

TOGETHER

April/May 2021

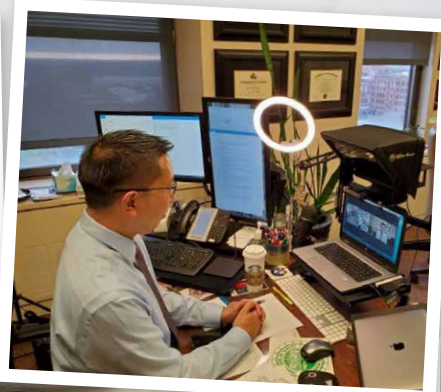
CTE Students Receive Virtual Housecall from Health Commissioner

by Steve Dave

BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education (CTE) students are used to obtaining the highest quality instruction and expertise to prepare for their future careers. That concept was taken to a new level on April 13 when Monroe County Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Mendoza spent an hour with certified nurse assisting and phlebotomy/laboratory technology students via videoconference.

Dr. Mendoza has become the public face of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. He has drawn praise for his leadership, and clear and empathetic communication style. Those character traits were on display as he encouraged students to pursue careers in health care and joked with them about his own circuitous journey to becoming a medical doctor and public health leader.

Students assembled in a WEMOCO conference room, arranged in a socially-distanced manner, to connect with Mendoza. He was featured on a large screen participating in the meeting from his office. After he outlined his educational background and the career choices that led him from Chicago to Rochester, students took turns asking him questions. The topics ranged from pandemic-related restrictions in schools to highly technical questions about virus-testing methodologies in labs.



Editor's Note: Photos of students and staff in this issue were taken following appropriate social distancing measures and/or with masks in place.

Farren Goes the Distance Pursuing Her Doctorate in Remote Learning

by Beth Nash

BOCES 2's Donna Farren picked Distance Education as the focus for her doctoral dissertation, long before the coronavirus forced schools to close to students in March 2020. Luckily, she gains a lot of on-the-job experience in her role as a Distance Learning Specialist. She works with BOCES 2 component districts to help teachers use online resources to educate students in grades K-12.

Farren has been working on her Ed.D. in Leadership for Change at Fielding Graduate University since 2018, and has been participating in distance learning herself. Her college program is designed for adult learners, with students and professors living all over the world. She works with a mentor and experts in the field of each area she is studying: effective communications, approaches to inquiry, research methodologies and praxis.

"The focus of my dissertation is teacher presence in online/hybrid classrooms, zeroing in on the elements of virtual classroom design and organization, facilitating learning and direct instruction," said Farren. "When schools switched over to virtual learning last spring, everyone thought it was going to be temporary, but it's actually changed education the longer we've been working in this environment. Remote learning options are here to stay." If schools continue with distance learning, with teaching shifting outside of the normal "school day," she believes a more flexible schedule may be created for teachers. This could attract more people to the teaching field and address the shortage of teachers.

At Fielding, Farren is a student representative on the Learning & Technology Committee and a Student Government Ed.D. representative. She hopes to be able to present her dissertation next year.



Exploring Identity, Bias and Heritage through Theatre: "Where Did We Sit On the Bus?"

by Chris Klem

Students at the BOCES 2 center-based 6:1:1 program at the Spencerport Administration Building were recently able to watch, via video conferencing, Geva Theatre Center's production of "Where Did We Sit On the Bus?" The one-man show, written and performed by Brian Quijada, is a fast-paced, autobiographical exploration of Latinx storytelling, family and protecting your dreams. It is based on a child's simple question about where he fits into a world where people are categorized as black or white.

The 11th- and 12th-graders prepared by discussing the unconscious biases we all hold, and how many things, good and bad, are passed down generationally. They watched Geva's taped conversation with Quijada about how he came to write the show, his life experiences and his performance.

As the hip-hop rhythms and Quijada's dynamic performance drew students into the theatre experience, they reacted to its passion, thoughtfulness and humor. At least one Latina student related on a personal level: "It was good, very intense," she said.

School social worker Maria Tantillo explained that the event was part of Geva's free Student Matinee program, which is normally a live field trip. "Students were very attentive," said Tantillo. "They got it. There were lots of follow-up questions and discussion afterwards, and students can continue to share their thoughts about immigration, identity and colorism during future restorative practice Peace Circle exercises."



