

February 2020

BOCES BITS

Message from the Deputy Superintendent:



Welcome to the first BOCES Bits of 2020! As we enter a new year and a new decade, I am happy to share just a few of the many exciting things happening at OCM BOCES.

Topping the list is a new, business-embedded program at Tracey Road Equipment that will prepare our students for the high-demand field of heavy equipment operation and repair and diesel technology. Employers like

Tracey Road have become invaluable partners with OCM BOCES because they need a pipeline of skilled, trained workers to make their industries successful. Next year, when the program begins, students will learn about operating and repairing large equipment such as trucks, bulldozers, backhoes, excavators, and forklifts. They will benefit from an on-site classroom and their own, dedicated work bay to put that knowledge to work. It was wonderful to share the excitement of this program Feb. 3 when more than 60 parents, students, and other guests stopped by Tracey for our first Open House.



Similarly, on March 3, we will be holding our first Open House at Lockheed Martin. Students and parents will visit the plant in Liverpool to learn about the on-site New Vision Engineering

Professions Program, which started in September. In this two-year program, students are working side-by-side with Lockheed engineers and doing vigorous, college-level work led by a former Syracuse University professor who previously worked for Lockheed Martin. What an amazing opportunity for our students!



Finally, as these cold and cloudy months of winter take hold, I hope you will keep in mind our OCM BOCES theme for the year: **Culture Counts, Wellness Counts**. As most of you know, it is important to stay active, eat well, and get adequate rest during the winter, especially with the severity of this year's cold and flu outbreak. Be sure to read the February issue of Culture Counts for a long list of practical wellness

reminders. As always, as you read about just a few of our accomplishments in BOCES Bits, please know that I am extremely proud of all the work we do for students and staff in our component districts. Everyone plays an important role in this mission, and I am grateful for the commitment you demonstrate in your work each day. Until next time, I hope you all stay warm, safe and healthy during these winter months.

If you keep in mind our OCM BOCES theme for the year — **Culture Counts, Wellness Counts** — the holidays are a perfect time to put that "wellness" piece into action. As much as you can, I hope you will find time to get some rest, stay active, set healthy expectations for the holidays, and give yourself permission to let some things go. Time invested in yourself will go a long way toward boosting your general sense of well-being throughout the holiday season and all year long!

Sincerely,



Colleen Viggiano
Deputy Superintendent, OCM BOCES

The OCM BOCES and CNYRIC clothing store is now open!

OCM BOCES and the CNYRIC are now offering [a clothing store for employees who wish to purchase apparel with either the OCM BOCES or CNYRIC logo embroidered on the clothes](#). Because we are initially limited to offering five styles of clothing, we asked for your feedback on what kind of clothing appeals to you most. The items available are the top five styles from our survey results. Have questions about the store? We can answer them! Visit www.ocmboces.org/clothingstore.



OCM BOCES employees recognized for exceptional dedication

Prior to the holiday break, six OCM BOCES employees were recognized for their exemplary service at an Employee Recognition Luncheon. Culinary students from the

Thompson Road Campus offered a variety of entrées and desserts for the honored guests. Standing in the photo with Deputy Superintendent Colleen Viggiano (far right) are (from left to right): Eric Comtois, assistant director, CTE & Innovative Education; Corinne Campbell, a teacher in Special Education; Maureen Vredenburgh, a speech therapist; Arlene Frei, accounting/budget in Instructional Support Services; Gail Murphy, school nurse; and Lisa Dann, a teacher in Special Education.



Open House is March 3 at Lockheed Martin

The demand for engineers is at an all-time high. If you know of anyone who is interested in learning more about our high school New Vision Engineering Professions program, please share information about our Open House on March 3 at Lockheed Martin. You can find the details [here](#).

If possible, RSVPs should be sent to school counselor Melissa Muller at 315-433-2234 or mmuller@ocmboces.org.

OCM BOCES & LOCKHEED MARTIN
OPEN HOUSE
COME LEARN ABOUT THIS EXCITING PROGRAM LOCATED AT LOCKHEED MARTIN

NEW VISION ENGINEERING PROFESSIONS

When: Tuesday, March 3, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Where: Lockheed Martin Building 6
Continuum Drive & Electronics Parkway Entrance
Salina, NY 13088

Important: Attendees must enter through the Electronics Parkway main gate. There will be signs directing attendees to the proper parking lot and building.

Please RSVP to Melissa Muller:
☎ 315.433.2234 @mmuller@ocmboces.org

OCMBOCES **LOCKHEED MARTIN**

www.ocmboces.org/cis

Congratulations to our OCM BOCES Scholastic Art winners!

Two students from the Tanya Komar's graphics classes in Cortland received honors in the 2020 Central New York Scholastic Art Awards. The winning submissions were selected among 4,650 individual submissions.

For OCM BOCES, Alice Parmiter from Homer High School captured a Silver Key in Comic Art for her work titled, "Cries." Gilliam Wintermute from Tully High School captured an Honorable Mention in Digital Art for her work, "Eye." [To view larger images of these photos, please visit our website.](#)

The artwork will be on display through Feb. 28 at the Whitney Applied Technology Center on the Onondaga Community College campus.



