

TOGETHER

December 2022/January 2023

Electrical Students Become First-Ever High School Class to Earn Solar Module Certification

by Jennifer Merkel



Victor Martinez (Lake Ontario Baptist Academy/ Brockport) and Joe Andreano (Greece Athena) put their solar module installation knowledge to work in the classroom.

Residential and Commercial Electrical students at the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center converted their knowledge and skills into industry-aligned power to make history.

Through a combination of traditional and practical learning, all 36 second-year electrical students became the first high school class in the country to be certified in Pitched Roof Comp-Shingle Solar Installation through IronRidge, an Esdec Solar Group company.

Areas of focus included installing solar panels using flush-mount racking systems, applicable electrical theory for sizing of a solar array, proper location of solar modules according to geographical area, and fall arrest systems. Hardware for the practical work was manufactured and provided by IronRidge.

Spencer Wright, a representative from IronRidge, visited the CTE Center to present the students with their certificates, as well as provide information about the company and additional hands-on training.

The following students earned this certification: Brockport students Isaiah Coutts, Victor Martinez, Ruvim Melenchuk, Aiden Onofreychuk and Joseph Trostle; Churchville-Chili students Troy Hemmerick, Ryan Holmes and Jonah Piatek; Gates Chili student Vinh Nguyen; Greece students John Andreano, Joseph Andreano, Angelo DeLucia, Marlon McCullough Jr., Devin Palma, Jacob Peacock, Jeffrey Pyles, Joseph Willis and Jacob Wood; Hilton students Jake Bischooping, Allison Burley, Eric Burton, Matthew Cudzilo, Alexander Haffen, Eli Lana, Scott Lingle, Angelo Marcello, Giovanni Marcello, Tyson Murante and Nathan Sidoti; and Spencerport students Jake Aina, Jacob Carr, Charles Diehl, Joseph DiLalla, Brady John, Austin Mitchell and Gavin Radell.

The required curriculum was integrated directly into the CTE program. Students mastered the knowledge and abilities related to solar module installations through direct instruction and applied learning opportunities.

“These students have put in the time and work to become certified in a high-demand trade,” said Mark Chase, one of two Residential and Commercial Electrical teachers at CTE.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the projected percent change in employment from 2021-31 for solar photovoltaic installers is estimated to rise 27%. Nationally, the average growth rate for all occupations is 5%.

“Students gained real-world experience throughout the certification process,” said Residential and Commercial Electrical teacher Michael Schmitt.



Students received their certificates from an IronRidge representative, and they are pictured here with Residential and Commercial Electrical teachers Michael Schmitt (far left) and Mark Chase (far right).

National Technical Honor Society Inducts 43 CTE Students

This fall, 43 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, students must demonstrate scholarship, citizenship, leadership, honesty, responsibility, skill and service; maintain an average of 88% or higher in CTE courses; and maintain high academic standing at their home schools to meet membership requirements. CTE students must be in good academic standing during their senior year, have an attendance record of 95%, have high standards of personal conduct (including at their home schools), receive a teacher endorsement, receive a letter of recommendation from their home schools, and strive for excellence in all aspects of their education and/or employment. The inductees are as follows: Adrian Bartz (Automotive Technology); Joseph Carrozzi, Tyler Chapin, Luke Cialdella, Jackson Gretzinger, Stephanie Maar, Sebastian Roman Rivera, Ryan Sanfilippo and Logan Staskiewicz (Carpentry); Tyana Burroughs and Julia Krueger (Child and Family Development); Lea Bender, Amya Gibson, Zinaria Gibson, Macaria Johnson, Michaila Moore and Laura Wallace (Cosmetology); Meghan Felice, Juliana Inclima, Corrina Leo and Gabriel Loran (Criminal Justice); Alyssa Ploufée (Dental Assisting); Katherine Zerrillo (Digital and Visual

Communication); Erin O'Hara, Caleb Quinn and Kai Staats (Exercise Science); Konstantinos Cowan (Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance); Iliya Prus (HVAC/Plumbing); Philip Bailey and Andrew Forest (Machining); Audrey Ciejek, Makayla Eldridge, Ahmed Shaibi and Amro Yehia (Nurse Assisting and Associated Health Careers); Allison Burley, Matthew Cudzilo, Charles Diehl, Marlon McCullough, Aiden Onofreychuk, Gavin Radell, Nathan Sidoti and Joseph Trostle (Residential and Commercial Electrical); and Cameron Kluth (Welding). Congratulations to all inductees!



