

# TOGETHER

Summer 2024

## An Icon Retires from BOCES 2

by Beth Nash

Jo Anne Antonacci admits that she never dreamed she'd be a District Superintendent one day. As she steps down from this role leading Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES (BOCES 2), she is thankful for the many different opportunities she's had during her 47 years at the organization. "I'm a better person for having worked here," she said. "The experiences I've had, what I've learned, the people I've worked with, they have all led to my betterment. I've had to learn every facet of education, really take a deep dive to understand the needs of those we serve in order for BOCES 2 to be of benefit. I feel like we've always been a team here, that's just part of our culture. I chose to stay for so many years because I believe in the concept of a BOCES. The word 'cooperative' is the key to our success!"

Antonacci got her start working for BOCES 2 as a speech and language teacher in 1977. In 1986, she was promoted to special education supervisor, then director for special education in 1988 and executive director for exceptional children in 1995. She became the assistant superintendent for instructional programs in 1998, then interim chief operating officer in 2005. In 2007, Antonacci was appointed as deputy superintendent, then District Superintendent in 2010. She retired on Aug. 31 this year.

As someone who is always looking forward, she changed her perspective for a few moments to reflect on her journey with BOCES 2. While proud of her many accomplishments, several stand out for her, including:

- **The Preschool Special Education Program:** Although it's been challenging to financially sustain, the program has grown in popularity and prestige. Antonacci is proud to say that BOCES 2 is one of the few, out of 37 BOCES in the state, that offers the program. She credits the BOCES 2 Board and incredible staff for its success.
- **The BOCES 2 Capital Project:** On Dec. 16, 2014, a \$29,231,100 capital project referendum took place. The vote passed 607-99. This project included renovations to classrooms and offices; creation of professional development and early childhood learning centers; and improvements to security and parking lots. In the summer of 2018, the project was completed. The scope of the project, especially the professional development center, has served component school districts well.

- **The Monroe 2-Orleans Educational Foundation:** She has seen the continued growth of the foundation made possible by hundreds of active supporters. Over the years, she has witnessed the results of its scholarships to students who have followed non-traditional educational paths and continued their education or job training after graduation. Antonacci has served as the president of the foundation as well as an ex-officio board member in the past. In retirement, she will continue on as an official board member.
- **The Activities for Daily Living (ADL) House:** Built by Career and Technical Education (CTE) students, the house was the result of a parent's request for a program to help students learn daily living skills in a home environment. "At BOCES 2, we're about meeting the needs of our community," she said. "This was a great example of where there's a will, there's a way. We've been able to collaborate with partners and other agencies to help provide needed services."
- **Her work with the Monroe County Interagency Committee:** Antonacci co-chaired the organization for 10 years along with the assistant superintendent of Monroe One BOCES. This group was the first of its kind, bringing education and multiple agencies together in the interest of Monroe County students.
- **The Monroe County ADHD Task Force:** The "ADHD Best Practices Manual" that was created by this group was designed to improve communication between home, school and health care providers for children with this disorder.

"I'm a better person for having worked here."

- Jo Anne Antonacci



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# BOCES 2 Names New District Superintendent



The Monroe 2-Orleans Board of Cooperative Education selected Dr. Thomas K. Putnam as district superintendent and formally appointed him on June 26, 2024. He assumed his new role on Sept. 1. He succeeded Jo Anne Antonacci, who retired on Aug. 31.

“Dr. Putnam has the diversity of experience necessary to maintain the excellence our BOCES strives for,” said BOCES 2 Board President Dennis Laba. “He is well-respected throughout the region and has proven himself as an exemplary leader during his career. We have

complete faith in his ability to build upon the foundation Jo Anne has helped create over the past 47 years at BOCES 2.”

Putnam was most recently the superintendent of the Penfield Central School District, a position he has held since 2015. He previously served as acting superintendent since July 2014 and as principal of Penfield High School (PHS) for four years. He also served as an assistant principal at PHS and at Greece Olympia High School.

