

Together

December • 2017



Crystal Apple goes to Michael Hoffman

By Iva Petrosino

Michael Hoffman's leadership has been a driving force behind BOCES 2 Technology Services for 22 years, but it's never been featured on center stage until now. On Nov. 28, Hoffman was awarded the highest Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES honor; the Crystal Apple.

"I truly love what I do, so to be recognized for it is a real honor," said Hoffman. "I'm proud to contribute what I can so that the organization may provide much-needed services for students in our communities."

Hoffman is a Senior Systems Programmer working in Communication and Technology Services (CaTS). In this role, he provides systems and network support for BOCES 2 and serves as a key technical resource for component districts. Hoffman has been instrumental in designing, organizing and maintaining the integrity of the information technology infrastructure of BOCES 2 for the last two decades. He is the person behind the scenes who maintains network/systems hardware and software, analyzes potential problems and monitors the network to ensure its availability to the organization. Most recently, he has played a key role as the Capital Project has progressed.

"Whether he wants to admit or not, Michael is the quiet leader of our group and is a key architect and driving force of our organization's technology roadmap," said systems programmer Richard White. "Michael is a limitless resource and a tireless colleague who drives our team and organization to excellence. The fact is, we here at BOCES 2 are tremendously fortunate to have Michael Hoffman as part of the BOCES 2 family."

"Michael is patient, persistent and well-respected for his attention to detail, incredible work ethic and commitment to the organization," said Ray Miller, Technology Services Supervising Manager. "He truly embodies the mission and vision of Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES."

When asked about the best part of his job, Hoffman said it's not what, but who.

"When a tech crisis happens, I often get credit for the solution," Hoffman said. "But the fact of the matter is, that it's a team effort in Tech Services. We are a tight-knit group who rely on each other to move the organization forward. I'm proud to call them my colleagues."



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BOCES 2 BUILDS Bridges

By Heather Campo

A key component of the Dental Assistant program from the Center for Workforce Development is the real-world experience the students gain as part of the course. Students complete a clinical internship experience in addition to the classroom training. But Dental Assistant Instructors Michelle Pilaroscia and Melissa Sheldon strive to bring even more relevant experiences to the class in the form of field trips and guest instructors to help bridge the gap between classroom learning and practical application.

This fall, the Dental Assistant class took a field trip to Brockport Smiles, a dental office in Brockport, NY. Dr. Maxwell Thaney and his associate, Dr. Joe Russo, participate in the CWD internship program and have hired a past program graduate. Dr. Thaney invited the class to the office to give them an overview of some new dental procedures.

There, the class was met by Certified Dental Assistants Chrissy Benthin, Felisha Napoleon and Mary Grego who volunteered their time to work with the students.

The class learned about new technology for in-office crowns and dental prosthetics, including how to scan a patient's dental arch instead of taking impressions. They were given an overview of the software that is then used to work with the scan and allow for in-office milling of the crown.

The office staff also spoke with our students about the importance of oral cancer screenings and how the exam and early detection can save lives. Brockport Smiles is one of the few dental practices in the area that use a VELscope® to help with early detection.

"This was an amazing opportunity for our students. They learned a lot about how a state-of-the-art practice manages time, staff education and patient management. Their level of professionalism and generosity set an outstanding example for our students," said CWD Dental Assisting Instructor Melissa Sheldon.



CWD Dental Assistant program students were all smiles on their class field trip to Brockport Smiles.

Even more free resources for health educators and school nurses

By Chris Klem

It's been a whirlwind of activity in the NYS Center for School Health (NYSCSH) offices: membership in National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM), professional development sessions offered at four locations around the state, and preparations for new and updated online training sessions.

"The Center recently became a member of the NNLM-Middle Atlantic Region," said Director Linda Khalil. "They have a wealth of information on topics of interest to school nurses and health educators, and, as a member, we can access member health and medical libraries nationwide."

"The exciting thing for health professionals in New York, is that NYSCSH will curate and edit this information for them. We review and prioritize content from this and from all our resources. Then we share the

best, most accurate and relevant-to-New York State information with our more than 3,000 subscribers."

Sharing information and evidence-based resources to improve care, teaching and the lives of children is central to the NYSCSH mission. They've just completed a series of school health seminars, training over 300 health professionals from Rochester and Lake Placid to Tarrytown and Melville. Now, they are working on converting the session content to online webinars and handouts for people unable to attend in person. Upcoming topics include domestic violence, dating abuse and creating healthy relationships, diabetes, HIV, LGBTQ-inclusive schools, and NYS guidance updates.

"It's all about creating access to the very best information for everyone," said Khalil. "Our online resources are free for all health educators, health service professionals, school medical directors and administrators." Visit www.schoolhealthny.com for more.



