

TOGETHER

October/November 2022

Everyone Has a Story When it Comes to DEI

by Beth Nash



On Opening Day, District Superintendent Jo Anne Antonacci revealed this year's focus: EVERYONE has a story. This focus supports the work of the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, as they work to create a welcoming, accepting environment for everyone at BOCES 2. "We strive to be a cooperative in which all cultural identities – disability, language, race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion and socioeconomic background – are valued," said Antonacci.

The DEI committee has been actively working behind the scenes since early 2022, meeting monthly to learn about DEI concepts, how staff members relate to them, and what can be done to bring everyone to a collective understanding of how BOCES 2 will operate under these guidelines going forward. The committee, which consists of staff members from all areas of the organization, created an equity statement that was approved by the Board. The statement reads:

Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES is a service organization committed to creating an inclusive, responsive, safe environment and promoting a sense of belonging that allows everyone to learn and grow. We are dedicated to embracing kindness, empathy, curiosity and diversity. Our organization will ensure that communication and decision-making are done respectfully and responsively by honoring the diverse perspectives of all.

The first session of DEI was rolled out to employees on Superintendent's Conference Day on Oct. 7. Employees participated in a 90-minute session, led by a member of the DEI committee, where they interacted with each other, getting to know their coworkers a little better. Participants shared what they have in common and what makes them unique. When people find they have something in common, this helps them feel like they belong and can work as a team. When people learn about what makes them unique, this helps them appreciate one another and come to a level of understanding. One of the key messages of the session was to listen and learn from each other, without making assumptions; instead, be curious and ask questions. Other key points were to pay attention to themselves and others, be present and presume positive intentions.

A video featuring three people associated with BOCES 2 was shown, where they explained what helped shape them into who they are today. All BOCES 2 employees are invited to share their stories, too, by sending in written submissions or working with the Communication and Technology Services (CaTS) department to have their stories videotaped.

This session was one of many that will be happening this school year as the organization has continuous conversations about DEI.



This image was rolled out on Opening Day, and during the first DEI session, BOCES 2 community members began to replace the stock images of people in the top row (see image at top left).

BOCES 2 District Superintendent Named 2022 ICON Honoree

by Chris Klem

Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES is proud to announce that District Superintendent Jo Anne L. Antonacci was selected as one of Rochester Business Journal's (RBJ) ICON Honors recipients for 2022. The awards recognize exceptional area business leaders who have moved their organizations forward by making a difference to the community.

"I am honored and humbled to be included among the 2022 RBJ ICON Honorees," said Antonacci. "This recognition is a testament to all those who value education; BOCES staff, my colleagues and board members whose efforts to build partnerships across districts, businesses, industries, and public and private agencies bring opportunities to students, families, and community members."

Antonacci, who joined BOCES 2 as an educator in 1977, has expanded the organization and unerringly guided its support for its nine component school districts for 45 years, the last 12 as District Superintendent. Her experience, collaborative nature and foundational commitment to helping students learn has made Antonacci a trusted leader across the educational and business spectrum, in both our region and at the NYS level.

"The 2022 ICON Honors recipients have displayed sustained leadership and integrity as they have made an indelible mark in their fields and beyond. They are also strongly committed to the Greater Rochester community and to the area's future leaders through mentoring," said Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, senior group publisher of the RBJ. "These leaders have passed the test of time, and we at the Rochester Business Journal are pleased to honor them."



ROCHESTER BUSINESS JOURNAL
ICON HONORS
CELEBRATING LEADERS OVER 60

The ICON Honors awards recognize Greater Rochester Area business leaders over the age of 60 for their notable success and demonstration of strong leadership both within and outside of their chosen field.

Congratulations 2022 Honorees!

