bolivar Road Elementary in Chittenango talks to a student about sending messages with sound.

They had support from the Smithsonian Science Education Center and several local teaching centers: Central New York/Oswego County; Jamesville DeWitt/Syracuse University; West Genesee/Syracuse University; Syracuse; and Cayuga-Onondaga.

In the first year, the live research lessons focused on erosion, energy transfer, groundwater, and relationships among the moon, sun and Earth. In the second year, topics included sending messages through sound, changes in the earth's topography, the collapse of honey bee colonies, and energy transfer with magnets.

The new standards go far beyond learning scientific content. They emphasize thinking critically, solving complex problems, working collaboratively, modeling engineering solutions, making connections with other subjects, communicating ideas and building on knowledge over time.



# INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT - FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

The growing prevalence of mental health disorders in children and adults has always been a major focus of OCM BOCES in its mission to assist local school districts.

In 2016-17, however, that focus kicked into high gear with a new state law that requires every school employee to receive mental health training on an annual basis. In fact, new staff members have to receive training by Sept. 15 or within 30 days of being hired, whichever date is sooner.

As a result of the new law, OCM BOCES utilized expert resources to create a 30-minute online presentation that offers an overview of mental health disorders: their characteristics, prevalence, age of onset, early detection, effects on academic achievement, suicide facts, and strategies for helping students.

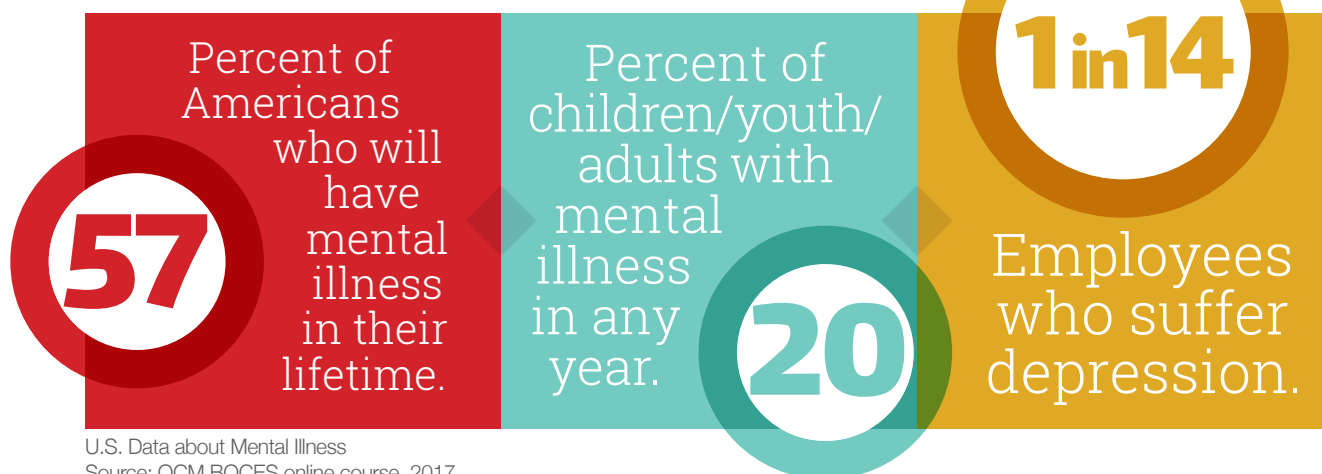
"We basically wanted to offer baseline training for district staff in any position," said OCM BOCES Youth Development Coordinator Penny Williams. "But our department also offers additional mental health training — much more in-depth, evidence-based training — because we know this is a difficult and complex issue that has become a huge priority in nearly every setting across the country."

The demand for more in-depth training prompted OCM BOCES to offer a series of new mental health courses that kicked off in the summer and fall of 2017 under a cooperative service agreement that originated with the 2012 Dignity for All Students Act (DASA).

