

TOGETHER

Winter 2024

Chorbajian Named 2023 Crystal Apple Honoree

By Ashley Trevor



What characteristics does a Crystal Apple Award recipient possess? For 2023 Crystal Apple Award Honoree Mary Etta Chorbajian (pronounced “chore-baa-jin”), compassion, collaboration and critical thinking were the traits cited in the nominations that poured in for her, earning her one of the most prestigious honors a BOCES 2 staff member can receive.

Chorbajian began her career as a speech therapist in 1979, with a student teaching placement at BOCES 2. With over four decades of experience in the Department for Exceptional Children, she has become an invaluable asset to the organization.

“Mary Etta is a wonderful team member who gives everything to her students and her team,” said Special Education Teacher Amanda Cupido. “She goes above and beyond to make sure everyone is supported.”

During her time with BOCES 2, Chorbajian has worked with every age group, from preschoolers to students in the Transition Program. Her work includes providing individual therapy to students, group instruction and program design. She was also an integral member of the team that developed the embedded speech service model that is currently used in the Transition Program.

“Mary Etta appreciates that students have different learning styles, and she makes sure to capture her students’ attention in different ways,” said School Counselor Sherri Micheli. “Her commitment to student success is truly noteworthy.”

Her students appreciate that commitment. Student Behavioral Assistant Patricia James said, “She has a gift of teaching that no one else has ... each and every one of her students just love her!”

Chorbajian was introduced by Special Education Teacher Andrew Fowler at Celebrating You, the annual employee recognition event. “Mary Etta has set the bar so high for educational professionals, not only within our district, but within the profession,” said Fowler. “She is a role model whom her peers continue to look up to.”

Chorbajian accepted the award surrounded by her biggest supporters: family, friends and colleagues. “BOCES 2 is built on the idea of cooperation,” said Chorbajian in her acceptance speech. “I’ve always benefitted from the support provided by my classroom and union teams, both past and present. I’ve worked with some incredible individuals. It would have been impossible to do this job for over 44 years without my coworkers valuing collaboration, respect, creativity, honesty, open communication and friendship.”



Celebrating You Award Recipients

Staff reaching milestones of 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service were recognized at our annual Celebrating You employee recognition event on Nov. 30 in the Professional Development Center. This year, we honored 64 employees who have achieved a combined 1,085 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, Shannon Alvarado, Karyn Audycki, Scott Barnard, Tara Bateman and Elizabeth Ramzy. Back row, from left, Laurie Fillion Dietz, Catherine Gartland, Christine Klem, Tynisa McCullough, Linda Rice, Jay Terkel and Stephen Thorndike.

Not pictured: Anne Henderson, Mary Kirkpatrick, Katrina Miller, Terrence O'Brien and Katie Wingrove.



15 years of service: Front row, from left, Alicia Coleates, Cassandra DiPasquale and Cynthia Hazen-Williams. Back row, from left, Nathaniel Parker and Julie Masters.

Not pictured: Tammy Allen, Matthew Baldassare, Michael Bray, Lynnette Brookes, Walter Burrows, Kelly D'Angelo, Krystal Eichas, Michael Federico, Mackenzie Garcia, Cynthia Neil-Webster, Colleen O'Connor, Terrence Rollins, Shaun Stocking, Amanda Young and Lisa Zobel.



20 years of service: Front row, from left, Jennifer Carlenius, Charlotte Gage, Donald Heinz and Mari-Ellen Maloney. Back row, from left, Raymond Miller, Kristin Palmer and Bonnie West.

Not pictured: Mark Donnelly, Christine Ferguson, Stephen Luce, Kenneth Maley, Sandra Manetta, Patti Schmitt and Christine Wydra.



25 years of service: Front row, from left, Vicki Brew, Heather Case, Felicia Dell' Oso-Snyder, Gina Deskins-Garczynski and Shawna Gareau-Kurtz. Back row, from left, Paula Green, Steve Frisbee, Ardelle Hurst and Susan O'Gara.

Not pictured: Lisa Ruggles and Robert VanWinkle.

