

# TOGETHER

Spring 2020

## BOCES 2 responds to the coronavirus

As the world deals with an unprecedented health crisis, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES is responding with unparalleled support for students, families and component districts. The coronavirus pandemic has changed the way teaching and learning needs to be done. BOCES 2 is facing the challenge by continuing to solidify its reputation as a leader for innovative instruction and responsive support services.

On March 14, BOCES 2 announced it was closing to students and suspending all classes and school-sanctioned events. The state announced recently that students and teachers would not return to in-person classes before the end of this academic year. BOCES 2 administrators are in regular communication with the Monroe County Health Department, New York State Health Department, State Education Department, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and other school districts.

Only essential personnel are allowed entry to any BOCES 2 building. Security personnel continues to vigilantly patrol and monitor the facilities. Operations and Maintenance staff has continued to deep clean the buildings and have cordoned off non-essential areas once work is completed.

In the meantime, BOCES 2 employees and departments are doing all they can to make staff and student lives easier, healthier and as uninterrupted as possible. All faculty and staff meetings have been shifted to virtual meetings. Video conferences between teachers and students have become an important connection to support learning.

A coronavirus resource page has been created on the BOCES 2 website for families, staff and community members. The page contains regular updates, learning resources, links to health information and community support services including food distribution locations within all local school districts.

"You often hear me talk about the pride that I have in our Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES," District Superintendent Jo Anne Antonacci said in a video message sent to employees in the first weeks of the closing. "That pride is based on the dedication and hard work I see every day from all of you."

BOCES 2 instructional programs are on the cutting edge of this new era of teaching and learning. The Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Continuity of Learning Plan has been developed, using input from administrators and teachers.

"Our Continuity of Learning plan is the roadmap to success in our current remote learning environment," said Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Programs Tim Dobbertin. "Our instructional staff have embraced this opportunity to connect with students in new ways. The effort they put forth to reimagine teaching and learning is truly remarkable."

The Department for Exceptional Children is using both new and old technology to connect with students and families. New technology includes video conferencing and apps to engage with students. Old technology includes the tried-and-true phone call with a reassuring word for a student, or advice for a parent helping to support learning at home.

Career and Technical Education teachers at WEMOCO are using their skills to keep students engaged and help them reimagine how they can learn skills remotely. Each of their 20-plus programs has provided students with some combination of learning resource packets and/or access to an online learning platform. Teachers engage with students via online platforms such as Schoology, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, emails, the Remind app and phone calls on a regular basis to provide growth-producing feedback based on the learning activities.

*(continued on page 2)*



Michael Alonci from Operations and Maintenance disinfects a counter top inside the Educational Services Center.



Signs greet visitors at BOCES 2 building entrances informing them of the closing.



Once rooms and offices have been cleaned and disinfected, they are taped off to restrict access.

# BOCES 2 responds to the coronavirus

At Westside Academy, teachers have joined with social workers, parents and students to engage in technology like never before. The skills that students are currently using will be essential when they graduate. The seniors especially are experiencing how independent learning is conducted at the college level.

The Center for Workforce Development continues with a distance learning model to help adults engaged in literacy instruction for High School Equivalence and ESOL programs.

The Phlebotomy, Dental Assisting, and Medical Office Assistant adult job training programs shifted their instruction to a distance learning model as well.

The Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development continues to work with individual teachers and administrators to assist with continuity of learning plans and to provide instructional strategies for teachers to use during the school closure. This includes: weekly video conference collaboration meetings for teachers and administrators to problem-solve and share instructional best practices, and even how to provide feedback to students in an online environment. A new Instructional Resources page on the BOCES 2 website is an easy-to-use starting point for educators to access an enormous amount of valuable information.

At BOCES 4 Science, staff are finalizing writing units and developing digital content for teachers and students while at home. They are also examining current resources in science kits to determine how they can be converted for remote learning wherever possible.

“Now more than ever, districts rely on the support BOCES 2 provides,” said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Dr. Marijo Pearson. “Every day, our staff is finding answers to new questions from districts on issues they never had to address before.”