The NYSCSH team (l-r): Patti Northup, Linda Khalil, Melissa Trau, Julie Frenz

ACED program changing lives

By Heather Campo



After working in retail for years, Norma Johnson was ready for a change. She had always wanted to work for Strong Hospital, but without a high school diploma, her dream job was out of reach.

"I was approaching my fiftieth birthday, and I decided it was time to do something with my life," she said. Johnson contacted the Center for Workforce Development to pursue her High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma. It was there that she found out that she qualified for the Adult Career Education and Diploma (ACED) program.

The ACED program allows adult students to attend career training classes at the same time they are preparing to earn their HSE.

Students work with a literacy instructor to learn the curriculum for the TASC Test Assessing Secondary Completion™ while also attending career training classes. Students may choose from three career tracks; Office Specialist, Building Maintenance or Culinary Arts.

"Balancing both the literacy component and the career training is difficult," said Wendy Clark, literacy coordinator at CWD. "These students work hard and are dedicated to their goals. Our students often have many commitments outside of these classes, including families and jobs, and they have to make sure to balance it all."

For Johnson, the Office Specialist program was the perfect fit. The 165-hour program gave her the fundamental skills necessary to work in an office, including clerical office procedures, typing and data entry

skills, Internet and email applications and an introduction to Microsoft programs. Although she hadn't used a computer much prior to coming to CWD, she focused on learning the computer skills. "I learned so much," Johnson said. "My instructor, Beth Cimo, was right there with me, keeping me on track. I loved the program." In fact, Johnson felt confident enough in her computer skills to take the TASC test online instead of on paper. She passed the test on her first attempt.

Less than six months after she entered the ACED program, Johnson had completed the career training and earned her HSE diploma. She now works full-time for the University of Rochester and couldn't be happier. "I love my job. I can't thank the instructors at CWD enough for their help and support. They helped me to achieve my dream."

New preschool program focuses on learning through play

By Iva Petrosino

For children who fall on the autism spectrum, communication does not come easy. That's why BOCES 2 has introduced a preschool program aimed at helping children learn to communicate.

The 8:1+3 preschool program consists of eight students, one teacher and three student behavior assistants. The focus of the class is to help the students develop their academic, social and emotional strengths to maximize their learning and growth.

"The first five years of a child's development are crucial," said teacher Laura McNally. "The sooner a child receives services, the more time there is to influence not only positive learning experiences, but learning outcomes as well."

The full-day program consists of structured play, small group learning centers, sensory exercises and motor game. Throughout all of these activities the goal is for the students, who are mostly non-verbal, to make connections and communicate with teachers and peers.



"Effective communication with others is essential in any setting," said McNally. "In order to help our students become more successful with language it takes an entire team to increase individual abilities. We would not be able to accomplish all that we have if it were not for our amazing team."

"When working with students who have communication barriers, consistency and patience are required in order to develop language skills," said Speech Therapist Rachael Wall. "It is important to incorporate language through modeling and visual supports not only in the speech setting, but throughout our students' entire day."

The new program, offered at Autumn Lane Elementary and Craig Hill Elementary schools in Greece, was added due to increased needs for preschool programming in our region.

"We are proud to offer this level of support to preschool students in our region," said Heather Malone, special education supervisor. "We believe that a high-quality preschool program is the foundation for future and on-going success."



CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

By Steve Dawe

The holiday season is bringing plenty of new items to unwrap in the WEMOCO Career and Technical Education Center as the BOCES 2 Capital Project upgrades continue.

Crews installed flooring in three cosmetology spaces. When completed, those rooms will also have new fixtures and salon stations. The welding lab and theory space are also getting new floors along with manufactured welding booths and ventilation hoods. Electrical work is finishing up in the precision machining area to provide the equipment with adequate power.

Up on the rooftop, it's not Santa, but rather capital project "elves" starting up air handling units to provide and adjust heat in the new spaces.

Ceiling work is being completed in the new computer lab at the intersection of A and C wings and final paint is being applied throughout all the renovated spaces. Several of the new spaces will be ready for use when students return from holiday break in January. The project remains on schedule to be completed in the fall of 2018.



State-of-the-art salon fixtures being installed in cosmetology spaces.



A giant crane lifts a rooftop air handling unit for placement on WEMOCO.



Ready for the future

By Jennifer Merkel

The annual Career and College Readiness Night was hosted at the Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES Professional Development Center on Nov. 16. The event was coordinated by area school counselors and aimed to assist middle and high school students as they plan their career path. Students and their families were able to visit informational sessions by career type, such as information technology, advanced manufacturing and skilled trades. Representatives from local colleges were also on hand to provide information about higher education.

Jeff Pasnik (left) and Scott Lewis represented the Carpenters Local Union 276 at Career and College Readiness Night. Pasnik told those in attendance that a carpentry career will “make you a builder of wealth as it’s a career looking for the best of the best and demanding excellence.”



