

BOCES BITS

May 2010 Vol. 6 Issue 5

Jessica F. Cohen, District Superintendent • Laurie Cook, Editor

From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff:

I am very pleased to report that the Boards of Education of our component districts have once again provided overwhelming support for our BOCES. Our administrative budget was supported unanimously 18-0 by the component boards that voted. (Five of the Boards of Education either did not schedule a vote or were not able to get a quorum). In addition, elected to the OCM BOCES Board for the first time was Roseann DuBrava representing Marathon, McGraw, and Cincinnatus. Re-elected were Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton from North Syracuse; Mark Gilbert, representing Chittenango, Cazenovia, and DeRuyter; David Paczkowski from West Genesee; and Joan Reeves from Baldwinsville.

Support for BOCES was also shown in the final requests for services that were submitted in mid-April. While the fiscal difficulties that all of our districts are facing has impacted some services, for the most part the requests

for services were strong. I believe this is due to the high quality of services that our BOCES staff provides in a very cost-effective manner.

Please remember that May 18 is the date for the vote on school budgets in each of the districts in the state except the Big Five Cities, including Syracuse. I would like to encourage each and every one of you to vote in your school district on that day. Voting on school budgets is an important right and one that too few citizens exercise.

Jessica

P.S. In January, all staff were electronically sent a copy of the Acceptable Use of Technology Policy to review and sign. If you didn't sign it already, you will be receiving another copy soon. Please take the time to review it and sign it as soon as you receive it.

OCMBOCES 
Become part of the team!
2010 Chase Corporate Challenge



Tuesday, June 22
Onondaga Lake Park

Join us for food, fun & festivities!

*Department with the most participants will be awarded the Golden Sneaker Award

OCM BOCES Employee Assistance Program will be providing food and soda so be sure to come to the OCM BOCES tent and visit us for a well-deserved break!

Team Captain: Dave Cirillo
Email: dcirillo@ocmboces.org
Phone: 433-2629


Register online at:
jpmorganchasecc.com
\$30.00 registration fee

Itinerant Teacher Selected as CNYAFCSE Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to OCM BOCES Itinerant Services Teacher Marlene Beyers for having been selected by the Central New York Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Educators (CNYAFCSE) as their 2009-2010 Teacher of the Year. The award is given annually to a current member of NYSAFCSE, recognizing excellence in the classroom and in the profession. Marlene was chosen from all FCS teachers in the CNY area, which includes schools in Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego counties.

Marlene has been a teacher for 30 years, 24 of which have been with OCM BOCES, and the last seven of which she has been an itinerant teacher of family and consumer sciences. She is currently assigned to Lyncourt School and the Onondaga Nation School in the LaFayette School District. Marlene will be honored at the association's awards banquet in May.

Dental Assisting Students Raise Over \$1,000 For Haiti Relief Fund



Each year, Nancy Chappell's Adult Education Dental Assisting students work to raise money in support of a charity. This year, students chose to support the American Red Cross Haiti Relief Fund. Chappell was impressed with the students' ability to work together to get the job done. In order to raise money, students sold candy each day at lunchtime, held a pizza sale, and sold flower bouquets at the February 23 adult education graduation ceremony. Additionally, the group raised money by receiving donations from several local businesses. In all, the students presented a total of \$1,040 to James Hastie from the American Red Cross in March.

EAP for Employee Health & Fitness

May is National Employee Health and Fitness month and your EAP (Employee Assistance Program) has many wellness topics to choose from. Please visit the EAP wellness months website at <http://www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=623> for useful links to sources of information on health and fitness and a variety of other wellness topics.

June is Cancer from the Sun month and the EAP wellness month site also has links to cancer prevention websites...be sure to check us out!



OCM BOCES Dental Assisting Student Rita Fish hands a bouquet of flowers to Brandon Pena, an attendee of the February 23 Adult Education Graduation. Rita is one of Nancy Chappell's students who helped raise money for The American Red Cross Haiti Relief Fund.