The Finance and Human Resources departments have developed rotating schedules of limited staff on-site to maintain basic functions such as paying bills, collecting revenue and continuing payroll. Labor Relations is providing extensive legal support to districts and BOCES administration to keep up with regulatory changes.

Technology Services staff members have played a vital role during this crisis. They have provided devices to districts, students and employees on short notice. Technical support through the

## Editors Note:

Many of the photos appearing in this edition of Together were taken before social distancing measures were required due to the coronavirus.

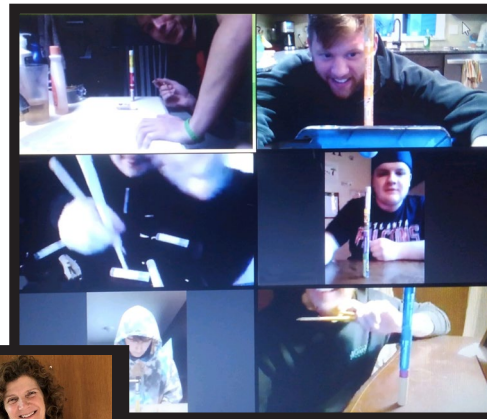
help desk has been a lifeline on a daily basis.

“People know technology plays an important role in our lives,” said Assistant Superintendent for Accountability, Assessment and Technology Dr. Michelle Ryan. “In an unpredictable emergency situation like this, people realize that technology is not just important, it is essential. Our staff is focused on providing solutions, whether that means finding an appropriate resource, or creating something from scratch. It’s all hands on deck.”

Technology and Communications play a key role in maintaining an essential connection to the community: the BOCES 2 website. In addition to the Coronavirus Resource page, Continuity of Learning web pages and the Instructional Learning Resources page, the team has created a

page to share positive developments and stories within the BOCES. This BOCES 2 Connections page features stories, photos and videos highlighting the resilience, creativity and compassion students, staff and families are demonstrating during this uncertain time. All of these resources, and more, can be found at <https://www.monroe2boces.org/CoronavirusResources.aspx>

“We do not know how long this difficult time will last, but I do know that our BOCES will continue to do everything we can to support our students, staff, families, component districts and fellow community members,” said Antonacci. “I have no doubt that we will persevere and come through this as strong as ever.”



BOCES 2 teachers and staff connect with students and families through email, messages, photos, phone calls and video conferences.



## Region 1: Best in CTE Awards

Two staff members from the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center at WEMOCO have been selected as ACTE Region 1: Best in CTE award winners.

Paula Boughton has received the 2020 Scott Westbrook III Humanitarian Award. Boughton has worked for BOCES 2 since 2010 and is in her eighth school year as a CTE administrator.

The Scott Westbrook III Humanitarian Award recognizes individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the improvement, promotion, development and progress of career and technical education within the region.

Boughton supervises the instructional specialists and academic integration teachers, in addition to overseeing dual enrollment agreements for all CTE programs. She is also a key component in teacher evaluation, analyzing, evaluating and helping to steer the direction of teacher improvement.

Jennifer Probst, who recently won the 2021 ACTE New CTE Teacher of the Year at the state level, has now been named as the Region 1 2021 ACTE New CTE Teacher of the Year. Probst has been teaching Dental Assisting at the CTE Center at WEMOCO since September 2016.

The New CTE Teacher of the Year award recognizes new CTE teachers who have made significant contributions toward innovative and unique career and technical education programs and shown a professional commitment early in their careers.

Over the past four years, Probst has expanded the Dental Assisting program at WEMOCO from a one-year program to a two-year program, where students receive over 200 hours of work-based learning opportunities in the community. She works diligently with industry partners in her community to grow the Dental Assisting program and advisory board. Probst has added over 29 dental industry partners including dental labs and dental offices.

The awards are given by the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) each year as a testament to the teachers' dedication, commitment and passion for career and technical education.

ACTE is the nation's largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. ACTE represents the community of career and technical education professionals, including educators, administrators, researchers, guidance counselors and others at all levels of education.

Probst's win at the regional level qualifies her for the National ACTE Excellence Awards competition. All national finalists and winners will be honored at the ACTE Awards Banquet during CareerTech VISION 2020 on Dec. 2 in Nashville.



