

# BOCES THE COMMUNICATOR



Fall 2013

## VIEWPOINT

A message from  
John C. Pennoyer  
District Superintendent



The last several months have been difficult ones for public education everywhere. Here at BOCES we had some serious staff reductions last spring, but Dutchess BOCES has responded positively with exciting, new initiatives. The Long Range Strategic Plan for 2013-15 was created cooperatively between Board and Administrative Cabinet, and most importantly, it represents a strong commitment to continue many of those new initiatives that were begun by many of you last spring. We have Task Forces underway looking at new funding sources for BOCES, new partnerships with community agencies, aggressive communication efforts, ongoing Professional Development programming and making effective use of the Salt Point Campus by sponsoring events that are attractive to many groups. These Task Forces are strong because they include many staff members volunteering to contribute from their own talents, skills and interests.

Last year at this time I noted that the financial challenges to public education were serious and severe, and these challenges continue this year as well. To respond, we need to join in a shared mission to persuade our component districts that BOCES services save money. They should not be placed on a cut list. I appeal to all staff members and readers to join in this mission and to contribute their energy and talent and dedication to a robust future for Dutchess BOCES.

**NYSED**  
**STLE-2**  
**\$1.3million**  
**AWARDED**

Dutchess BOCES was awarded a Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness 2 grant by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) in the amount of \$1,313,250. Dutchess BOCES will serve as the Lead Educational Agency for the Success Transforms Educational Progress (STEP-Up) Project, which aims to support eligible districts to implement or build a career ladder in order to recruit, develop, and retain effective teachers and school leaders.

Five Dutchess County school districts will partner in the STEP-Up Project, including the Beacon City School District, the Dover Union Free School District, the Hyde Park Central School District, the Northeast (Webutuck) Central School District, and the Pine Plains Central School District. The Project will serve approximately 10,506 students, 834 teachers, 24 principals and 10 assistant principals.

The goal of the STEP-Up Project is to provide a pathway to growth for both principals and teachers, defining roles and responsibilities for advancement through the utilization of a Teacher and Principal Academy.

The Academy will improve student achievement by strengthening both teacher and principal evaluation, building the collective efficacy of teachers and principals across Dutchess County, increasing the capacity of expert teachers and principals to mentor their peers, providing incentives for professional growth and career advancement, and guiding teachers and leaders early in their careers.

BOCES District Superintendent John C. Pennoyer commented, "Dutchess BOCES is proud to have received funding through the STLE-2 grant enabling teachers and leaders from consortium districts in Dutchess County."



## BOCES CLASS LEARNS FIRE PREVENTION AT VAIL FARM

Each year, Fire Prevention Week is observed during the week of October 9<sup>th</sup> to remember the destruction caused by past fires and to work towards a fire-free future. Members of the Arlington Volunteer Fire Department visited the Vale Farm Elementary School to kick off the week, teaching students vital routines for exiting a building during a fire.

BOCES students had the opportunity to observe a firefighter in full firefighting gear. All students in pre-kindergarten through grade 4 were treated to a guided tour of the Department's fire trucks, while students in grades 5 and 6 practice their fire extinguishing skills in a simulation involving a fire extinguisher.

Fire Prevention Week was established in 1911 by the Fire Marshals Association of North America in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which burned through that city on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in 1871, and a massive fire in Northeastern Wisconsin known as the Peshtigo Fire, which burned several towns and over 1 million acres of land on that same day.

The devastation, which included the loss of over 1,000 lives, prompted the Fire Marshals Association to introduce children to the dangers of fire and increase awareness across all ages of how everyone can help prevent fire-related catastrophes.



Fire Prevention Week has been observed annually since 1922.

Beginning in 1927, the National Fire Prevention Association, established in 1896, has given a theme to Fire Prevention Week, focusing on a specific area of fire prevention. The theme for 2013 was Prevent Kitchen Fires, which focused on the fact that most home fires are started by cooking-related accidents. Risky kitchen habits, such as unattended cooking, were highlighted.

Thanks to Michael Dwyer, Tami Erixon, Paul Kaup, Tad Lambert, Dan Douglas, and Briana Cudly for giving their time to teach Vail Farm's students about fire safety!