CTE Expo is a Success

by Amanda Dedie

The halls of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center were crammed with parents, students and community members exploring their options at the annual CTE Expo. Students in grades 8-10 and their families previewed the CTE programs that would be available when these students begin 11th grade. From Advertising to Phlebotomy and Laboratory Science, prospective CTE students participated in hands-on activities that were available from each program. Current CTE students enjoyed showing the ropes to visitors. Cosmetology students displayed their styling supplies, carpentry students gave woodworking demonstrations, and future chefs made mouths water in the baking classrooms. Everyone was interested in exploring possible career paths for students.



CTE Tour Day

Prospective students from all of the BOCES 2 component districts visited Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs during the annual Tour Day in December. Current students in the programs volunteered at the event, including Criminal Justice students Corrina Leo (left, Hilton) and Arabella Stopani (right, Greece Olympia), who presented topics such as the physical demands of the program and possible job opportunities.

Demonstrations were the icing on the cake in many of the programs, including Baking. Cassidy Hennigan (Greece Athena) is using expert-level technique to pipe a buttercream rose at one of the stations. In the Cosmetology program, Maryn Zimmer (Greece Athena) demonstrated pin curls at one of the stations and gave visitors an opportunity to try creating curls themselves. In the



HVAC/Plumbing lab, Anthony DiCesare (center, Gates Chili) and Norman 'Tre' Sullivan III (right, Spencerport) gave brazing pointers to Churchville-Chili visitor Brayden Hoak (left).

Nurse Assisting and Associated Health Careers student Kiana Garner (left, Brockport) demonstrated the interactive immersive lab and put visitors' knowledge to the test.

Outdoor Powersports Technology Teacher Matt Wise (center) explained the first- and second-year units of study to Tour Day visitors. DeAndre Phelps (back left, Gates Chili) and Colton Lathrop (back right, Churchville-Chili) added their student perspectives to the presentation.

Agriculture is set to hatch in fall 2023 as one of the newest CTE programs. Work-Based Learning Coordinator Carisa Harding presented to prospective students about the exciting addition.



Their Superpower is Caring

by Chris Klem

Volunteers from Westview in the Department for Exceptional Children have been showing up all over the community this year, helping others and making a difference. They've been seen at Foodlink's Community Farm, Mount Hope Cemetery and Cameron Community Ministries. These youthful volunteers may not wear capes or leap tall buildings in a single bound, but they **are** heroes.



They were sighted again on Dec. 13 at Meals on Wheels. Students from the Westview 6:1:2 class and several staff members helped prepare and pack an amazing 470 meals for seniors. They also filled special holiday

boxes with non-perishable food items that were distributed to families for festive feasts at donation sites around Rochester. Their reward for all that hard work? A trip to Wendy's for a Frosty! Yum!



Meals on Wheels (www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org) depends on volunteers to help provide services for seniors allowing them to live independently and with dignity.

Strategic Plan Update

Westside Junior/Senior High Academy

Strategic Goal:

Customer Satisfaction

Key Strategies:

Recovery and Wellness Program

The Recovery and Wellness Program at Westside Academy is a special place where students in grades 7-12 seeking or continuing treatment for substance use disorder can find the support they need to reach their full potential and achieve educational success. The program combines the rigorous academic classes needed to earn a New York State Regents diploma with onsite substance use disorder counseling services, including individual counseling, group counseling, personalized treatment, and goal setting provided by Huther Doyle. Clinician Rebecca “Becca” Schooping is onsite full-time, and she is embedded with staff and students as part of the school community.



Schooping is an outpatient substance use disorder counselor who has been working in the field since 2019. She communicates with both students and families to keep them updated. With parental permission, she works with students who have a history of substance use or are currently experiencing issues related to substance use. Schooping and Huther Doyle offer a person-centered approach to treatment, which means that students guide the goals within the sessions in terms of their use. She provides education on substances and guidance to help students move toward their goals. There is no additional cost to the component districts for this service. The cost is covered through students' medical insurance.

Westside Academy students who are at risk of, or recovering from, substance use disorders may be referred by their home school districts using the current referral process in place for Westside Academy. Eligible students who are committed to recovery may be evaluated and enrolled less than a week after referral. Contact Martha Willis, administrator of Westside Academy, at 585-617-2550 for more information.

