

June 2019

BOCES BITS



From the District Superintendent: A Final Farewell



Read the full content of [Dr. Manning's farewell letter here](#), which reflects on his seven-year tenure here at OCM BOCES.

To All OCM BOCES Staff:

My heart is full of gratitude as I write to you for this final time as District Superintendent of OCM BOCES.

When I first began this position nearly seven years ago, it was exciting and a little daunting to take the helm of an organization that had such a far reach and a huge impact on students. Still, it was a dream come true to have the opportunity to serve one of the largest BOCES in the state as District Superintendent. I always knew we would be okay because I was surrounded by you, the dedicated and talented people who had made OCM BOCES successful long before my arrival.

It has been a great ride. I have so much pride in all we have been able to accomplish, as a team, to serve the 63,000-plus students and hundreds of teachers and staff in our 23 component districts and

surrounding regions. We have faced many challenges, certainly, but we have also made substantial progress in our core mission of educating students. I will always be grateful for your passion and support in this noble endeavor.

Please continue reading [here](#).

Sincerely,



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

Congratulations, OCM BOCES Retirees!

Twenty-four employees are retiring this year at OCM OCM BOCES, and they will all be missed. These employees have collectively given more than 535 years of service to the organization. They were

recognized this month during a retirees' reception at the Main Campus. For a full list of retirees, please go ocmboces.org. We wish all of our retirees a long, healthy and rewarding retirement.



Two OCM BOCES state SkillsUSA champions are heading to Nationals

Best wishes to two of our outstanding Career & Technical Education students who are heading to the National SkillsUSA competition in Louisville, Ky., next week. Our two participants are **Jenna Knout** of Marathon, a junior who took first place at the state SkillsUSA competition in Early Childhood Education, and **Wolfgang Groetz** of North Syracuse, a senior who took first place in Information Technology Services.

Jenna Knout - Marathon

Jenna, a junior from Marathon, had a goal to place in the state SkillsUSA competition. But when she heard she won first place, she was delightfully surprised.



“It wasn’t until I was behind the stage with my teacher that I was really able to process the win,” she said. “I thought I did well, but didn’t think I would place first because I was competing with so many seniors.”

Jenna has always had a love for children, and even describes herself as a little kid at heart. When starting to explore her future career opportunities, Jenna immediately turned to teaching. She credits her experience at OCM BOCES, as well as her teachers, for helping to prepare her for SkillsUSA and the real world. Her Early Childhood Education class in Cortland is embedded in the Cortland County Community Action Program, or CAPCO, which has an on-site childcare program to give students like Jenna hands-on experience. Jenna plans to attend SUNY Cortland for teaching after she graduates next year.

“Before, I was so shy. My teachers at BOCES helped me come out of my shell,” said Jenna. “They helped prepare me for college and the workforce, as well as SkillsUSA. That’s what BOCES is really about. They’ve been able to provide that experience for me.”

Wolfgang Groetz - North Syracuse

The simple text from his father said it all: “#1.”



Wolfgang, a senior from North Syracuse, said his first-place finish at the state SkillsUSA competition was shocking because he did not place at all the previous year. Plus, he knew the competition was stiff. He later found out less than three points separated the top three finishers. “It was definitely a surprise, so that was fun,” he said.

Wolfgang wasn’t always into computers as a young child, but a basic class at Cicero North Syracuse High school piqued his interest. He

wanted more of a challenge, so he signed up for the Computer Technology class at OCM BOCES after perusing a pamphlet in his school counselor's office.

He loved it. The class at the Thompson Road Campus gave him the freedom to explore. He worked with students from other districts with similar interests. He challenged himself to learn more. He especially liked being able to help other students "a good way to learn," he said.

His teacher, Ed Frontuto, said computers are "second nature" for Wolfgang. "He can figure anything out, which is a good thing," Frontuto said. "He can also trouble-shoot really well."

After high school, Wolfgang hopes to perform well during an internship at the Central New York Regional Information Center, a division of OCM BOCES that focuses on technology services. From there, he hopes to get a job in the IT field.

Senior CTE students learn about careers in heavy equipment, big trucks

Seniors from the Auto Technology and Collision Technology programs at our Thomas Road Campus were recent guests of Tracey Road Equipment's East Syracuse facility.



During the trip, students learned about the many specialized heavy equipment and over-the-road truck-related career opportunities available in Central New York, including those at Tracey, a major organization in the diesel sales/service and big truck industry. Students were able to meet several former OCM BOCES students who are now employed by the East Syracuse-based business.