Putnam holds his doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Rochester, his master’s degree in curriculum development

and instruction technologies from SUNY Albany, and his bachelor’s degree in elementary education from SUNY Cortland.

“I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as the next district superintendent of Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES,” said Putnam. “I look forward to collaborating with the dedicated faculty, staff, students and component school districts to enhance educational opportunities and to achieve new heights of success together.”

Monroe One BOCES District Superintendent Daniel White assisted the BOCES 2 Board as search consultant throughout the process.

*(continued from cover)*

## An Icon Retires from BOCES 2

“I also truly love working with all our component districts,” she said. “I really like assisting them with superintendent searches. It’s invigorating to work with board members to identify the best solutions for their districts. I enjoy engaging in problem-solving and celebrating the positive outcomes with individuals.” Over the last few months, Antonacci was recognized by multiple component school districts for her work with them.

While her favorite parts of the job were building programs with people, interacting with others and addressing issues in the hopes of obtaining better resolutions, it was frustrating when she realized people didn’t fully understand what a BOCES does. “I had to find ways to demonstrate and report the reality of BOCES work: services for all ages and abilities,” said Antonacci. She served on many committees with multiple education and community members. Among the most recent acknowledgments of Antonacci’s long career was a proclamation in her honor from the Monroe County Legislature at their Sept. 10 meeting.

She said that being one of the few female District Superintendents was sometimes challenging; however, she indicated she was always up for a challenge.

Over the years, Antonacci received various kinds of recognition, nominated by those she worked with. They include:

- 2019: The Helen Quinn Service to Education Award - Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Alpha Alpha Chapter, NYS
- 2015: NYS Association of Women in Administration (NYSAWA) Amy Bull Crist Award
- 2009: Rochester Business Alliance ATHENA Award finalist
- 2009: Italian American Community Center Educator of the Year
- 2009: Genesee Valley Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (GVASCD) Supervision Award
- 2007: BOCES 2 Crystal Apple Award
- 1989: BOCES 2 SEPTA, NYS Honorary Life Membership

As to the challenges the future holds for BOCES 2, Antonacci said the focus must be on sustaining programs and continuing to grow. Some programs, such as CTE and Exceptional Children, are expanding so quickly, they are outgrowing their physical spaces. New spaces are being explored, including new leasing agreements and new structures being built. “I’m extremely thankful for the incredible amount of space our components lease to us for program services,” she said. She also cites the need to work with community partners to provide a full continuum of services, such as Springdale Farm, Slayton Place, URM, Roberts Wesleyan University and Paul Road.

“Staffing has been our biggest obstacle the last few years,” said Antonacci. “You want to provide more opportunities for students, but you can’t do that if you don’t have the instructional staff to do so.”

It’s always been about the people for her — employees, students and their families. “Relationships shaped my reason ‘why,’” she said. “Relationships are why I’ve stayed here all these years. To see students prosper in the hands of committed staff, regardless of their abilities, is what drives me.”

Plans for retirement may include a trip to Sicily, where Antonacci would love to delve further into her ancestry; a chance to concentrate on some things she’s been unable to do while working full time; overdue house cleaning; and spending more time with family, especially her 1-year-old granddaughter. She will remain active on the foundation board, and she will assist with any transition needs upon the request of the new District Superintendent Dr. Thomas Putnam, who assumed his role on Sept. 1.

“Working here has shaped who I am today,” said Antonacci. “When I reflect on the journey I’ve been on, the lessons I’ve learned have helped me through life. The families have taught me as much as the students have. I’m still in touch with some. The staff have taught me to appreciate the differences in people, be a better listener, and that a positive attitude will lead to better ways!”



# Many Leadership Changes at BOCES 2

BOCES 2 saw many leadership changes as the 2023-24 school year wound down. Here is an overview of some of the familiar and new faces in new places.



**Nicole Bell is the new Mid-West RBERN coordinator.**

She replaces Dr. Sabrina Nudo, who now works for the Syracuse RBERN. Bell has been very active and impactful since arriving at Mid-West RBERN in 2019, including holding a position on the New York State Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (NYS TESOL) Executive Board and receiving her advanced degree, Ed.D. in Education Leadership for Diverse Learning Communities from Molloy University.

