

From the District Superintendent



Historian and educational philosopher Jacques Barzun once said, "Teaching is not a lost art, but regard for teaching is a lost tradition."

Simply said, teachers are mentors. Teachers provide students with lessons far beyond those that can be found in textbooks...entire worlds of information are available within the relationships and collaborations that you facilitate on a daily basis.

As the district superintendent of OCM BOCES, I want you to know how grateful I am for you and the work that you, our outstanding teachers, do here. If you ever feel as though that work is not appreciated and highly regarded, please know that I understand the tremendous value of a great teaching staff. Every day we work to balance state mandates and parent demands with the unique needs of our students. Our goal is to provide every child with an education...and maybe even a glimpse of inspiration. It is what we do because, somewhere along the way, a teacher inspired us.

Please help OCM BOCES celebrate teacher appreciation week this May 2-6 and for the other 51 weeks of the year that you deserve to be appreciated. Thank you for the work you do.



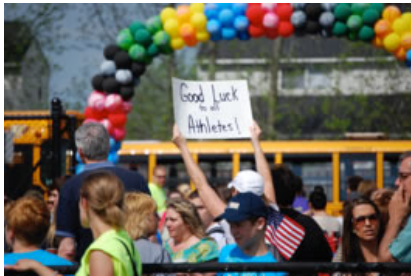
Now that we are mostly settled in at the new Main Campus, I would like to cordially invite **all OCM BOCES employees and their families** to attend an informal Open House from **3 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 12.**

This "soft opening" of our Main Campus at 110 Elwood Davis Road is intended to give BOCES employees a chance to show off their new workspace. It is also an opportunity for BOCES employees who work outside the Main Campus to see the new building and explore what it has to offer. We will have greeters at each entrance, maps and light refreshments in the lunch room.

We hope you can attend! Thank you to everyone who worked so hard and patiently during this transition to our new building. I look forward to seeing all of you during the Open House.

Sody

Local school district budget votes and board member elections will take place on Tuesday, May 17: Please remember that Tuesday, May 17 is the date for the vote on school budgets in each of the districts in the state except the Big Five Cities, including Syracuse. Voting on school budgets is an important right and one that too few citizens exercise. Please remember to check polling times and locations with your local school district and exercise your right to vote.



Special Olympic Games to take place at Cicero-North Syracuse High School, Thursday, May 19: More than 800 student athletes from OCM BOCES and various local school districts will be competing in the 2016 Special Olympic Games on May 19, 2016 at Cicero-North Syracuse High School. A Parade

of Athletes will kick off the day at approximately 10:30 a.m. with athletic competitions lasting until approximately 1:30 p.m. The rain date for the event is Thursday, May 26, 2016. Athletes will compete in track and field events including the 50m, 100m, 200m and 400m dashes, running long jump, standing broad jump, softball throw and shot put. There will also be adapted events, including walking with and without assistance, as well as wheelchair races. Special Olympics games promote fitness, coordination and cardiovascular improvement. Additional benefits include self-confidence, discipline and self-esteem. Please come and cheer on the athletes!



New Vision Criminal Justice Program in the news: Be sure to check out the Eagle Newspapers' *Star-Review* article about the OCM BOCES New Vision Criminal Justice program celebrating 25 years. [Check out the online story here.](#)



STARS, with world-wide and local industry legends, shine bright to support Vera House:

When representatives from Vera House visited STARS Alternative High School in Solvay last fall, their lessons about domestic violence inspired an enormous sense of resolve among the school's 100 students. "The students were truly affected by the

presentation," Principal Pat Mahunik said. "They knew that not acting was not an option. They wanted to do something to help." [Click here to find out how the students decided to help.](#)



Main Campus large conference room inaugurated by non-instructional supervisor training:

Using the largest conference room at our new Main Campus for the first time, OCM BOCES administrators presented a workshop April 5 on two key topics for non-instructional supervisors: **effective employment interviews** and **workplace harassment**.

Attendees included custodians, bus drivers and managers overseeing staff in a variety of areas, including facilities, school lunch, transportation, buildings and grounds, maintenance, personnel and more. OCM BOCES presenters included **Mark Pettitt**, director of personnel and labor relations; **David Cirillo**, assistant director of personnel and labor relations; and **Dave Maestri**, labor relations officer. Pictured, attendee **Lisa Leber**, head bus driver for Marathon Central Schools, asks a question about the topic of bullying and how it relates to workplace harassment.



Preparations underway for September 2016 Seven Valleys opening:

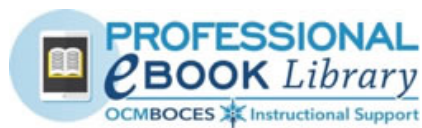
With Seven Valleys New Tech Academy opening in September, OCM BOCES administrators have been hiring staff, buying furniture, ordering technology and making connections with business leaders in Cortland. In April, OCM BOCES administrators set up a Seven Valleys booth at a two-day

"Business Showcase" sponsored by the Cortland County Chamber of Commerce. Pictured are **Renae Montroy**, principal of Seven Valleys New Tech Academy, and **Karen Clark**, OCM BOCES director of alternative education.



Innovation Tech students help educate Leadership Greater Syracuse about OCM BOCES: Forty-seven business representatives affiliated with Leadership Greater Syracuse visited the Henry Campus in April to tour our Career & Technical Education programs, learn about our Regional Vision for College, Career & Citizenship Readiness and listen to a pair of students and a teacher about the unique

learning experience at Innovation Tech in Liverpool. Assistant Superintendent Colleen Viggiano said the students were well-spoken and well-received. "There was a long line of individuals from various businesses waiting to speak to the students afterwards because they were so impressed!" she said.



eBooks galore: Could you imagine being able to download hundreds of free digital books to help you in nearly every aspect of your profession? That's what our staff in Student Library Services accomplished in March through a re-launch of its professional digital library. SLS added new books and combined titles from multiple companies to offer teachers convenient one-stop shopping for professional literature on a new-and-improved BOCES web page. [Click here to peruse the new library.](#)

If you would like to contribute to the BOCES bits, which is generally distributed the first week of each month, please contact Laurie Cook at lcook@ocmboces.org or Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@ocmboces.org.

OCM BOCES Board of Education

Ann Wright, President

Wayne Brownson, Vice President

Barb Closson
Robert A. Crabtree
Mark W. Gilbert
Mike Murphy
Lisa O'Reilly

David Paczkowski
William Pedrick
Joan Reeves
Maryam Wasmund