- Submitted by CTE Principal Peter Hunn

Twenty-seven LPN graduates cross the stage

Students in our LPN evening classes enjoyed a traditional Florence Nightingale graduation ceremony June 12 at Gillette Road Middle School in North Syracuse. Students wore traditional nursing attire and chose family members or other significant loved ones to attach a pin to their uniform on stage. For more photos of the event, please turn to our [Adult Education Facebook page](#).



If you are interested in our LPN program, we invite you to find out more. Just call 315-453-4400 or stop by an Open House at 1 p.m. every Thursday at 110 Elwood Davis Road in Liverpool. You can also find more information on our [website](#).

Students bring in big honors at Partners in Education and Business awards

Students from OCM BOCES made a proud showing at this year's Partners in Education and Business awards through the Manufacturers Association of Central New York. Several students received honors in a ceremony at Le Moyne College.



They were: **Joseph Alleman**, Automotive Collision, Cortland; **Hunter Cartwright**, Seven Valleys New Tech Academy, Marathon; **Declan Coe**, Lab Tech, Baldwinsville; **Kaleigh Chartrand**, Early Childhood Education, Fabius-Pompey; **Daniel Dohanich**, Seven Valleys New Tech Academy, Marathon; **Dale Paine**, Innovation Tech, North Syracuse; and **Jadin Thomas**, Driver's Village Automotive Technology, West Genesee. OCM BOCES is also proud to say that **Kaleigh Chartrand (in orange, sitting)**, was selected as the PEB "Student of the Year."

Graduates reflect the collective success of OCM BOCES

Graduations and end-of-year ceremonies occurred nearly every day during these past two weeks at OCM BOCES, with a record number of families, friends and component school district administrators attending. “It is wonderful to witness so many people celebrating our students’ success and seeing the value in our programs,” Assistant Superintendent for Services **Colleen Viggiano** said.

Ceremonies included our Career & Technical Education programs at our Thompson Road and Cortlandville campuses, as well as several special education ceremonies at a variety of locations in the region. The final week of the school year brought graduations and ceremonies for Innovative Education programs, including Cortland Alternative School, Innovation Tech, Seven Valleys New Tech Academy and STARS. This year marks the first graduating class for Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland, which has been open for three years.



Recognizing Success in our Communities

CTE Hall of Fame

Outside the celebration of our students, one of the highlights of our end-of-year Career & Technical Education (CTE) ceremonies is hearing from former BOCES graduates who have thrived in their careers. In

Syracuse and Cortland, two graduates were selected this year for the CTE Alumni Hall of Fame, which means their names will be placed on a plaque and hung up in our CTE buildings. In Syracuse, the award went to **Andrew Martin**, co-owner of Martin Custom Homes in North Syracuse. In Cortland, the award went to **Shelley Taubman**, a cosmetologist in Tully.

New CTE Honor: Business Partner of the Year

This year, OCM BOCES created a new honor, Business Partner of the Year, to recognize companies that go the extra mile to support CTE students. This year, the honor in our Syracuse region went to **Driver's Village**, which houses our embedded Auto Technology program. The honor in Cortland went to **Guthrie Cortland Medical Center**, which houses our New Vision Medical Professions program and also supports our two-year physical therapy program.

CTE Alumni Hall of Fame - Cortland: Assistant Superintendent for Services **Colleen Viggiano** presents the CTE Alumni Hall of Fame plaque to Tully cosmetologist **Shelley Taubman**.



Business Partner of the Year - Cortland: In the photo, from left to right, are **Marie Darling**, Executive Director, Regional Medical Practices at Guthrie Cortland Medical; **Jarrod Kolodziejczyk**, Director of Volunteers and Courtesy Services at Guthrie Cortland Medical; **Colleen Viggiano**, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services at OCM BOCES; **Scott Mayberry**, Director of Rehabilitation Services for Guthrie Cortland Medical; and **Jennifer Turck**, Senior Director, Provider Relations and Business Development for Guthrie Cortland Medical.



CTE Alumni Hall of Fame and Business Partner of the Year - Syracuse: OCM BOCES CTE Director **Phil Grome**; CTE Alumni Hall of Fame recipient **Andrew Martin**, co-owner of Martin Custom Homes; **Driver's Village** representative **Dave Hall**, Fixed Operations Director, to accept the CTE Business Partner of the Year award; OCM BOCES Assistant Superintendent for Student Services **Colleen Viggiano**; and OCM BOCES CTE Assistant Director **Eric Comtois**.