She is known in the Mid-West RBERN world as the leader and facilitator of many courses and workshops, such as the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) and New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) trainings; collaborations with Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES and Genesee Valley BOCES; leading the Latino Literacy Project; and working with numerous other groups advocating for the education of English Language Learners (ELL). She has also led professional learning sessions at both NYS TESOL and New York State Association for Bilingual Education (NYSABE) conferences. Bell has proven to be a supreme team player who goes beyond the norm for helping her colleagues succeed at meeting their goals.



**Jill Slavy is the new assistant superintendent for accountability, technology and regional services.**

She replaces Dr. Michelle Ryan, who retired at the end of June. Slavy has 25 years of experience in education. She started as a science teacher in the Alternative Program for Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES, then became a Teacher on Special Assignment, working as an instructional assistant and science curriculum coordinator, before transitioning to administration. She worked in the

East Rochester Union Free School District for eight years, where she was the assistant principal, then principal of the Jr./Sr. High School. Slavy worked most recently as the BOCES 2 CTE executive principal for 12 years.



**Jon Koeng is the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) principal.**

Koeng (pronounced "king") joins the team as an experienced administrator, coming to BOCES 2 from the Trumansburg Central School District, where he served as a high school principal for 11 years and as a business administrator for three years. Prior to Trumansburg, he was an assistant principal at Webster Schroeder High School. As a person who has always been passionate about career-based learning and

STEAM education, Koeng is thrilled to be taking on the challenge of leading the CTE program. He describes his new position as his dream job, and he is looking forward to getting his hands dirty and getting involved in the amazing things happening in the CTE classrooms.



**Suzanne Maxim is the new Department for Exceptional Children assistant director.**

She replaces Nichole Outhouse. Maxim began her career in the Rochester City School District, where she spent 17 years as a classroom teacher, reading specialist and instructional specialist. She next served as an Assistant Principal in Rush Henrietta, leading a vibrant school community for six rewarding years. She brings a robust skill set in education and instructional leadership to

BOCES 2. Maxim is eager to collaborate with and support students and staff. She is a dedicated educator with a lifelong commitment to empowering children and ensuring equitable access to quality instruction. Passionate about removing barriers to student success, she focuses on developing educational programs that support all learners.

Please welcome all of these talented individuals to their new roles at BOCES 2!

## More Than 500 Students Honored at CTE Recognition Ceremony

Students completing and participating in BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and courses were celebrated at the 2024 CTE Recognition Ceremony on June 13. Held at SUNY Brockport, families and friends gathered to celebrate more than 500 students who learned and mastered industry-aligned skills.



# CTE Students Place First in 6 Contests, Medal in 11 at State Competition

by Jennifer Merkel

The 2024 New York State SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Championships took place at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse from April 24-26. BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education was represented by more than 80 students as competitors, delegates and event workers. Twenty-five BOCES 2 CTE students combined for 11 medals in the championship competitions, and one student was voted a 2024-25 state officer.

Three students from BOCES 2 CTE placed first in their respective individual competitions: Dental Assisting student Briana Lewis (Brockport) in Dental Assisting; HVAC/Plumbing student Jordan Fleischer (Lake Ontario Baptist Academy) in HVAC; and HVAC/Plumbing student Owen Donovan (Brockport) in Plumbing.

Three additional team contests were won by BOCES 2 CTE students. Food Services students Caleb Armour (Spencerport) and Kamly Rosa-Padilla (Greece) finished first in Community Action Basic. Criminal Justice students Emily Ballard (Hilton), Izabella Allison (Spencerport) and Logan Feszczyszyn (Brockport) earned a first-place finish in Criminal Justice Quiz Bowl. Carpentry students Kyle Battaglia (Spencerport), Joshua Ortiz (Spencerport) and Andrew Shurina (Churchville-Chili) teamed up for a first-place finish in Occupational Health and Safety.