Those courses include:

- ***Mental Health First Aid*** (for youth or adults), an 8-hour session on the risk factors and warning signs of common mental health challenges.
- ***The Community Resilience Model***, which offers a two-day training on the impact of trauma, its chronic stress on the nervous system, and how resiliency can be stored or increased using a skills-based approach.
- ***Trauma Informed Schools***, a program that offers a baseline knowledge of trauma and trauma-responsive approaches to students in need.

In addition, OCM BOCES offers training on suicide prevention and postvention (intervention after suicide), the science of addiction and recovery, and a program called Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing and Regulating Emotions (RULER).





# INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

## FOSTERING FUTURE READY SCHOOLS ANNUAL CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS

An impressive lineup of speakers and workshops attracts about 250 educators each year to the Greater Central New York School Library Systems Conference at the Oncenter. In 2016, the first graphic novelist to be nominated for a National Book Award, Gene Luen Yang, challenged everyone to read books in unfamiliar formats with unfamiliar characters and topics. This year, in 2017, the conference offered Mark Ray, chief digital officer for Vancouver Schools, who has transformed libraries into hubs of technological innovation. Also at the conference was Marina Budhos, a prolific and award-winning author who talked about “building empathy through books in our divided and diverse country.” At both conferences, workshop themes focused on fostering “future ready” students and teachers.



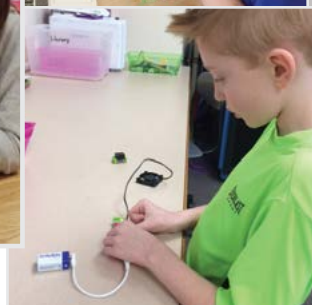
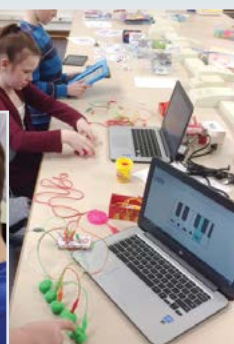
## MEDIACONNECT

In the digital age, teachers are constantly searching for videos and other appropriate content to supplement their lessons and engage students with visual content. OCM BOCES is offering a new resource to do just that. Called mediaConnect, this service represents a new, one-stop shopping tool to help teachers get access to copyright-free videos, streaming media, news clips, sound clips, audiobooks and photos.



## MOBILE MAKER LABS

The floodgates are wide open when it comes to the popularity of Mobile Maker Labs provided through the OCM BOCES School Library System (SLS). Coordinator Doreen Bergman said 29 kits offered through her department “are flying off the shelves, and the majority are booked out for the year.” The kits provide hands-on challenges for students to use in any kind of makerspace, which is a hands-on, collaborative work space designed to promote thinking, creating, exploring, testing and problem-solving. The kits feature robotics, circuitry, coding, music production and even the new and popular “breakout EDU” that requires users to solve a series of puzzles to break open a locked box.



Teacher Librarians Kim Hay of Parker Elementary School in Cortland and Autumn Meldrim of Tully Elementary shared photos of students using OCM BOCES Mobile Maker Labs. Clockwise from top: Students use Makey Makey kits, a “MeepBot,” “littlebits” gizmos and gadgets, Snap Circuits and more Makey Makey kits.





# INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

## SEAL OF BILITERACY

Alina Zdebska knew only four words of English as an 8-year-old third-grader experiencing her first day of school in Solvay after moving here from the Ukraine.

"I don't speak English," she kept saying, over and over, as she stood inside the elementary school, scared and confused in a strange building with no idea where to go.

Nearly a decade later, Zdebska recounted that story as salutatorian of Solvay High School.

She and five of her classmates were recognized on May 30, 2017 with a very distinct honor: the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB), which were affixed to their high school diplomas. The seal recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in one or more languages.

The distinction is relatively new. The New York State Board of Regents adopted it in April of 2016 because it has major benefits, including:

- Identifying high school graduates with language and biliteracy skills for employers;
- Providing universities with additional information about applicants;
- Preparing students with 21st century skills;
- Recognizing the value of world and native language instruction in schools; and
- Affirming the value of diversity in a multilingual society.