## THE SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM

This past summer, the Dutchess School Library System (SLS) successfully migrated to a new library automation system, called OPALS. The SLS serves participating school libraries by providing automation development and support, professional library collection and online resources, coordination of inter-library loan, and other important services.

The 32 schools that receive automation support are now enjoying a significant improvements to the use experience of their systems through efficiency and easy of use. Flexibility and functionality were also increased, as the new OPALS system is completely web-based and embraces emerging technology with Web 2.0 features built into the public access catalog and mobile device application.

SLS also integrated Lexile levels into many of the library records, enabling students and faculty to find resources that synchronize with the Common Core Learning Standards.



## SPC Interact Goes International

Three Salt Point Center Interact officers, Samantha Sickler *President*, Evan Salamone *Vice President*, and Joseph Cecere *Secretary*, attended Rotary International Day at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. A unique opportunity to visit the United Nations Headquarters, the event was attended more than 700 Interact and Rotaract Club students from all over the world! The students were accompanied by Rotary Liaison Roger Risko and SPC Interact Advisors, Jodiah Jacobs and Paula Goehring.

The day panel discussions with leaders and officers from the United Nations, UN affiliated Non-Governmental Organizations, and Rotary International. Attendees discussed the various ways they raise funds for their international community service projects. It was truly inspiring to hear of service efforts taking place around the world, and SPC's Interact officers came away from the experience with new insights into fundraising and an appreciation for the good work that gets done through Rotary.





The new Dutchess County SPCA Adoption and Education Center, slated to open by the end of the year, will house adoptable cats, dogs, birds and other small pets like ferrets, rabbits, gerbils, and hamsters. The new space is a green building, designed to meet the needs of the animals in the SPCA's care.

The organization plans to include 68 "cat condos," or large crates where cats will eat, sleep, and play until they are adopted. The "condos" will complement the free-roam cat rooms in the new building, giving the animals a variety of spaces to enjoy.

Robert Kampf, former Principal of the Dutchess BOCES Career and Technical Institute (CTI) and a current Dutchess County SPCA Board member, contacted CTI and asked if the Carpentry class would be interested in supporting the organization". Gladly accepting the project, instructor Joseph Frolish explained, "Projects like these are considered great opportunities for the students."

DUTCHESS COUNTY  
Regional CHAMBER of COMMERCE  
*ALI at the JOB Fair*

On September 18<sup>th</sup> the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce sponsored the "Work Local First" Job Fair, held at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel and Conference Center. The event, aimed at connecting employers to local community members looking for work, was complimentary for exhibitors looking to fill full-time, part-time, and temporary positions. The Dutchess BOCES Adult Learning Institute (ALI) was present at the event, along with local employers and other community resource groups.



*Michael Batira, Garrett Lucier, and Leslie Ford*

During the day, ALI alumni Garrett Lucier stopped at the table to share his success story, which began only eight months earlier where he attended ALI's "Getting Paid To Talk: An Introduction to Professional Voice Acting" course. Mr. Lucier noticed an ad for the class, and, in a period of unemployment, decided to take the course along with his father to an attempt to try something new. There, they explored the world of voice acting for television, radio, audio books, and more, their studies culminating in the recording of a commercial under producer and instructor Dean Bourgeois.

Mr. Bourgeois, who runs a successful media group in Saugerties, NY, approached Garrett during class, probing his level of determination to secure career opportunities within the field. Garret remarked, "Since following through with voice analysis, voice coaching, and next level classes, it has been look for work, get jobs, and keep going. I am now a freelance professional voice actor."

Citing Dutchess BOCES for opening the door to something he never thought possible, Mr. Lucier has several accomplishments on his resume, including lending his voice to iPhone applications, translating textbooks into audio books for California and Texas' new Common Core education program, motivational speaking, testimonials, as well as the being the voice of a Canadian radio sports personality known as "Miami Mike".

To ALI students, Mr. Lucier advises, ""Do it! Take the class, listen to what they have to say and ask questions. These are industry people sharing their experience so engage the instructor to get the most you can from the class." Mr. Lucier looks forward to his next opportunity, and has big hopes for the future. "In a word - Disney! I specialize in character voices. I don't want people to know my face; I want them to know my voice."