30 years of service:

Not pictured: Mark Laubacher and Deborah Walton.

Westview Welcomes New Supervisor

by Chris Klem



Since its inception, Westview in the Department for Exceptional Children has quietly developed its own unique educational community. Expectations for learning here are rigorous, but students are supported in their

efforts by the positive relationships they have with staff and peers. Westview's new supervisor, Lawanda Brown, says her mission is to build on and expand these relationships. She hopes to help the school become "a stable entity with consistent leadership and high academic standards, with social-emotional development and restorative practices being our top priorities."

Brown comes to BOCES 2 with 23 years of experience in the Rochester City School District, where she was the Assistant Director for Special Education, an assistant principal and teacher. She knows the ins-and-outs of school administration, how students learn, and what Individualized

Education Program (IEP) services look like in real-life. She also knows how to calmly defuse difficult situations, without being tough on students.

"Westview is a restorative school, not a disciplinary program," said Brown. "The mission is to make our halls a safe place where students with complex needs can feel empowered to build capacity within themselves to engage, work out problems, learn, set goals and move forward in life."

Brown knows that success will take the proverbial village: the combined forces of staff members, families and students.

"Regardless of the program, our amazing Westview staff are fully committed to making social-emotional development a cornerstone of every day," she said. "They work as a team to help students acquire and practice regulation strategies, and get ready to learn. Together, they've made the school a safe and nurturing environment where students want to be."

Parents and families are vital partners, and Brown was happy to meet so many of them in her first few months. "Working together makes us more effective," she said. "For instance, sometimes a student in crisis just needs to hear the familiar voice of a parent on the phone."

Westview students have an important role to play, too. "They have school spirit and contribute to the sense of community here," Brown said. "They support each other. Older students build mentoring relationships with younger ones. We encourage all of them to participate in planning committees; to be thoughtful, share their ideas and help drive the direction of their school."

Brown is clearly happy to be at Westview. She said, "Our goal is to hear our students and see them, wherever they are. When a student is having a rough day, it doesn't throw me. I'm just thankful that I'm here to help them." She smiled and added, "When a student who is normally quiet and withdrawn lets out an unrestrained belly laugh, I will gladly take that light moment. I think that's how you know you are in the right place."

Sleight is New Director of Operations & Maintenance

by Beth Nash



Travis Sleight (pronounced "slate") began his position as the new Director of Operations & Maintenance (O&M) on July 19, 2023, assuming the role after long-time director Tom Burke retired on July 1. Sleight is responsible for the

physical environment at BOCES 2, both inside and outside, making sure all facilities are clean and in working order for students and staff to use. He manages various projects and designs new spaces, evaluating equipment for resiliency and spaces for functional long-term use. He also makes sure BOCES 2 facilities are following building and fire codes, and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations.

Sleight comes to BOCES 2 with eight years of experience working for Monroe Community College in roles such as Director of Physical Plant and Energy Manager. Before that, he worked for a private company that supported K-12 schools and their utility needs. He also spent time working in

his family's small business when he was a young adult. Sleight has a degree in Engineering and Management from Clarkson University.

His goals for his position include having his team fully staffed, increasing their morale and ensuring they understand they're making significant contributions to BOCES 2. He wants to build processes and have all systems documented, helping them function better as a team. He would like O&M to have space in one of the BOCES 2 buildings; right now, he is working out of a trailer in the Big Ridge campus parking lot. Sleight is actively searching for new spaces to put BOCES 2 programs in, as many are outgrowing the buildings in which they are currently located.

He likes the small business, close-knit feel that BOCES 2 has. He sees the staff as being very connected to each other and feels like that helps make change possible. "I've worked in larger companies where it's very hard to affect change," he said. "At BOCES 2, if I see something that needs changing, it's easier to talk to people and work with them to make that change happen. In this business, time really is money, so if we can work more efficiently and make the environment more functional, then let's do it!"

NOW HIRING!