Practical winter tips to prevent accidents

As the winter season endures, we are asking everyone to take an active role to stay injury-free. [Click here to view a list of safety tips to help prevent slips, trips and falls.](#) This submission comes from OCM BOCES Health & Safety Coordinator David Daignault.



Students put imperialism on trial — in an actual courtroom

Prior to the winter break, [Innovation Tech students put Great Britain on trial for its role in imperialism.](#) Innovation Tech sophomores spent weeks preparing for their day in court in their Global Literature class. They were then given the chance to showcase their hard work in an actual courtroom using the LaFayette Town Court.



The project was a success, with students working together and taking on the roles of judge, lawyers, and witnesses. Students conducted a total of two trials — China vs. Great Britain and India vs. Great Britain — to determine whether imperialism was done out of moral duty or for selfish reasons. The students were very engaged with the project and enjoyed being able to conduct their trial in an authentic courtroom. [Read more about the project and see photos from the trial on our website.](#)

Seven Valleys holds second Rotary Interact Club Student Induction

Congratulations to the [17 students from Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland who were inducted into the Rotary Interact Club on Jan. 13](#). This is the second induction ceremony held at Seven Valleys. The club now has 31 students committed to volunteering in their community in a partnership with the Cortland Rotary Breakfast Club.

Rotary Interact is a community service organization that offers opportunities for students to do meaningful volunteer work. The "Interact" stands for International Action and serves as a symbol of the impact the club has on not only the immediate Cortland community, but also the international community. The partnership with Seven Valleys and Rotary Interact Club started in fall 2018 and was initiated by Seven Valleys Spanish Facilitator Maria Gimma.

[Read more about this event on our website.](#)



Aspiring Leaders program kicks off

A new program aimed at developing high-quality school leaders kicked off Jan. 14 at the OCM BOCES Main Campus, where the first group of seven candidates enjoyed a night of dinner and introductions with their families, mentors and other educators.

The Aspiring Leaders Institute will provide candidates with these unique advantages as they start their journey into the world of educational administration:

- An inaugural leadership course that includes mentor support from their home districts.
- A guaranteed internship at a school district in our region.
- A guaranteed acceptance into one of five universities that offer administrative degrees and are partnering with OCM BOCES.

Districts, in turn, develop a pipeline to educational leadership and receive state aid because they are sharing this program through OCM BOCES. [Read more about the Aspiring Leaders program here.](#)

Congratulations and good luck to one of OCM BOCES' own, Christine Alexander, a facilitator from Innovation Tech, who was accepted into the program.



Aspiring Leaders: From left to right are Rosalie Whipple, Jeremy Belfield, Sean Zehner, Ted Love (in back), Ashley Gilbert, Colleen Viggiano, Christine Alexander, Joe DeBarbieri, Gerald Dias, Kimberly Smith, Dana Eells, David Bills

Business-embedded programs featured in Education Week

"It's an idea so intuitive that it's a wonder it isn't more widespread: If you want to better align school with the jobs of the future, why not teach on the same sites as the businesses that are on the cutting edge?"

That quote came from a must-read, full-length feature story about OCM BOCES in [Education Week](#). The publication highlighted the business-embedded Career & Technical Education programs offered at OCM BOCES, focusing on programs at Drivers Village, WCNY, Lockheed Martin and Tracey Road Equipment. [Read the full article here.](#)



Marathon Boat Group partners with Cortlandville welding students

Check out this front-page news: The Marathon Boat Group is partnering with our OCM BOCES welding program in Cortlandville to train student welders and give them real-world experience by having them build aluminum stairs for their boats. Marathon Boat Group also hopes to work with the Marathon and Homer school districts to present

these exciting opportunities to students. [Read all about this amazing partnership in a front-page article that appeared in the Cortland Standard.](#)

Deaf and Hard of Hearing program featured on Spectrum News

The OCM BOCES Deaf and Hard of Hearing program is celebrating 46 years of serving students throughout the region. Spectrum News recently stopped by to learn more about the program, which is housed in the Solvay Union Free School District. [See the full story on their website.](#)



Thank you to everyone who helped to contribute to this wonderful story!

Workshop about children with hearing loss draws 180 participants

What happens when a classroom has a child with hearing loss? That was the question that drew about 180 educators and other professionals from across the region to a workshop Jan. 22 at the OCM BOCES Main Campus. Several experts from the OCM BOCES Deaf & Hard of Hearing program, now in its 46th year, shared their expertise. Topics included the impact of hearing loss, the impact of other special needs, classroom modifications, and the latest in hearing-assistance technology. OCM BOCES presenters included Barbara Brigham, Brenda Anderson, Susan Davoli, Katie Franz, Tammy Marsch, Dina Pettiford and Janet Stayer.