Paula Boughton



Jennifer Probst

# Strategic Plan Update

## Career and Technical Education

### Strategic Goal

Community Collaboration

### Key Strategy

Participate in networking opportunities/Maintain continuous communication with partners/Develop purposeful partnerships to foster regional advancement.

One of the CTE Department's Priority Actions this year was to replace Information Night with a Family and Friends CTE Expo. The goal of the expo is to create a time and space for families and members of our community to explore Career and Technical Education and career opportunities and to learn about the local job market. We invited local partners to join us that evening to share information about their career exploration programming and local job market opportunities. Community partners who joined us included: MCC Economic Development and Innovative Workforce Services, Rochester Works!, BSA Exploring, NYS DOL, WXXI American Graduate, M2B Center for Workforce Development, and Cornell Cooperative Education. The CTE Expo was held on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 and was a big success. People of all ages visited WEMOCO that evening. We believe you are never too young to explore careers and never too old to make a career change. We hope families learned about career paths and other career exploration programs to assist them in all phases of their career development.

## The gentle power of music in hard times

Even before the coronavirus school shutdown was put into place, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Department for Exceptional Children's creative arts therapists were exploring ways to continue to connect with their students. Department Chair Christopher Gold organized his team of talented music and art therapists and interns and launched a new YouTube channel: BOCES 2 Music Therapy.



"Our therapists normally provide direct services to almost 200 students," said Gold. "We work with them in BOCES and district-based classrooms and occasionally at home. Music and art therapy are powerful disciplines that support learning, communication, socialization, identification and expression of emotions as well as specific life skills for children with disabilities. It's especially important now to keep providing these supports."

"We want to maintain connection with students, and help parents who want to keep their children learning, motivated and regulated at home during this unprecedented time," said music therapist Mary White. "Music and art can give students creative ways to learn, a sense of structure, movement to keep physically active, ways to express their feelings and opportunities to participate through communication."

The therapists have quickly created an impressive collection of engaging performances for preschool through transition-aged students, and have included links to other YouTube channels for music

and learning. White's own "Catch That Sneeze" is a fun set of healthy tips. Children who are anxious can feel better with the musical reading of "The Pout Pout Fish." "The Nervous Song" gives children solutions to help them work out their feelings. "I See a Bunny" includes making and playing simple instruments, as well as exploring movement. Other videos feature sing-alongs, relaxation and calmness techniques, storybooks read to music and ideas to stay happy. There is even an art project that asks children to explore how they are feeling as they create their own mandala design.

Gold said that many students and caregivers using the new channel have sent thanks and positive feedback. The therapists are using family suggestions to create new performances that address specific student motivators, and there is even a group songwriting project in the works. The team hopes to continue adding new videos daily.

"I am so grateful to be part of a such a wonderful and creative team that works together to support our students, even during such a challenging time," said White. "We miss our students!"

## Condolences to:

The family of **Helen Majchrowicz** (retiree).



## CTE students present to Brockport BOE

Brockport seniors enrolled in programs at the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center at WEMOCO presented to the Brockport Board of Education at the board meeting on Feb. 4, alongside Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES District Superintendent Jo Anne Antonacci and Gerald Maar, Brockport's representative on the BOCES 2 board.

As part of a discussion regarding the services provided by BOCES 2, welding student Gage Vogt and culinary student Rachel Kovacs discussed the benefits of CTE. The two explained what they've learned through their programs, including what they like best about the hands-on learning opportunities.

"I talked about why I joined WEMOCO and why I wanted to advocate for WEMOCO," says Gage. "I feel like it's a good opportunity for other kids, other than college."

"We want the board to see all we have to offer here and encourage more kids to come here," says Rachel. "At first I was worried I'd fall behind if I came here but that hasn't been the case. I know some students who regret not coming here."

The CTE Center is located at the BOCES 2 WEMOCO campus in Spencerport. Students are able to enroll in career-oriented programs that will build skills the students can use following high school. CTE programs are one of the many services offered to districts through BOCES 2.

District Superintendent Antonacci visits board meetings at each of the nine component districts within BOCES 2 throughout the school year to discuss BOCES programs and services.