SLS to Honor Tully Superintendent as 2010 Administrator of the Year

Congratulations to Tully Central School District Superintendent Kraig Pritts for having been selected by OCM BOCES School Library System as their 2010 Administrator/Advocate of the Year. Superintendent Pritts will be honored at a ceremony at the Irvin E. Henry Campus on Wednesday, May 12.

Michael J. Borges, New York State Library Association's Executive Director will be a guest speaker at the luncheon ceremony and combined council and communications coordinators meeting.

For more information on the award or OCM BOCES School Library System, contact Sue Camille at scamille@ocmboces.org.

Automotive Technology Students to Compete in State Competition

Congratulations to McEvoy Automotive Technology Students Tim Stone of DeRuyter and Nick Scott of Cincinnatus for having qualified to compete in the New York State Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills competition on May 13 and 14 in Morrisville, New York. This is the fourth year in a row that students, under the leadership of Instructor Hervey Forward, have qualified for this competition. Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills is a nationwide automotive technology competition for high school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing careers as automotive service technicians. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the competition that tests students' automotive knowledge, workmanship and problem-solving abilities with a written test as well as a race against the clock to diagnose and properly repair intentionally "bugged" vehicles. Congratulations and best of luck to Tim and Nick!

Responsible Social Networking Suggestions for Teachers and Employees

By Mark Pettitt, Director of Personnel and Labor Relations

As an employee working for an educational institution, you are looked upon as both a public servant and a public official by the people who send their children to us for their education and the taxpayers who fund the programs that employ us. We are held to a high standard of conduct because we influence students.

With that in mind, you need to be careful when using social networking sites on the internet. A basic rule of thumb is to assume that any student, parent or community member has access to the material you post on the Internet. I have told my own daughters that they should make sure there is nothing on their web sites that they would not want shared with a future or potential employer.

Recently, Tracie Clark shared with me an article from the NYSUT publication, *The New York Teacher*, which deals with this issue. The article included a list of suggestions for teachers who maintain Facebook pages or other material on web based social networking sites. You should keep these in mind when establishing, editing, or reviewing your web site or Facebook page.

- Do not list students as your “friends.” This blurs the lines between teacher and student. Remember, comments left on your page reflect on you. You may also be judged by information listed on your “friends” pages.
- Assume nothing online is ever confidential. You are still vulnerable to hacking and unwanted people accessing your page even when it is listed as private.
- Scrutinize every photo, blog entry and comment on your page. Do you really need a photo of yourself in a swimsuit from a college spring break?
- Take ownership. A report from the Oregon Education Association found comments left by friends and students were most troublesome. Screen all comments before posting them to your page. And remember, people linking to other accounts from your page may find personal photos or information you don’t want shared.
- Censor yourself. The Internet gives many people a sense of freedom to share their thoughts and opinions on just about every topic. Share only information you are comfortable with everyone – including administrators, colleagues, students and their parents – knowing.

Annual Meeting Presents Budget and Showcases BOCES’ Students Talents



Culinary Arts Student Nicole Lees serves OCM BOCES Board Member Michael Brady prior to the 2010 Annual Meeting.

The OCM BOCES 2010 Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 7 at the Irvin E. Henry Campus CTE Building. The majority of component districts were represented by the more than 50 attendees of the meeting, which began with a fine-dining experience in the *Class Act* dining room. As guests entered the building, they were greeted warmly by CTE students Sandra Johnson, Katie Myers, Nick Ivancic and Stephanie Bailey, all of whom participated in the New York State SkillsUSA competition. OCM BOCES Culinary Arts students prepared, served and displayed a fabulous meal and Pastry Arts students prepared a variety of elegantly displayed, delectable desserts for attendees. Additionally, Floral Arts students crafted beautiful bouquets, centerpieces and loose flowers for the displays. The experience truly provided an opportunity for attendees to witness the talents and craftsmanship of our students.

