

# TOGETHER

June 2019



## Pride in accomplishment at Alternative High School

Students at Alternative High School have much to be proud of this year. They have been busy finding ways they can help their community, support their school, enhance life for fellow classmates and learn lifelong skills for themselves. It's been a very productive year.

Teacher Charles Clifford's Street Law class has helped students understand the basics of the legal system: juvenile justice, constitutional rights and legal language. They've learned how to advocate for themselves and how important it is to make good decisions. Guest speaker Kyle Steinebach, an assistant district attorney for the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, has been an exceptional resource. His frequent visits and the personal connections he has made with students, "humanizes the system and shows kids that there are lots of folks who are there to help them, not out to get them," said Clifford.

The school's STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) class members, assisted by teachers Chris Kneller and Doug Van Roo, have been on the lookout for projects that can make a difference. They've found practical applications for math and science concepts, and have learned to use all kinds of tools safely. They are applying their knowledge and talents to help others and to build strong foundations for their own futures.

For instance, thanks to the AHS Building Crew — talented student engineers and carpenters Alessio, Alex, Camarin, Darryl, Jermaine, Marquis, Reinaldo, Ricky, Romeo and Shayla — young adults with disabilities at a local group home will be able to enjoy the sun, picnic luncheons and gardening in their back yard this summer. The students built a special picnic table and customized it to accommodate use with a wheel chair. Earlier this year, they built raised gardening boxes, so the home's tenants could enjoy planting vegetables.

AHS Student Behavioral Assistant Lisa Palumbo, whose son lives at the residence, helped connect the two groups of young people. In May, three AHS student representatives visited to help deliver the new picnic table. They met several residents and saw firsthand the impact their hard work has had on the young men's quality of life.

Life-changing connections happen all the time at AHS. Ask BOCES 2 Operations and Maintenance's Scott Mason, who is a frequent guest at the school. After AHS Supervisor Adam Porter and the STEM teachers invited O & M to offer job training opportunities to students, Mason was the first volunteer. "I started showing two students how to fix drywall and paint, but pretty soon other kids got curious. They all

wanted to learn, too. It's like night and day. Now when I visit the school, I'm greeted with smiles, fist bumps and real enthusiasm to master new skills. They are great kids."

Varied STEM class projects even included custom building a butterfly house for the school's science class. Teacher Mackenzie Garcia worked with students this year to replace her old cardboard box model with a new permanent box that can be reused year after year. All the school's students have benefitted from the improvement. For over a month, the science room was a daily stop for students checking on the near-magical transformation of dozens of tiny eggs into caterpillars, pupae and finally Painted Lady butterflies.

"The project gives kids who may never have been around animals an opportunity to be part of new life, to care for and be responsible for these little creatures, and to learn about insects and their life cycles," said Garcia. "Everyone is very proud that nearly all of our caterpillars grew into adult butterflies and laid eggs of their own."

# MOVING FORWARD *together*

A change in the Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES Career and Technical Education Dental Assisting program has meant more exposure and more opportunity for students.

The high demand for dental assistants in the current labor market, coupled with student interest, led CTE leadership to make significant changes and develop Dental Assisting into a two-year program. As a one-year program for juniors and seniors, students had limited opportunity for work-based learning in real dental offices. Thanks to the new format, the two-year program requires a minimum of 200 clinical hours with local dental offices.

“We restructured our Dental Assisting program around the goal of maximizing work-based learning opportunities for students in their second year with us,” said Dental Assisting Teacher Jennifer Flanagan-Probst. “This gives students the opportunity to really master the knowledge and technical skills during their first year in the program.”

Currently 24 dental offices and one dental lab participate in this partnership and those numbers stand to grow. Flanagan-Probst recruited the dental partners and said this change was made possible by their willingness to take in our students and mentor them.

“We value this partnership which is providing extra support for our dental staff and patients,” said Dr. Robert Lang, Jr. of Robert A. Lang Jr. General Dentistry in Hamlin. “The dental field has greatly advanced in recent years thanks to new technology.

