

April 2019

BOCES BITS



Message from the Superintendent



Each year, our Annual Meeting gives us a chance to showcase all that OCM BOCES has to offer, from the fantastic programs we provide for our students to the millions of dollars in savings we generate each year through shared services for our 23 component districts. This year's meeting, held April 3 in Cortlandville, was particularly special. We celebrated our 70th anniversary with a cake, a delicious meal created by our culinary students and a variety of anniversary-themed decorations designed by our graphics, welding and construction students. Please take a few minutes to enjoy our ["Celebrating 70 Years" video](#), which captures the highlights of 2018 and reflects on seven decades of change, progress and success. It is only because of you, our talented and



committed staff, that we can take pride in our history and look with optimism to the years ahead.

On another subject, I hope you had a chance to [read my update about the variety of school safety measures](#) we are continuing to pursue at OCM BOCES. We have made great progress in this arena, but we still have plenty of work to do. If you did not get a chance to read my message, please do so at your earliest convenience. As all of you know, our approach to school safety is multi-faceted: It zeroes in on all we can do to address immediate threats to school safety, but it also aims for long-term solutions by focusing on the health and well-being of our students.



Finally, as always, I would like to encourage you to participate in your local school budget votes and Board of Education elections on Tuesday, May 21. That date will be here before you know it, so please mark your calendars and be sure to cast your ballot.

Until next time, I hope you enjoy these warmer days of spring and the promise of even warmer weather ahead. My best to all of you during this last quarter of the 2018-19 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark blue background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Jody".

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

Could you create a colorful and detailed painting ... without using your hands?

That was the task presented to students at Crown Road Campus recently after listening to a talk by Dennis Pullen, an artist from Oswego. Pullen, who grips paintbrushes in his mouth to create vibrant images of animals, landscapes and more, shared his story of overcoming hardship after he was struck by a car in 1987 while walking home from school in a snowstorm. Paralyzed from the neck down, he

uses a ventilator to breathe and a wheelchair to get around. Despite these challenges, Pullen's story of becoming an artist and inspirational speaker demonstrated exceptional resilience for about 50 students from the Crossroads, Reach, and middle-school Special Education programs who attended his presentation as part of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. At the end of Pullen's talk, students were invited to create their own masterpieces in a similar fashion, using just their mouths to dip Q-tips into paint and draw on a clipboard. Read the full story on [our website](#).



Mastering their skills: 219 students inducted into National Technical Honor Society

OCM BOCES recently inducted 219 students from our Career & Technical Education programs into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS). To be inducted, students must have an 85 average or higher, 12 or fewer absences, and a teacher endorsement. Students must also demonstrate attributes that include respect, honesty, skill, responsibility, leadership, service and citizenship. For a story and the complete list of NTHS recipients from Syracuse and Cortland, please go to ocmboces.org.



- [OCM BOCES inducts 107 into NTHS at Thompson Road Campus](#)
- [OCM BOCES Inducts 112 into NTHS at Cortlandville Campus](#)

New “Mutt Mash” dog recipe wins top prize for New Vision Environmental Science students

What do you get when you mix spent barley grain, a ground beef mix, and some imperfect produce? Students from the New Vision Environmental Science class in Cortland recently developed a premium dog food that included these essential ingredients. With a few additional ingredients, creative marketing, and the guidance of their instructor, Chad DeVoe, 22 students in the class walked away with a first-place prize among 50 high school entries in the second-annual Top Cut Beef Contest, which is sponsored by the New York State Beef Council and New York Agriculture in the Classroom. The class worked together to create a logo and packaging for “Mutt Mash” as well as the slogan, “We shih tzu not, it’s that good!” Congratulations to our students on this impressive accomplishment! Read more about it on [our website](#).



Seal of Biliteracy booms across Central New York

Three years ago, six high school students from Solvay received the New York State Seal of Biliteracy in a program piloted through the Mid-State Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network, or RBERN. This year, that number has exploded. In



one day alone, 174 students from 11 Central New York school districts showcased their speaking skills in 23 languages. Students gave their Seal of Biliteracy presentations April 9 in buildings spread across the Onondaga Community College campus and at the OCM BOCES Main Campus in Liverpool. If a student qualifies for the seal, which is affixed

to their diploma, it shows they have high-level proficiency in speaking, reading, writing and listening in a language other than English. The honor also comes with a blue-and-gold medal from the New York State Education Department, which students can wear with their graduation robes. In the photo, a record number of 86 Liverpool students — this group included — pursued the Seal. Read the full story on [our website](#).

Inspired to speak out against domestic violence, Innovation Tech students join march in Syracuse

To support this year's 25th Annual White Ribbon Campaign, the entire student body from Innovation Tech joined their facilitators and hundreds of other supporters March 29 for a large community march in downtown Syracuse. To prepare for the event, students and staff discussed the prevalence and impact of domestic violence and the differences between abusive and healthy relationships. Students created several signs for the march and held them high as they walked from Clinton Square to the Hotel Syracuse.



Students test their mettle in first-ever 'Battle of the Books' at Main Campus

Dozens of students with a passion for reading flipped through books and tested their literacy knowledge during the first-ever "Battle of the Books" April 12 at the OCM BOCES Main Campus. Students in grades 3-8 participated from eight districts: Cazenovia, Chittenango, Cincinnatus, Cortland, DeRuyter, East Syracuse Minoa, Fabius-Pompey, and LaFayette. To prepare for the "battle," students read 10 books selected by a committee of librarians and teachers from the OCM BOCES



region. They were later asked to answer questions about them. Winning teams from each grade-level band took home a plaque to display in their home districts. To learn more about the event, read the full story on [our website](#). In the photo, students from Cincinnatus consult during the competition.