Jo Anne L. Antonacci Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES	A. Thomas Hildebrandt The Davenport-Hatch Foundation
David Beinetti, AIA SWBR	Kenneth L. Hines Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
Alfred Burgos, EA BURGOS Income Tax, Inc.	C. Padmanabh Kamath India Community Center
Patrick Burke The Burke Group	Monique Latimer Millard E. Latimer & Son Funeral Directors, Inc.
Mary Ellen Burriss Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.	Todd Liebert, AIA, NCARB CPL Architecture, Engineering, Planning
Salvatore SoccerSam Fantauzzo Salvatore's Pizza	Patricia Davis Marks PDM Consulting and Bill C. Davis LLC
Philip Ferranti Jr. Fusion Digital	Nannette Nocon Nocon & Associates
Kevin Flynn Flynn	Kenneth J. Pink The Bonadio Group
Daniel Fuller Bristol Mountain and Roseland Waterpark	Efrain Rivera Paychex, Inc.
Steve Hausmann Audacy Rochester	George M. Romell YMCA of Greater Rochester

Join us on December 5, 2022 to celebrate these outstanding leaders!

The Genesee Valley Club
4:00 p.m. - Food stations, passed hors d'oeuvres, drinks and networking
5:15 p.m. - Awards celebration
5:45 p.m. - Continued food stations, desserts, drinks and networking

A small number of individual tickets are available for \$225 each. Please, email rjevents@bridgetowermedia.com to claim your ticket.

To learn more about the honorees visit rbj.net/events/icon-honors

Follow us @RBJdaily and use #RBJevents

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School Board Recognition Week

School Board Recognition Week was Oct. 17-21, 2022. Thank you to the members of the BOCES 2 board for all you do to support our community.





Lots of collaboration happened in Brockport's Oliver Middle School library one day in October. One group of students was determined to finish their puzzle, and it was fun to watch them work together. Another group used Strawbees, provided by BOCES 2 School Library Services, to build various structures with reusable straws and connectors. Creativity and teamwork result in successful outcomes!

Slavny Named One of "13 Stellar Women of Spencerport"

by Beth Nash

The October issue of "Spencerport Neighbors" features a cover story titled "Getting to Know 13 Stellar Women of Spencerport" and CTE Executive Principal Jill Slavny is featured as one of the women. Each woman was asked about their family, favorite vacation spot, bucket list, women in history they admire, what they love about their profession and what they are most proud of. They were also asked to identify their mentor and to reveal something about themselves most people don't know about them. "I am proud to have been selected and to represent all of the good work CTE does in and around Spencerport," said Slavny. Congratulations, Jill, on receiving this honor!



Photo credit: Adrian DeJesus Photography, www.adjphoto.com

Jill Slavny is seated in the middle of the front row.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of Spencerport Neighbors, contact publisher Colleen Farley at colleenmfarley@gmail.com.

Flu Vaccine Clinics

Flu vaccine clinics will be held from 3-6 p.m. on Dec. 1 and 14 at the Career and Technical Education Center in Room A116 off the main lobby. These clinics are open to the public, for adults age 18 and older. No appointment is needed. Bring your insurance card. If you have no insurance or a non-participating insurance, the fee is \$45, payable by cash or check.

For clinical questions, contact Flu Prevention Partners of Workplace Vitality at 585-568-8340. For information on insurance matters, visit

[Flu Immunizations — WPV Inc.](#)

BOCES 2 Contact: Barb Swanson, 585-352-2749



Strategic Plan Update

Department for Exceptional Children

Strategic Goal:

Continuous Improvement

Key Strategies:

This summer, the Department for Exceptional Children began to recalibrate and refocus on curriculum development after the lengthy interruptions caused by COVID-19 and staffing shortages. Working in partnership with the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development, teams of dedicated teachers spent five days focusing on shaping curriculum maps and developing units for ELA, Math and Social Studies for all grade levels. There is still a lot of work to be done, and the department's Curriculum Council is drafting a new plan for moving forward. Additionally, the Department for Exceptional Children created a Professional Learning Planning Committee to reinforce our commitment to providing innovative programs and services to our students with support, tools and diverse learning opportunities to allow them to experience academic success and grow into positive and productive members of our community.