Six BOCES 2 CTE students combined for second-place finishes across three state competitions. Individual second-place awards were won by Medical Laboratory Assisting and Phlebotomy student Selki Wilson (Spencerport) in Medical Terminology, and Digital and Visual Communication student Faith Waver (Gates Chili) in Photography. Carpentry students Andrew Burke (Churchville-Chili)

and Paul Rose (Brockport); HVAC/Plumbing student Evan Prus (Hilton); and Residential and Commercial Electrical student Ethan Race (Holley) teamed up for a second-place finish in TeamWorks.

Two third-place finishes were won by a combined eight BOCES 2 CTE students. Dental Assisting student Saniya Harris (Spencerport) won third place in Dental Assisting. Seven Computer Technology students worked together to finish third in Opening and Closing Team: Jacob Chatt (Greece), Aiden Elliott (Kendall), Michai Jones (Wheatland-Chili), Riley Knopp (Holley), Mason Merriam (Holley), TJ Phelan (Gates Chili) and Ashton Streber (Greece).

In addition to the medals, a BOCES 2 CTE student also won a state officer position for next school year. Medical Laboratory Assisting and Phlebotomy student Payal Gajmer (Churchville-Chili) was elected as a 2024-25 New York State SkillsUSA Officer.

Leadership activities are also a core function of the event, and BOCES 2 CTE had two students participating in leadership roles and activities as elected positions. SkillsUSA New York Area 1 Vice President and Dental Assisting student Kayla Waddell-Martin (Greece) participated in one of her final events as a state leader. Medical Laboratory Assisting and Phlebotomy student Savannah Wehner (Spencerport) was elected the 2024-25 Area 1 Vice President at Regionals in March and attended the state conference for leadership purposes as well.

In addition to the elected positions, seven BOCES 2 CTE students represented the BOCES 2 CTE SkillsUSA chapter as delegates: Baking student Julian Rodriguez (Greece); Dental Assisting student Isabelle Nevares

(Greece); Criminal Justice students Cooper Moffatt (Churchville-Chili) and McKenzie Chard (Northstar); Digital and Visual Communication students Carina Gadaleta (Greece) and Erin Newton (Spencerport); and Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance student Ryan Williams (Brockport).

BOCES 2 CTE students could also be found throughout the event as skilled workers. Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance student Matthew Gramling (Greece) could be found with a camera at the event as the chapter photographer. Criminal Justice students Kayla Wiley (Gates Chili) and Mori Thomas (Churchville-Chili) served as contest helpers. Criminal Justice students Jared Romeis (Churchville-Chili) and Matthew Ryan (Spencerport) were a part of the Security Corps for the event. Dental Assisting student Calli Wamser (Greece) helped in the SkillsUSA store that sold merchandise to visitors.

During the Friday awards ceremony, the BOCES 2 CTE SkillsUSA chapter earned recognition of its own, being named a Gold Chapter of Excellence for the fourth year in a row.

Through their performances, 11 BOCES 2 CTE students became eligible to participate in the national conference in June. Lewis, Fleischer and Donovan punched their tickets to nationals with their first-place finishes, as did the Community Action Basic and Occupational Health and Safety teams. Due to the first-place finisher not being able to attend nationals, Wilson represented New York in Medical Terminology. Given their 2024-25 elected positions, Wehner and Gajmer headed to Atlanta to participate in leadership activities.