Mid-State RBERN piloted the first Seal of Biliteracy Consortium in Central New York in partnership with Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES and the districts of Solvay, Belleville-Henderson, Carthage, Copenhagen, Indian River, Lowville and Watertown. This served as the framework for a local regional consortium in the OCM BOCES component region in 2017-2018.



The first Seal of Biliteracy recipients were (in the photo, from left to right) Alina Zdebska, Michael Tomoroksa, Angela Romanchuk, Viktoriya Piso, Diana Osiv and Arthur Germakovski, who all attend Solvay High School. Arthur speaks English and Russian; the others speak English and Ukrainian.

"The Seal of Biliteracy is a tremendous honor for our students because it acknowledges and embraces multilingualism, world languages and cultural diversity as a positive and driving force in our ever evolving global society."

Tanya Rosado-Barringer, coordinator of the Mid-State Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN), which is housed under OCM BOCES.

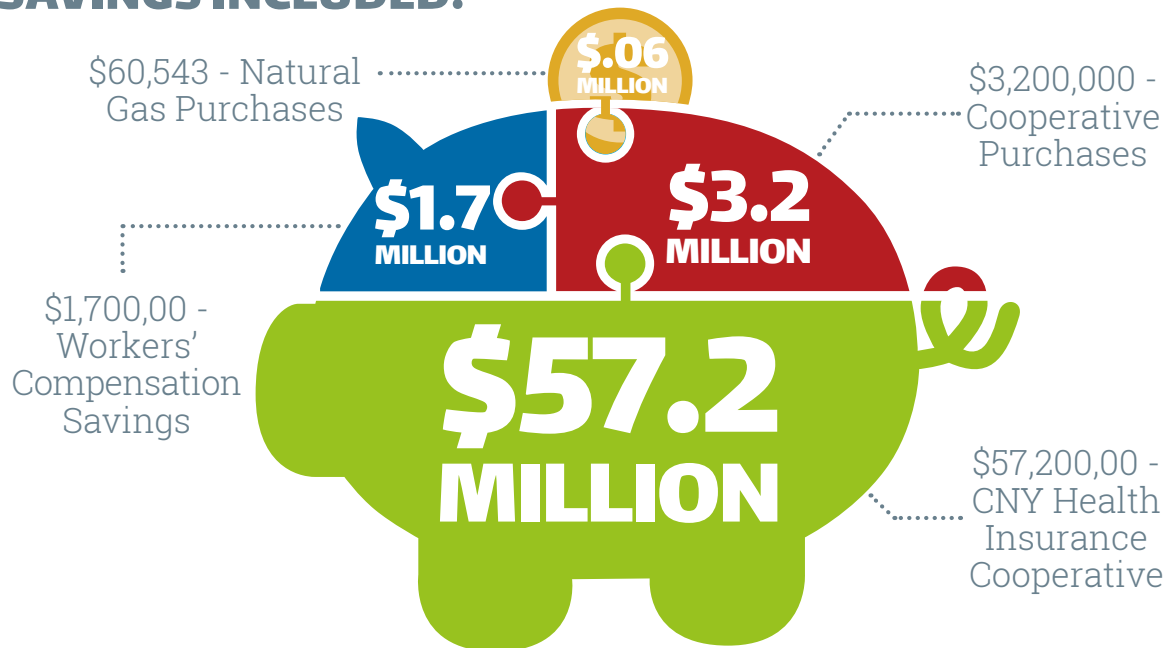
## MANAGEMENT SERVICES

### MANAGEMENT SERVICES – SHARED SERVICES, SHARED SAVINGS

The concept of shared services has been the essence of OCM BOCES for more than 65 years. When local school districts share services through BOCES, it allows them to put tax dollars where it matters most: advancing student achievement. In 2016-17, OCM BOCES saved 23 component districts more than \$62 million through cooperative business services alone.

**TOTAL SAVINGS**  
**\$62,000,000**

### SAVINGS INCLUDED:



This year, OCM BOCES District Superintendent Jody Manning shared the BOCES business model with Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney and members of her shared services panel. The panel has been tasked with looking for ways that local municipalities can improve government efficiency and lower costs for local taxpayers. BOCES will continue to work with the county's panel as they explore the positive benefits that are possible when municipal entities cooperate and work together.