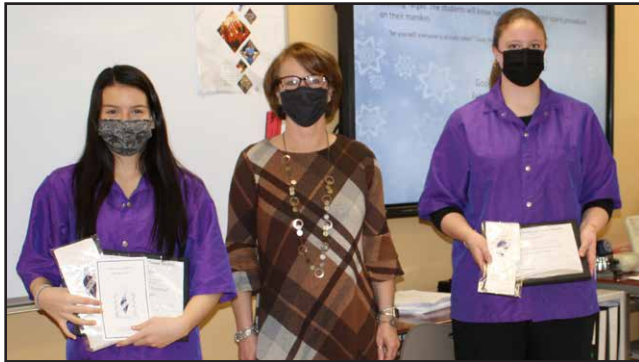
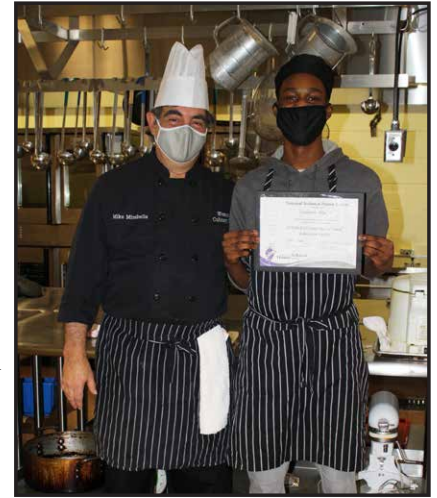
National Technical Honor Society Inducts 39 CTE Students

by Beth Nash

In February, 39 Career and Technical Education (CTE) students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS), an organization that honors top CTE students and their achievements. To be a member of NTHS, a student must have good academic standing, an excellent attendance record, a CTE teacher recommendation and be graduating with a local, Regents or Regents with Distinction diploma. Inductees must adhere to the seven tenets of the NTHS: skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship and leadership. To listen to why the students listed below were nominated, visit [2020 NTHS Inductees](#). Due to social-distancing requirements, students were inducted into NTHS by program in their classrooms.

The inductees are as follows: Jack White (Auto Body and Collision Repair Technology); Antonio Collazo, Matteo Ginevra, Kenneth Irwin, Gabriel Kudela, Ciera Kupferschmid, Jackson Lemcke, Matthew Mason, Luke Otto and Zachary Rush (Carpentry); Morgan Nesbitt (Child and Family Development); Gracie Bloss, Ava Enderle, Paige Hamilton, Chloe Mancuso, Skyla Milazzo, Allyson Skehan and Heather Smith (Cosmetology); Santino Barone and Tieshawn Walker (Culinary Arts); Abby Foley, Felicia Leone, Brenna Reis and Lael Weiss (Dental Assisting); Kayla Wilson (Digital and Visual Communication); Nicholas Gonzalez (Exercise Science); John-Louis Appoloney, Riley Ball, Nathaniel Bill, Jacob Christ and Matthew Lissow (Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance); Andrew Shortino (Engineering and Metal Fabrication: Machining); Emily Eichas, Madison Johnson, Celina Murty and Alexandra Servati (Nurse Assisting and Associated Health Careers); Michael Frost and Timothy Lawrence (Residential and Commercial Electrical); and Cierra Perrin (Engineering and Metal Fabrication: Welding).

Congratulations to all inductees!



Condolences to:

Sharon Ashrafioun on the death of her mother; **Donna Edick** on the death of her grandmother-in-law; **David Lewis** on the death of his sister; **Sandy Manetta** on the death of her brother-in-law; **Julie Masters and Mark Masters** on the death of their father and father-in-law, respectively; the family of **Thelma Mayewski** (retiree); **Lisa McConville** on the death of her father; **Edith Muniz** on the death of mother-in-law; **Deb Schwartz** on the death of her mother-in-law; **Joseph Yockel and Paul Yockel** on the death of their grandmother.

Made with Love and Power Tools

by Chris Klem

If you had stopped into the woodworking lab at Westview in the Department for Exceptional Children just before winter recess, you might have witnessed the creation of some beautiful, handmade, wooden Valentine's hearts. Students in the school's 6:1:2 class crafted the hearts for loved ones while learning how to use power tools safely. Students operated a variety of different-sized vises, along with precision power saws and sanders, with care and expertise. They collaborated with friends and staff members on their projects, painted their custom hearts and cleaned up the space when they were finished.