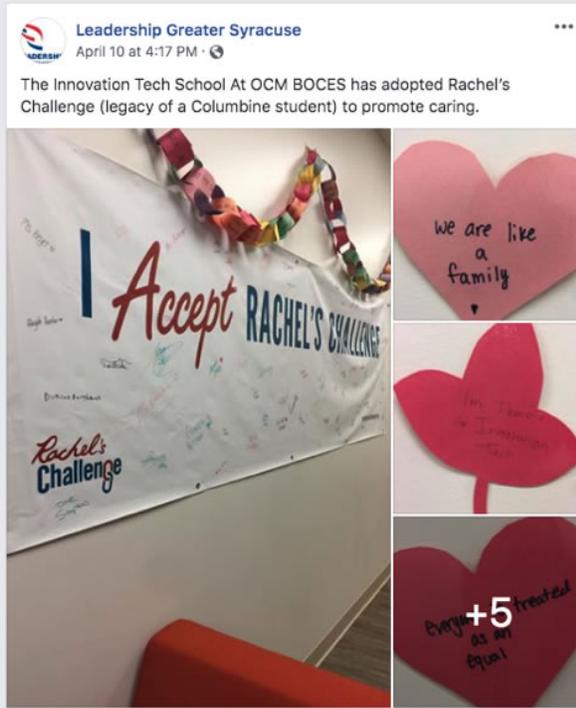
Seven Valleys students skype with internationally famous "earth-caster"

Students in an Earth Design class at Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland recently connected virtually with internationally-known elemental artist Thomas Sayre. Sayre creates unique sculptures called "earth castings" by digging into the ground with shovels, bulldozers, and heavy construction equipment. He uses the tilled ground as a mold for concrete and rebar and raises the sculptures to create giant rings, pillars, and other shapes. Students in the Earth Design class have been working on a related project called "Weathered," in which they created rugged wooden canvas art pieces that were exposed to the elements over the snowy winter recess. They connected with Sayre as an expert in the field to learn and ask questions, which were generated as a group using Right Question Institute's "Question Formulation Technique." Sayre's work can be found at thomassayre.com or on Instagram [@thomassayreartist](https://www.instagram.com/thomassayreartist).



Leadership Greater Syracuse impressed with OCM BOCES

Members of Leadership Greater Syracuse recently stopped by OCM BOCES to learn more about how BOCES provides support to our districts, students, and staff. The group began their day at the OCM BOCES Main Campus, with a welcome from Syracuse City School District Superintendent Jamie Alicea and OCM BOCES District Superintendent Jody Manning. From there, the group learned more about the programs offered at OCM BOCES, including visiting Innovation Tech, to learn more about Project Based Learning. Thanks for stopping by, LGS!



Graphics students win creative honors in Cortland art show and film festival

If you want to see some creative art, check out the prize-winning works of our very own OCM BOCES graphics students at the [Imagination Celebration Show at the Center for the Arts in Homer](#). In the category of digital graphics, first place went to Alex Neff of Homer; second place went to Tom Clark of Cortland Christian Academy; third place went to Claude Colville III of Homer. In the photography category, first place went to Aaron Glisson of DeRuyter, and second place went to Alle Tollner of Homer. If you also like film, our graphics students placed second in the [“Sleepless at Tompkins Cortland” 24-hour film festival competition](#). The students involved in this project were Alex Neff, Arielle Bastain and Alle Tollner, all from Homer, and Alexander Wiers of Tully.

Good news! Adult Ed students can now earn college credits at SUNY Morrisville in automotive technology

Adult Education students from [the Automotive Technician Program in Cortland](#) can now earn college credits because of a new articulation agreement between OCM BOCES and SUNY Morrisville. Students in

the OCM BOCES program can earn up to nine college credits toward SUNY Morrisville's Automotive Technology A.A.S. degree program in areas that include engine repair, brakes, mechanical safety and pollution prevention. For more information, please give us a call at 315-453-4455. We still have openings for the Auto Tech program in Cortland for our spring session, which starts in May.



Innovation Tech Celebrates #LoveMySchoolDay

Students at Innovation Tech recently celebrated #LoveMySchoolDay on April 11 by focusing on the Rachel's Challenge theme of the month — diversity. Students put together a wall consisting of Day of Silence forms, which recognizes the silence that LGBTQ community youth experience when they are faced with bullying and discrimination. Students also recognized National Autism Month with the puzzle pieces on the wall. Each piece shows how and why each student and person is unique.



Non-Discrimination Policy

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

Get social with OCM BOCES

Like us on Facebook! Follow us on Twitter! Check us out on YouTube! While several OCM BOCES programs have their own social media outlets, our organization now has a general Facebook page, Twitter account and YouTube channel that we can use to share news and events across all departments. We are happy to share and retweet any and all of your important news! **PLEASE like us** on [Facebook](#) and **follow us** on [Twitter](#) (@ocmboces). Check out our [YouTube Channel](#) as well. **This year, we have a special hashtag to celebrate our 70th anniversary: #ocm70. Feel free to use this hashtag if it reflects on our OCM BOCES pride and history.**

Need help? Don't forget about our Employee Assistance Program

Don't forget about our confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which can help you with anything from job stress to aging parents to a death in the family. Go to ocmboces.org/eap for more.

If you would like to contribute to the BOCES bits, which is generally distributed once each month, please contact Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@ocmboces.org or Katie Jensen at kjensen@ocmboces.org.

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