

TOGETHER

March/April 2022

Celebrating 30 Years of NYSCSH at BOCES 2

by Chris Klem



In 1992, the NYS Education Department (NYSED) asked Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Registered Nurse Judith Harrigan for help reviewing and providing feedback on their guidelines for school health. Harrigan, who was also a co-founder of the NYS Association for School Nurses, began building the foundation for a contracted technical assistance office of NYSED. That office is now the New York State Center for School Health (NYSCSH) at BOCES 2 Department for Exceptional Children. The management contract has stayed with BOCES 2 for all 30 years.

The Center's original mission was to ensure the health and safety of students by providing trusted, evidence-based information and professional development services to school nurses. That support expanded to two more groups - school medical directors in 2011 and school health educators in 2016 - along with other allied school health professionals.

NYSCSH staff has grown to four full-time members (Director Melissa Trau, Health Services Specialist Paige Buckner, Health Education Specialist Shelly Budinski and Support Specialist Julie Frenz) with a medical director consultant, Dr. Ron Marino.

"A lot has changed in 30 years," said Director Trau. "We've been quick to adopt new technology to reach more people. Users now have 24/7 access to all our resources through our

website and eLearning platform. Many thousands of school health professionals have subscribed to our email list. We respond to more than 11,000 emails and almost 5,000 phone calls every year and have more than 1,900 followers on Facebook. NYSCSH is a reliable and trusted organization for evidence-based resources. All our information is checked and verified before it is shared."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center has been an important resource for school staff, along with many parents and community members, providing a one-stop source for relevant, timely and accurate information.

Trau said, "The pandemic also provided a refinement of our ability to provide a solid, remote professional development. The ease, flexibility, cost savings and accessibility will keep electronic learning in demand, even beyond a public health crisis. In-person training is still the gold standard, but the remote option is especially valuable to expand opportunities for those living in underserved, socio-economically depressed and rural areas, as well as schools with budget constraints and staffing shortages."

Many of the Center's courses are available on-demand. Users can track and measure their online learning and can receive free Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) hours or professional development certificates.

The Center's live online webinars, depending on topic, are often attended by over 200 participants from all over the state. This year, the Center is also back to hosting one full-day in-person event in the NYS Capital Region. For the first time, sessions will be of global interest to all the Center's stakeholders, including sessions on drug awareness training and human trafficking.

What does the future hold for the Center? Here are some of the goals:

- **Helping to bridge the gap between school health professionals and their education teams:** A more collaborative environment between school nurses, health educators, teachers, administrators and medical directors will help students flourish.
- **Reaching more school health professionals across NYS:** Updating professional development, testing new technologies and improving content delivery systems will bring more value to users.
- **Continuing to assist NYSED:** By clarifying and disseminating changes in state laws and regulations.
- **Constantly growing, staying relevant and listening:** Trau said, "We are so grateful for the support we get from our users who help us stay abreast of evolving needs, and set new priorities and directions."
- **Being here to help:** "The greatest service the Center provides is the knowledge that we are here to help and support our school health professionals," said Trau. "We are a dependable and constant source of help and support. We never tell them we can't help."



The NYSCSH team, from left, Paige Buckner, Melissa Trau, Julie Frenz and Shelly Budinski.

On Campus with Roberts Transition Students

by Chris Klem

One of the popular BOCES 2 transition classrooms is hosted at Roberts Wesleyan College. This year, 18 students participated in the Roberts Transition program, and five of them were accepted to the additional Bridge to Earning, Learning and Living (BELL) program. These programs give students the opportunity to navigate the campus, interact with peers and contribute to the college community.

While most Roberts Transition students are involved with Work-Based Learning activities for half a day and BELL students spend half their time working at on-campus job internships and auditing classes, all students eat in the college dining hall and regularly explore everything the campus has to offer. Thanks to a greater effort to integrate BOCES 2 students into college life, everyone now proudly wears an official Roberts Wesleyan College ID.