# GREETINGS FROM THE SKILLSUSA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SKILLS CONFERENCE

Atlanta, Ga. – June 24-28, 2024

by Jennifer Merkel

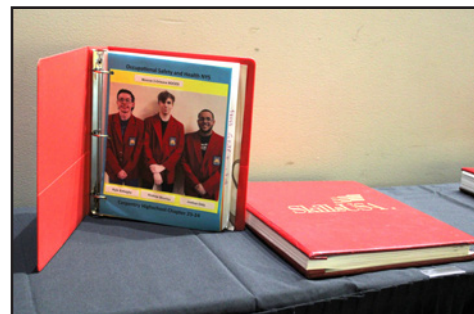
To cap off the 2023-24 school year, BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education was represented at the national level in Atlanta during the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. Eight students competed in six competitions, and two more participated in leadership activities. The group is pictured here in front of the Olympic Rings outside of Centennial Park in Atlanta right before the Champions Festival. Front row, from left, Food Services student Caleb Armour (Spencerport); Carpentry student Kyle Battaglia (Spencerport); Medical Laboratory Assisting and Phlebotomy students Selki Wilson (Spencerport) and Savannah Wehner (Spencerport); Dental Assisting student Briana Lewis (Brockport); and Carpentry students Andrew Shurina (Churchville-Chili) and Joshua Ortiz (Spencerport). Back row, from left, HVAC/Plumbing student Jordan Fleischer (Lake Ontario Baptist Academy); Instructional Specialist Melissa Doherty; Dental Assisting teacher and SkillsUSA Lead Advisor Jennifer Probst; Medical Laboratory Assisting and Phlebotomy teacher Jim Payne; Medical Laboratory Assisting and Phlebotomy student Payal Gajmer (Churchville-Chili); Carpentry teacher Kyle Canfield; HVAC/Plumbing teacher Dominic Corona; and HVAC/Plumbing student Owen Donovan (Brockport).



HVAC/Plumbing student Jordan Fleischer competed at the top level in the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration competition in Atlanta. He is seen here at two of the various stations of the competition.



Food Services student Caleb Armour represented himself and partner Kamlya Rosa-Padilla (Greece) in Atlanta during the Community Action Basic competition. Armour brought the pair's portfolio for display and discussed the project behind closed doors with a panel of judges.



Carpentry students Kyle Battaglia, Joshua Ortiz and Andrew Shurina teamed up in the Occupational Health and Safety competition in Atlanta. The event consisted of multiple parts, including building a portfolio and participating in a closed-door interview.



There's no brushing off the skills of Dental Assisting student Briana Lewis. She competed at the national level for the second year after back-to-back titles at the state level.



HVAC/Plumbing student Owen Donovan punched his ticket to the national stage after a first-place finish at the state level. He is seen here during the Plumbing competition held at the Georgia World Congress Center.



The festivities kicked off with the Opening Ceremonies held in the State Farm Arena. This event included officer introductions, a performance by the Atlanta Drum Company, and Emmy-award-winning journalist Cory James talking about his journey from SkillsUSA competitor to news anchor.





# End of Year Ceremonies



## Center for Workforce Development (CWD) Graduates

Congratulations to students who: completed their High School Equivalency (HSE) program by passing their General Educational Development (GED) tests; achieved milestones in the English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program; and finished their Dental Assisting Fundamentals program at CWD.



## Bridge to Earning, Learning and Living (BELL) Graduates

Congratulations to the 2024 BOCES 2 graduates of the Roberts Wesleyan University BELL program, who participated in the Spring Commencement ceremony on May 11.



## Preschool Graduation

Ready for kindergarten! The youngest students celebrated the first of many educational milestones with special ceremonies that highlighted their achievements in preschool.

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*(continued from p. 6)*

# End of Year Ceremonies



## Project SEARCH Graduation

Congratulations to the 2024 BOCES 2 Project SEARCH at URMCI interns. We wish them all well-deserved success and much happiness.



## Westside Academy Graduates

Congratulations to the extraordinary Westside Academy Class of 2024 – Anna, Katrina, Ashja, Jesse, Ashlyn and Lenia! A special shout out to Katrina and Lenia, who received 2024 Make All the Difference Scholarships, which cover up to \$5,000 of approved post-high school educational or career training expenses!



## Moving On Ceremony

Congratulations to Abigail, Hamnah, Tristan, Wyatt, Tanner, Mark, Jace and Nicholas who are moving on, but they will always be a part of the BOCES 2 family.

## Westview Graduation

Congratulations to Westview 2024 graduates Brennan, Cristian, Eloy, Hassan, Jason, Johnathan, Julian, Mattis, Thomas, Tucker and Zachary. As one of the guest speakers said, "Keep your eyes on the prize and your back to the wind!"



