

TOGETHER

Fall 2023

Back to School



CWD Kicks Off Fall Session of Career Training at Capacity

by Jennifer Merkel

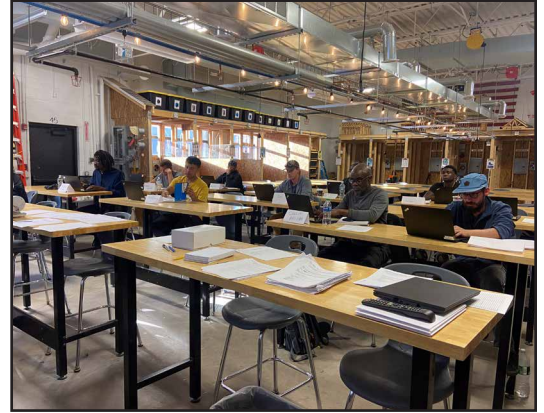
A year from now, more than 80 adult learners will look back on Sept. 19, 2023, as the day their careers began. That was the day the Center for Workforce Development's fall session began, providing students with valuable career training.

With class lists at full capacity, five CWD programs kicked off their sessions: Welding; Machining Fundamentals; Industrial and Mechanical Electrical; Electrical Fundamentals for the Construction Trades; and Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC/R). These programs provide participants with industry-aligned knowledge and skills through hands-on learning. In about four months, program graduates will be ready for in-demand careers.

These five programs are not the only CWD programs now in session. Over 40 additional adult students are working towards their career goals in programs that previously started, such as Commercial Driver Training – Class B; Phlebotomy and Lab Services; Residential Construction; and Licensed

Practical Nurse (LPN) Preparation. Additionally, Dental Office Assisting Fundamentals began its fall session later in September.

In total, CWD offers 13 career training programs with start dates primarily in the fall and spring. Enrollment for spring has already begun. To obtain more information and start career training, visit www.monroe2boces.org/start.



School Board Recognition Week

School Board Recognition Week was Oct. 16-20, 2023. Thank you to the members of the BOCES 2 board for all you do to support our community.



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SAME Gives Students Insight into Advanced Manufacturing Careers

by Jennifer Merkel

WEMOCO Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center was one of two locations for the Summer Advanced Manufacturing Experience (SAME). High school students in the three-week program learned industry-aligned techniques, and they earned three college credits for free!



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Career Ventures

by Jennifer Merkel

Career Ventures took place at WEMOCO Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center over the summer. The six-week paid summer career exploration program was for young adults looking to learn culinary and hospitality skills while earning money at the same time. This program was offered through a partnership with RochesterWorks, Inc.



Summer at the Center a Success in its Third Year

by Taylor Young, Outreach Assistant

This summer, the Center for Workforce Development offered eight different summer camps at the WEMOCO Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center. Each camp was designed to provide young people with a unique opportunity to explore potential career paths and develop new skills.

Spark Camp was a chance for campers to experience the world of welding and metalwork. They learned the basics of gas metal arc welding (GMAW), and how to shape and cut metal using state-of-the-art equipment. Safety procedures and techniques for grinding metal, making a T-joint, and putting beads on a metal plate were also covered.

Camp Fender Bender gave campers a chance to explore the world of autobody repair. Students learned about auto detailing, dent repair, refinishing and body shop safety. This camp was perfect for those interested in working on cars and learning how collision shops can make a car or truck look brand-new again after an accident.

Junior Police Academy provided cadets with an insider view of crime scene investigation, patrol tactics and reality-based scenarios. They were introduced to various law enforcement services provided to the community, including traffic stops, DWI enforcement, fingerprinting, and search and rescue. Live demos allowed students to participate in the action and learn what it takes to become a police officer.

Camp "Get Ready" introduced students to the world of professional haircare and styling. Campers learned how to shampoo, condition, blow dry, curl, and braid using various techniques and current trends. This camp was a great opportunity for those considering a career in Cosmetology.

Down on the Farms was perfect for those who enjoy working with animals and plants. Campers had hands-on experience as they explored careers across the agricultural

field from farm to table. They connected with professionals in the industry and learned about the importance of agriculture in our daily lives.

Camp International Flavor offered a tasty hands-on experience as campers prepared a variety of menu items in a professional kitchen. Each day featured the cuisine of a different country. Campers were encouraged to share recipes from home that fit the theme of the day. Participants learned cooking techniques and proper handling of kitchen equipment. On the final day, families were invited in to share a meal prepared by the campers.

Camp "Hammer" Head introduced campers to the fun of carpentry design and building. Students sharpened their skills of measuring, cutting, building and finishing as they created their own projects to take home as reminders of the experience.