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Antonacci's four decades of service recognized

By Iva Petrosino

Forty years of service is a milestone that has been achieved by only two people in BOCES 2 history. District Superintendent Jo Anne Antonacci was recognized for this achievement and her dedication to students at the Nov. 28 Celebrating You event.

"I am truly humbled by this recognition," said Antonacci. "My forty years at BOCES 2 would not have been possible without the network of outstanding professionals that I've had the privilege of working alongside. The important services that we provide to students in our component districts have kept me motivated throughout the years. Thank you all for the incredible work you do every day."

Antonacci began her career as a speech and hearing teacher in 1977, working with students in special education programs. In the years that followed, Antonacci worked her way through the ranks, serving as executive director for the Department for Exceptional Children, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Programs and Deputy Superintendent. She became the first female District Superintendent at BOCES 2 upon her appointment in 2010.

During her decades-long career, Antonacci has been an integral part of the development of several programs such as the program

for traumatically brain-injured students, the Activities for Daily Living center, expansion of services for special education, career and technical education and adult students. She has also played a significant role in the creation of the Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation, which provides scholarships to students.

"As Jo Anne worked her way up as administrator, she continued helping students and assisting staff to better themselves," said Board President Dennis Laba (Gates Chili). "Now as district superintendent, she does all of this plus provides guidance to the component school districts, which benefits all students and staff. I wish Jo Anne many congratulations on the success of her 40-year career and many years to come."

Antonacci was just one of 72 people who were honored for years of service this year. Those honored reached a combined 1,075 years of service.



ROC 2 Change

By Kerry Sharp

"We are the ones we've been waiting for," the title of a book by Alice Walker, was the mantra of this year's Roc2Change Student Summit on Race, hosted by Brockport Central School District on Nov. 17 at the Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Professional Development Center.

The Brockport High School Diversity Club spent months planning for the summit, an event that brought nearly 600 students and staff from around the county together to engage in discussions surrounding race, diversity and understanding.

The event included a keynote address provided by Dr. Cephas Archie, Chief Diversity Officer for The State University of New York College at Brockport, and various activities and discussions led by BHS Diversity Club students. The depth of the conversations that ensued was inspiring, though the ultimate objective spanned beyond the scope of the one-day summit. Students were challenged to create action plans to bring back to their districts to create tolerable communities. BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education students left with the conclusion that "it is important to listen to other people's views though you may not agree with them," and emerged with a plan to encourage others to follow their suit of "opening their ears and closing their mouths."



Strategic Plan at Work

Career and Technical Education

Strategic Goal

Community Collaboration

Key Strategy

Participate in school and community networking opportunities

Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Career and Technical Education works continuously to build relationships with local school districts, industry partners and post-secondary institutions. Through a partnership with Association of Career and Technical Education Administrations (ACTEA) in New York, BOCES 2 is working as the leader for creating, coordinating and dispersing a statewide campaign titled CTE Strong. Resources are provided to CTE centers throughout the state to help illustrate the advantages of CTE programs and eradicate misperceptions of skilled trade careers. These resources are used at open houses, information nights and, most recently, at the BOCES 2 Fall Advisory Committee Meetings.

Westside Academy's Tom Carpenter contributes electrophotography expertise to new book

By Chris Klem

The latest edition of "Photographic Possibilities" by Robert Hirsch, the go-to resource for innovative alternative and traditional photographic processes, features the work of Westside Academy art teacher Tom Carpenter. Carpenter contributed to a new section on the history and artistic use of electrophotography. The section explores how to create images that can be artistically manipulated and transferred to a variety of surfaces.

He has also been invited to teach electrophotography workshops at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City this February, in conjunction with the *Experiments in Electrostatics: Photocopy Art from the Whitney's Collection, 1966–1986* Exhibition.

Carpenter's work is cutting edge, and his techniques will be new to many of the professional artists who will read the book. Students at Westside Academy, however, have been experimenting and creating art using the processes for several years. Their work with Xerox flat plate systems has been shown at the art gallery at The College at Brockport; they have created ceramic mugs and plates and crafted 3-D porcelain images with electrophotography transfers.

"We are so lucky to have a teacher with Tom's passion, and his commitment to igniting curiosity and open-minded experimentation in our young people," said Principal Martha Willis. "His classroom always has ten things going on at once—kids exploring different media, taking on challenges, problem solving, trying all kinds of new ways to express themselves."



Carpenter working with student transferring image to ceramic mug.



Setting up the student show on gallery walls at The College at Brockport.

A weather surprise



Zach Frisbee, son of BOCES 2 employees George Frisbee (OGM) and Michelle Frisbee (student behavioral assistant) got a surprise on Halloween from 13WHAM Meteorologist Glenn Johnson. Zach dressed as Johnson for the Halloween event at Northwood Elementary School in Hilton. Northwood's head custodian, Jeff Najder, who is also a part-time meteorologist at Channel 13, arranged for Johnson to surprise Zach in his classroom. While he was at Northwood, Johnson also spoke with two sixth grade classes that gather weather data and report it out to the school. The classes received weather books from him and were able to see the 13WHAM Weather Authority vehicle during his visit.