# Make All the Difference Scholarships and Awards

The Monroe 2–Orleans Educational Foundation awarded 21 Make All the Difference Scholarships and Awards to students in BOCES 2 programs this year. The foundation held a reception for the 2024 scholarship recipients and their families on June 1 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.

Congratulations to the following recipients: Brockport students Owen Donovan, Kaiana Garner, Briana Lewis, Nathan Maher and Lenia Sloan; Churchville-Chili student Avary Antonio; Gates Chili students Katrina Kirkpatrick and Faith Waver; Greece students Alexander Chizh, Arianna Dickinson and James Eccleston; Hilton students Jude Hare, Brean Maibohm, Sienna Olney and Chloe O'Shea; Holley student Grace Fuller; Kendall student Riley Dennie; Lake Ontario Baptist Academy student Jordan Fleischer; Spencerport student Selki Wilson; and Wheatland-Chili students Harmony Akins and Kiya Lupisella.



## CTE Honors Celebrates Student Achievements, Alumna

by Jennifer Merkel

CTE Honors was held on May 29 and celebrated more than 100 students' accomplishments and contributions to CTE. The celebration included honoring SkillsUSA officers and medalists; National Technical Honor Society achievements and endorsements; CTE Student Ambassadors; and CTE Announcements participants. Additionally, students were recognized with more than \$15,000 in CTE-related scholarships. To complete the event, the BOCES 2 CTE Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Sophia Avery, BS, MS, PA-C, a 2014 New Visions Health Professions alumna and Brockport graduate.



The Monroe County Council of School Superintendents (MCCOSS) Michael C. O'Laughlin Outstanding Senior Recognition Dinner was held on May 8. This dinner is the only program which recognizes excellence in all Monroe County and Rochester city high schools at one event. Students are selected for this honor based on their scholarship, leadership, service and character. The honorees received a gift from Monroe One BOCES District Superintendent Dan White and their respective school superintendents. Pictured, from left, is BOCES 2 District Superintendent Jo Anne Antonacci and Kiya Lupisella (Wheatland-Chili). Kiya was selected as the Outstanding Senior for BOCES 2 and completed the CTE Child and Family Development program.

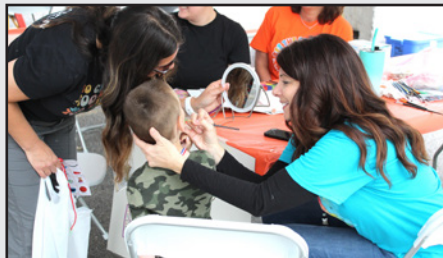




## SEPTO Fun Fair Was Full of Fun!

by Chris Klem

A big thanks to all the volunteers who made this year's Special Education Parent Teacher Organization (SEPTO) Fun Fair **really fun!** This event couldn't have happened without the support shown for SEPTO all year long.



## Spring Dinner Dance Was Out of This World

by Chris Klem

Colorful strobe lights, swirling galaxies and heavenly celestial bodies transformed the BOCES 2 Professional Development Center into a magical evening of "Dancing with the Stars," otherwise known as the annual Spring Dinner Dance. Friends enjoyed the event of the year, decked out in sparkling formal wear and beautiful smiles. It was certainly a special night to remember! A big thank you to all the teachers and staff who make this wonderful occasion possible every year.



## Students' Fanciful Stories Take the Stage

by Chris Klem

The partnership with PUSH Physical Theatre continued this spring with an incredible production, created and directed by students in Sam Fowler's Medically Fragile class at Brockport High School. Each student imagined a fanciful story – of purple cats, speedwalking rabbits, adorable cockroaches or dancing bears – which was then brought to life onstage by the talented folks from PUSH. Students felt a huge sense of joy and accomplishment in being able to share their visions with an audience of families and friends.





