# **BOCES BITS**

### From the District Superintendent



This month, I want to take a moment to thank and commend our facilities department staff for their exceptional work with the tremendous snow removal efforts this winter. Each and every time we have been faced with snow,

our crews have worked tirelessly to ensure our sites are cleared of snow and ice and safe for our students, staff and visitors. Hopefully we are nearing the end of the snow season; however, I am confident that no matter what remains of our winter, our dependable staff will continue to demonstrate their exemplary customer service. Thank you for going above and beyond!

## March is Open Enrollment Month for health and dental coverage

If you are enrolling in family health coverage or adding dependents to your current health plan, you must provide verification that your dependents are eligible. In many cases a minimum of two verification documents are required per dependent.



Please pay particular attention to the notification attached to the health insurance enrollment form. Be sure to submit dependent verification documents with your health insurance application.

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We are saddened to report the passing of longtime OCM BOCES Board of Education member

Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton. A lifelong resident of North Syracuse, Catherines contributions to education throughout Central New York and beyond are immeasurable. She served on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education for the past 33 years and was a dedicated and esteemed member of our OCM BOCES Board for the past 27 years. She was inducted into the North Syracuse Central School Districts Wall of Distinction Class of 1995-96. In 2000, Catherine received the Community Service Award for Outstanding Service Rendered to the Youth and Community. She also served as a Board of Education representative for the New York State Education Department as a panelist for hearings, and as a member of the Central New York Teaching Center Policy Committee.

In her service outside of education, she was a former Village of North Syracuse trustee and deputy mayor. She was also a New York state licensed cosmetologist and traveled to serve senior citizens and the physically challenged on a part-time basis. She was a graduate of North Syracuse High School and the Beaux Art School of Beauty Culture, Inc.

Catherine will be missed greatly. We will share the memorial service details as soon as they are made available. Please keep her friends and family in your thoughts and prayers.

## Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers free spring workshops



Your OCM BOCES Employee Assistance Program is a free, voluntary and confidential assessment/referral service for employees and their family members who are experiencing personal or work-related problems, such as stress, emotional problems, grief, wellness and much more.

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## OCM BOCES kicks off National School Breakfast Week with Local schools

Two schools in the North Syracuse Central School District helped kick off National School Breakfast Week and National Nutrition Month with some healthy options for their students. During the week of March 2, Roxboro Road and Gillette Road Middle School food service departments both offered yogurt bars as part of their school's breakfast offerings.

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## More than 100 adult students recognized for completing OCM BOCES training programs



On Tuesday, February 24, nearly 150 adult students were recognized for completing OCM BOCES Adult Education programs. Students from the following programs were recognized: Automotive Technology, Central Service Technology, Construction Trades, Dental Assisting, Electrical Maintenance Technology, HVAC/R, Medical Assisting, Office Technology, Pharmacy Technology and Welding Technology. Read more

### CTE students and staff participate in Career Expo event

Last month, OCM BOCES participated in the nationwide February Career & Technical Education (CTE) Month celebration by showcasing several of its own CTE programs. OCM BOCES staff worked to set up a working display at the Great Northern Mall on Saturday, February 7. Seven CTE teachers, a teaching assistant, a CTE guidance counselor and the CDOS guidance counselor from OCM BOCES Henry Campus volunteered to staff the booth throughout the day.



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Now accepting nominations for CTE Hall of Fame



The Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES is accepting nominations for its Career and Technical Education (CTE) Hall of Fame through May 8, 2015. The Hall of Fame was established in 2011 to honor individuals who have graduated from our Career and Technical Education programs and who demonstrate leadership in their field. Each year, nominations are solicited and reviewed by a subcommittee made up from our OCM BOCES Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee.

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### Thank you from the Energy Committee

The OCM BOCES Energy Committee would like to thank everyone for their ongoing energy saving efforts. We are making a difference and our overall energy use is decreasing. Thank you for shutting down your equipment daily and especially during weekends



#### OCM BOCES Board of Education

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