After the fabulous dinner and dessert, attendees convened in the conference room to be presented with a summary of the 2010-2011 OCM BOCES budget, to be introduced to board candidates and learn about cost saving opportunities through regional collaboration. Culinary Arts Student Kaitlyn Foster provided a price comparison of the evening’s meal versus a commercial dining experience and discussed the significant cost savings through BOCES. District Superintendent Jessica Cohen offered BOCES as a solution for districts, especially during tight financial times and discussed options such as cooperative purchasing and shared programs, services and instructors. Attendees were asked to contemplate ways of working together to maintain high quality instruction for all students and collaboration to achieve greater results.

For more information on the April 7 Annual Meeting, contact Deb Ayers at dayers@ocmboces.org. Presentations are available for download via the OCM BOCES website at www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage3.cfm?teacher=746.

OCM BOCES Students Compete and Place at State SkillsUSA Competition

Congratulations to the many OCM BOCES students who participated in the 2010 New York State SkillsUSA competition held in Syracuse on April 15, 2010. More than 2,000 Career and Technical Education students from across New York State competed in contests including performance and written tests. The OCM BOCES students who competed in the New York State SkillsUSA were: [Nicole Lees](#) from North Syracuse CSD competed and placed second in Food Preparation Assistant; [Stephanie Bailey](#) from North Syracuse CSD competed in Job Skill Demonstration; [Kiersten Norton](#) from Baldwinsville CSD competed in Job Skill Demonstration;



OCM BOCES senior Culinary Arts Program student [John Graham](#) from Baker High School in Baldwinsville works on his food entry for the New York State SkillsUSA competition.

[Jennifer Case](#) from Liverpool CSD competed in Quiz Bowl; [Nick Ivancic](#) from Solway UFSD competed in Quiz Bowl; [Tom Rhyner](#) from Jamesville-Dewitt CSD competed in Quiz Bowl; [Jakaria Riddle](#) from North Syracuse CSD competed in Customer Service; [Britnay Hurteau](#) from Baldwinsville CSD competed in Related Technical Math; [Sandra Johnson](#) from East Syracuse-Minoa CSD competed in First Aid/CPR; [Kyle Karkowski](#) from Fayetteville-Manlius CSD competed in Basic Vehicle Maintenance; [Tyler Ackerman](#) from North Syracuse CSD competed in Automotive Service Technology; [John LaPlante](#) from Chittenango CSD competed in Collision Repair Technology; [Clarissa Robinson](#) from North Syracuse CSD competed and placed second in Commercial Baking; [Garrett Hill](#) from North Syracuse CSD competed in Computer Maintenance Technician; [Jonathan Graham](#) from Baldwinsville CSD competed in Culinary Arts; [Julie Gibbs](#) from Fayetteville-Manlius CSD competed and placed third in Food and Beverage Service; [Britnae Garcia](#) from North Syracuse CSD competed in Internetworking; [Morgan Hoots](#) from Fayetteville-Manlius CSD competed in Preschool Teacher Assistant; [Katie Myers](#) from Baldwinsville CSD competed in Basic Healthcare Skills and [Jeffrey Moore](#) from Cortland School District competed in Criminal Justice.

SkillsUSA is a national organization serving high school and college students who are preparing for careers in technical and service occupations. This organization provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It helps build and reinforce self-confidence, work attitudes and communication skills. Congratulations to all OCM BOCES students!



OCM BOCES Pastry Arts student [Clarissa Robinson](#) from Cicero-North Syracuse High School accepts her second place ribbon in the Commercial Baking competition from SkillsUSA State Officer [Tara Pawlowski](#).

OCM BOCES Board Members

Michael J. Brady
Wayne Brownson, *Vice President*
Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton
Mark W. Gilbert
Mary Ann Haley
Mike Murphy
Lisa O'Reilly
David Paczkowski
Joan Reeves
Sandra Rausa
Ann Wright, *President*