ShoeNited for a good cause

When the United Way put out the call for help for a worthy cause, students from the OCM BOCES Construction program in Cortlandville raced into action. Students designed and created sneaker-shaped signs for the "Live ShoeNited" sneaker drive. The signs were painted by local Cortland organizations and



placed around town to advertise the drive, which brought in more than 400 pairs of sneakers. The wearable sneakers will be distributed throughout the Cortland community, while sneakers with excessive wear will be recycled into playground mulch and athletic surfaces.

Great job to our construction students for helping with this event! [Read more about their hard work in the Cortland Voice.](#)

Mentoring and team building at Reach

Reach students began participating in a mentoring program with Innovation Tech students at Crown Road on Jan. 14. All students participated in an opening circle with introductions and "getting to know one another" prompts. Mentors and mentees then sat together in groups and chose cards or a board game to play together. At the end of the activity, students participated in a closing circle and shared one word that described how they were feeling about getting the program started. Students shared words such as excited, hopeful, fun and inspiring. The event proved enjoyable for all!



Teamwork was the theme of the day on Jan. 17 when students and staff from Reach participated in team building activities that were facilitated by the Prevention Network. The groups were given a task to complete together and they had to collaborate to solve problems. The activities helped everyone to get to know one another better and further helped students to develop leadership, communication and problem-solving skills.



- Submitted by Reach Director Renae Montroy

Innovation Tech Kicks Off College Career Readiness Term

Innovation Tech launched its second-annual College Career Readiness (CCR) Term in January to immerse students in the vast landscape of potential careers and what it takes to achieve them. The kickoff keynote came from international motivational speaker George J. Lynch, who shared his story of growing up in the Bronx and trying to persevere through poverty, homeless and other challenges.

"Take advantage of your advantages," Lynch told the students. He stressed the major

advantages they already have simply by attending Innovation Tech, which offers smaller class sizes and a small, tight knit community. At the end of the keynote, students walked away excited about the opportunities before them as they entered the CCR Term.



CCR Day 2: Building Beds

On the second day of their CCR term, students from Innovation Tech put their construction and math skills to work for the Syracuse chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, which provides beds and bedding to children in need.



Sleep in Heavenly Peace was grateful for their hard work, telling students on their Facebook page: "We really enjoyed having you and appreciate you getting out of bed this morning to build beds so other CNY kids can enjoy that same luxury!"

Read the latest version of Culture Counts

Each month, OCM BOCES produces a newsletter that focuses on creating a positive organizational culture and promoting wellness among our students and staff. Employees throughout OCM BOCES are now being invited to provide articles that offer information on these topics or spotlight what we are doing at BOCES to support these themes. [The latest newsletters can be found on our website.](#)

We want to hear from you! After looking at some previous issues, please feel free to submit ideas to Special Education Director Rosanna Grund at rgrund@ocmboces.org. Articles are due by the 15th of each month.

Stay healthy in 2020! Another fitness center in Cortland offers discounts



Looking to improve your health? OCM BOCES has found another fitness center in Cortland that is offering a discount *just for OCM BOCES educators*. The Fitness Gap at 4292 Fairgrounds Drive will give you \$10 off their no-contract monthly fee of \$35. That means OCM BOCES employees can join for \$25 per month. To find out more, please call 607-423-2510 or visit the fitnessgap.com. If you know of any other facilities that offer discounts for educators, please send an email to jbufano@ocmboces.org. The three fitness centers currently are:

Cortland Area:

Vine Health & Fitness Center

20 North Main St.

Cortland, NY 13045

Find out more: 607-756-4905 or vinehealthandfitness.com

The Fitness Gap

4292 Fairgrounds Drive Cortland, NY 13045

Discount: \$25/month, or \$10 off the regular monthly fee of \$30

Find out more: 607-423-2510 or thefitnessgap.com

Syracuse Area:

'Cuse Camp

Camillus, Cicero, Clay, Liverpool, Manlius

Discount: \$97/month (more than \$30 off the regular price) with a six-month contract

Find out more: info@cusecampclay.com or cusecamps.com

Throwback to the holiday decoration contest

Congratulations to the Educational Data Services team at the CNYRIC! The team took home the OCM BOCES "Golden Wreath Award" for having the coolest theme among all the local BOCES buildings.

Thank you to Chris Kulle at the CNYRIC for these photos!





Get the word out! Teachers, teaching assistants and job coaches needed at OCM BOCES

Why become a teacher? A teaching assistant? A job coach? The reasons are many: job satisfaction, family-friendly schedule, great benefits, supportive environment, professional development opportunities — and so much more. Check out our [careers website page](#) and spread the word about our BOCES job openings.

Start the new decade with a fun, part-time class at OCM BOCES

In addition to its full-time certification programs, OCM BOCES offers dozens of part-time, evening or weekend classes that are sure to please just about anyone. From dancing to cooking to computers to welding to personal finance to self-care — and so much more — OCM BOCES has a class for everyone.

Need to pick out a class? [Check out our newest course catalog](#) online. This catalog will be arriving in mailboxes in just a few weeks.



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.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The OCM BOCES non-discrimination policy is on our website. Please [click here](#) to view it in full.

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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