# BOCES 2 MEMORABLE MOMENTS



BOCES 4 Science Director Steve Montemarano speaks to employees and guests at the department's Open House. The event celebrated the completion of BOCES 4 Science's move into its new home at Rochester Tech Park.



CTE Teacher Jerome Ebbs and his students posed with the birdhouse they built for Percy, the persistent window knocker who likes to fly around outside the district superintendent's office at ESC.



A group of BOCES 2 retirees gathered for lunch at Slayton Place in Spencerport in June. The event was coordinated by CTE Retiree Dave Moore.



BOCES 2 Westview students unload a picnic table at Durand Eastman Beach. They built two picnic tables to replace ones burned by vandals in the park this spring.



Anna Stukes and her colleagues at the Regional Bilingual Education Resources Network (RBERN) pose for a photo with the proclamation that was presented at the Monroe County Legislature's April meeting.



Kendall second graders planted miniature pumpkins in the raised bed gardens at Kendall Elementary School (KES) under the guidance of BOCES 2 STEM Coach Kathryn Jensen. Students learned about what plants need and the importance of pollinators. When these students return to KES in the fall, they will harvest the pumpkins, make observations, take measurements, paint them and take them home.



In May, U.S. Department of Education Assistant Secretary of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services Glenna Wright-Gallo and Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President of Strong Memorial Hospital Kathy Parrinello visited the University of Rochester Medical Center Project SEARCH and met with BOCES 2 Instructor Kelly Adkins and students. Project SEARCH is a successful work-based transition program that involves nine months of hands-on work experience for students with developmental disabilities, ages 18-21, who seek to obtain competitive employment within their community. Pictured, from left, Kelly Adkins, Glenna Wright-Gallo, Emma Cahill, two staff members from Adult and Career Continuing Education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) and Kathy Parrinello.



Students in teacher Stephanie Sekaz's Integrated Preschool classrooms at English Village loved lessons about various kinds of light. Activities included "camping" with make-believe fires, lanterns and flashlights, and going outside to see how wearing sunglasses changes light perception.



## Retiree Recognition

On June 11, former BOCES 2 employees reunited in the Professional Development Center for the 2024 Retiree Reception to honor this year's class of 23 retirees, who had a combined 556 years of service. Each retiree was gifted an engraved memento box as a token of appreciation for their years of service. Best wishes to this year's retirees! Pictured, front row, from left, Mary Etta Chorbajian, Charlotte Gage, Jo Anne Antonacci, Leigh Nenni, Lynnette Brookes and Colleen Dox-Griffith; back row, Dave Mancuso, Jim Jewell, Dr. Michelle Ryan, Tom Merring, Pat Mance, Gail Mundt and Deb Walton. Not pictured: Annette Archer, Sharon Ashrafioun, Angelina Carangi, Christine Fike, Donna Graham, Sandra Manetta, Debra Mannix, Barbara Martorana, Cheryl Minster and Lori Radford.



# Save the Date

18th Annual  
Monroe 2–Orleans Educational Foundation

## Celebration

Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024  
Ridgemont Country Club, 6-11 p.m.

[www.MakeAllTheDifference.org](http://www.MakeAllTheDifference.org)

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**Questions?** Contact Karen Brown at  
[kbrown@monroe2boces.org](mailto:kbrown@monroe2boces.org) or (585) 352-2420

## Condolences to:

**Pete Beadling** on the death of his father; **Carol Lupisella** on the death of her mother; **Sandra Manetta** on the death of her sister; **Jennifer Newhart** on the death of her mother; the family of **Mary Jane Thaney** (retiree).

## Board of Cooperative Educational Services

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To view our newsletter online, visit  
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Past issues are also housed at this location.



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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, 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.

## Collaborative Project Caps Off the Year for Students

by Chris Klem

Check out this collaborative project between students in the Professional and Technical Prep Program at Westview and preschoolers in teacher Stephanie Sekaz's class. The high school students made graduation caps out of wood that they sanded down and prepped for painting by the preschoolers. Sekaz added names and photos for each preschool graduate. What fabulous keepsakes that will be treasured for a lifetime!



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