Thank You to Educational Foundation Sponsors

by Steve Dame

The 2022 Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation Celebration held on Nov. 19 was another huge fundraising success. More than 200 people attended the event that featured dinner, an online silent auction, a live auction and raffle. Two former Make All the Difference Scholarship recipients spoke: Stephen Nicolazzo, a 2019 BOCES 2 CTE graduate, and Kirsstin Althoff, a 2022 BOCES 2 CTE graduate. Attendees heard about the students' experiences and how scholarships helped them further their academic and career aspirations. The Foundation would like to thank this year's sponsors for their support:

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Human Services
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Ten Haken
Zoom Drain

Up and Running at The Ridgecrest Café

by Chris Klem

Not just anyone can work at the Ridgecrest Café. Only the most motivated, enthusiastic and well-prepared workers are hired to staff and manage this start-up enterprise, which is already on the road to business success.

For seventh and eighth graders at Ridgecrest Academy, getting their first job at the Café is a learning opportunity. Interested students go through all the steps any job seeker would navigate. They fill out a job application and answer tough job interview questions. They explain their qualifications and why they want the job. Along the way, they are coached by Ridgecrest Transition Specialist Kim Spagnola, who helps them prepare, shares tips and feedback, and explains how to navigate the difficult process of getting and keeping a job.

The Café is currently run by three student teams – each comprised of a Greeter, Order Taker and Cashier – who take turns keeping the business open every Wednesday morning from 9:10-11:10 a.m. This morning, Nick has many ideas on how to expand the student-run business. Jonathan straightens the merchandise to make it more attractive and prepares to take orders. Dashaun greets the first customer with a smile, offering help and explaining the pricing. He dashes over to the toaster to help prepare a bagel.

“The students are very responsible,” said Spagnola. “They understand the expectations they’ll be held to if they want to maintain employment, and they are eager to learn transferable work skills. They learn to work together as a team. They have ideas for new products and look for ways to increase sales.”

Each student has their own reason for getting involved. “I wanted to meet new friends,” said Dashaun. “My big brother has a job, so I wanted to see what it’s like.” Nick said, “I used to work at a store, so I’m familiar with a lot of this. It’s fun to be doing it again. I’m good at this!”



Customers can purchase a card that can be used for multiple visits, so they don’t have to remember to bring cash every time.



Students explain the pricing and take an order from their first customer of the day.

This is the second post-COVID-19 year for the Café, and Spagnola is hoping to see it grow if student interest remains high. In the meantime, these young professionals are learning important foundational skills that will serve them well as they prepare for the future.

Welcome to the Wake Up Café!

by Chris Klem

Start your day with smiles and your choice of coffee, hot chocolate or tea at the Wake Up Café at Exceptional Children Learning Center (ECLC).

From 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 12:30-1:30 p.m. every Friday and on rotating weekdays,

students from the Career Explorations class make sure the Café is open for business. The student-run snack bar is a favorite stop for many teachers and staff in the building. It even draws Career and Technical Education (CTE) Computer Technology teacher Steven Graham and his “digital gurus” all the way from the CTE Center for a break from their class, and a few snacks to support their fellow students’ enterprise.

The Career Exploration class members, who range in age from 15 to 22, decided on the Café offerings, which currently include a variety of chips, crackers and popcorn, in addition to hot and cold beverages. Sometimes the menu includes student-made hot breakfast pizza or sandwiches. The operation runs smoothly, with young entrepreneurs taking turns tracking inventory, taking orders, making coffee, collecting money and making change. Customer service is exceptional, as many repeat visitors are remembered and greeted by name.

“The Café is an opportunity for my students to apply many of the transferable job skills they are learning in the classroom,” said instructor Donna Graham. “Our personal cooking lessons have been useful in creating the new hot breakfast offerings. Understanding money, making a list and shopping, using kitchen equipment, tracking sales and inventory – all are valuable life and job skills. Our learners get a chance to work as a team with classmates, and customers are impressed with their friendliness and efficiency.”



Coffee is served with smiles and style: Students designed their own colorfully branded Wake Up Café aprons.



As one team member mans the coffee machines, another helps a group of student customers from the CTE Center.

Celebrating You Award Recipients

Staff reaching milestones of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 45 years of service were recognized at our annual Celebrating You employee recognition event on Dec. 1 in the Professional Development Center. This year, we honored

56 employees who have achieved a combined 880 years of service. The event also featured appetizers and desserts prepared by students in the Career and Technical Education culinary programs.



10 years of service: Front row, from left, Leslie Bradt, Arnold Marga, Allison Mason and Jill Slavny. Back row, from left, Stephanie Smyka, Jamie Wojtowicz and Stephen Dawe.