It’s beneficial that students are able to familiarize themselves with new equipment and techniques in high school. This is a great asset to their resumes and will certainly help them in their job searches.”

“There is no substitution for work-based learning and authentic experiences with dentists and patients,” said Coordinator of Work-Based Learning Cindy Christensen. “We are grateful for the support of the dental community which is necessary for this level of success.”

The curriculum is aligned with the Dental Assisting National Boards (DANB). The seven seniors who will complete the program this year are prepared to take the NYS Professional Dental Assisting Exam to become certified dental assistants.

“The opportunity to intern at a dental office has given me a great jump-start on my dental career as well as my adult life,” said Leeanna Dalheim (Brockport). “I have become a more outgoing individual, comfortable with my skills and abilities.”



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— Cindy Christensen, coordinator of Work-Based Learning

## 2019 BELL graduates walk the red carpet

Just one day after walking the stage at Roberts Wesleyan College to receive their diplomas, several proud new alumni walked the red carpet at a star-studded film premier at the Little Theatre.

Last year, BOCES 2 Transition students in the Roberts Wesleyan College Bridge to Earning, Living and Learning (BELL) program participated in the making of a new movie for the organization Positive Exposure. Focused on people with intellectual disabilities, the film was part of a project called FRAME (Faces Redefining the Art of Medical Education) <https://positiveexposure.org/frame/>. FRAME’s goal is to change how medical information is presented to healthcare providers-in-training, clinicians, families and communities. By highlighting people living with these conditions and their families, the individuality and humanity of patients becomes key, alongside the standard medical information.

The filmmaker and Positive Exposure founder, Rick Guidotti premiered his work at the Little Theatre on May 12 as part of the 2019 American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry annual conference. Many of the student stars, including BOCES 2 students Haley Wentworth and Samantha Majchszak, were in attendance, along with friends and families. After the movie, they volunteered to take the stage and answer questions from the audience about their experiences — good and bad — with medical professionals. All of these young people are clearly strong self-advocates and committed to working to support the needs of others.



Filmmaker Rick Guidotti with recent BELL graduates Haley Wentworth (Spencerport) and Samantha Majchszak (Churchville-Chili).



## Two CTE programs named “top in the nation”



Two BOCES 2 programs have been recognized as top Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs by a national organization.

The Child and Family Development and Plumbing and Heating programs at WEMOCO Career and Technical Education Center were designated as quality CTE programs by the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education at the Southern Regional Education Board (NRCCTE). The NRCCTE, along with the New York State Education Department, are working to identify a small, representative sample of high-quality CTE programs.

In early May, a research team from the Georgia-based organization visited classrooms and spoke with instructors and students. The designation and accompanying research by NRCCTE will be used as part of a national effort led by J.P. Morgan-Chase to expand high-quality, career-focused CTE programs. The result of the study, as well as the recommendations for expanding CTE, will be presented to the New York State Board of Regents. State funding for CTE programs will also be guided by the study's findings.

“I am so proud that two of our CTE programs were selected for this distinguished honor,” said Jill Slavny, executive principal of Career and Technical Education. “This recognition validates the great work we are doing every day.”

In the Plumbing and Heating program, students learn the fundamentals of residential plumbing and heating installation. They become proficient in reading blueprints and schematics while learning to fit, assemble and prepare piping. In addition, students learn to install residential and commercial heating, air conditioning, refrigeration and ventilation systems. In the Child and Family Development program, students learn about human development and how systems of people work and function, to prepare for a career in helping professions such as teacher, social worker or counselor.

To learn more about these and other CTE programs go to [www.monroe2boces.org/cte](http://www.monroe2boces.org/cte).



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## CTE Construction Celebration



Nearly 60 CTE students celebrated the end of their high school years with an open house for the house they built from the ground up.

Seniors spent the last few weeks finishing up the two-year project they started as juniors. The annual home project is a joint effort between CTE programs in the construction trades cluster, including Carpentry, HVAC/Plumbing and Heating, Residential and Industrial Electrical, and Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance. The project, which gives students authentic experience in the construction field, has been part of the CTE curriculum for years.