“At first I was worried I'd fall behind if I came here but that hasn't been the case. I know some students who regret not coming here.”

- Rachel Kovacs, Culinary Student

## CTE student-produced video wins honorable mention in NOCTI Video Contest

Students in the Advertising Design/Multimedia program at the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center at WEMOCO received an honorable mention in the NOCTI Video Contest.

NOCTI says they received some excellent videos on the theme of "Victory in CTE" highlighted the ways in which students achieve victory in CTE.

The students submitted their video in January, competing with CTE students across the country. WEMOCO students' video features CTE students describing what they wanted to be before joining CTE, what they like best about their program, how their program benefits them and what "Victory in CTE" means to them.

While the NOCTI website lists Katie Lipton (Holley) and Tyler Jones (Holley) as the producer and director, all of the year-two students in the Advertising Design/Multimedia program participated in the project. Other students involved include: Joe Adoui (Churchville-Chili), Savannah Southcott (Churchville-Chili), Mario Milks (Churchville-Chili) and Mair Morrison (Gates Chili).

Students learned about the video contest in October. They brainstormed about the theme, and came up with a tentative plan. Students gave the entire CTE building a questionnaire to find interview subjects. They recorded the interviews and footage in early November, before going through the footage to find strong clips. Tyler Jones edited the final video throughout December and January. The video was submitted at the end of January.

"The students did all of the work for the video — from brainstorming and storyboarding, to creating interview questions and keeping a schedule, to the technical work and then gathering peer feedback," says Advertising Design/Multimedia Teacher Jennifer Merkel. "This was an extremely authentic project that can be a reference to their skills in any job interview."

NOCTI delivers solutions for increasing students' technical competence and certifying new and incumbent workers in the private sector. The company has been developing tools to continuously improve

the field of Career and Technical Education for over 50 years.

To visit the NOCTI website and view the video submitted by the CTE students at WEMOCO, visit <https://www.nocti.org/VideoContest.cfm?m=6>



Seniors in the Advertising Design/Multimedia program. Pictured, left to right: Tyler Jones (Holley), Savannah Southcott (Churchville-Chili), Mair Morrison (Gates Chili), Joe Adoui (Churchville-Chili), Katie Lipton (Holley), Mario Milks (Churchville-Chili).

# CTE students awarded during SkillsUSA competition in Alfred

Students from Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs region-wide competed in the SkillsUSA Area 1 Regional Competition at Alfred State on March 3. Fifty-five students from the CTE programs at the BOCES 2 WEMOCO campus in Spencerport attended the competition. Of those students, 14 were awarded trophies for their personal, workplace and technical skills.

Students in the SkillsUSA organization displayed student excellence by competing in contests specific to their programs at CTE, as well as leadership competitions. Students were able to demonstrate skills through presentations, written tests, and both job- and workplace-specific skills. Contests ranged from precision-heavy equipment to CPR. Contests were overseen by a SkillsUSA chairperson and were judged based on a rubric with criteria determined for each specific contest.

WEMOCO students awarded at the SkillsUSA competition in Alfred included:

- Haeli Santos (Brockport) — First place in Extemporaneous Speech
- Trent King (Greece) — First place in Welding
- Michael Yohance (Gates Chili) — Second place in Auto Technology
- Emily Lamp (Churchville-Chili) — Second place in Commercial Baking
- Terrice Wright (Greece) — Third place in Job Interview
- Kaleb Switzer (Spencerport) — Third place in Power Equipment Technology
- Kylie Billotti (Hilton) — Third place in Quiz Bowl
- Gracie Bloss (Churchville-Chili) — Third place in Quiz Bowl
- Celina Murty (Greece) — Third place in Quiz Bowl
- Ali Servati (Gates Chili) — Third place in Quiz Bowl
- Shawnee Statts (Brockport) — Third place in Quiz Bowl
- Tyler Jones (Holley) — Third place in TV Video Production
- Savannah Southcott (Churchville-Chili) — Third place in TV Video Production
- Nicholas Blackburn (Brockport) — Third place in Auto Service Basic



First place Welding student Trent King (Greece).