Perhaps not as creative, but much more delicious, was the other made-by-hand life skills project students worked on recently. They took time during lunch to shape, season and cook their own hamburgers on electric grills, and then ate them, of course. Yum!



Ryan from Gates Chili crafting his heart ornament.

CTE Students Accepted Into Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program

by Beth Nash

On March 3, an official Signing Day ceremony took place for BOCES 2 CTE students accepted into the Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program.

The event is a significant accomplishment for the students selected. Thirty-two students were selected to engage with employers. Sixteen of those students are enrolled in the Engineering and Metal Fabrication (EMF) Machining and Welding programs at the WEMOCO Career and Technical Education Center. Other students were selected from Monroe One BOCES, and Edison Career and Technology High School.

The event was modeled after the NFL's Draft Day and featured streaming videos, contract announcements, official signings between students and employers, photo ops, team swag and the first steps on the path to exciting careers.

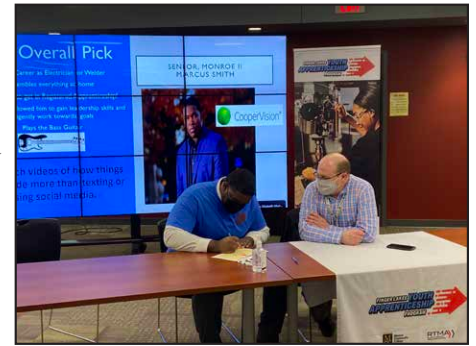
Students officially signed the agreement with their employers during the Signing Day ceremony. They also found out when their Job Shadow or Co-Op would officially start.

In a letter sent to the students who were accepted, Bob Coyne, Executive Director for the Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association (RTMA), congratulated the students, saying, "We are proud to usher in the next generation of talented students who will help lead the industry to a new era of technology, international competition and manufacturing distinction."

The program was coordinated by the RTMA and Monroe Community College. There were multiple phases in the application and interviewing process, pairing high schoolers with local manufacturing companies.

Congratulations to the following EMF Machining and Welding students, who were selected for the Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program:

- Joseph Beaman (junior at Spencerport) - Precision Grinding & Manufacturing (PGM)
- James Burnham (junior at Hilton) - Jrlon, Inc.
- Nicholas Bumbarger (senior at Greece Odyssey) - Micro Instrument Corp
- Connor Carlin (senior at Wheatland-Chili) - Carestream Health
- Caden Conrad (junior at Spencerport) - Acro Industries, Inc.
- Jeremy Goodison (senior at Spencerport) - Micro Instrument Corp
- Lukas Hands (senior at Gates Chili) - Genesee Global Group Inc.
- TJ Kurtz (junior at Greece Athena) - Jrlon, Inc.
- Liam McElwain (senior at Spencerport) - Optimax
- Alex Nenni (senior at Brockport) - Micro Instrument Corp
- Christian Olear (junior at Greece Odyssey) - Kodak
- Dylan Peet (senior at Churchville-Chili) - CooperVision
- James Reichert (junior at Hilton) - Optimax
- Charlie Ritzler (junior at Greece Athena) - Kodak
- Andrew Shortino (senior at Churchville-Chili) - D.P. Tool & Machine
- Marcus Smith (senior at Spencerport) - CooperVision



CTE Students Compete in Local SkillsUSA Competition Virtually

by Beth Nash

Students from the BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education (CTE) program competed in the local SkillsUSA Competitions. Students participated in their classrooms, with the top two winners from each class winning medals, and the top winner moving on to the next level of competition. Many students competed, with 54 receiving recognition for classroom winners, NYS Statesman Awards and Chapter Officers. Thirty-three students are going to participate virtually at the state level.

Students displayed 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.



From left, Dyllan Leibenguth and Matthew Mason, seniors at Hilton in the Carpentry program, were winners in the joinery competition.



From left, Ashleigh Naugle and Cailyn Hubble, juniors at Churchville-Chili in the Child and Family Development program, won their healthy meal planning classroom competition.

SkillsUSA Mission Statement: "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."

