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BOCES BITS

March 2018

Message from the Superintendent



After a quick winter break, the pace at OCM BOCES always seems to intensify as we head into early spring — and I am certainly ready for spring!

Unfortunately, the tragic school shooting in Florida on Feb. 14 has prompted educators across the country to re-focus their

efforts on the paramount issue of student and staff safety. OCM BOCES, of course, is no exception. Please remember that safety requires a collaborative effort from each and every one of us. If you **see something** or **hear something** that could be a threat to anyone's safety, please **say something** to your school administrator and the proper authorities.

In my tenure as a school administrator, I have seen many improvements within our schools to better protect students and staff. Nonetheless, I anticipate additional changes as we continue our collaboration with law enforcement, the State Education Department, our local component school districts, other agencies and outside experts. We are engaging in productive discussions and re-evaluating current systems to recognize and report potential warning signs that may lead to violent acts. We are also looking for better strategies and best practices to enhance our preparedness and the safety of our schools. Safety, as always, is a top priority. As changes unfold, we will be sure to keep you up-to-date on this extremely important topic.

In other areas of OCM BOCES, budget season continues with our Annual Meeting set for April 4th at our Thompson Road Campus. At this meeting, I will present our OCM BOCES program budgets to component districts and share a long list of highlights from the previous school year. As always, district superintendents will receive a comprehensive look at their ROI, or return on investment, when they put their money and trust into OCM BOCES programs. Because of our long list of shared services

— from our cooperative business and administrative services to our top-notch professional development, information management and student programs — our local school leaders can focus on what is most important: student success.

If you would like to get more information about our [OCM BOCES budgets for 2018-2019](#), you can find them online. I would also encourage you to check out our [newest district “snapshots,” which outline specific BOCES services to each of our 23 component districts.](#) Included in those snapshots are inspiring stories about a wide range of students — the reason we exist! Thank you for being part of these successes, no matter what your role at OCM BOCES.

Until next time, I would like to wish you all the best as you head full-steam ahead into the final quarter of our 2017-18 school year. Enjoy the inevitable arrival of warmer weather, the welcomed sunshine and all the fresh hope that comes with the true arrival of spring.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jody Manning
District Superintendent

Remembering OCM BOCES Board Member Bill Pedrick

It is with great sadness that OCM BOCES is announcing the death of William A. Pedrick, a six-year member of our OCM BOCES Board of Education. Bill died Feb. 21 at the age of 70, after a long and valiant battle with cancer. He had served on our OCM BOCES Board of Education since 2012, primarily representing the Cortland and Homer school districts.



As many of you know, Bill's commitment to education went far beyond our organization. He had also served as a proud member of the Homer Central School District's Board of Education and as a dedicated director for the Central New York School Boards Association (CNYSBA). Before his official retirement in 1998, Bill had worked as an adjunct instructor at SUNY Cortland's Academic Support and Achievement Program, which he first joined in 1984. He was also an instructor at Tompkins Cortland Community College.



When he wrote his biography for a second term on the OCM BOCES Board of Education in 2015, Bill described a background that included "writing, editing, marketing and advertising, with a second career experience in college teaching, tutoring and advisement." His own educational achievements included degrees in journalism and communications from SUNY Morrisville and Cortland, respectively, and a degree in developmental education from Appalachian State University. He had also studied at Cornell. His hobbies included writing, editing, photography, adoption advocacy, fundraising, golf and swimming.

OCM BOCES Board President Ann Wright said Bill's educational work and service have been extremely valuable for the OCM BOCES, its Board of Trustees, administration and staff.

"His advocacy for education in several venues was very beneficial for Central New York students, school districts and communities," Wright said. "The varied experiences and training he brought to carry out his duties was significant. It was always informative, and it was always a pleasure to work with him. Bill's friendship and enthusiasm will be greatly missed."

District Superintendent Jody Manning echoed those comments, saying Bill was extremely dedicated to the students in our region.

"This is certainly a big loss for OCM BOCES and the entire education community," Dr. Manning said. "We are very grateful for all the time and effort that Bill contributed to our organization. We will miss his passion, his humor and his deep sense of commitment toward preparing our students for the future."

Our hearts go out to Linda, Bill's wife of 44 years; his daughter, LeeAnne, and all his family and friends.

For more information, please read [Bill's obituary](#) from Daniel Barber Funeral Home in Homer.

Science and art go hand-in-hand

In a recent project at Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland, students were challenged to find the beauty of the



microscopic world, specifically at the cellular level. Their projects included researching specialized cells, followed with the task of designing and creating artistic representations of the cells. The cells featured included a human sperm cell, human egg cell, Venus Flytrap cell, Maple leaf cell, HeLa cell, a human skin cell and human liver cell. Student representatives later hosted a "Meet the Artist Night" at Tully Artworks thru the Tully Arts Counsel. The display is up for about 10 days. In the photo, from left to right, are **Jasmyn Harmin**, **McKenly Stone**, **Alyssa Marshall**, **Justin Wood** (co-facilitator of BioComm), **Victoria Lent**, **Peyton Lucas**, **Elizah Horn** and **Jenna Fleury** (co-facilitator of BioComm).