“I’m extremely happy with the students’ progress,” said teacher Kyle Canfield. “They did an incredible job.” The 1,404-square-foot three-bedroom home includes cathedral ceilings with custom-cut rafters and custom-made bathroom vanities.

“I really like it a lot,” said senior Christian Maio (Gates Chili). “It’s an awesome thing to do because the house is actually going to be used.”

This year’s juniors will return next year to complete the 2020 CTE-built house.

## CTE’s Crowley named Outstanding Senior

Each year, the Monroe County Council of School Superintendents (MCCOSS) recognizes one senior from every Monroe County high school as outstanding seniors based on exemplary character, leadership, scholarship and service to their community. Madelyn Crowley (Gates Chili) is the 2019 recipient of the Dr. Michael C. O’Laughlin Outstanding Senior Award for Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES.

Crowley is a student in the BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education Laboratory Technology program and a WEMOCO Student Ambassador. She was recognized at the Michael C. O’Laughlin Outstanding Senior Recognition Dinner on May 22. The event, held this year at the James Monroe High School Banquet Center, is the only program which recognizes excellence in all our county and city high schools at one event. It is named in memory of former BOCES 2 District Superintendent Michael O’Laughlin.

Crowley also serves as the SkillsUSA WEMOCO Chapter President and New York State Area 1 Vice President. She plans to attend Nazareth College in the fall to study Clinical Laboratory Sciences.



Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES District Superintendent Jo Anne Antonacci presented Madelyn Crowley (Gates Chili) with the Outstanding Senior Award.

# Strategic Plan Update

## Office of Finance

### Strategic Goal

Continuous Improvement

### Key Strategy

Promote progress to meet the needs of customers

In July 2016, BOCES 2 piloted a mileage program using a web-based mileage processing program called CompanyMileage. The pilot began with a cross-section of approximately 20 staff members. Feedback was positive and the program was implemented organization-wide in July 2017.

Under the old paper form system, mileage reimbursement could be cumbersome and time-consuming, resulting in processing errors, staff frustration and time spent clarifying questions and resolving issues. CompanyMileage streamlined the process and reduced errors. All the distance calculations are performed automatically using its built-in mapping database, improving the level of accuracy. The department has seen the number of errors decrease significantly; from an error rate of 6.8% to 3.3% since implementation. In addition, supervisors can more efficiently audit and approve entries online in a timely manner. Instructional and administrative staff are able to focus on other priorities related to teaching and learning.

Today nearly 500 staff members are using the CompanyMileage system to process their mileage claims. The transition from a manual to a paperless process has saved the organization time and money. As part of this process, many staff members have elected to receive their reimbursements via direct deposit, resulting in an even quicker processing time.

## “Nothing to be scared of!”

The student in Special Education teacher Keri Kephart’s class in Hilton wasn’t afraid of spiders or scared of participating in the interactive videoconference focused on the little creatures. Like his classmates, he was simply curious and eager to ask questions about tarantulas, scorpions and other arachnids. Kephart’s group of students, ages 9-12, with varying grade levels of ability, was one of a handful of interactive sites for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science’s Scientists in Action Program lesson on spiders. The museum program facilitates communication between students and scientists. It has online attendance from all over the country, and in this case, even students from Brazil.

There are many virtual field trip opportunities for kids of all ages and learning abilities available now. We can help teachers find just the right ones for any subject matter.

— Donna Farren, distance learning specialist

“It can be difficult to teach science curriculum appropriate for everyone in a mixed age class like mine,” said Kephart. “Online interactive classes like this make great science opportunities. We prepare with a lesson before the experience, and then discuss it afterwards. Kids like the interactivity, and it gives them a chance to practice social skills. Each of my students went right up on camera and asked a thoughtful question, loud enough for everyone at the other locations to hear. They enjoyed seeing themselves on the screen and seeing all the other kids, too.”

“It was amazing to see the students engaged with the topic, wait patiently for an opportunity to ask a question, walk up to the speaker to clearly state their question, and listen and discuss the answers,” said Instructional Support Specialist Debbie Mannix.