Another exciting change for this year's students is the Friday Art Club, which all students attend, split into a morning group and an afternoon group. "Art provides another way for students with disability challenges to communicate thoughts and feelings," said School Psychologist Gretchen Schober. "When verbalization and organizing thoughts is difficult, art can really help students express themselves."

The club evolved as a way to build in social-emotional learning (SEL) time, and in recognition that many of this year's students are art-oriented. One student, known as "Professor Paul," has taken a leadership role, designing a special lesson every week with the help of Art Therapist Jennifer Montanino. The classroom teacher, Amanda Cupido, not only prepares the materials and acts as Paul's assistant during the afternoon lesson, but she also repeats the session for the morning class so both groups enjoy the same project. "Teaching gives Paul practice with his communication skills," said Schober. "The club helps bring students together as friends and as a supportive cohort."



Folded artwork by Roberts Transition students that opens to become exploding rockets – a lesson designed by Professor Paul!

Coming Home to Ridgecrest Academy

by Chris Klem

There are many reasons to celebrate the new Ridgecrest Academy school in Westview Commons on Buffalo Road, but the most important is the permanence of their new home. "We can settle in and plan for the future," said Special Education Supervisor Rob Nells. "Teachers and staff quickly made their rooms feel comfortable and familiar; students made the transition more easily than we expected. They sense the stability of the new situation, and it's been immediately supportive for them."

Currently, there are approximately 40 students enrolled in grades 5-8 at Ridgecrest Academy, and there is room for the school to grow. There is a large, bright, welcoming lobby. Classrooms, calming areas and offices surround a large central gym/auditorium space, designed to be the heart of the school. As the gym is still being worked on, PE teacher Mike Bray has been

inventive, temporarily moving exercise equipment and activities into unused spaces and wide hallways. Art teacher Bryce Doty is making plans for multiple, bright wall art installation projects created by students that will be mounted throughout the hallways. Everywhere you look, there is excitement about the new Ridgecrest Academy.

"School spirit is high — students identify with our Ridgecrest Academy Phoenix mascot," said Nells. "So do our staff; you can't keep them down. Most of the team has been together for at least six years; some up to 20 years. Our new student aides are outstanding!"

"Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) runs Ridgecrest," he said. "We have a strong program here. Students work hard, and they show respect and academic resilience to earn points for special rewards or activities."



We're already starting monthly activity days again, and our school-wide PBIS celebrations will begin in March or April."

As many Ridgecrest Academy students will move up to grades 9-10 and shift to the Westview program across the parking lot, Nells expects their transition to be easier. "We can arrange for visits ahead of time, and communication shared between teachers can quickly address any issues or questions that arise," he said.

The new campus location also facilitates more sharing of ideas and information among program administrators, as well as increased opportunities for collaboration and training for teachers and staff.

Like a phoenix, Ridgecrest Academy has been reborn — better than ever!



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Strategic Plan Update

CaTS

Strategic Goal: Continuous Improvement

Seek innovative practices to promote organizational excellence by improving efficiency and effectiveness of services

Key Strategies:

Utilize innovative technologies throughout the organization to enhance teaching, learning and operations. Communication and Technology Services (CaTS) focuses on resources to help our BOCES and component districts optimize the management and delivery of information. Specifically, Technology Services supports the tools that allow staff, teachers and students to access and share information, as well as communicate with each other in a secure and efficient manner.

Technology Services is committed to enhancing the technology infrastructure at BOCES 2, as well as increasing our overall cybersecurity maturity. Throughout the 2021-22 school year, multiple security protocols and upgrades to our network infrastructure are taking place. To date, over 115 network switches have been replaced to improve the functionality of the network. In addition, to meet the needs of the ever-changing wireless environment, several access points have been installed across the organization, and management software for the wireless network has undergone upgrades to resolve previous issues.