Not pictured: Deborah Gerlach, Thomas Picuch, Jennifer Raponi and Cynthia Wiler.



15 years of service: Front row, from left, Annette Archer, Laura Barboza, Jacqueline Bull, Martha Buseck-Fischer and Linda Harrington. Back row, from left, Thomas Noto, Maureen O'Connor-Maulfair, Karrie Freeman and Susan Swain.

Not pictured: Jeffrey Brucker, Yolette Gooding, Dina Gramlich, Richard Hancy, Toni Harmer, Colleen Holman, James Jenerson, Karen Lewis, Jeffrey Lootens, Lisa Mason, Jose Pagan, Carmella Rosso, Joann Russo, Deborah Sanders, Sharon Seman, Kimberly Stephenson, Amy Wood, Susan Woolaver and Loriann Zabawa.



20 years of service: Front row, from left, BOCES 2 Board President Dennis Laba (Gates Chili), Vicki DeVos and George Frisbee. Back row, from left, Paul Intini and Patricia Nesbitt.

Not pictured: Kathleen Quigley.



25 years of service: Front row, from left, Angela Nesci, Steven Roland and Kenneth Sharp. Back row, Melissa Trau.

Not pictured: Craig Duford, Mary Kaiser, Kelly Scott, Darlene Snyder, Ronald Valder and Eileen VanValkenburg.



30 years of service: Toni Gagnier.



45 years of service: Jo Anne Antonacci.

Condolences to:

Heather Calnan on the death of her grandmother; the family of **Dick Marvin** (retiree); the family of **Kathy Meskill** (retiree).

Sharp Named 2022 Crystal Apple Honoree

by Amanda Dedie

The people have spoken - "Ken Sharp is like the Gandhi of Exceptional Children."

That description, included in one of many nomination forms, may seem overexaggerated, but what else would you call someone who is one of BOCES 2's greatest leaders, successfully juggling social work, creating and overseeing impactful programming across multiple locations, mentoring supervisors, and presiding over the Administrators unions?

Ken Sharp, Supervisor at the Department for Exceptional Children and the 2022 Crystal Apple Recipient, started his career at BOCES 2 two decades ago, working in a mental health role at what was formerly the Alternative High School. From there, he rose through the ranks to supervisor, where he created and oversaw the development of the Therapeutic Day Program (TDP), which meets a critical need for youth in the area, and has evolved into classes across multiple sites.

"Ken has distinguished himself as a leader amongst leaders," said Supervisor Phil Ortolani in his nomination form. "Through these efforts and many others, Ken consistently goes above and beyond to create safe, supportive and collaborative environments for students and staff alike."

Sharp's numerous Crystal Apple nominations demonstrate his exceptional relationships with BOCES 2 coworkers, and they also reflect his relationships with students. His work at Taylor Elementary School in Spencerport with TDP and his role within the Department for Exceptional Children has made him a stand-out administrator with students.

Students refer to him as "Mr. Shark," and look forward to spending 1:1 breaks with him. He's been given the title "Best Principal Ever." Some teachers have even referred to him as a kind of Santa Claus to their students. Just walking into a classroom causes an equal amount of calm and chaos, as students clamor to engage with, and take walks and breaks with "Mr. Shark."

"I think the students value him more than any of the rest of us," said Assistant Director for the Department of Exceptional Children Nichole Outhouse.

"When reflecting on Ken's contributions to BOCES 2, some common themes presented themselves," noted Ortolani. "Demonstrating integrity, honesty and poise; forging partnerships built on trust and mutual respect; creating productive and welcoming environments through support, accountability, humor and persistence; and modeling an unwavering dedication to all students regardless of their background, challenges or life circumstances. Ken has made it an everyday habit to put these traits at the forefront of his work as an educator and leader."

"There is a feeling of support and understanding of the challenges that we feel in the workplace," said School Social Worker Laura Barboza. "He would never ask us to do something that he himself hasn't done. I appreciate that Ken does not micromanage me, but at the same time, I know I will be held accountable. He trusts that, as professionals, we will make the right choices and have our students' best interests at heart."

When accepting his award, Sharp humbly reflected upon his time serving BOCES 2. Going back to supervisors of years past, he said the advice he's received, the people he's worked with, and past Crystal Apple winners like Joe Kelly, Sue Pratt and Betsy Armes, helped him earn the Crystal Apple award.

"The stage was set for me to continue to give all the gifts that people have given to me," said Sharp. "My passion is to try to make sure we're supporting students and families, and the natural progression of that is to support the staff you work with. The people I work with, my administrative team, I'm in awe of you guys every day. I earned this award on behalf of everyone that supports us."