Padlick Receives Award from NOCTI

by Beth Nash

The National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) Board of Trustees recently named Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher Josh Padlick the winner of the 2022 Carl J. Schaefer Memorial CTE Teacher Candidate Award. Established in 2013, this award is named after Dr. Schaefer, a nationally recognized CTE educator and author, and recognizes an outstanding CTE teacher or teacher candidate. Criteria for the award includes personal goals, work experience, awards/honors received, professional memberships, and leadership and community service activities. Padlick receives a plaque and \$500 to be used towards any educational-related expense. He will be honored at the NOCTI Annual Reception on Dec. 1 in Las Vegas.



Padlick works as welding teacher at the CTE Center. “Josh has a gift for teaching,” said Theresa Alampri-Cortez, Assistant Principal at CTE. “When he came to us from the welding industry about seven years ago, he was quick to forge relationships with students, and he was passionate about what welding content was important to teach. Now, Josh is a tenured teacher. He has grown so much in his knowledge of pedagogy. He takes risks and implements various instructional strategies in his classroom to meet the needs of individual students. Josh has participated in NOCTI’s CTEDDI professional development twice, and he has worked to implement data driven improvement practices in his classroom.” Padlick has written several micro-credential tests for NOCTI, as well.

He is the president of the local American Welding Society (AWS) chapter, and he has worked with the local Young Explorers program. He is a mentor for new CTE teachers. Each year, Padlick works with his class to participate in ‘Food Wars’ to collect food and hygiene items for the Spencerport Ecumenical Food Cupboard. “I was surprised to receive the award,” said Padlick. “I see the request for nominations every year, but I never thought I would be selected for this award.”

CTE Helps Students ROC With Their Hands

by Jen Merkel

Monroe County students in grades 7-12 had an opportunity to try their hands at applied learning during the first-ever ROC With Your Hands event. Meanwhile, BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education (CTE) students tried their hands at being the teachers.

On Oct. 4, CTE student representatives left their residential and commercial electrical, criminal justice, cosmetology, and medical laboratory assisting and phlebotomy classrooms at WEMOCO. They traveled with the CTE work-based learning coordinators to Rochester Community Sports Complex in downtown Rochester.

Those who stopped by the CTE area of the event had the opportunity to explore a variety of careers. Guests tried their hands at hairstyling, looked at slides through a microscope, participated in an impaired person simulation, observed the technical intricacies of a robot following a path and learned about tools of the various trades.

Additional representatives from skilled trades were on hand to allow career exploration in various fields including advanced manufacturing, heavy equipment and automotive technology.

This event was hosted by the Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association (RTMA) and City of Rochester in partnership with Monroe County, Monroe Community College, the Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program, the Builders Exchange of Rochester and UNiCON.



BOCES 2 CTE was represented at ROC With Your Hands by (left to right) Residential and Commercial Electrical student Matthew Cudzilo (Hilton); Cosmetology student Laura Wallace (Hilton); Medical Laboratory Assisting and Phlebotomy student Arriena Brown (Hilton); Work-Based Learning Coordinators Cindy Christensen, Brandilyn Steves and Carisa Harding; Criminal Justice students Corrina Leo (Hilton) and Gabe Loran (Kendall); and Residential and Commercial Electrical student Jake Bischooping (Hilton).



BOCES 2 CTE Cosmetology student Laura Wallace (Hilton) demonstrates the art of hair braiding to three guests during the ROC With Your Hands event on Oct. 4 at Rochester Community Sports Complex.

Communication Services Wins 16 NYSPRA Awards

Members of the BOCES 2 Communication Services were recently selected as winners in the 43rd Annual New York School Public Relations Association (NYSPRA) Communication Awards. The group won a total of 16 awards this year.

“We are fortunate to have a talented team of communicators,” said BOCES 2 Communication Director Steve Dawe. “Our team takes pride in its work. While awards are gratifying, I know our staff members are most thankful for the trust our districts and BOCES 2 departments place in us.”