Finally, Baking Bootcamp allowed young foodies to get hands-on experience making cookies, cakes with buttercream icing, breads, pizza and more. Campers were provided with tried-and-true recipes, and they learned safe food handling techniques, proper kitchen equipment operation and how to convert recipes. This camp was perfect for those interested in exploring the world of baking and culinary arts.

Overall, these summer camps provided young people with opportunities to explore potential career paths in an engaging way. Whether it was welding, autobody repair, law enforcement, haircare, agriculture, international cuisine, carpentry or baking, there was something for everyone. These camps truly allowed students to broaden their horizons and discover new passions.



Communication Services Wins 11 NYSPRA Awards

Members of the BOCES 2 Communication Services were recently selected as winners in the 44th Annual New York School Public Relations Association (NYSPRA) Communication Awards. The group won a total of 11 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 their 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 Ashley Decker, Amanda Dedie, Kelly Hubbard, Nicole Mauro, Jennifer Merkel, Beth Nash, Abbey Noble and Gretchen Spittler; Digital Media Technician Anthony Puleo; and Graphic Designer Lisa Constantine. 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 distinct categories, and the entries are judged by communication professionals



Winning photo by Kelly Hubbard, Merit

across the country. In 2023, 492 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 Newsletter
 - *Merit*, Gates Chili CSD District Newsletter – Budget Issue (Gates Chili), **Abbey Noble**, **Lisa Constantine**; Iva Petrosino, APR, Director of Communications; Dr. Mitchell Ball, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Excellence in Writing
 - *Excellence*, Holocaust Survivor’s Story Inspires History Lessons (Holley), **Nicole Mauro**
 - *Honor*, My Fitness Buddy and Me, (BOCES 2) **Jennifer Merkel**
 - *Merit*, Students Soar at Camp Rising Hawk for Second Summer (Holley), **Nicole Mauro**
 - *Merit*, Meet the New MS/HS Principal: Matthew Feldman (Holley), **Beth Nash**
- Photograph
 - *Excellence*, Engaging Experiments (Brockport), **Ashley Decker**
 - *Excellence*, I Almost Chose a Different Photo (Lyndonville), **Amanda Dedie**
 - *Honor*, GLOW Brick Layer (Byron-Bergen), **Gretchen Spittler**
 - *Merit*, Fun in the Sun Race (Byron-Bergen), **Gretchen Spittler**
 - *Merit*, Dudley Playground Fun (Fairport), **Kelly Hubbard**
- Video
 - *Excellence*, Welcome to Kindergarten at Gates Chili (Gates Chili), **Abbey Noble** and **Anthony Puleo**

CTE Open House

by Jennifer Merkel

Career and Technical Education (CTE) families and students attended the annual Open House on Sept. 28 at the WEMOCO CTE Center. Attendees connected with teachers and staff while exploring the CTE student experience, including academics, certifications and work-based learning. Families toured the theory and laboratory spaces where students learn and apply industry skills. Information about leadership opportunities through WEMOCO Student Organizations was also available.



BOCES 2 Begins Community Schools Initiative by Hiring Regional Coordinator

by Beth Nash



Joe Fantigrossi is the new Regional Community Schools Coordinator at BOCES 2. He comes to the organization with 27 years of experience working in education. He started as a high school social studies teacher, then became an instructional supervisor, assistant principal at middle school and high school levels, and a high school

principal. He spent the last nine years doing Community Schools work in Seneca and Wayne Counties.

In his new role, Fantigrossi will guide local school districts in forging deeper relationships with community agencies and government departments. Districts can purchase the Community Schools services under a new Co-Ser. He works with both Monroe One and BOCES 2 component districts, and he is starting his work this year with Churchville-Chili, Gates Chili, Greece and East Irondequoit districts, who are all at different levels of development. He said Churchville-Chili, East Irondequoit and Gates Chili are in the early stages of development, while Greece is in year seven of implementation.

In an interview, Fantigrossi provided more details on Community Schools and what he hopes to have happen if Monroe County districts purchase this service.

What are Community Schools?

“Community Schools are connections. It’s place-based and person-centered. It’s a different way of thinking; it’s developing a strategy. It must be able to meet evolving needs. Some of the biggest concerns in districts are meeting basic needs, like food security, housing, out of school time programming and physical health (dental, mammograms, etc.) needs. School districts can’t provide everything, but they can host various agencies coming in, such as offering mobile mammograms or dental clinics on site.”

How are schools going to provide these services to their communities?

“Schools will act as a hub of services for their students and families. There are a lot of resources in Monroe County that are not well-known, so I hope to make those more available to districts and help schools forge partnerships with these agencies. I want district staff to be aware of what is available and have confidence in referring people to those resources. One of the determining factors for whether to offer services on campus or off depends on the size of the need; if it’s for a large group of people, it would be offered on-campus, but if it’s for individuals, it would be offered off-campus.”