Making Lasting Memories

by Chris Klem



The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) classroom at Westview in the Department for Exceptional Children was filled with the sounds of saws and sanders in the weeks before the winter holidays. High school students cut out a small forest of plywood tree ornaments, each destined to be painted and decorated by the preschool students in BOCES 2 teacher Francesca Surace's class at English Village Elementary in Greece.

The older student craftsmen, guided by teacher Chris Kneller and Student Behavioral Assistant Doug Van Roo, became

experts in the safe and responsible use of power tools. They cut the tree shapes, drilled hanging holes for ribbon and carefully smoothed out all the rough edges so preschoolers could handle the trees safely. Westview students then packed up the ornaments to be sent to Surace's class. The young artists created beautiful ornaments to bring home to their families.

It's awesome to see collaborative projects like this that give students opportunities to use their time and talents to make special things happen for others – many thanks to the gifted students at Westview!



SLS is Opening Windows to New Worlds of Knowledge

by Chris Klem

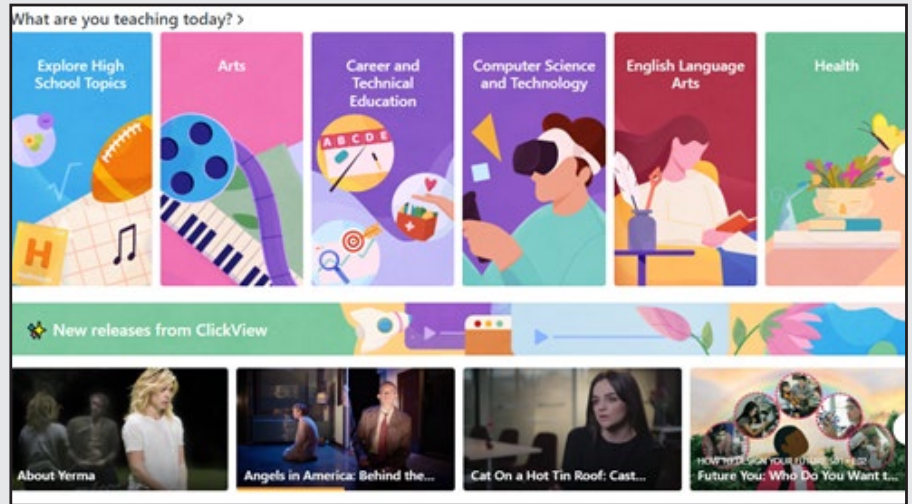
As teachers search for new ways to make lessons relevant, engaging and memorable, they are being guided by school librarians – fellow adventurers in education with access to a world of exciting resources. Their growing treasure trove of carefully curated resources is expanding every year, thanks to the efforts of the specialists in the BOCES 2 School Library System (SLS).

This year, another amazing tool has been added for schools in the BOCES 2 SLS: ClickView Streaming Video. ClickView is designed with K-12 teachers in mind. The videos are kid-friendly, organized by age group and subject matter, connected to standards and initiatives (like social-emotional learning), and easily searched. Many come with lesson plans and activities, built-in quizzing tools, pre-built interactives, and advanced analytics.

SLS Coordinator Jim Belair said, “Our **Media Library** has thousands of high-quality instructional videos that teachers can use with their students. This is not the same collection we had 10, or even five, years ago. In addition to the video content, teachers

can embed these videos into their instruction and create interactive assessments.”

ClickView joins other favorite SLS tools, like **Sora**, that gives teachers and students access to thousands of e-books and magazines, and **Panopto**, which enables video creation, storage and sharing. The SLS team offers **free online and in-person workshops** as well to help folks get started.



This Season of Giving Back Began with Westview Volunteers

by Chris Klem



The Westview team hard at work at Cameron Community Ministries.

over the years to help the Center prepare for the holidays. This year, the team filled food boxes for more than 100 community families with chicken or turkey, potatoes, eggs, stuffing, butter, veggies and bread. They cheerfully helped

Even one person can help make a community vibrant and loving. Students at Westview in the Department for Exceptional Children have learned that, and they are always ready to step up and lend a hand. In November, six student volunteers and four staff members visited Cameron Community Ministries in the Lyell-Otis Neighborhood of Rochester to prove they could make a difference.