Educational agencies are experiencing more frequent cyberattacks. These attacks involve stealing data, holding information systems hostage and causing disruptions in service. Technology Services has implemented many protections to help minimize and mitigate risks associated with cyber threats. One example is the requirement that all staff members participate in training on data security and privacy best practices, particularly email phishing recognition. Another is the implementation of multi-factor authentication (MFA) which is in alignment with federal and state requirements to increase cybersecurity for district systems. The Technology Services team constantly researches technology trends and standards to provide quality access to information, and continuously protect student and staff data.



Some of the network switches Technology Services has installed.

CTE Students Accepted Into Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program

by Beth Nash

On March 8, an official Signing Day ceremony took place for BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education (CTE) students accepted into the Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program.

The event is a significant accomplishment for the students selected. Twenty-eight students enrolled in the Engineering and Metal Fabrication (EMF) Machining and Welding, Electrical, or HVAC/Plumbing programs at the CTE Center were invited to engage with employers.

Modeled after the NFL's Draft Day, the event 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 Paid 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 students, who were selected for the Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program:

Alex Battista (senior at Spencerport) – PKG Equipment Inc.

Joe Beaman (senior at Spencerport) – Caldwell Manufacturing Co.

Brody Bonczyk (junior at Brockport) – Acro Industries, Inc.

Vincent Charles (junior at Churchville-Chili) – Kodak

Shawn David (senior at Brockport) – Kodak

Anthony Doerr (junior at Churchville-Chili) – Bonduelle

Jonathan Finger (junior at Brockport) – JAM Industries

Samuel Ford (senior at Gates Chili) – Tambe Electric Incorporated

Lucian Forquet (senior at Brockport) – Bonduelle

Seth Goodman (senior at Churchville-Chili) – Pro-Tech Manufacturing and Distribution, Inc.

Pablo Hemmerich (senior at Gates Chili) – Micro Instrument Corp

Owen Hirschman (junior at Kendall) – Kennedy Mechanical, Inc.

Sullivan Karlinski (senior at Churchville-Chili) – Maris Systems Design

Trace Letcher (senior at Hilton) – Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.

Alejandro Lisboa (junior at Churchville-Chili) – CCS

Christian Olear (senior at Greece Odyssey) – Jrlon, Inc.

Noah Parsons (senior at Churchville-Chili) – Maris Systems Design

Tyler Phillips (senior at Brockport) – CCS

Marissa Pokol (senior at Spencerport) – Acro Industries, Inc.

Katelynn Randall (junior at Holley) – Custom Courier Solutions (CCS)

Mason Richardson (senior at Churchville-Chili) – Tambe Electric Incorporated

Mika Richardson (junior at Greece Arcadia) – Acro Industries, Inc.

Charles Ritzler (senior at Greece Athena) – Micro Instrument Corp

Bradley Shaw (junior at Churchville-Chili) – Bonduelle

Ethan Sherman (junior at Brockport) – Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.

Isaac Strong (junior at Brockport) – Peak Fabrications

Evan Williams (senior at Hilton) – Pro-Tech Manufacturing and Distribution, Inc.

Ethan Woodams (senior at Kendall) – Tambe Electric Incorporated



CTE Students Honored at SkillsUSA Area 1 Regional Conference

by Amy LaGambino, CTE Outreach Assistant

BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education (CTE) students traveled to SUNY Alfred on March 8 for the SkillsUSA Area 1 Regional Conference. They showcased their skills, with many returning with honors.

Two BOCES 2 teams rose to the top of the region. In the Health Knowledge Bowl competition, a four-person team comprised of all Nurse Assisting and Associated Health Careers seniors placed first: **Riley Gardner (Brockport)**, **Molly Hong (Gates Chili)**, **Kirsstin Althoff (Holley)** and **Meranda Lott-Douglass (Greece Olympia)**. For the Crime Scene Investigation team competition, three Criminal Justice seniors combined for the win: **Nicholas Otto (Hilton)**, **Samantha Kulzer (Spencerport)** and **Sanya Costello (Greece Arcadia)**.

Teams weren't the only BOCES 2 entrants to win top prizes as two individual titles were also won by CTE students. Auto Body and Collision Repair Technology senior **Jack Swanson (Churchville-Chili)** garnered first place in Collision Repair Technology, and Dental Assisting junior **Ryliane Murch (Brockport)** took home first place in Prepared Speech.