Award winners include Communication Specialists Tricia Croce, Ashley Decker, Chris Klem, Beth Nash, Lindsey Reddig and Gretchen Spittler; and Graphic Designers Lisa Constantine and Allison Mason. 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 2022, 408 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:

– Budget/Bond Newsletter

- *Excellence*, Gates Chili CSD District Newsletter – Special Edition (Gates Chili), **Lisa Constantine**; Iva Petrosino, Director of Communications; Dr. Mitchell Ball, Assistant Superintendent for Business

– Calendar

- *Honor*, Spencerport Central School District 2021-22 Calendar (Spencerport), **Lisa Constantine**; Lanette Cypher, Director of Communications

– Community Newsletter

- *Excellence*, Gates Chili Central School District Newsletter (Gates Chili), **Lindsey Reddig** and **Lisa Constantine**; Iva Petrosino, Director of Communications
- *Honor*, The Cornerstone (Spencerport), **Allison Mason**; Lanette Cypher, Director of Communications

– Excellence in Writing

- *Excellence*, New Meanings: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiatives (BOCES 2), **Chris Klem**
- *Honor*, Brockport Student’s “Message in a Bottle” Discovered 11 Years Later (Brockport), **Ashley Decker**

- *Honor*, Sparking Positive Energy (Churchville-Chili), **Chris Klem**
- **Photograph**
 - *Excellence*, Long Jump for Joy (Byron-Bergen), **Gretchen Spittler**
 - *Excellence*, Kindness Month (Byron-Bergen), **Gretchen Spittler**
 - *Honor*, The Wonder of Hands-On Learning (East Rochester), **Ashley Decker**
 - *Honor*, LCSD Graduation Celebration (Lyndonville), **Tricia Croce**
 - *Honor*, High-five Goodbye (Lyndonville), **Tricia Croce**
 - *Merit*, Year-end Goodbye (Brockport), **Tricia Croce**
 - *Merit*, Students Building a Barn (Holley), **Beth Nash**
- **Special Purpose**
 - *Merit*, BCSD Capital Improvement Brochure (Brockport), **Tricia Croce, Ashley Decker** and **Lisa Constantine**
- **Video**
 - *Merit*, Words of Wisdom for the Class of 2022 (Gates Chili), **Lindsey Reddig**



Winning photo by Gretchen Spittler, Excellence



Winning photo by Tricia Croce, Merit



Winning photo by Tricia Croce, Honor



Winning photo by Beth Nash, Merit



Winning photo by Ashley Decker, Honor



Winning photo by Gretchen Spittler, Excellence

Westview Visits Foodlink’s Community Farm

by Chris Klem

Late in September, five of our Westview students, along with five teachers and staff members, volunteered their time and efforts to Foodlink’s Community Farm on Lexington Avenue in the city. The Community Farm is one of the largest urban agriculture sites in the City of Rochester. The community garden provides space for 65 families to grow approximately 6,000 pounds of food for their households each year. In addition, the farming operations grow, on average, 2,000 pounds of produce for Foodlink programs.

During their volunteer work at the farm, students tried several different jobs and learned a lot about the farming operation at Foodlink. Several of them jumped right in and worked on the farm’s compost piles. They learned how to turn over the

pile to aid in decomposition and soil building, and then they cut down more dead plants and other organic matter to add to a new compost pile. Other students volunteered to pick up trash around the parking lot, sidewalk and garden park to keep the site clean and attractive. Everyone helped break apart garlic bulbs so that individual cloves could be replanted to grow more garlic next season.

All the students cheerfully weathered the drizzle and cold fall temperatures. They enjoyed working outside and learning about how food is produced and where it goes in Rochester. Students at Westview in the Department for Exceptional Children can always be counted on to enthusiastically give back to the community!