Volunteering at Cameron has become a tradition for Westview students, who have been visiting regularly

carry the heavy boxes out to cars or assisted folks in filling their shopping baskets with more items from the Center's food pantry. In between, Westview helpers worked hard, carrying in new food donations from three different partner organizations and arranging them on tables.

Student volunteers enjoyed working together and were rewarded with knowing they helped make Thanksgiving a happier time for many in the community. They also earned Work Based Learning hours towards their elective credits in the classroom.

In addition to its emergency food pantry, Cameron Community Ministries serves free hot lunches daily, provides clothing and housewares, and runs afterschool and summer youth programs.



A rare break in the action for a group photo of Westview students and staff members.

10 Years of Holiday Connections

by Amanda Dedie

Holiday Connections is an annual donation drive conducted by BOCES 2 that focuses on meeting the most basic needs of BOCES 2 students, employees and their families during the holiday season.

Over the past decade, Holiday Connections has grown from a small group of folks helping a handful of families, to a months-long, organization-wide collaboration between departments, staff members and other local organizations, providing hundreds of necessities, gifts and holiday cheer to dozens of families.

“The idea for Holiday Connections originally started when it came to my attention, as well as the attention of others, that there were needs within the Department for Exceptional Children, especially around the holidays,” said District Superintendent Jo Anne Antonacci. “We quickly realized the need extended to many of our departments and programs, so we gave it the old college try.”

No one could have anticipated that “the old college try” would snowball from helping 11 families in 2012 to fulfilling a total of 305 Holiday Connections family wish lists over the course of 10 years.

“It is really heartwarming, fulfilling and overwhelming to know that our people, regardless of their own circumstances, are willing to share with others to the extent they have,” said Antonacci when reflecting upon that number. “Holiday Connections families are anonymous; donors don’t know them, have no personal connections, no reason to give. Yet, there’s never a question. Our staff always rise to the occasion.”

Throughout the months of November and December, Holiday Connections wish lists are posted to the employee portal website. Wish-listed items are far-ranging: sweatshirts or grocery store gift cards, perfume or toys. Few reminders are necessary – BOCES 2 employees are ready to contribute where needed, pitch in where there are gaps, and collaborate interdepartmentally to provide.

Martha Willis, Principal at Westside Junior/Senior High Academy, holds a front-row seat to Holiday Connections, as her department has one of the highest number of requests for assistance during the season. She has seen first-hand the results Holiday Connections has had on her students.

“The impact for both families and students has always been emotional,” said Willis. “Families who otherwise might not have a holiday are appreciative and thankful. Many of our families cannot afford special ‘wanted’ items. Some cannot even provide the needed items for their families for the holidays. Can you imagine how humbling it is for a family



to be able to accept the items collected, and do it with love and acceptance? Our students are so happy to receive these gifts. If only you could see the joy in their hearts, it would complete your holiday season.”

One of the reasons Holiday Connections has grown exponentially over the years are the bonds created within BOCES 2 itself. The personal relationships created through shared giving have raised more in donations and awareness than what could have been collected through individual efforts. The far-reaching hand of Holiday Connections leaves an impression on donors and recipients alike, long after the holiday season ends.