BOCES 2 OFFERS:

- Competitive pay
- Exceptional benefits
- Paid training
- Tuition reimbursement
- NYS pension eligibility
- Many positions include summers and school breaks off
- Work with amazing students and dedicated, caring staff members

Scan code or
find out more at:
www.monroe2boces.org/jobs



Questions? Contact Karen Brown at
kbrown@monroe2boces.org or (585) 352-2420

Thank You to Educational Foundation Sponsors

by Steve Dawe

The 2023 Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation Celebration held on Nov. 18 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: Molly Hong, a 2022 BOCES 2 CTE graduate, and Meghan Felice, a 2023 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:



From left, speakers Meghan Felice and Molly Hong.

Platinum Level

Aramark
Gallagher Benefit Services
Rochester West Central Kiwanis Club
SPX Flow

Gold Level

Campus Construction Management Group
Harris Beach PLLC
LaBella Associates
Precision Properties, LLC/
George Pietropaolo

Crimson Level

BDP Wealth Management/Keith Bock
Flaherty, Salmin CPAs
Fusion Digital
Home Instead Senior Care
Laborer's Local 435/LECET
The Legend Group/Dominic Velardi
M & T Bank
Mengel Metzger Barr
Joyce Metcalf
Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES
Teachers' Association
R.G. Timbs, Inc.
Sue Rizzo
SEI Design Group
Sortino Properties
SWBR

Bronze Level

Jo Anne L. Antonacci
AP Plumbing
Dr. Susan J. Brannen
Corporate Flooring Innovations
Day Automation
Kathleen and Jeffrey Dillon
The Dobbertin and Oliveri Families
Bernie P. Donegan, Inc.
Tod and Maura Eagle
Equitable Advisors, LLC/Lucas Yankloski
Fastech Electric LLC
Gaetano's Bakery and Catering
Kathleen Graupman
The Hochreiter Family
Joe and Diane Kelly
Deb and Jerry Leh
Lipari Insurance Agency LLC
The Manuse and Trapani Families
Mindex Technologies

Mondavi Design
Nazareth University
John Ninfo
NYSIR
Linda O'Laughlin
Parkland Somerset Group LLC
Dr. Marijo Pearson and Family
Michael Place, AIA
Ralph Honda
Red Fedele's Brook House
Regional Distributors
Dr. Michelle Ryan and Family
Sage Ruttly
St. John Fisher University
SixPoint Financial Partners
Dr. Bernadette Skobjak
SUNY Brockport School of Education, Health
and Human Services
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Ten Haken



Condolences to:

Victoria Dunning on the death of her father; **Karen Gallagher** on the death of her mother-in-law; **Christopher Gold** on the death of his father.

Families & Future Students Take Advantage of Two Opportunities to Visit CTE

by Jennifer Merkel

EXPO Night

On Nov. 16, the WEMOCO Career and Technical Education Center was abuzz with families, potential students, district counterparts and industry partners for CTE EXPO Night. Thousands of grades 8-10 students and their families were invited to explore the breadth of CTE offerings. Guests were able to experience the in-demand skill training that occurs through applied learning, speak with CTE staff in the applied learning environments, tour the industry-aligned lab spaces, and hear from current students and alumni.



Welding students speak with a family member visiting the CTE center during EXPO Night.



As a student sees what it feels like at the wheel, Heavy Equipment Operations and Maintenance aide Steve Donlon discussed the program with family members.



At left, Dental Assisting student McKenzie Coyle (Hilton) discusses the tools of the trade during EXPO Night.



Industry partners from Triple O Heating, Cooling, Electrical and Plumbing were on hand in the HVAC classroom to answer questions about the field.