A first-time conference focuses on gaming, diversity

The first annual Get Your Game On! conference featuring internationally renowned speaker **Gabe**

Zichermann will be held April 4 at the Main Campus. This event is co-hosted by the Mid-State Regional



Bilingual Education Resource Network and the OCM BOCES School Library System. This one-of-a-kind conference will focus on helping educators use strategies and games to engage culturally and linguistically diverse students. Several technology and gaming breakout sessions will be offered that focus on culturally relevant practices to engage students and their families.

Measuring Success: Changes to the 2018 New York State Assessments

This year's math and English Language Arts assessments,



scheduled for April, should be much easier for students and staff since State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia listened to concerns from stakeholders across the state. Check out this [OCM BOCES video about the importance of the assessments and this year's changes](#). We encourage you to share this video with others.



Moves within OCM BOCES affect Innovation Tech, conference rooms

We are excited to announce that Innovation Tech program will be moving! Plans are in the works to move Innovation Tech from our Crown Road Campus to renovated space in Rodax 7/8. As a result, the Onondaga Conference Room in Rodax will relocate to our space at 200 Elwood Davis Road, and the Oneida Conference Room will relocate to the 1st floor of the Main Campus. We anticipate these changes taking effect beginning this spring and continuing until Innovation Tech opens in Rodax 7/8 in the fall of 2018.

Outstanding OCM BOCES employees receive recognition

The second Employee Recognition Luncheon was held March 1 at the Thompson Road Campus, where our OCM BOCES culinary students prepared a delicious lunch for a group of outstanding honorees: Here are the most recent honorees:

- **Siobhan Bussone**, a social worker at Long Branch Elementary School in Liverpool through our [Special Education](#) division
- **Donald Crowley**, director of technology for [CNYRIC/Managed Services](#), who supports technology in the Ithaca City School District
- **Nicole Hadsell**, the [cosmetology Career & Technical Education](#) instructor at our Cortlandville Campus
- **Melissa Kershner**, an [early childhood education Career & Technical Education teacher](#) at our Thompson Road Campus
- **Mary Kreager**, a math teacher in the [REACH](#) program at our Crown Road Campus

- **Karen Kruth**, teacher for the deaf in the [Deaf & Hard of Hearing program](#) at Solvay Middle School
- **Barbara Mahaney**, the nurse at our Cortlandville Campus who also manages student attendance and health records for district-based classrooms
- **Mary Ellen Michalenko**, a teacher based at Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital through the [Educational Programs](#) division of Instructional Support Services (ISS)
- **Kathy Miller**, a program monitor for [ADA-PEP](#) (Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention Education Program), which is in the Youth Development division of ISS
- **Siobhan O’Hora**, a specialist who works with districts who need to improve outcomes for students with disabilities through a program called [SE SIS](#) (Special Education School Improvement Specialists), which is housed in ISS

Employees will be honored periodically throughout the year for their accomplishments in helping OCM BOCES meet its organizational goals. Supervisors are able to nominate individuals using the [Employee Recognition Luncheon Nomination Form](#).



From left to right: **Kathy Miller, Siobhan Bussone, Siobhan O’Hora, Nicole Hadsell, Donald Crowley, Melissa Kershner, Barbara Mahaney, Mary Kreager and Mary Ellen Michalenko.** Missing is **Karen Kruth**.

Students connect with local retirement community

Students from the OCM BOCES Crossroads program at our Crown Road Campus attended the



Parkrose Retirement Community Art Show on Feb. 26, where many of their

own pieces were on display. Students created works of art in **Molly O'Hara's** art class at Crossroads before submitting their pieces for the show. Students were able to walk through the exhibit and enjoy music and refreshments with the residents. "It was a wonderful experience for all involved," said **Renae Montroy**, a school social worker. In one of the accompanying photos, **Noah Martin**, a 9th grade student at Crossroads, stands in front of his art composition.

Earlier in the month, for Valentine's Day, students in the Friends of Rachel (FOR) Club went to Parkrose with hand-made Valentine's gifts to share. The club also invited the [Arc of Onondaga](#) Midler Melody singers to join in the celebration.



Models of Success: CTE Alumni Hall of Fame needs nominees

OCM BOCES is currently seeking nominations for its Career and Technical Education (CTE) Alumni Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame honors OCM BOCES CTE program graduates who demonstrate leadership in their field. Two individuals will be selected for recognition as 2018 Hall of Fame inductees: one graduate from the Thompson Road Campus in Syracuse, and one graduate from the Cortlandville Campus in Cortland. [Nomination forms](#), available to download, are due March 31.



