

TOGETHER

November/December 2021

BOCES 2 Welcomes Hundreds at CTE Expo '21

by Amy LaGambino, CTE Outreach Coordinator

CTE EXPO '21 gave more than 300 families the opportunity to see what Career and Technical Education (CTE) has to offer! Families of eighth, ninth and 10th grade students from all nine BOCES 2 component districts were invited to

explore the 20 NYS-approved CTE programs at WEMOCO. This event allowed families to browse at their own pace, and to ask questions of teachers, current students and industry representatives.



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

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The Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation thanks the following sponsors who participated in the 15th Annual Celebration Held at Ridgemont Country Club on Nov. 13:

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Money raised from this event supports the "Make All the Difference" Scholarships that are awarded to CTE students each year.



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Communication Services Wins 15 NYSPRA Awards

Members of the BOCES 2 Communication Services were recently selected as winners in the 42nd Annual New York School Public Relations Association (NYSPRA) Communication Awards. The group won a total of 15 awards this year.

“It’s always a thrill for our staff members to be recognized as the best of the best,” said BOCES 2 Communication Manager Steve Dawe. “We are proud to showcase the work we do for BOCES 2 and our districts, and we’re honored by the confidence they have in us.”

Award winners include Dawe; Communication Specialists Tricia Croce, Ashley Decker, Jordan Kirkpatrick, Chris Klem, Beth Nash, Lindsey Reddig and Gretchen Spittler; Graphic Designers Lisa Constantine and Shannon Sweeney; and Communication Support Specialist Amanda Dedie. Many of the publications that were honored in other school districts across the state were produced with the help of BOCES 2 Printing and Graphics Services.

NYSPRA accepts submissions in 14 different categories and the entries are judged by communication professionals across the country. In 2021, 403 entries were received, with approximately 30% receiving awards. There are three levels of distinction: Excellence is the highest, followed by Honor and Merit, respectively.

The winning submissions and the BOCES 2 staff involved are:

– Annual Report

- Excellence, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Annual Report (BOCES 2), Stephen Dawe, Amanda Dedie, Chris Klem, Beth Nash, Ashley Decker and Lisa Constantine

– Budget/Bond Newsletter

- Honor, Gates Chili CSD District Newsletter – Budget Issue (Gates Chili), Lindsey Reddig and Lisa Constantine, Iva Petrosino, Director of Communications

– Calendar

- Merit, Lyndonville 2020-21 District Calendar (Lyndonville), Tricia Croce and Shannon Sweeney

– Community Newsletter

- Merit, East Rochester Union Free School District Community Newsletter (East Rochester), Ashley Decker and Shannon Sweeney

– Excellence in Writing

- Excellence, Muscarella Receives Crystal Apple Award (BOCES 2), Amanda Dedie
- Excellence, Girls Soccer Coach Gary Ward to Retire (Wheatland-Chili), Jordan Kirkpatrick
- Honor, Electrical Students Charged Up Over Hands-On Solar Opportunity (BOCES 2), Ashley Decker
- Honor, Arts Reinvented (Churchville-Chili), Chris Klem
- Honor, A Lifetime in Education: Honoring BOCES 2 Board Member John Heise (BOCES 2), Beth Nash
- Honor, Two Honored with Soaring Awards (Holley), Beth Nash
- Honor, Brooks Hill Student’s Story Comes to Life on the Page (BOCES 2), Lindsey Reddig

– Overall Graphics and Design

- Excellence, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Annual Report (BOCES 2), Stephen Dawe, Amanda Dedie, Chris Klem, Beth Nash, Ashley Decker and Lisa Constantine

– Photograph

- Honor, Just a Boy and His Duck (Byron-Bergen), Amanda Dedie
- Honor, Waylon Gets Wet (Kendall), Beth Nash
- Honor, Kids Heart Challenge (Byron-Bergen), Gretchen Spittler



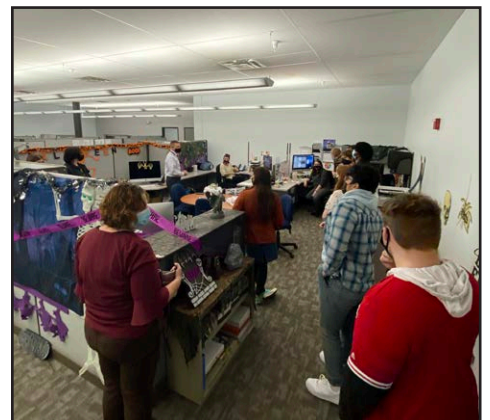
Winning photo by Beth Nash, Honor



Winning photo by Amanda Dedie, Honor

Communications Students Visit with Professionals

CTE Digital and Visual Communication students visited the BOCES 2 Communication Group to speak with professionals in printing and graphics, video production and school information services. Students were able to hear about career pathways, technical skills, industry equipment, workflow and work-related skills that are crucial to the industry. This field trip allowed students to see the interworking of communication professionals in preparation for launching their own student-run communication studio.