The SkillsUSA Mission Statement reads, “SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. SkillsUSA improves the quality of our nation’s future skilled workforce through the development of Framework Skills that include personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics.”



SkillsUSA students from the CTE Center at WEMOCO competed at the SkillsUSA Area 1 Regional Competition at Alfred State.



## Kendall Elementary students experience Star Lab

Kendall Elementary School (KES) students were intrigued by the large inflatable gray ball that was located in the auditorium on Dec. 12 and 13. When they crawled inside, they saw the night sky and all the constellations.



The Star Lab is part of a kit supplied by BOCES 4 Science to help teachers explain social studies and science topics to students. KES library media specialist Louise Reger and first-grade teacher Erica Stepanek led the Star Lab sessions, which varied by grade level.

Primary grade students learned about the major constellations and their locations in the sky, shadows and what causes them, and where Kendall is located on the globe. Third-grade students learned about the phases of the moon and how to track Orion in the sky using the various constellations. These students learned how Orion helps farmers identify growing seasons. Fourth-graders learned about the legends of Native Americans through their stories about the



constellations, fifth-graders learned about slavery and some Greek mythology, and sixth-graders gained more in-depth knowledge of Greek mythology. Students came out of the dark Star Lab more enlightened than when they went in.

## CTE classes work together to provide St. Peter's Kitchen with Valentine's Day treats

You could see joy light up the faces of the people at St. Peter's Kitchen on Valentine's Day, as students in the Child and Family Development (CFD) class handed them heart-shaped cookies.

Three Career and Technical Education classes at WEMOCO worked together the week leading up to Valentine's Day to provide St. Peter's Kitchen, a soup kitchen in Rochester, with baked goods for the special day.



Baking student Serafina Perrucci (Spencerport) frosts and sprinkles heart-shaped cookies to be handed out at St. Peter's Kitchen.

St. Peter's provides those in need with hot lunches, access to a food pantry, holiday meals, emergency services and more.

Baking classes at WEMOCO made and frosted 160 cookies and then delivered them to the students in the Personal Services class. Those students then packaged the cookies so they were ready to go out with the CFD class on Valentine's Day.

The Child and Family Development students handed the cookies out during the lunch service at St. Peter's Kitchen, serving around 150 people. While there, the students were able to tour the kitchen to see how everything operated.

"It hits really hard," says CFD student Natalee Burdette (Gates Chili). "When I come here, it just... it makes me feel like I'm actually doing something and gives me something I can remember for all of my life."



CFD students Donna Grayson (Greece), Natalee Burdette (Gates Chili) and Jazalynn Traynham (Greece) visit St. Peter's Kitchen to hand out Valentine's Day cookies.



Personal Services student Morgan Vogler (Gates Chili) packages cookies for the CFD class to bring.

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*Award-winning publication*



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## Mission

We provide quality, cost-effective educational services in partnership with school districts and the community in a manner that supports excellence and equity for all learners. We are committed to customer satisfaction, continuous improvement, and personal and professional growth.

## Vision

Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES is the educational partner of choice. We strive for continuous improvement in serving the diverse needs of our community, helping all students achieve their full potential.

The Monroe 2-Orleans Board of Cooperative Educational Services does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, color, national origin, disability, creed, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, prior criminal offense, domestic violence victim status, or genetic status in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle complaints/inquiries regarding the BOCES non-discrimination policies: Director of Human Resource, 3599 Big Ridge Road, Spencerport, New York 14559, 585-352-2420, and is also the Title VII and Title IX Officer.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481. Please note that those wishing to file a complaint may also do so through the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/qa-complaints.html>. See also New York State Executive Law 296-a.

## Preparing for future fun

The students in Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Transition programs are determined not to miss any of the exciting indoor or outdoor activities their community offers. Thanks to adventurous occupational therapist Cindy Neil-Webster and physical therapist Sheryl Trask, students visited many local places earlier this year to learn about all the supports available to persons with disabilities. After high school, these young adults will now be better prepared to confidently move around the community exploring their interests. Here are some pictures from a recent trip to the skating rink at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park in downtown Rochester. Fresh air, healthy fun and good times with friends!