# MANAGEMENT SERVICES

## MAXIMIZING STATE AID FOR 21 DISTRICTS

In the six years since OCM BOCES launched a service to maximize state aid for districts with high-cost special-needs children and other exceptional students, interest in the program has skyrocketed. In fact, the number of local districts utilizing STAC services has grown by an average of 41% annually since 2012 (see chart below).

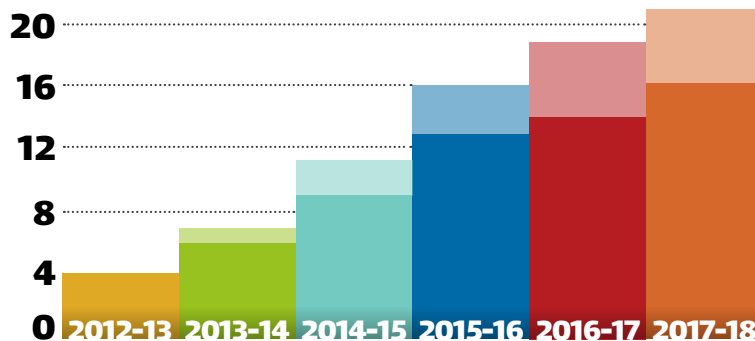
Districts can apply for additional state aid when the cost of effectively educating an individual student exceeds a per-pupil spending threshold, which is based on a formula specific to each school district.

Extra costs come into play when students need additional services or programs. Eligibility for extra state aid could also apply to programs and services for homeless or incarcerated youth or students who require special placements.

Tammy Fioramonti is the STAC specialist for OCM BOCES. She assists districts in reporting, tracking and verifying information to meet their annual reporting requirements. In addition to maximizing state aid, she also keeps tabs on deadlines and changes.

"I really enjoy helping districts when it comes to STAC," she said. "It gives them peace of mind and allows them to make the most of their financial resources, which ultimately helps students."

### DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN STAC



Component districts are shown in the darker of each color.  
Non-component districts are shown in the lighter of each color.

The OCM BOCES STAC Service has grown by an average of 41% annually since it began in 2012.

## FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT: NOT ONE-SIZE-FITS



OCM BOCES Food Service Program Director Wendy Swift looks on as a North Syracuse Central School District cafeteria worker prepares vegetables.

After years of success, the OCM BOCES Food Service Management program is now a regional service offered by the Mid-State Joint Management Team, which includes OCM BOCES and three other BOCES: Cayuga-Onondaga, Citi (Oswego) and Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga.

The Food Service program saves districts money and offers nutritious meals that meet increasingly complex government standards, according to OCM BOCES Food Service Director Wendy Swift. Services range from management with district staff to a single dietician. During the 2016-17 school year, an efficient crew of 10 OCM BOCES staff served more than 2.3 million meals in 12 districts. Swift said OCM BOCES takes pride in carefully customizing the service to fit each district's individual needs.

# MANAGEMENT SERVICES



A “Go Green” competition among nine buildings at OCM BOCES fueled just the right excitement for a successful campaign. By the end of the school year, OCM BOCES had reduced its carbon footprint and planted the seed for long-term sustainability initiatives. The competition set the stage for another round of friendly-but-intense competition this year with Go Green 2.0.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FOUR-MONTH CHALLENGE IN 2016-17:

- Five of nine participating buildings increased their recycling volume by 10 percent or more.
- Three buildings reduced their monthly trash volume, freeing up more space in landfills.
- Students and staff at McEvoy won the most points for their efforts and took home the coveted (and repurposed) “Go Green” trophy lamp. Students and staff also enjoyed a free pizza party as a result of their victory.
- Students in Terri Wood’s class at McEvoy recycled plates and coffee mugs and transformed them into birdfeeders. In addition, backdrops and props for the annual Spring Show incorporated recycled materials.
- Computer tech students at McEvoy recycled computer parts to make new computers for welding students. In addition, computer tech and automotive tech students recycled computer magnets to make phone chargers.
- A building-wide effort at McEvoy to use more digital resources had students using far less paper.