SkillsUSA Concludes Successful Community Service Project

by Amy LaGambino, CTE Outreach Coordinator

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, CTE SkillsUSA students developed several fundraiser activities. They sold pink wristbands in each classroom; these were so popular that they sold out. Students decorated jars and placed them in each classroom to collect donations. They also organized a school-wide outdoor breast cancer awareness walk. The walk took participants past dozens of pink ribbon-themed pumpkins, which SkillsUSA members decorated at a prior team building event. At the end of the month, the

BOCES 2 SkillsUSA chapter presented a check for \$1,000 to the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester (BCC).

The BCC exists to cultivate community among those touched by breast or gynecologic cancer; to empower informed decision-making through education, support and advocacy; and to advance research in our region with the goal of eradicating breast cancer.



Three SkillsUSA officers delivered the donation in person. From left to right are BCC Program Assistant Ali Dennison; SkillsUSA President Kaylin Woodin, Officer at Large Sarah Kelly and Treasurer Ryan Frank; and BCC Social Events Coordinator Carly Euler.



Child and Family Development Students Help Homeless

by Ashley Decker

Seniors in the Child and Family Development program recently completed their first community service project, helping homeless people throughout Rochester as the cold weather season begins. Students in the morning class at the BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center began collecting donations in September, after project leader Cailyn Hubbel (Churchville-Chili) researched what to collect and where to drop off the donations.



From left, Cora Gaffney (Churchville-Chili) and Arianna Cafarelli (Churchville-Chili) sort through donations.

By the time the class finished collecting donations on Oct. 25, they had 500 donations! Donations were primarily provided by CTE students and staff, with some coming in from outside donors. Students from six programs participated, competing to see which class could donate the most. Congratulations to students in the HVAC program, who brought in 147 donations!

Child and Family Development students organized the donations by checking them for quality and then sorting by product. Donations were laundered, with the help of the Personal Services class, before being assembled into kits that were dropped off to areas with high populations of homeless people.

Criminal Justice Students Earn AHA Certifications

by Ashley Decker

Seniors studying Criminal Justice had a unique opportunity this fall, earning American Heart Association (AHA)

certifications that will assist them as they embark on their career path. BOCES 2 Occupational Health Nurse Barb Swanson visited the Criminal Justice program at the Career and Technical Education Center in September, training students in CPR, First Aid and AED.

Students watched videos and talked through the various scenarios before transitioning to "hands-on" training using manikins. During the training, students practiced on both adult-sized and child-sized (including infant) manikins, adjusting their approach as necessary. Students also used defibrillator machines, hooking the machine up to manikins and clearing the scene by shouting "clear" as they would in an actual emergency.

Criminal Justice instructor Timothy Steves said having these Red Cross certifications provides students with a "leg up" as they leave high school and begin their careers. "Students will be utilizing these skills throughout the year as they embark on Mass Casualty Incidents, Motor Vehicle Accidents and other scenario-based training opportunities," he said.



Students in the Criminal Justice program use AED machines as they practice on manikins.

What's New at Westview

by Chris Klem

Bringing the Sunshine In

"If there is one thing we've learned over the past couple of years, it's that none of us can go it alone," said Lisa Palumbo, a Student Behavioral Assistant (SBA) at Westview in the Department for Exceptional Children. "Success is a community effort, and the staff at Westview are a team. We need to look out for each other." This caring philosophy is at the heart of the school's new Sunshine Committee.

This year has been challenging, for staff and students alike. Anxiety about being back in the classroom, nervousness about health, staffing concerns, reacclimating to working and collaborating with others: it all makes for an environment that could use a little more sunshine. Westview's Sunshine Committee, headed by Palumbo, finds ways to do that. Teachers and staff make small cash donations and give of their time at monthly planning meetings. Days are brightened with little treats to celebrate small successes or sympathy cards to show support.

Although their focus is on staff and teacher morale, the Sunshine Committee is always mindful of the end goal. "Keeping our students healthy requires that we stay healthy," said Palumbo. "We use the donations to support each other, but also to help run Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) activities for our Westview student community, like fun runs (including the BOO Run – see below), special holiday meals and grab-bag gifts."