On October 25<sup>th</sup>, Norah Merritt, Executive Director of Educational Programs, Barbara Cesario, Coordinator of Occupational and Physical Therapy Services, and Leah Pollack, a Special Education Specialist, appeared on Radio Rotary. On the lively half-hour interview program, simulcast on three AM stations in the Hudson Valley Talk Radio Network on Friday mornings at 9 am, hosts Sarah O'Connell and Jonah Triebwasser talk with Rotarians and non-Rotarians who are living examples of Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self."

On this broadcast, made possible by Rotary International, Rotary District 7210, and several Rotary Club sponsors, Ms. Merritt, Ms. Cesario, and Ms. Pollack led a discussion on the topics of Autism, Deafness, and Hearing Disorders, focusing on the programs and services that Dutchess BOCES is able to provide for students on the Autism Spectrum or those suffering from hearing disabilities.







## STRATEGIC PLAN TASK FORCES

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

The Communications and Public Relations team has set its priorities on broadening the Image and understanding of Dutchess BOCES among Component School Districts and the Larger Community that it serves.

Facilitator Norah Merritt remarks, "There is something happening, some call it a renaissance, others call it synergy; whatever the term is, it's exciting!

I've witnessed a collective energy in support of our core mission, which is to support component school districts with solutions, service, and savings."



Thus far the team has seen many actionable steps realized; a Poughkeepsie Journal Article highlighting Middle School Enrichment Program, Fall Harvest Family Fun Night for hearing impaired students, BOCES as host and partner to The Dutchess County Youth Forum, a Radio project with Radio Rotary, and the creation of four public service announcements.

The team meets every two weeks to report on the action steps executed and plan for the next step; look for more to come!

### **PARTNERSHIP**

This group naturally formed around the interest to maintain and build on the enduring strength of partnerships, a rich source of Dutchess BOCES' community involvement. We are addressing three priorities to expand this valuable resource. First, with the help of colleagues, the committee will create a database that identifies all of our current partnerships and their relationship to sections of Dutchess BOCES. We will identify the main contacts linking the current agreement, and the type of sharing relationship. The intention is to analyze our current pattern of partners and partnerships, identify gaps to address, and share the information throughout the organization.



The second priority is to utilize the strength within our BOCES to connect with potential partners. To this end, we are developing a "Media Kit" to help each employee reach out and link us to organizations that share our vision.

Third, we seek to form new meaningful partnerships. We are increasing our partnership relationship with Marist College in response to our mutual need to examine the art and science of teaching. In a fiscally challenging time, we will reach out to develop messages intended to match adults and students with BOCES training programs.

## ***ALTERNATIVE FUNDING***

The Alternative Funding Task Force is working to help expand the number and types of sources that provide revenue for our programs. We've begun collecting data on public, private and "micro" grants with an initial emphasis on work-force-related areas in healthcare, geriatrics, and the trades, and in aspects of special education.

As part of a needs inventory, we'll be asking BOCES employees to help identify areas where extra revenue will have major impact in the expansion and delivery of services.



In addition, the Poughkeepsie Library District (Adriance Library) has agreed to give Task Force members a "private" workshop in grants research and grants writing. Sherre Wesley, Alternative Funding Task Force Facilitator remarks, "Thanks to legal assistance provided by Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow & Mayle LLP, work on creating a Dutchess BOCES 501(c)(3) foundation has begun. Once in place, it will expand the sources we can approach for funding, and will make contributions tax-deductible for a donor."

The Alternative Funding Task Force looks forward to working with other Dutchess BOCES Task Forces to identify partnerships that can assist with fundraising, and to communicating with potential donors about the high quality and innovative work provided by Dutchess BOCES.

## ***CAMPUS EVENTS***

The function of this task force is to focus on creating two or three high impact events on the Salt Point Campus for constituents in Dutchess County.

We are compiling a survey and researching the possibility of starting a farmer's market on the SPC campus, an event that will offer great benefit to our local community.

## ***PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT***

The Professional Development Task Force has focused on Long Range Strategic Plan Goal three, which is to build capacity and enable districts to deliver teaching and learning of the highest quality by reinforcing and expanding the existing foundations of Professional Development.