Top: Zach Corson (Cincinnatus) and Brandon Thomas (Cortland Alternative) stand by a new sorting receptacle. Middle: McEvoy staff members Melissa Tokarz and Renee Compton serve free pizza to Benny Stafford (Cincinnatus). Bottom: Students Lacee Bigtree-Dezile (Fabius-Pompey), Abigail Putnam (Homer), Jordan Shirley (Homer), Marissa Sweet (Cortland) and Savannah Contento (Cortland) enjoy free pizza.

“Our ultimate goal was to divert trash from landfills, increase recycling and conserve energy.”

OCM BOCES Facilities Director John Wisniewski



# TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

## CENTRAL NEW YORK REGIONAL INFORMATION CENTER - YEAR OF TRANSITION

The 2016-2017 school year was one of great transition for the Central New York Regional Information Center (CNYRIC). Top among the many changes was the implementation of new state guidelines for managed technical support services.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) made several recommendations that resulted in modifications to existing technical support services for school districts.

The changes spawned many new services, including Remote Managed District Server Support, Managed Technical Services, and the rapidly growing Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS). “The addition of these remotely managed services will help school

districts streamline their technical support needs by providing improvements to efficiency, quality, and cost,” said CNYRIC Assistant Director Rick Dillon. The launch of IaaS alone has helped to minimize the risk and expense of infrastructure

purchasing by providing centrally managed servers from the CNYRIC data center.

Data is dispersed for redundancy to avoid single points of failure, and the end result removes the need for district-based servers and server farms.

“The addition of these remotely managed services will help school districts streamline their technical support needs by providing improvements to efficiency, quality and cost.”

CNYRIC Assistant Director Rick Dillon

Dillon notes that by utilizing the latest technologies, the CNYRIC is helping school districts scale their storage and data capacity, which frees up resources for other areas.

## MODEL SCHOOLS: CRITICAL THINKING THROUGH CODING



East Syracuse Minoa teachers Michelle Coolbeth and Tom Sweeney try their hand at coding.

The CNYRIC's Model Schools team continued to enhance their Critical Thinking Through Coding (CTTC) program by adding a new robotics curriculum and dedicating their annual Technology and Leadership Keynote Series (TALKS) to coding and robotics.

Nationally recognized speaker and Code.org's Director of District Management, Jake Baskin, spoke to district administrators and teachers about the benefits of teaching computer programming in schools.

The team capped off the year by joining forces with their colleagues from School Library Systems to provide a highly-interactive robotics workshop at the annual superintendents' retreat.

## TECHNOLOGY SERVICES & MORE

### CNYRIC FOCUSES ON COLLABORATION ...

An exciting new collaborative effort between OCM BOCES' Instructional Support Services and the CNYRIC also kicked off in 2017. The two groups established partner teams that allowed for job shadowing and topic-specific discussions among employees. The effort continues into the 2017-2018 school year with the goal of finding new ways to strengthen the instructional, data and technology services that OCM BOCES provides to districts.



### ... AND COMMUNICATION

The first mission for CNYRIC Director Pam Mazzaferro during her first year at OCM BOCES was to complete a comprehensive entry plan that included conversations with stakeholders from districts and BOCES across the region. The feedback she received resulted in a series of goals to enhance the CNYRIC's internal and external communications.



### SOME FINAL NUMBERS

**8.5**

Minimum Satisfaction  
Rating for all OCM BOCES  
management services programs on a  
scale of 1-10 in a recent survey.

**384**

Percent increase in  
number of users to our  
ISS web site.

**100**

Percent of K-6 Special Education  
programs that implemented  
standards-based  
report cards.

**75**

Percent of districts that assessed  
literacy instruction  
through CNYRIC professional  
development activities.

**4**

Number of new **COLLEGE COURSES**  
from Tompkins Cortland Community College  
and SUNY Upstate Medical University  
approved for CTE and New Vision programs.