Westview Visits Mount Hope Cemetery

by Chris Klem

The Give Back Club at Westview in the Department for Exceptional Children takes their name and its meaning seriously – these volunteers are always ready to step up and support their community. Recently, four students from the 6:1:1 and 6:1:2 classes, along with four staff members, visited Mount Hope Cemetery to help with fall cleanup. They were welcomed by Reverend Dr. Tom Jones and Chris Petote, who explained the historic nature of the 200-acre cemetery and thanked them for joining the many volunteers who dedicate their time to help families care for loved ones’ graves.



Westview club members raked leaves, cleaned up debris and trash, and helped make their chosen corner of the cemetery a more peaceful and beautiful spot. Before leaving, students viewed some of the cemetery’s many mausoleums and funerary sculptures. They visited the last resting places of famous Rochesterians who also gave back to our community and to the world – Frederick Douglas, Susan B. Anthony and Nathaniel Rochester.



Project SEARCH interns have begun the first of their three rotations at URM. Interns are in a wide variety of departments and positions. They are already doing a fantastic job, all while learning job skills and helping their departments.



It’s Unity Day at Westview, and students and staff are wearing orange to signify their commitment to unity in their school. Students and staff came together on this day, and all throughout the year, to unite for kindness, courage and inclusion, and to prevent students from being bullied.

Learning Unlimited Paints Up a Party!

by Chris Klem

In September, participants from Learning Unlimited, a free program for adults with disabilities, took part in a group painting party lead by Melissa Salatino of Vino & Vernici Mobile Paint Parties. Program Instructors Kimberly Stephenson and Andrew Fowler, along with other program staff, assisted with this festive canvas painting class and provided mini-charcuterie boards as snacks.

Learning Unlimited is a 10-week program that provides an opportunity for group members to get together to work on social, leisure and independent living skills. It is offered in spring and fall sessions through a grant from Organization for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). The grant is run through Monroe One Educational Services; Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Department for Exceptional Children manages the program for residents on the west side of Rochester. It is free for adults who live at home and qualify for OPWDD services.

Registration for the fall program has ended. Registration for the Spring 2023 program will begin in February. For more information, please reach out to Kimberly Stephenson at kastephe@monroe2boces.org or Andrew Fowler at afowler@monroe2boces.org.



Coworkers You Can Count On

by Chris Klem

Students in the Hospitality and Applied Skills (HaAS) class, taught by Samantha Fowler, are learning valuable work skills that will help them be successful throughout life. Recently, they experienced first-hand how each team member plays an important part in accomplishing a task, and how an absence can create difficulties for the group.

They began with a multilayered task – creating bags of trail mix. Each coworker had a job to complete, adding a specific ingredient, before the bag could be passed on to the next person. If a worker was late or neglected to inform the team of a planned absence, a production problem was caused. Students discussed the problems as they happened – back-ups, delays, extra work, decrease in product quality – and potential solutions needed to get back on track.

They quickly understood how important it is to be responsible: to get to work, to be punctual, and to call their employer if they are going to be sick or late. This exercise also helped them learn about safe food handling, washing hands, wearing gloves and keeping hair pulled back.

The goal for these students is to prepare them to be the best workers any employer could wish for, and the kind of team members their coworkers can depend on. They are well on their way!



Condolences to:

Betsy Armes on the death of her father-in-law; **Karyn Audycki** on the death of her aunt; **Brenda Clayton** on the death of her mother; **Gina Gates** on the death of her father; **Colleen Lake** on the death of her grandfather; **Margarita Rodeman** on the death of her nephew.

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<https://www.monroe2boces.org/Newsletters.aspx>.
Past issues are also housed at this location.



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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.

Learning Life Skills with Apple Crisp

by Chris Klem

Students in Kim Stephenson's 6:1:2 class at Westview got in the autumn mood this fall with apple crisp! They searched online for a recipe, made a shopping list and learned about safety in the kitchen. Then, they got down to work following their recipe, preparing the fruit, measuring ingredients, and baking a wonderful, warm and toasty crisp. Served with vanilla ice cream and shared amongst students and staff, it was a great way to socialize and welcome fall. Can't you just smell the cinnamon? Yum!



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