"We're all here together," she said. "Why not make it a great place to be?"

Skills for a Lifetime

Decorating pumpkins is a favorite Halloween activity for students at Westview in the Department for Exceptional Children. It's a chance to exercise creative skills and get into the spirit of the season. This year, however, students in the 6:1:2 class had the opportunity to learn a different set of useful life skills in the school's woodworking shop. Westview SBAs Doug Van Roo and Sarah MacCallum designed a pumpkin project that involved math, measurement, lots of patience and safely using power tools, including a jigsaw, power hand drill and sander.



First-time carpenter Emanuel rose to the challenge, with an actual pumpkin decorated to match his carefully crafted wooden version.



Nothing Scary Here ...



The school held its very first Halloween BOO Run: enthusiastic students and staff members did five laps around the building, followed by drinking Gatorade and some creative pumpkin carving.



Westview Open House

Westview welcomed families to Open House in October to meet teachers, staff members and administrators. "It was great to meet so many enthusiastic, supportive parents and family members," said Supervisor Nicole Littlewood. "Their involvement, ideas and feedback are vital to student success. We're excited to be working with them all this year."



20 Years of Support for School Communities Through TIG

by Chris Klem

In today's challenging environment, it is more important than ever to recognize and address the emotional toll that trauma exacts on those in school communities. The high levels of everyday stress being felt by students, families, teachers, staff members and administrators intensifies responses to infrequent, but more severe events. For local school communities coping with these critical incidents, the Consortium on Trauma, Illness and Grief (TIG) is a trusted source of support. Experienced TIG Crisis Teams have been assisting school partners with crisis response for more than two decades.

TIG has been making a difference in school settings since its founding in 2001. At that time, five Monroe County school districts joined with the Monroe County Office of Mental Health and Coordinated Care Services, Inc. to create a back-up support network for districts to rely on in times of individual or widespread crisis. Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES was one of those original, forward-thinking partners.

Currently, the nine BOCES 2 component school districts, all other Monroe County public schools and many private schools are TIG partners, along with public schools in the Wayne Finger Lakes and Genesee Valley BOCES regions.

The BOCES 2 TIG Crisis Team Coordinator since that first year, Betsy Armes, is now passing the coordinator job to 20-year Crisis Team veteran Maria Tantillo. The two

school social workers are ensuring a smooth transition for the BOCES 2 Crisis Team members, all of whom have participated in the full TIG training series, along with other BOCES 2 administrators and coordinators.

According to Tantillo, Crisis Team members come from many backgrounds. "Most of our team members are from the Department for Exceptional Children, along with Westside Academy and CTE," she said. "Each completes an initial five-day TIG training that provides a framework for responding effectively to grief and loss, trauma, suicide risk, illness, or school violence. Team members participate in an annual drill exercise to help prepare for different kinds of critical incidents, including both small- and large-scale events."

TIG team members may be called on individually for informal advice by any BOCES 2 staff member, or the entire team may be mobilized to support BOCES 2 or a partner district with large trauma events. These can include the death of a well-loved teacher, a critically ill student, allegations of abuse or community disasters.

"Life is unpredictable," said Tantillo. "When unfortunate events occur, our crisis team is dedicated to helping our staff, students and families cope and return to a level of functioning in order to move forward."

If you are interested in joining the BOCES 2 TIG Crisis Team, reach out to Maria Tantillo mtantill@monroe2boces.org for more information.

Students Experience Careers in Construction

by Ashley Decker

Being able to explore career options in a fun, interactive format with hands-on activities and meet representatives from local employers, universities and apprenticeship programs probably sounds like a dream come true for many high school students. For students in the Intro to Construction class at the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center, this dream became a reality! Juniors and seniors had the opportunity to learn from professionals at the Annual Rochester Careers in Construction Day at the Monroe County Fleet Center on Oct. 21.

Thirteen students from the class attended the event, trying their hand at using equipment by bending pipes, soldering copper pipes, hammering nails, laying bricks, and driving skid-steers, excavators and bucket lifts. Several students also participated in the popsicle stick bridge contest! Students designed and built their own bridges out of popsicle sticks to compete for several awards. Though the CTE students did

not come out on top, they built an impressive bridge that landed them second place in the competition. Way to go!

Intro to Construction Instructor Jakob Bartalo expressed

the pride he felt in his students, watching them participate in the event. "They were focused, engaged and asked a lot of meaningful questions," said Bartalo. "Some of them even dressed up and went to the event with the purpose of finding a job." It was clear from the smiles on their faces that students were enjoying the opportunity to experience what might lie ahead for them post-graduation.