Three CTE students were second place finishers: Medical Laboratory Assisting and Phlebotomy junior **Brianna Cullen (Churchville-Chili)** in Action Skills, Culinary Arts junior **Meg Cranmer (Spencerport)** in Culinary Arts and Food Services,

and senior **Jeremy Sovereign (Churchville-Chili)** in Food Preparation Assistant.

Two, third place titles were also earned by CTE students, bringing the total of top three finishes to nine.



Brianna Cullen (Churchville-Chili)

Auto Body and Collision Repair Technology senior **Xander Barrett (Gates Chili)** finished third in Auto Body Helper, and Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance senior **Isaac Stroup (Brockport)** placed third in Precision Heavy Equipment.

Other notable finishes were four CTE students: in Advertising Design, Digital and Visual Communication junior **Katherine Zerrillo (Churchville-Chili)**; in Auto Service, Automotive Technology junior **Calogero Scott (Wheatland-Chili)**; in Commercial Baking, Baking junior **Gavin Lockridge (Greece Arcadia)**; and in Restaurant Services, Culinary Arts junior **John Farley (Hilton)**.

Additionally, **Ryan Frank (Holley)**, a junior in the HVAC/Plumbing program, was elected as the Area 1 vice president.

Regional competitors and additional SkillsUSA members look forward to the New York SkillsUSA competition that will take place at the end of April.



Xander Barrett (Gates Chili)



From left, Riley Gardner (Brockport), Molly Hong (Gates Chili), Kirsstin Althoff (Holley), and Meranda Lott-Douglass (Greece Olympia).

Chili Cook Off at Westview!

by Chris Klem

Students and staff at Westview in the Department for Exceptional Children really spiced things up with an exciting and delectable Chili Cook Off. The competition was smoking hot, with delicious entries made by teachers Chris Kneller, Mackenzie Garcia, Karen Orcutt and Kim Stephenson, along with Student Behavioral Assistants (SBAs) Doug Van Roo and Stephanie Walters. Everyone sampled the wide variety of chili contenders. Students were surprised by all the different ways chili can be prepared: vegetarian, turkey, extra spicy, taco-flavored and many more. They learned the basics of voting by secret ballot and chose the winner: Mrs. Walters' Spicy Chili! Mr. Kneller's Jalapeno Vegetarian Chili was a close second, and believe it or not, all the others tied for a delectable third.

"We all look forward to fun activities and competitions like this," said SBA Lisa Palumbo. "Students have a chance to socialize, learn valuable life skills and just enjoy being part of the school. It brings us together and helps makes Westview a great place to learn and work."



From left, Westview SBA Tammy Maier and PE teacher Karen Orcutt prepare to share homemade chilis with students at the school's recent Cook Off competition.

How to Make a Healthier Snack

by Chris Klem

Students in Kim Stephenson's 6:1:2 Complex Needs class at Westview in the Department for Exceptional Children are learning how to make healthy choices and lead happier lives. A recent life skill lesson involved making their own tasty alternative to a favorite snack - crustless pocket sandwiches.



A student making his own healthy treat.

The store-made treats are generally highly processed and high in sugar, sodium and calories; fun to eat, but not a great choice for a balanced diet. Stephenson explained the importance of good nutrition to the class and then helped them build their own homemade sandwiches with whole wheat bread, peanut butter, jelly or Nutella. They used several different specialized tools to cut off crusts and crimp the edges of their sandwiches to keep the fillings neatly enclosed.



Condolences to:

The family of **Jean Cerone** (retiree); the family of **Linda DeWick** (retiree); the family of **Mary McCollester** (retiree); **Jennifer Montanino** on the death of her grandmother.

BOCES 2 Med Lab and Phlebotomy Program Reaches a National Audience

by Chris Klem

Medical laboratories across the country are experiencing a critical workforce shortage. The industry projects that every year, from now through 2030, there will be 26,000 job openings and only 5,000 graduates ready to fill them. The consequences of such staff shortages for patient care are enormous.



BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Medical Laboratory Assisting and Phlebotomy Instructor James Payne shared one potential solution to this nationwide challenge virtually at the Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC) in March. His presentation, "Educating High School Students: A Model to Ending the Workforce Shortage," proposed building educational programs all over the country modeled on the one at the BOCES 2 CTE Center.

Payne said, "The solution is to build the workforce from the bottom up, using a Career and Technical Education model. Start with high school students learning employable laboratory and phlebotomy skills. From this base, they can enter the field immediately and then begin to explore the full range of potential medical lab careers."

A successful educational program, like the one at BOCES 2, provides the education, training and real-world experiences that prepare students for rewarding careers in laboratory medicine. It includes both fundamental and advanced skills, important college-level knowledge content, and work-based learning opportunities. Program graduates are in-demand for employment at laboratories, medical centers and hospitals. Many colleges offer priority application status, scholarships or dual credit to students interested in furthering their education in the field.

"The program here at BOCES 2 is being recognized as a national model," Payne said. "I shared information on how our program is structured, the requirements and prerequisites for creating a successful program, tips for funding, and how to connect with community resources and local colleges."

Payne's address was viewed by hundreds of in-person and virtual conference attendees, all leaders in medical laboratory education. The conference is presented by The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), which is dedicated to ensuring excellence in the practice of laboratory medicine.



Boughton Named as ACTE Administrator of the Year

Paula Boughton, a Career and Technical Education (CTE) supervisor, has received the 2023 ACTE Administrator of the Year award. The New York State Association for Career and Technical Education (NYSACTE) recognized Boughton for her hard work and dedication to the field of Career and Technical Education. She will receive her award in August at the 12th Annual Professional Leadership Seminar in Fayetteville, NY. Boughton is also eligible to be considered for an ACTE Region I Award. Congratulations!



School Board Members Meet with Representatives



Pittsford Central School District Board Member Robin Scott, on left, and BOCES 2 Board Member Kathy Dillon (Churchville-Chili) took a quick break for a photo at the Monroe County School Board Association (MCSBA) Legislative Breakfast on Feb. 5.



New York State Regent Wade Norwood, on left, listened to BOCES 2 Board President Dennis Laba (Gates Chili) as he made a point at the MCSBA Legislative Breakfast on Feb. 5.

Guest Chef Pellegrino Makes Cocoa Bombs

Former Career and Technical Education (CTE) student and current professional Chef Olivia Pellegrino visited the Baking program at WEMOCO recently. She now works for University of Rochester food services and is involved in efforts to have all of the university's food supply sourced locally. Her visit included a lesson in how to make cocoa bombs. This popular food item encases ingredients for hot cocoa in a chocolate shell.



Ma'Nya Smith (Wheatland-Chili) adds the final decorator touches to a cocoa bomb.

The cocoa bomb production required lining half-round molds with chocolate and waiting for them to harden. Once ready, students had to quickly press the edge of the chocolate half-spheres against a hot pan to create a perfectly smooth edge, which was needed for a solid seal. Next they filled one half with cocoa mix and treats, and then sealed the top half onto the bottom half of the bomb. The final step was decorating the outside. Chef Pellegrino gave students a tip: whatever flavor is inside the cocoa bomb should be hinted at in the decorations on the outside. For example, bombs with peppermint inside should have peppermint chips on the outside. Students were enthusiastic about working with chocolate, with each of them assembling two cocoa bombs apiece.



Student Laura Ciaramaglia (Gates Chili) gets a close up view of Chef Pellegrino sealing two halves of a cocoa bomb.



Baking students watch Chef Olivia Pellegrino (right) explain each of the steps in producing a cocoa bomb.

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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.

Students Practice Snow Removal

This winter provided plenty of snow for CTE students in the Heavy Equipment Operation & Maintenance class to practice snow removal. They formed teams and took turns using the machines to scoop, lift, transport and dump loads of snow.



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