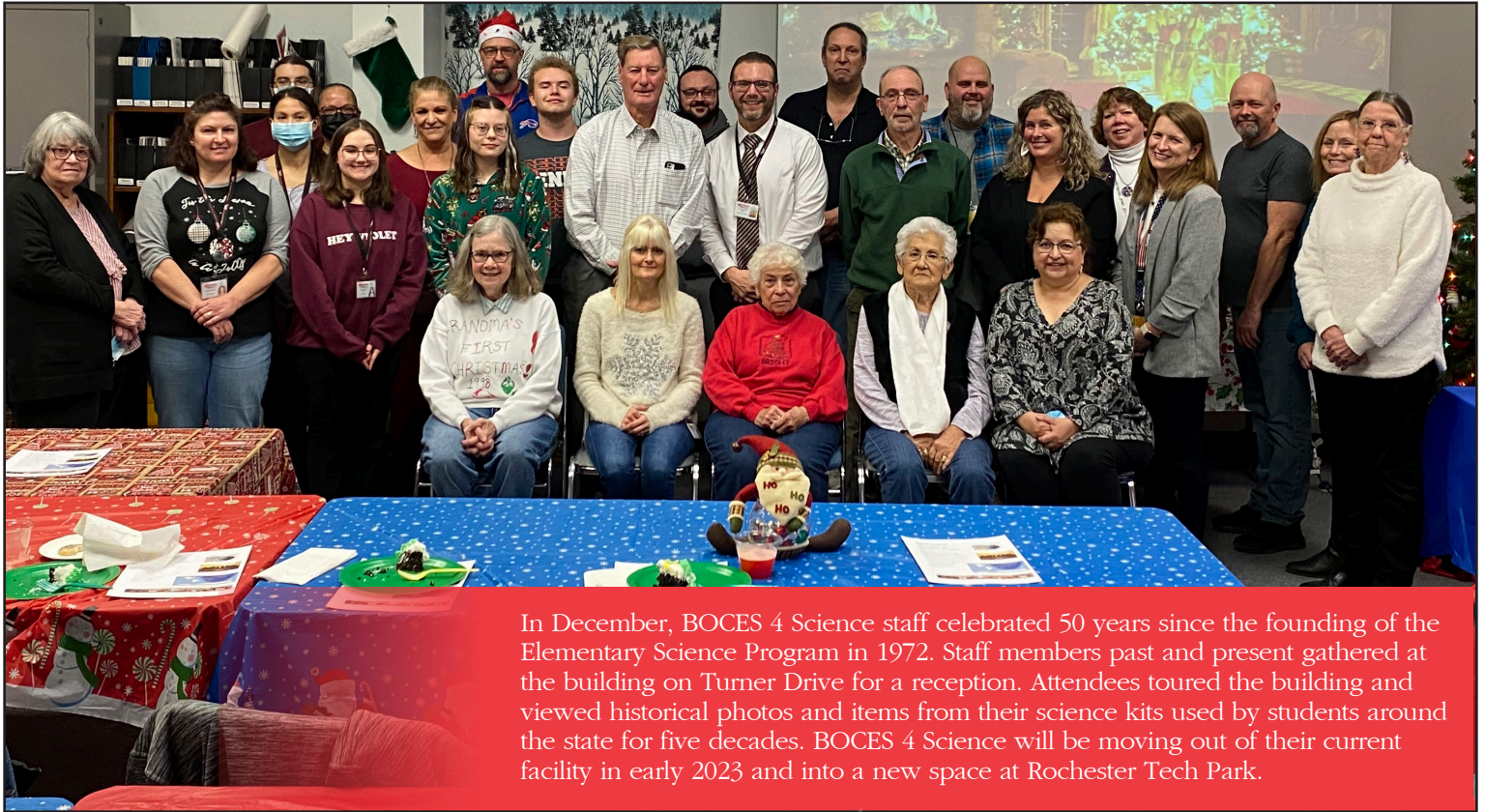
In 2021, a Holiday Connections family had been without hot water for at least six weeks, were cooking on one working stove burner and struggling to make ends meet. Staff members across BOCES 2 sprang into action. Enough money was donated to purchase a new stove. A new hot water tank was installed by the Center for Workforce Development’s HVAC instructor and two students. The family also received hundreds of dollars in gift cards and new household goods like silverware, pillows, a toaster oven, crockpot and clothing.

Brian Chaffee, Social Worker at the Department for Exceptional Children, has also seen many families through the Holiday Connections process. “Based on my front-row seat the past several years, I’m most impressed by the investment of time, energy, commitment and passion from those at BOCES 2 who make this such a success,” he said. “Plus, it’s amazing how people respond to those in need. I feel that our referred students this past year were pretty fortunate, given the charitable donations of a couple external sponsors/gift givers that may not have been part of this in the past. Several of our families have multiple children in our BOCES 2 system, so I’m thankful that they benefited in multiple ways during the holidays.”

“When you give in this way, the fulfillment in this type of generosity is its own gift,” said Antonacci. “As your District Superintendent, I am so proud of not only our daily work that we do, but the manner in which we treat one another and look out for one another. That in itself is a yearlong gift.”

Save the Date!

Join us for the Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES CTE Vendor and Craft Show on Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Career and Technical Education Center at 3589 Big Ridge Road, Spencerport, NY 14559. This fundraiser supports CTE students attending SkillsUSA competitions.



In December, BOCES 4 Science staff celebrated 50 years since the founding of the Elementary Science Program in 1972. Staff members past and present gathered at the building on Turner Drive for a reception. Attendees toured the building and viewed historical photos and items from their science kits used by students around the state for five decades. BOCES 4 Science will be moving out of their current facility in early 2023 and into a new space at Rochester Tech Park.

BOCES 2 Hiring Event

March 23
from 3-7 p.m.