Condolences to:

Bryan Barth on the death of his wife's uncle; **Gina Hall** on the death of her mother-in-law; **Colleen Holman** on the death of her uncle; **Mary Zanni** on the death of her mother-in-law.

New Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Programs

Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES is proud to announce the appointment of Tom Schulte to Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Programs. He will begin his new position on February 1, 2022, succeeding Tim Dobberty who retires at the end of January.

Schulte has been the Director of the Center for Workforce Development since October 2019. In addition to excelling in that position, he has a wide range of experience in the classroom and in administrative roles.

Before coming to BOCES 2, Schulte was the founding principal of the Western New York Tech Academy in 2015. The Tech Academy is based in the Byron-Bergen Central School District where he also served as district technology coordinator.

Prior to that, he served as a high school assistant principal in Williamson after eight years in the classroom teaching science in Williamson, Honeoye and West Irondequoit. Schulte also has experience as a semiconductor engineer and corporate recruiter. Good luck to Tom in his new position.

Thank you to Tim for his years of service.

The search for a new director for the Center for Workforce Development has begun.



Owners of Carmen's Cooking Visit CTE Culinary Students

by Amy LaGambino, CTE Outreach Coordinator

Opening a new restaurant is an adventure with pitfalls and rewards. Andy and Carmen Bailey, the owners of Carmen's Cooking, shared tales of both with CTE Culinary Arts seniors.

Carmen's Cooking features Puerto Rican food and unique sandwich creations. The restaurant opened in January and they describe it as "quick serve." Their philosophy is to focus on the quality of the food and the quality of the experience.

The menu was created by Carmen and is based on her recipes. Some recipes are her interpretation of traditional Puerto Rican dishes and others are her own creation. As a home cook, she often cooks for large groups as well as family. In response to her delicious food, she was often asked if she would cater events. Carmen is satisfied when people enjoy her dishes.

Before taking the step from at-home cooking to serving the public, the Baileys did extensive research. Five different restaurant business models were analyzed. A restaurant property became available that included all the kitchen equipment. They researched the surrounding area demographics and found the sales potential to be positive.

Bringing the ultimate flavor experience to customers must be balanced with time and cost considerations. They started designing the menu five months before opening. "We had to make choices," said Carmen. "I would prefer to make my own bread, but with the time it takes to make bread, it made more sense to outsource it." They tried eight different breads before finding the right one. However, the empanadilla dough is made in-house. They purchased some dough from other sources, but they determined their recipe tastes better and costs less to make.

Opening during COVID-19 was a positive for the new business, according to Andy. "We decided if we opened during the pandemic and we can create enough demand to cover our expenses, then we can grow in the future," he said. "Existing restaurants had to scale down due to the pandemic. We had the opportunity to scale up."

It was a great learning experience for students to hear about challenges and mistakes faced by the new restaurateurs.

Planning food purchases based on expected demand

was initially the most difficult task. In their first week, they overestimated the demand. They ended up purchasing too much meat and had to discard a large quantity. That kind of mistake will never be repeated. "The next time we bought pork, 40 pounds went right into the freezer," said Andy.

Carmen's flexibility and innovation skills served them well when they were asked three times in the first two days, "What do you have for vegans?" With some experimentation in the kitchen, Carmen created the shitake-pepper pita. It's become a very popular item and highlights the versatility of the menu.

Andy and Carmen plan to establish co-op positions for CTE culinary students. They visited in-person so they could share their restaurant philosophy and goals. Both stressed how students will be contributing to the new business.

As Carmen is completely self-taught, she mentioned how they are eager to learn from students that have formal culinary training. "What you bring to the table is formalized learning," said Andy. "You are learning things we've only learned through practice." He emphasized to students how fortunate they are to have participated in a culinary arts program at a young age. He referenced the CTE Employability Profile for culinary arts, which details skills that students gain from the program. "Skills developed in your curriculum align with what actually happens in our kitchen," he said. "Our goal is for you to come and work in a co-op with us. You'll learn, 'I really love the restaurant environment!' or 'I enjoyed it, but it's not for me.' Knowing what you do not want to do is valuable, too."



From left, Andy Bailey talks to CTE Culinary Arts teachers Mike Mirabella and Carol Lupisella, and Carmen Bailey.

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Award-winning publication

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Vision

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Preschoolers Dress Up for Halloween



This could be the title of a great story: The Pirate and the Princess Go To Preschool.



Pete the Cat made an appearance in preschool as students celebrated Halloween in October.

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