# PARTNERING DISTRICTS

## 2017-2018 PARTNER SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

Mr. Matthew McDonald  
Baldwinsville Central

Mr. Matthew Reilly  
Cazenovia Central

Mr. Michael Eiffe  
Chittenango Central

Mr. Steven Hubbard  
Cincinnatus Central

Mr. Michael Hoose  
Cortland City

Mr. Charles Walters (Interim)  
DeRuyter Central

Dr. Donna DeSiato  
East Syracuse Minoa Central

Mr. Timothy P. Ryan  
Fabius-Pompey Central

Dr. Craig Tice  
Fayetteville-Manlius Central

Ms. Nancy S. Ruscio  
Homer Central

Dr. Alice Kendrick  
Jamesville-DeWitt Central

Mr. Jeremy Belfield  
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 Speech  
North Syracuse Central

Mr. Robin Price  
Onondaga Central

Mr. Jay Tinklepaugh  
Solvay Union Free

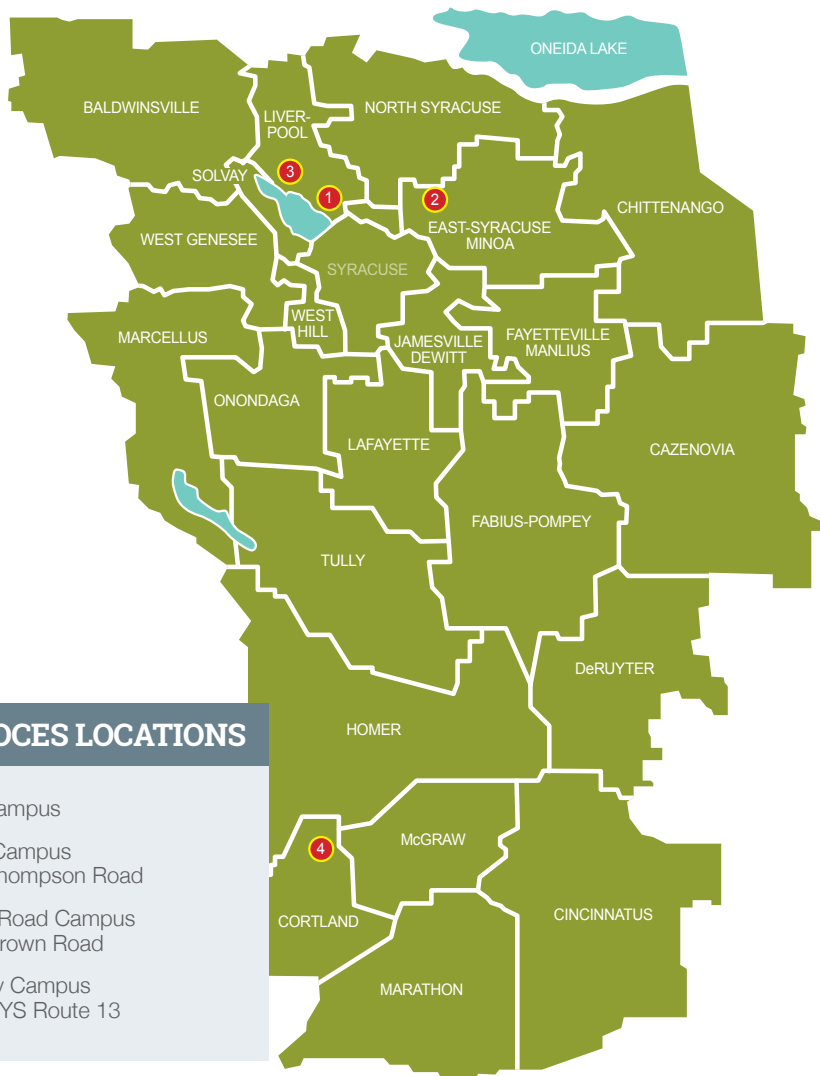
Mr. Robert Hughes  
Tully Central

Mr. Casey Barduhn  
Westhill Central

Dr. Christopher R. Brown  
West Genesee Central

Mr. Jaime Alicea  
Syracuse City Schools

Mr. William Crist  
Syracuse Diocese Schools



### 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 GENESEE**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



**WESTHILL**  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Committed to Your Success*