Time to kiss a cow! Administrators pucker up at McEvoy

Students at the Cortlandville Campus were recently moo-tivated in a unique way by their teachers and staff. In exchange for signing up and doing well on the Scholastic Math Inventory and the Scholastic Reading Inventory tests, the students got to watch their teachers pucker up and kiss a cow in a neighboring field. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with students and staff cheering and clapping on a sunny, cloudless day as each administrator planted their lips on their bovine neighbors.



Kiss a Cow participants included: OCM BOCES Director of Special Education **Rosanna Grund**, Principal of Special Education **Jason Martin**, Administrator of Special Education K-6 **Catie Reeve**, and Administrator of Special Education **Cheryl Rogers**.

Thank you to our Kiss a Cow participants and congratulations to the Cortlandville students for doing so well on their SMI and SRI tests! Interested in seeing more photos of our administrators puckering up? [Visit our website here.](#)

Seven Valleys students hold first annual Poetry Film Festival

Students at Seven Valleys New Tech Academy were challenged to select and evaluate a well-known poem through the medium of film as part of their TC3 CollegeNow course, English 102: Approaches to Literature. The result was “six awesome short films” that were screened before an audience at the school on May 29, Facilitator **Shawn Waterman** said.



A supporting community of parents, students, friends, and extended family turned out for the event, called the First Annual Poetry Film Festival.

“The seniors participating in the class set a great precedent for what will hopefully become an integral component of this course,” Waterman said. “Thanks to all who showed their support!”

- Submitted by Shawn Waterman

Spreading kindness: Students honored with Rachel’s Challenge awards



Students from Crossroads and Innovation Tech recently gathered at the Thompson Road Campus to take part in the Rachel's Challenge Awards. The awards acknowledged their work with the Friends of Rachel (FOR) Clubs. Students were given awards from four different categories, which reflected the beliefs and actions Rachel believed everyone should strive for. The categories students were awarded for included:

1. Looking for the Best in Others
2. Choosing Positive Influences
3. Spreading Kindness
4. Treating Others the Way You Want to be Treated

The awards ceremony was followed by a luncheon. Great job to our Crossroads and Innovation Tech students for helping to maintain the chain reaction of kindness!

[Read more about the awards and see additional photos here.](#)

**Calling all golf teams & sponsors:
Gallaher tournament to raise money for**

Adult Education hardship fund is Aug. 14

It's almost time for our annual Jack Gallaher Scholarship Golf Tournament! Since 1997, the Jack Gallaher Helping Hand Fund has provided scholarships and other financial assistance to students who face hardships during their workforce training programs.

This year, the annual tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 14, at Sunset Ridge Golf Club in Marcellus. Please let us know if you are interested in playing, providing a raffle prize or taking advantage of one of our sponsorship opportunities. For more information, please contact Adult Education Coordinator **Matt Tarolli** at

mtarolli@ocmboces.org.



Two seniors win 'Golden Hammer' honors

Two graduating seniors, **Evan Cronk** of Liverpool and **Evan Kurfis** of Marcellus, are the “Golden Hammer” winners for 2019. Each student received a certificate from the Homebuilders & Remodelers Association of Central New York, along with a commemorative Estwing (brand) hammer and tool belt. The award was presented by executive members of the association at its headquarters in Syracuse. Both seniors have plans to enter the construction trades workforce, focusing on residential electrical wiring through a union apprenticeship. Both were students in **Michael Cavender's** (left in photo) Construction Technology class at the Thompson Road Campus.



- Submitted by CTE Principal Peter Hunn

Helping our communities: Frying up a new prep station for Doug's Fish Fry

Students in our Career & Technical Education programs engage with local communities on a regular basis, taking on projects that help local municipalities and other groups save significant time and money. OCM BOCES welding students in Cortlandville recently cooked up a plan with Doug's Fish Fry in Cortland to create a new prep station for the restaurant. With the help of welding instructor **Kevin Auyer**, five CTE students worked on the table, including **Justin Bort, Anthony Hatto, Taylor Netti, Gauge Taylor, and Hunter White**.

Pictured (left to right): Gauge Taylor, Hunter White, and Taylor Netti with the table they welded.



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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