Why would a district purchase the Community Schools Co-Ser?

“From a district’s perspective, they assess what their assets

and needs are for their students. Districts try to leverage their assets to meet student needs, but there are some things they can’t provide. I help them find partners to meet those needs. I also want to help districts pare down any duplication in services so that resources are streamlined.”

What is the goal of having Community Schools in each district?

“My goal is for each district to have a Community School Coordinator. The Coordinators would conduct needs and asset assessments in their districts, providing them with facts and data to drive their decisions, not assumptions. Schools utilize a tiered intervention system, known as Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), to effectively match students with interventions that meet their needs. After students’ needs are assessed, data is collected on their academic performance and practices put into place to address those needs. When determining what practices to use, different options are explored; they can be research-based, restorative or reflect the culture of the school community, whatever meets their needs. For example, I had one district form a partnership with Hobart and William Smith Colleges. College students tutored the high school students, helping the younger students raise their grades.”

Does Community Schools address dignity, equity and inclusion standards?

“The principles behind Community Schools are to be: culturally responsive, trauma informed, community based, research based, restorative and driven through MTSS work. That is also the equity strategy behind it. Teachers can’t teach without data. At the same time, to be a teacher is to be an artist. Teachers understand nuance and context, and they reflect that back when interacting with students. If the relationships with their students don’t work, the evidence doesn’t matter. One of the biggest risk factors for students is their lack of attachment to school, which leads to harmful behaviors both in and out of school. I’ve found that mentoring helps them build attachments. It works both ways, for the student and the teacher. If you offer people a chance to make purposeful connections, they won’t be able to stop making them. You just need to get them started.”

Does Community Schools have geographic restrictions?

“Most government-provided services (DSS, Public Health, Probation, etc.) are provided at the county level in New York State. County-wide Community Schools coalitions have been formed in Onondaga, Ontario, Seneca and Wayne Counties to create collective impact and align with how the state provides other services. In Monroe County, we are part of an association called the Thruway Coalition, which stretches from Buffalo to Schenectady. It includes city, suburban and rural schools. BOCES 2 is currently acting as a convener for Monroe County Community Schools, with leadership of the group to be determined over its next several meetings.”



ESY Students Engaged in a Variety of Activities This Summer



by Chris Klem

Summer students at Westview took a walking field trip to practice some of the life skills they perfected in the Extended School Year (ESY) program. Each of them ordered and paid for lunch, and then had fun eating together.



They also did some serious science activities, exploring nature and the world around them. Curious students learned about crayfish and owl pellets, and how a sheep's heart functions.



Summer fun included learning practical cooking and baking skills. Students made treats like brownies, pizza, apple pie turnovers, loaded fries and venison burgers.



Every day of the summer program was filled with arts and crafts, fun and learning! Creative students made a wide variety of colorful cards, buttons and scenic artwork.



In addition to all the life skills and learning, participants enjoyed special Spirit Days – wearing favorite sports team apparel or dressing like characters, including Baby Yoda.



PUSH Physical Theatre visited ESY classrooms at Westview and Taylor Elementary School (ES), inviting students to build confidence and self-esteem through expressive, creative movement. It was play with a purpose, and students put their own creative spin on it!



Visitors from the Spencerport Fire District spent time with several classes at Taylor ES. They gave students a tour of the engine and explained all the firefighting tools.



Condolences to:

Karyn Audycki on the death of her aunt and godmother; the family of **Dee Ann Parker** (retiree); the family of **Charles Purvee** (retiree); **Steven Suski** on the death of his sister-in-law; and **Melissa Weeks** on the death of her brother-in-law.

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Past issues are also housed at this location.



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BOCES 2 at NYSSBA Convention

BOCES 2 students, staff and board members traveled to Buffalo for the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) Convention and Expo from Oct. 26-28. Career and Technical Education students staffed a booth on the convention floor, and they drew praise from attendees for their engaging manner and knowledge of their programs.

Pictured, from left, Assistant Principal Robert Hill, BOCES 2 Board President Dennis Laba (Gates Chili), McKayla Wolff (Brockport), Instructional Specialist Steve Thorndike, Malia Sainpaulin (Wheatland-Chili), Sage Anstey (Kendall), Culinary Arts Teacher Jeffery McLean, Keith Wyatt (Gates Chili), Benji Colon (Greece), Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Programs Tom Schulte, Henry Laraby (Greece), BOCES 2 Board Member Michael May (Spencerport), Career in Agriculture Teacher Leah Mould, Madeline LaVair (Wheatland-Chili), BOCES Board Vice President Chuck Phillips (Greece), and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Dr. Marijo Pearson.



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 services, employment, 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:
Assistant Superintendent for 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.

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