The first focus of the Task Force is to develop an array of Professional Development and training opportunities for all Dutchess BOCES employees. Secondly, the Task Force is working collaboratively with division representatives to incorporate professional development and training into their service delivery model.

The members have created three survey tools (Internal, External School Districts, and External Partners) to determine the Professional Development needs of all stakeholders.

The Professional Development Task Force will begin to review the results of these surveys at the November meeting. This analysis will provide the data needed in order to customize training opportunities for our district partners and our internal BOCES faculty and staff.

The Task Force team is excited to have the opportunity to offer meaningful professional training within Dutchess BOCES and across Dutchess County.

We are hopeful that the recipients of our electronic surveys will respond so that we can have the best information available to make critical decisions about professional development. This work will showcase BOCES as the "expert" when it comes to teaching and learning in Dutchess County.



# HEALTH OCCUPATIONS

## Take a Walk!

Early in the month of October, Ms. Deborah Roraback's Intro to Health Occupations class took a unique walk around the school's campus. Simulating various ailments and disabilities in order to understand first-hand the challenges their future patients may be facing, Ms. Roraback feels that the walk is an excellent experience for first-year students. For the past 15 years, Intro to Health Occupation students have participated in this activity, learn about various health challenges while also developing empathy for those they will serve.

The group walked the campus, through building halls and lobbies, traversing terrain that the elderly or disabled might find challenging, such as ramps, stairs, hills, grass, concrete, tile, and doorways of varying sizes. The class traveled as a group, letting no participant fall behind.

One student simulating dependency on a walker. This caused her to walk very slowly, and she commented that, were she permanently confined to this condition, she would want to just go home and cry. She explained, "It taught me how to be patient with other people walking slowly."

Walking with popcorn kernels in her shoes to simulate the pain of bunions and corns, another student declared, "It was like a stabbing feeling of rocks in my shoes." Ms. Roraback reminded the class to imagine living with these limitations every day, with every step, and to consider what that must be like.



Several students wore semi-dark sunglasses with Vaseline smeared across the lenses to simulate cataracts. Others had their eyes covered to simulate blindness. Both groups were dependent on others to help them during the walk. During the simulation, one of the "blind" students was asked about her experience, however, there was no way for her to realize she was asked a direct question.

One could understand in a small way why the condition could be so frustrating. Another student expressed feelings of apprehension with regard to trusting her guides, fears of falling, knocking into things and getting lost. An eye condition called Macular Degeneration was simulated, by wearing paper-covered sunglasses with only a tiny pinhole to see through.

When one student was caught peeking over the top of her glasses, Ms. Deborah Bleski, a TA in the Nursing Department and herself a Registered Nurse, reminded the students, "You were able to gain relief from the simulated condition, but those who suffer with it have no relief, it is constant."

Simulating Expressive Aphasia, a student was limited to speaking only one word. Her sentences, responses, and comments were restricted to the use of the single word 'wow'. She noted later how lonely the condition must be.

As they concluded their chapter study with this "Geriatric Walk," the students were encouraged to think of an elderly relative or neighbor, and their homework over the week-end was to perform an act or gesture of kindness toward that person. An assignment to demonstrate empathy and help the elderly feel included in society.

At the end of class, all of the students returned their disabilities, storing them in a box for the next semester's students. Visiting CTI alumni who are now working in the healthcare industry often mention the 'walk', its impact on them, and how the experience has stayed with them, even 5 to 10 years later.





# AHS Students Go the Extra Mile

Through the Alternative High school's Incentive Program, a group of students enjoyed a walk across the Walkway Over the Hudson. They earned the trip by following academic and behavioral criteria that coincide with the school's PBIS motto "Be Safe, Be Prepared, Be Respectful, Be Responsible."