CTE students receiving awards include:

- Nick Gonzalez (Brockport) — First place in Job Demo Open
- Morgan Volgler (Gates Chili) — First place in Food Service
- Allyson Skehan (Holley) — First place in Senior Cosmetology
- Nia Greer (Brockport) — Second place in Senior Cosmetology
- Gracie Bloss (Churchville-Chili) — First place in Quiz Bowl
- Taylor Young (Brockport) and Mason Eve (Spencerport) — First place in TV Video Production
- Hailey Verstrete (Hilton) and Cooper Karas (Spencerport) — First place in Digital Cinema Production
- Kayla Wilson (Brockport) — First place in Advertising Design
- Lukas Hands (Gates Chili) — First place in Welding
- Anthony Palermo (Spencerport) — Second place in Welding
- Liam McElwain (Spencerport) — First place in Related Technical Math
- Cayla Smith (Spencerport), Celina Murty (Greece Odyssey) and Madison Johnson (Gates Chili) — First place in Health Knowledge Bowl
- Alexandra Servati (Gates Chili) — First place in Nurse Assisting
- Emily Eichas (Gates Chili) — Second place in Nurse Assisting
- Shawnee Staats (Brockport) and Alexandra Servati (Gates Chili) — First place in Quiz Bowl
- Erin Kuhn (Churchville-Chili) — First place in Job Interview
- Lauren Daphinee (Greece Arcadia) — Second place in Job Interview
- Brock Gossling (Brockport) — Second place in Criminal Justice
- Ian Richardson (Spencerport) — First place in Automotive Technology
- Chester Jabieski (Lake Ontario Baptist Academy) — First place in Customer Service
- Esabella Smith (Churchville-Chili) — Second place in Customer Service
- Kiela McNeill (Gates Chili) — Second place in Food Service
- Jacob Gizzi (Churchville-Chili) — First place in Collision Repair Technology
- Chris Hall (Churchville-Chili) — First place in Auto Refinishing Technology
- Abigail Tanis (Holley) — First place in Quiz Bowl
- Adianna Christanis (Churchville-Chili) — First place in Job Demo Open
- Haleigh Cushman (Brockport) — Second place in Junior Cosmetology
- Cailyn Hubble (Churchville-Chili) — First place in Nutrition & Menu Planning
- Ashleigh Naugle (Churchville-Chili) — Second place in Nutrition & Menu Planning, first place in Quiz Bowl
- Rylee Mosher (Spencerport) — First place in Commercial Baking
- Zander Burton (Hilton) — Second place in Commercial Baking
- Caridad Cassidy (Spencerport) — First place in Health Knowledge Bowl
- Amanda DiMora (Hilton) — First in Medical Terminology
- Jalissa Burandt (Brockport) — First place in Action Skills
- Ava Schalge (Brockport) — First place in Employment Application Process
- Anthony Wiza (Hilton) — First place in Dental Assisting
- Isabella Civiletti (Hilton) — Second place in Dental Assisting
- McKenna Olear (Greece Odyssey) — First place in Junior Cosmetology
- Samantha Kulzer (Spencerport) — First place in Criminal Justice

Little Things Making a Big Difference

by Chris Klem

For most students, the importance of simply saying “hello!” to classmates every morning really can’t be overestimated. Making that connection with friends sets the tone for their entire day of learning. With some students present in the classroom and others working from home, teachers have to be creative to keep those small, yet vital, connections alive.

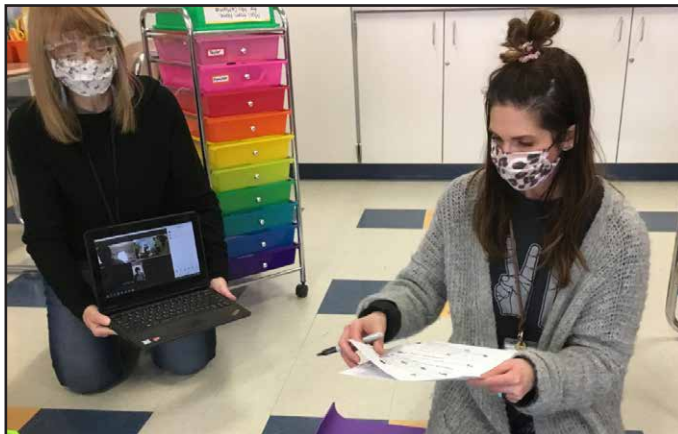
At Spencerport High School, teachers Amy Jean Sweeney and Theresa De Mattia work hard to give their students this feeling of belonging and community. Sweeney runs a Department for Exceptional Children 12:1:2 class and De Mattia a 12:1:3 class for students in grades 9-12. Although their classrooms are distinctly different, they both include a mix of students learning in-person and remotely. The two teachers are able to share many strategies for bringing their students together. Both use web-based platforms, like Nearpod, and online games and quizzes to help facilitate synchronous learning. Remote students can log into a lesson and see exactly the same thing as students in the classroom. They can collaborate, ask questions or submit answers just like everyone else.