Curious students kept Farren busy sending a steady stream of questions to the presenter via online chat.

“It was evident from the questions generated that they understood and critically thought about the content they were learning.”

The videoconference was facilitated by CaTS Distance Learning Specialist Donna Farren, who helps to take the fear out of both spiders and new technology. Farren has been helping teachers around our districts use technology to connect their students to global resources that might otherwise be inaccessible.

“There are many virtual field trip opportunities for kids of all ages and learning abilities available now,” said Farren. “We can help teachers find just the right ones for any subject matter. We’ve gone to art museums to see private collections, studied Japanese puppetry, learned about D-Day, heard from well-known writers and poets or scientists and mathematicians. Many of these lessons are free or we can find grants. Even the paid ones are aid-able through BOCES. If a teacher wants to open this door for their students, we can make it work.” Distance learning services are available to all Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES districts and teachers. Contact Farren at [dfarren@monroe2boces.org](mailto:dfarren@monroe2boces.org) for information.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

As a member of the BOCES NYS Distance Learning Consortium, BOCES 2 CaTS Distance Learning Specialist Donna Farren was part of the team recently honored with the prestigious International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Interactive Video Conferencing Network Award for 2019. The group was recognized for their work on the NYSDLC Distance Learning Day last November that connected more than 1,500 students in 300 classrooms across the state in an effort to introduce teachers to the opportunities available through interactive videoconferencing.



Students asked Denver’s arachnid expert Dr. Paula Cushing if the saucer-sized tarantula she held was venomous.



## Two BOCES 2 programs receive STEM awards



Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES Science teachers Mary Thomas (left) and Antonietta Quinn (right) accept the Community Support STEM Innovation Award.



CTE Laboratory Technology teacher Jim Payne and students Rachel Haller (Greece) and Madelyn Crowley (Gates Chili) accept Honorable Mention in the High School STEM Awards category.

The BOCES 4 Science program received the Community Support STEM Innovation Award in recognition of exemplary programs in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) from the Finger Lakes STEM Hub award ceremony at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. This is the first award BOCES 4 Science has won from the Finger Lakes STEM Hub. The NYS STEM Quality Learning Rubric is used to determine the winning program to celebrate excellence in STEM education.

BOCES 4 Science is a collaborative effort among BOCES in the Mid-Western New York State region. It is a science program service developed by Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES in partnership with, Monroe One BOCES, Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES and the Genesee Valley Education Partnership BOCES.

“It is so gratifying to have won this award,” said science teacher and Acting Director of the BOCES 2 Elementary Science Program Mary Thomas. “Our collaborative group has worked very hard over the last several years to create a new science program, of which BOCES 4 Science could be proud. These science units go across New York State and provide best practice instruction for K-5 students. It is quite a feat to have scored well on the NYS STEM Quality Rubric and our whole team feels tremendously honored.”

BOCES 4 Science wasn’t the only program to be recognized at the STEM awards. The BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education Laboratory Technology program with teacher Jim Payne received an Honorable Mention in the High School STEM Awards category.

“It is so gratifying to have won this award. Our collaborative group has worked very hard over the last several years to create a new science program, of which BOCES 4 Science could be proud.”

- Mary Thomas, acting director of the BOCES 2 Elementary Science Program

BOCES 2 STEM Instructional Support Specialist Kathryn Jensen wrote in her nomination: “The Laboratory Technology program at Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES is in its eighth year. This two-year program prepares students for employment or college by teaching skills and science that are essential to the medical, food-processing, environmental science and biotechnology industries. Demand for employees with these skills is currently high and expected to grow.”

“Students learn to use state-of-the-art equipment to solve problems by collecting, analyzing and presenting data to support claims. Connections to local industry and institutions increase student engagement and ensure that the program is both relevant and current with professional practices.”