Professional Development Center
3599 Big Ridge Rd., Spencerport, NY 14559



Immediate Openings Available:

Aides and SBAs with Business & Industry Experience

Audiologist

Clerical Positions

CTE Nurse Assisting Clinical Supervisor (RN)

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Meeting the Folks Who Keep Us Safe

by Chris Klem



On Dec. 9, Samantha Fowler's Hospitality and Applied Services (HaAS) class and Andrew Fowler's Career Skills Center (CSC) classes welcomed local first responders to the Exceptional Children Learning Center (ECLC). Representatives from the Gates Fire District, Monroe Ambulance and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office spoke about their

jobs and shared important guidance on how best to interact with first responders during an emergency.

Much of the conversation was centered around preparing for an emergency. The first responders encouraged everyone to create an emergency binder full of useful information that could be handed to a first responder upon their arrival. This information will help first responders know the best way to communicate and interact with the people they are responding to. A list of important people who need to be contacted is also useful in an emergency.

Following their presentations, the visitors brought out several hands-on items, including parts of their uniforms, tools and equipment, which students examined or tried on. Students even got to sit in a patrol car.

During the mid-day break, the visitors spoke with teacher Laura McNally's preschool class. The littlest students enjoyed the show-and-tell, especially trying on the fire helmets, gloves and smoke masks! Then, everyone shared pizza and more friendly interaction.

Thank you, Firefighter Kalli Herouvis, EMT Madi Ball and Deputy Jonathan Payne for your service, and for taking time out of your busy schedules to visit with these students.

(The BOCES 2 HaAS and CSC classrooms follow a curriculum that is designed around 20 key topics derived from the New York State Career Development and Occupational Studies Standards. During the months of November and December, classroom lessons, discussion, and activities focused on workplace appearance, health and safety.)



A Grand Finale for Fall 2022 Learning Unlimited

by Chris Klem



Learning Unlimited participants and their guests enjoying Banquet Night.

This fall's Learning Unlimited Banquet Night, the final event of the season, was made special thanks to the efforts of many, including the Hospitality and Applied Skills (HaAS) and Work-Based Learning (WBL) students, Chef Jeffery "Cheffory" McLean, teacher Samantha Fowler,

Job Training Specialist Diane Brickler, and Operations and Maintenance staff members.

Banquet Night is the most anticipated evening for all the friends in the Learning Unlimited program. The excitement for them began the week before, with a trip to Chef McLean's commercial bakery at the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center. There, program participants helped to prepare the desserts and cookies for the gala. They followed recipes, measured and mixed – all while learning proper kitchen etiquette and safety procedures.

At the Exceptional Children Learning Center, Fowler's HaAS class members have been learning restaurant and catering skills. They put their new talents to work, cleaning, sorting and rolling over 100 sets of silverware into cloth napkins in preparation for the party. On the evening of the dinner, they set beautiful tables for the expected guests.

Brickler's WBL class was busy, too. These talented students created 38 hand-printed t-shirts as gifts for the guests, each with a unique Learning Unlimited logo design.

The event itself featured a catered meal by Mangia Mangia and desserts made by the Learning Unlimited participants the week before. The tables were set perfectly, and the handmade gifts were a special surprise. It was a magical ending that brought friends together one more time to socialize, learn and have fun.

Learning Unlimited, a free 10-week program for adults with disabilities, provides an opportunity for group members to assemble 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 BOCES; 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 Spring 2023 program will begin in February. Questions? Please reach out to: Kimberly Stephenson kastephe@monroe2boces.org or Andrew Fowler afowler@monroe2boces.org.



A HaAS student preparing the napkins and silverware for the banquet.



A WBL student creating custom t-shirts.

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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.

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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.

Difference is What Makes Each of Us Precious

by Chris Klem

Folks in the Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Autism Services Department are celebrating neurodiversity with a beautiful new mural outside their offices created by Ridgecrest Academy's art teacher Bryce Doty.

The department would like to share this meaningful statement written by an autistic individual:

"The rainbow infinity symbol is the symbol of the Neurodiversity Movement. This is an ideology that suggests that innate brain differences are as much a part of human diversity as tallness or shortness. Difference is not a disease and should not be treated as such. Our society thrives best when we support all people to overcome their challenges and utilize their strengths. The gold infinity symbol is Autistic Unity (AU), positivity, acceptance and appreciation. Gold is used by autistic advocates, as the chemical symbol for gold is AU. The gold infinity symbol implies that autism is a permanent part of human society's genetic and ideological diversity. Further, autistic individuals have always been here and always will be. They are not broken, but precious and valuable."



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