Both teachers say that hands-on science experiments are especially loved by students, so they plan their respective lessons early. They collect all the materials remote students will need for their next science class, and classroom counselors or aides drop the packages off at the students’ homes. “This way, all the students are able to perform the experiment the same way at the same time,” said De Mattia. “They get to share the hands-on experience.”

The educators have also found ways to engage students and relieve the monotony of screens, including movement breaks and the occasional silliness. “People walking by in the hall often see me dancing in front of the screen,” said De Mattia. “You just go with it. It’s an interesting time to be a teacher.”

One of the most effective low-tech tools they’ve discovered is a wheeled craft cart. “When remote students Zoom into the class, we put the laptop on our cart and wheel it around the room, moving it so students can actually see what classmates are doing,” said Sweeney. “They can chime into the discussion whenever they want to. It’s a small thing, but it makes learning feel more inclusive for them.”

“We have home-based kiddos who are very social, who really miss connecting with their classmates,” said De Mattia. “Moving the laptop through the room to give them a view of each friend is an opportunity for them to say hello to everybody. It’s very meaningful for them, just making that little connection.”



Teaching assistant Shelly Williams (left) brings two remote students, Angel and Perry, (via Zoom on a laptop) closer to the action as teacher Theresa De Mattia demonstrates a science experiment.



Alex practicing a money math lesson with De Mattia.

Volunteers Share the Joy of Reading with BOCES 2 Students

by Chris Klem

BOCES 2 students celebrated Read Across America 2021 with a group of L3Harris Technologies professionals who volunteered as readers. Three kindergarten-grade 4 classrooms at Spencerport's Terry Taylor Elementary School and two kindergarten-grade 3 classes at Kendall Elementary School welcomed the visitors via Zoom. Guest readers shared two books with their hosts: "Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race" by Margot Lee Shetterly with Winifred Conkling, and "Georgia's Terrific Colorific Experiment" by Zoe Persico. Both picture books feature grade-level explorations of exciting Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) concepts.



Some of the guest readers from L3Harris Technologies.



The stories were a hit!

Interspersed with the stories were many questions from both sides of the video screens. Readers wanted to know more about the students: Do they like math and science? What do they want to be when they grow up? Students wanted to know more about the guests: What does an engineer do? What was their favorite subject at school? The volunteers were rewarded for their efforts with happy applause from their appreciative audiences.

We'd like to thank L3Harris for donating a wonderful selection of books, all chosen with a focus on diversity and STEAM, to our students. We're grateful to all the participating volunteers who made this reading event possible.



Student in teacher Alicia Granville's 8:1:2 class at Terry Taylor.



A student follows along in the book while listening to the guest reader read via Zoom.



Students and staff members in teacher Michelle Gallinger's classroom at Terry Taylor enjoyed the Read Across America experience.



Everyone got comfortable for their stories in teacher Lori Williams' Terry Taylor classroom.

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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, religion, color, national origin, disability, creed, marital status, veteran status, military status, sexual orientation, prior criminal offense, domestic violence victim status, gender identity, gender expression or genetic status in its programs or activities, and it provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle complaints/inquiries regarding the BOCES' non-discrimination policies: Director of Human Resources, 3599 Big Ridge Road, Spencerport, NY 14559, 585-352-2420, and is also the Title VII and Title IX Officer.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/addresses.html> 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 <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintprocess.html>. See also New York State Executive Law 296.

Guiding by Example

by Chris Klem

Preschoolers at Hilton's Village Elementary School have a new role model – their sixth-grade friend and mentor, Heaven. Heaven has taken her younger peers under her wing, with the guidance of social worker Erin Dobbertin. Heaven, who is in 6:1:1 teacher Catherine Bulmahn's class, enjoys visiting the preschoolers to read to them and help them learn to read for themselves.

"Heaven utilizes her own free time to help prepare crafts for the preschoolers," said Dobbertin. "She makes examples of each craft project and decorates the therapy room according to monthly themes. She is diligent about ensuring a welcoming and enjoyable environment for the younger students."

In many small ways, Heaven is making the lives of these little ones better. By sharing her time and love, the older student is becoming someone the younger ones can look up to. Thank you, Heaven!



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