## Record number of students receive Educational Foundation scholarships

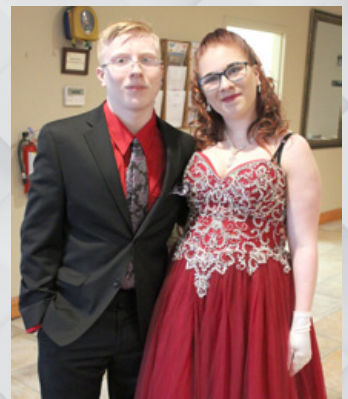


The Monroe 2–Orleans Educational Foundation awarded a record 20 Make All the Difference Scholarships to students in BOCES 2 programs this year. The Foundation held a reception for the 2019 scholarship recipients and their families on May 30 in the Professional Development Center. Scholarship sponsors and representatives from students’ home school districts also attended the event. The reception was an opportunity for supporters of the Foundation to make in-person connections with students and celebrate their accomplishments. Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES District Superintendent Jo Anne Antonacci and Foundation Board President Joe Kelly spoke at the event, saluting each student individually during the formal program.



## Dinner Dance tradition continues

Sparkling lights and romance, beautiful gowns and formal wear, dancing and fun with friends: The annual Spring Dinner Dance is the event of the year for our wonderful young people. This year's May 3 event certainly continued the tradition of being a night for dreams come true.



## 35th annual SEPTO Fair excites young and old

No matter where you looked at the annual SEPTO Fair on June 7, all you could see were smiling faces and sunshine. BOCES 2 students and staff took advantage of the beautiful weather while taking part in fun games and activities, including face painting, basketball, fishing and more. Of course, the sweetest part of the day came in the form of slushies and cotton candy!





# Congratulations to the 2019 class of retirees!

On June 5, more than 175 retirees came together to celebrate their BOCES 2 roots. Twenty-eight new retirees, 19 of whom attended, joined the veteran retirees' ranks. The afternoon included an introduction from District Superintendent Jo Anne Antonacci and lunch, including desserts crafted by the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Food Services students. In addition, 10 student volunteers from various CTE programs helped expedite the meal and make the event enjoyable for all.



(Front l-r) Carol Osborne, Patricia Polino, Regina Boyer, Efthymia LaPointe, Daniel Weaver, Cynthia Confer, Judith Hoke, Lorrie Dumigan, Elaine DelVecchio. (Back l-r) Susan Vickers, Elizabeth Cimo, Karen Mitchell, Tracy Hinkley, Thomas Walsh, Marguerite Killip, Moira Olscamp, Barbara Mason, Mary McConnell. (Not pictured: Kathy Arminio, Kathryn Barringer, Mary Lynn Cometa, Mary Dziuba, Suzanne Forquell, Todd Kilby, Ellen Paz, Michelle Rath, Donald Reinhardt, Susan Yunker)



## BOCES 2 welcomes new security coordinator

Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES has hired Doug Comanzo as its new Safety and Security Coordinator.

Comanzo comes to BOCES 2 after nearly three decades in the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. Most recently, he served as commander of C Zone, overseeing all of the department's police-related activities on the west side of Monroe County.

Comanzo is originally from Schenectady, NY and studied at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Since beginning his new job on March 4, he has hit the ground running, getting to know and understand the various BOCES 2 programs and sites. Comanzo has been completing drills for each of the BOCES 2 sites and working with everyone on updating all of the Emergency Response Plans required by New York State.

"The size of the organization and the diverse population it serves is no small undertaking," said Comanzo. "I'm grateful that staff members have gone out of their way to help me learn and make me feel welcome at my new job."



## Retiree Connections

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 Iva Petrosino, editor, at [ipetrosi@monroe2boces.org](mailto:ipetrosi@monroe2boces.org) or mail it to BOCES 2 Communication and Technology Services, 3625 Buffalo Rd, Rochester, NY 14624, attn. Iva Petrosino.

## Condolences to:

The family of **Bonnie Tennity** (retiree)



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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 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.

## Student becomes the teacher



While touring renovation progress at the Make Monroe Home project site on June 3, County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo received a crash course in construction taught by students. Dinolfo worked alongside BOCES 2 students on multiple facets of the project. Dylan Waring (Spencerport), pictured here, and his classmates guided her through the work and gave her tips to improve her technique when patching walls and installing siding.