While walking the bridge, the group was given the opportunity to go the "extra mile" and participate in a photo contest. Each participant earned extra credit for their Art class, aspired to have their photo chosen for public acknowledgement and display. After reviewing all submissions, 157 people voted; Connor McCormack's picture took first place with 44 votes. Excellent job and good-eye!



photo by Connor McCormack

## Educational Resources: Setting up for Success

### Gearing Up: Planning For A Successful School Year

From June 24<sup>th</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013, more than 130 educators from across Dutchess County came together to Plan for a Successful School Year. Participants were immersed in workshops that increased their understanding of the Common Core, shifts in ELA and Math, coaching strategies, and the challenges surrounding education today. The workshop also provided an opportunity for Shared Printing Services to display New York State provided Modules, units of lessons that extend over a period of time on the same topic, that had been bound and printed.



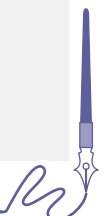
### Shared Printing Services Supports Districts

Dutchess BOCES Communications and Grants Research (CGR) has created user-friendly ELA and Math teacher guides and student workbooks from modules and units provided by NYSED.



### Race To The Top Network Team

Educational Resources continues to support Dutchess Component Districts in the implementation of the any facets of the Regents Reform Agenda: Teacher and Leader Effectiveness, Common Core Learning Standards, and Data Driven Instruction. All programs within the Educational Resources Division have worked in concert to support teachers and leaders to build capacity while implementing these important initiatives, providing Common Core professional development for over 500 teachers and leaders in Dutchess County since July 1, 2013.



## Culinary Class Donates Dessert



CTI Culinary Arts Class donated their time and skills preparing signature desserts for approximately 400 guests attending the Ryan McElroy Cancer Foundation's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Tasting. The tasting featured fine foods from restaurants, wineries, breweries and more from around the Hudson Valley.

The event for this nonprofit organization was held at the Grandview in Poughkeepsie on Thursday, October 10, 2013.



Steve Reverri, of the Ryan's Foundation Board of Directors, comments, "So far we have raised over **\$20,000 and more money associated with the event is still coming in!** The addition of the CTI Culinary Class and Chef Dan Tierney was absolutely incredible. We were so happy to have the students there, serving their creations and more importantly seeing how businesses, specifically restaurants, give back to the community for the greater good."



lutely incredible. We were so happy to have the students there, serving their creations and more importantly seeing how businesses, specifically restaurants, give back to the community for the greater good."

## Career Exploration Program

In September 2013, CTI began offering a new program called Career Explorations. It is a program geared toward students who were previously on track for a local or IEP Diploma. It is career track-based and exposes students to career planning with emphasis on Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) standards.

Students may now come to CTI for half a day, rotating through selected trade programs and learn how to plan for careers in these areas. As an added feature, students will receive career counseling and work-based learning opportunities. Job-based field trips and guest lecturers round out this program.

## Dover Completes Greeter Training for School Staff

Greeter training is an awareness training that defines and stresses the tools a school greeter needs to be successful at their job. This position is important as a "front line" resource for the welfare of all students, staff, and property. It is a two-fold job of controlling access to the building by screening visitors and also assisting in directing them to their proper destination.



Highlighting three essential skills: Observation, Communication, and De-Escalation, Cole Bender, F&O, also explored the subjects of chain of command, protocol and monitoring.

## BOARD PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CORNER

*A message from  
Edward L. McCormick*



Public education is facing many difficult challenges not only in New York but across the nation. Your Board of Trustees and I nevertheless find comfort and satisfaction in knowing that Dutchess BOCES is doing everything within its ability to respond with services and leadership to help our component districts and most importantly the students of Dutchess County.

Thank you to all of you for what you do! Happy Holidays!!

### TITLE IX AND 504 COMPLIANCE

Dutchess BOCES offers employment and educational opportunities without regard to sex, race, color, national origin or disability. Inquiries regarding this nondiscrimination policy may be directed to the following individual. This official will provide information, including complaint procedures to any citizen, student or employee who feels that his or her rights under Title IX or Section 504 may have been violated by the BOCES or its officials:

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#### THE BOCES COMMUNICATOR

Genevieve Kellam, Editor  
Administrator for Communications and Grants Research  
Dutchess BOCES, 900 Dutchess Tpke, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603  
voice: 845.486.8051 fax: 845.486.4958  
genevieve.kellam@dcbooces.org

Desiree Ferrara and Hanorah Slocum, Public Information Officers  
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