NYSCATE "TurnIT Up Summit" joins forces with OCM BOCES

The OCM BOCES School Library System is partnering with NYSCATE to

host a [TurnIT Up Summit](#) on Friday, April 13, at the OCM BOCES Main Campus. The Summit is designed for educators who are ready to explore learning beyond their comfort zone, just as they ask their students to do! Topics include Google Apps for Education, Microsoft in the Classroom, Minecraft EDU, robotics, STEAM education, technology integration, coding and more.

What an honor! OCM BOCES students in construction trades will showcase their talents

OCM BOCES construction students in the Career & Technical Education program at our Thompson Road Campus will be demonstrating their skills on Saturday, March 17, at the CNY Home and Garden Show at the State Fairgrounds. Adult Education students will also be showcasing their talents. Hundreds of people are expected to attend. Career & Technical Education Director **Phil Grome** will help kick off the event by saying a few words at the opening ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, March 15. Tables of information about OCM BOCES CTE and Adult Education programs will also be on hand. Please check out the [Home and Garden Show website](#) for more information about the event. The entire event runs March 15-18, so you have plenty of time to stop by.



Labor Relations hosts educational workshop



The Office of Labor Relations organizes two Non-Instructional Supervisor Training sessions each spring semester. During the February session, attendees learned how to help employees who may be in a crisis situation at or away from work. This portion of the program was led by our own **Michelle Stolicker**, EAP Coordinator. Those in attendance joined in and learned from a very interactive and informative presentation. The second

half of the morning dealt with Civil Service Employment. Two seasoned personnel representatives from the Onondaga County Civil Service Department presented, instructed and clarified all aspects of civil service employment. Navigating the multi-layered and complicated system should be easier with the wealth of knowledge imparted. Both representatives were very personable and offered ad hoc, one-on-one assistance. The next session is March 23. Topics include effective communication, discipline progression, and clarification regarding when an employee must be paid.

Graduating from college? OCM BOCES offers many career opportunities

OCM BOCES has been participating in college job fairs recently to encourage new graduates to apply for a wide variety of jobs in our organization. Human Resources Director/School Attorney **Joseph Bufano, Esq.**, and **Loretta Waldron** manned a marketing table — complete with prize wheel — to talk to students recently during job fairs at Le Moyne College and SUNY Cortland. Anyone interested in applying to OCM BOCES can check out the new [“Careers” tab at the top of our home.](#)



It's almost golf season! Join us Aug. 15 for a great cause

Please join us for a fun day of golf that also serves as an annual fundraiser to assist students who need financial support for our Adult Education programs in Liverpool and Cortland. This year's event is August 15 at the Links at Erie Village in East Syracuse. This event was created more than two decades ago to honor former OCM BOCES Deputy Superintendent Jack Gallaher. Proceeds go to scholarships for adults pursuing continued training or workforce preparation. More details will be available soon.

Interested in learning golf? Officiating high school sports? Tackling a new skill? Take a class at OCM BOCES.

Our [newest Adult Education course catalog for Liverpool](#) is hot off the presses, with information about several new part-time courses, including beginning golf and sports officiating. You can also check out a multitude of other classes, including dancing, cooking, karate, yoga, computer classes, art, essential oils and so much more. Find them online at ocmboces.org/adulted.



Congratulations to our talented SkillsUSA participants

Check out the long list of students from our OCM BOCES Career & Technical Education programs who performed exceptionally well at the [Regional SkillsUSA competition](#) last month at SUNY Morrisville. Roughly 900 students from 18 high schools challenged their skills and knowledge in contests that included performance and written tests.



SkillsUSA is a national organization that connects high school and college students with employers of technical, skilled and service occupations. The state competition is scheduled for the end of April at the New York State Fairgrounds.

Employee Assistance Program

If you are experiencing a difficult time, the confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can help you with anything from job stress to aging parents to a death in the family. Please go [to ocmbores.org/eap](http://ocmboces.org/eap) for current offerings.

Follow us!

Please follow OCM BOCES on social media and encourage others to do the same. While several OCM BOCES programs have their own social media outlets, our organization has a general [Facebook page](#), [Twitter account](#) and [YouTube channel](#) to share news and events across all departments. We are happy to share and retweet any and all of your important news. For all of our social media platforms, check out our social media hub at <http://ocmboces.org/follow>.

How to reach us

If you would like to contribute to BOCES Bits, which is generally distributed the first or second week of each month, please contact Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@ocmboces.org or Laurie Cook at lcCook@ocmboces.org. If you are looking for work from our communications department outside of BOCES Bits, you can send us an email or use [a request form](#) to get started.

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