Additional Opportunities to Experience CTE Before Enrollment

Students can participate in CTE-related offerings to experience the unique and interactive learning opportunities, such as:

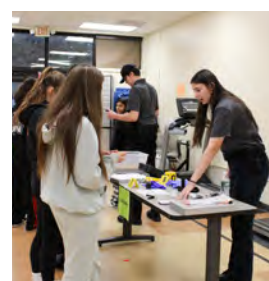
- **Summer at the Center:** Students entering grades 7-9 in fall 2024 can enroll in career exploration summer camps in areas such as construction, culinary and cosmetology. Registration opens February 2024: www.monroe2boces.org/summer
- **SAME:** The Summer Advanced Manufacturing Experience (SAME) allows students to learn machining tools and skills while earning college credits. Applications open spring 2024: www.monroe2boces.org/same
- **Career Ventures:** BOCES 2 teams up with RochesterWorks to offer a six-week paid career exploration program each summer at WEMOCO. Monroe County residents ages 14-15 who meet financial eligibility may apply: www.monroe2boces.org/careerventures

Tour Day

Regular classes were not in session for CTE students on Dec. 1. However, many current students reported to WEMOCO to help the next wave of CTE students learn more about their programs on Tour Day. An annual event held in December, Tour Day is for students in grade 10 anticipating CTE enrollment in the next school year. This event assists students in making an informed decision about CTE after they visit two classrooms and participate in modified class sessions. They can also interact with current and former students, listening to first-person CTE experiences. While prospective students took part in the program visits, district staff visited many classrooms and attended tours that provided information on all programs and courses.



Baking student Maddy Baird (Wheatland-Chili) demonstrated how to crumb coat and frost a cake to Tour Day visitors.



Criminal Justice student and class lieutenant Trisha Stubbings (Gates Chili) showcased crime scene investigation lab gear and props to prospective students.



Dental Assisting student McKenzie Coyle (Hilton) left an impression on her group as she led them through how to make dental impressions.

BOCES 2 CTE Inducts Largest NTHS Class in Chapter History

Seventy-three students were honored for their career and technical education (CTE) achievements during the BOCES 2 CTE National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) Induction Ceremony on Nov. 28. This is the largest class of honorees BOCES 2 CTE has ever inducted.

To be a member of NTHS, students must adhere to the seven tenets: skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship and leadership. Criteria includes: an 85% or above average in their CTE program; an excellent attendance record; a high standard of personal conduct in their home school and at CTE; a CTE teacher recommendation; and being on track to complete both their CTE program and graduate at the end of the second year of their CTE program.

All nine component districts of BOCES 2 are represented with students inducted into NTHS. Inducted students are enrolled in the following CTE programs: Advanced Manufacturing; Auto Body and Collision Repair Technology; Automotive Technology; Carpentry; Child and Family Development; Computer Technology; Cosmetology; Criminal Justice; Culinary Arts; Dental Assisting; Digital and Visual Communication; Exercise Science; Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance; HVAC/Plumbing; Medical Laboratory Assisting and Phlebotomy; Nurse Assisting and Associated Health Careers; Outdoor Powersports Technology; Residential and Commercial Electrical; and Welding.

For a complete listing of all students inducted into NTHS, visit <https://www.monroe2boces.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=50YYUY&dasi=3PGB>. Congratulations to all inductees!



A Party for People Who Love Books



by Chris Klem

It's probably safe to say that no one loves books more than librarians. This year, BOCES 2 School Library System (SLS) is offering school librarians the opportunity to earn Professional Development (PD) credits by doing what they love most – reading books.

So far this school year, about 45 librarians from Monroe One and BOCES 2 school districts have read more than 70 recently published books for kids of all ages as part of the Book Party PD training class. They've shared thoughtful book reviews for peers to use when deciding what titles to add to their own library collections. Each book receives a score of one to five "Party Hats," accompanied by detailed feedback. This includes suggested age groups of readers, content advisories, personal responses, suggestions for related activities and occasional light-hearted remarks such as, "I have no idea what I expected when I selected this book, but the story I read was not it." Take a look at more reviews here:

<https://libguides.monroe.edu/bookparty23-24>

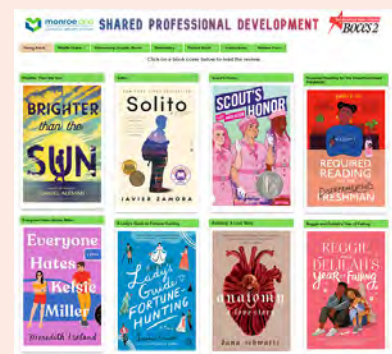
"I love how participating in the Book Party encourages me to seek out newer titles," said Hilton Library Media Specialist Emily McFarlane. "It sometimes feels overwhelming trying to keep up with the amazing titles coming out left and right, but this experience is helping me to find the next great read to share with my students!"