Teacher's Institute to support ELLs



The Regional Bilingual Education Resource Networks (RBE-RN) from Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES, Erie 1 BOCES and OCM BOCES collaborated on a Teacher's Institute for the instruction of English Language Learners (ELLs). During the event on Oct 27 in the new Professional Development Center on the Big Ridge Road campus, participants engaged in literacy instruction and practices that build meaning and support language learning, while teaching content area skills and concepts, specifically social studies.

Record-breaking night for Educational Foundation

The Monroe 2–Orleans Educational Foundation set a new fundraising record at this year's autumn celebration. Thanks to sponsors, donors and attendees, more than \$40,000 was raised to fund student scholarships. Speakers included MacKenzie Puleo, a recent scholarship recipient from Spencerport and Rachel Magar, a 2006 scholarship recipient from Churchville-Chili and current Foundation Board Member. This year's scholarship recipients will be announced in the spring of 2018. Each recipient will be awarded \$5,000 toward college or further career training.



Back row l-r: Michael Crumb, Barbara Cutrona, Michelle Erklenz-Watts, Keith Bock, Nancy Geraci, Tod Eagle, Joseph Kelly, Paul Salmin, Susan Rizzo

Front row l-r: Kathleen Graupman, Jo Anne Antonacci, Dee Alexander, Elisabeth Curran, MacKenzie Puleo, Rachel Magar, William Dadey

Not pictured: Susan Brannen, David Dimpleby, Matthew Huber

Pryntz honored with award for service

Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES teacher Susan Pryntz was presented with the Robert F. Panara Award at the Educational Support Service Personnel conference in November. ESSP is an organization dedicated to the education of deaf and hard-of-hearing children. As a Teacher of the Deaf, Pryntz provides students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing with teaching and reinforcement of academics, social skills and communication abilities. Pryntz also provides consultation to students' educational teams and families so that instruction and programs can be tailored to meet their unique needs.



The Robert F. Panara Award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to educational support services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Robert Panara was a renowned leader in the field of deaf education, and this award is meant to acknowledge the work of educators who have devoted their time, energy and talents to furthering the educational experience of these students.

"Susan Pryntz is one of those wonderful educators who brings a genuine and unwavering sense of service to her every endeavor," said BOCES 2 Supervisor of Special Education Phil Ortolani. "As a teacher and a leader within her department, she has spent more than 30 years helping to advance students and BOCES 2 services in a way that continues to leave an indelible mark on all of us fortunate enough to work and learn beside her."

Retiree Connection

We would like to feature brief updates from our retirees in Together. If you are a BOCES 2 retiree and have news you would like to submit for consideration, please contact Heather Campo, editor, at hcampo@monroe2boces.org or mail it to BOCES 2 Communication & Technology Services, 3625 Buffalo Rd, Rochester, NY 14624, attn. Heather Campo.

Condolences to:

Sandy DiStefano on the passing of her niece, **Rosemarie Liberi** on the passing of her mother-in-law, **Patti Schmitt** on the passing of her father, **Jill Slavny** on the passing of her father-in-law

Also to the families of retirees **Gary Trombley** (Nov. 6) and **Marcia Olson** (Nov. 1)

In Memoriam

Former BOCES 2 Board Member Elizabeth (Betty) Frey passed away on Nov. 5, 2017. Frey became the first woman on the BOCES 2 Board upon her election in 1974. She served on the Board until her retirement in 1991. During that time, she was also the first woman to serve as Vice President of our Board from 1978-82 and again from 1990-91. To date, she was the only woman to serve as the BOCES 2 Board president, a position she held from 1982-85. "Betty will be remembered fondly for her service to our BOCES," noted District Superintendent Jo Anne Antonacci.



Together

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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, color, national origin, disability, creed, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, prior criminal offense, domestic violence victim status, or genetic status in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle complaints/inquiries regarding the BOCES non-discrimination's policies: Director of Human Resource, 3599 Big Ridge Road, Spencerport, New York 14559, 585-352-2420, and is also the Title VII and Title IX Officer.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> 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 <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/qa-complaints.html>. See also New York State Executive Law 296-a.



We honored many of our staff at the annual Employee Recognition Event on Nov. 28, this year recognizing 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 40 years of service. We honored 72 employees who have achieved a combined 1,075 years of service. Pictured here are the 30-year award honorees; Todd Kilby (ESP), Terry Stowell-Springsteen (Exceptional Children), Tracy Viccaro (ESP) and Daniel Weaver (ESP). Not pictured: Mary McConnell (Exceptional Children)