Brockport Library Media Specialist Lisa Rice said, "I love finding new books recommended by my fellow librarians through the Book Party. Sometimes I purchase the books for my library, and other times I purchase them for myself! It has been fun being a part of this group, plus it gives me a good excuse to keep on top of my J (juvenile) and YA (young adult) reading!"

The collaborative efforts of class co-facilitators Monroe One BOCES Library Services staff member Liesl Toates and BOCES 2 Media Specialist Lindsay Neumire have resulted in an impressive grouping of reviewers from across the region. As Neumire explained, the Book Party

is still open and school librarians can jump in at any time during the school year. There will be an optional gathering in June to give participants a chance to meet each other face-to-face and talk about books. BOCES 2 SLS is putting the reviews to good use as they choose exciting new titles to add to the Sora online library.

"The best thing about Book Party is that it is just all about pure book joy – reconnecting our librarians with why they wanted to be a librarian in the first place," said Neumire.



BOCES 2 Gets in the Holiday Spirit by Helping Others

BOCES 2 students and staff participated in various outreach efforts to help the community this holiday season.

CTE SkillsUSA students solidified their spot on the nice list as they helped impact more than 1,200 families in Monroe County by volunteering at The Salvation Army USA of Greater Rochester toy shop on Dec. 20. Students checked in visitors, guided them through the shop and made their holiday season a bit brighter.



BOCES 2 partnered with Rochester West Central Kiwanis to organize a toy drive to benefit the Friendship Children's Center, Inc. The Toy Drive ran from the beginning of November through Dec. 11. Donation boxes were located throughout the BOCES 2 organization to collect toys. The boxes were collected on Dec. 12, and members of the Kiwanis picked up the toys for delivery to the Friendship Children's Center, Inc.

More than 100 festive folks attended the annual SEPTO Breakfast with Santa event on Dec. 2. In addition to a delicious meal of eggs, pancakes and sausages prepared by the fabulous volunteers from the West Central Kiwanis, visitors enjoyed crafts, face painting, a jaunty sing-a-long with Music & Art Therapy Department Director Chris Gold and, of course, a chance to talk to the big guy himself, Santa Claus!



Students in the Department for Exceptional Children joined staff members in sorting and packing items collected during the BOCES 2 Fall Food Drive. More than 40 boxes were filled to the brim in time to be delivered to 22 families ahead of the Thanksgiving break.

Board of Cooperative Educational Services

Dennis Laba, President

R. Charles Phillips, Vice President

John Abbott

Cindy Dawson

Kathleen Dillon

Trina Lorentz

Gerald Maar

Michael May

Heather Pyke

District Superintendent

Jo Anne L. Antonacci

Editor

Beth Nash

bnash@monroe2boces.org

585-349-9028

Contributors

Jada Atwood, Steve Dawe, Amanda Dedie,

Chris Klem, Sonya Kordovich,

Danielle Lorenzo, Nicole Mauro,

Jennifer Merkel, Beth Nash, Abbey Noble,

Gretchen Spittler, Ashley Trevor

Graphic Designer

Lisa Constantine

To view our newsletter online, visit
<https://www.monroe2boces.org/Newsletters.aspx>.
Past issues are also housed at this location.



Monroe 2–Orleans Board of Cooperative
Educational Services

3599 Big Ridge Road

Spencerport, New York 14559-1799

Telephone (585) 352-2400

www.monroe2boces.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 34
SPENCERPORT,
NY 14559

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.

2024 BOCES 2 CTE SKILLSUSA CRAFT AND VENDOR SHOW FUNDRAISER

Saturday, March 23, 2024 • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
WEMOCO CTE Center, 3589 Big Ridge Road, Spencerport



To update your mailing address, or be added or removed from this newsletter mailing list, please email bnash@monroe2boces.org.