

# DUTCHESS BOCES SPOTLIGHT

May 2015



**DUTCHESS BOCES** | **Education Foundation**

**Established to Enhance Education**

*Educators with innovative ideas have a new ally to help students throughout Dutchess County to learn and grow. Officially launching this month, the Dutchess BOCES Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to improving quality education by enhancing programs. This newly minted foundation will collaborate with other agencies to acquire and distribute funds to augment students' educational experience.*

## **Dutchess BOCES Education Foundation Board of Directors**

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Norah Merritt

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"We are so pleased that our Foundation is now officially up and running," said Dutchess BOCES Executive Director of Human Resources Norah Merritt, who serves as president. "Educators have many creative, innovative ideas that support student learning and often they require financial assistance. The Foundation is committed to raising funds and extending the educational resources available throughout Dutchess County."

Examples of some projects that might be supported by the Foundation are the Summer Scholars program held annually at Vassar College, literacy coaches, science equipment for classrooms, and refurbishing the green house at the Dutchess BOCES Career and Technical Institute.

"The overarching theme is if you want a child's mind to grow, you must first plant a seed," said Mrs. Merritt. The Foundation can also serve as the umbrella not-for-profit entity for an educator who is interested in applying for a grant that requires such status.

The idea to form a foundation was first developed by the Partnerships & Alternative Funding Task Force. Once non-profit status was awarded last October, two committees were established.

The planning committee focused upon developing the mission and core goals, which were adopted by the Foundation's Board. The Foundation is independent from the Dutchess BOCES Board of Trustees.

**"The Foundation is committed to raising funds and extending the educational resources available throughout Dutchess County."**

Norah Merritt  
Executive Director of Human Resources

## Mission Statement

The Dutchess BOCES Education Foundation is a public not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, promoting excellence in education by supporting students and schools of Dutchess BOCES. Its purpose is to acquire and distribute funds to augment students' educational experience.

## Core Values

### Student Achievement

We are committed to student achievement. We are education-centered, with the goal of enhancing the district culture of teaching and learning; providing an opportunity for all students.

### Leadership

We are passionate about the work afforded by our mission. We are inspired by and dedicated to students in our community. We work to provide innovative resources to educators and students. We are leaders in the community providing the catalyst for programs.

### Integrity

We maintain the highest level of individual and organizational integrity; committed to doing the right thing for Dutchess County students. We conduct all business in an ethical and professional manner, being the best community partner possible.

### Spirit of Community

Strong community relationships and partnerships are essential to fulfill our mission. We are collaborative in all of our endeavors and seek innovation and teamwork.

### Stewardship

As stewards of the community's trust, we are accountable in action and attitude for the resources entrusted to us. We earn the community's good will by taking emotional and fiscal care of these assets. We make decisions that are financially responsible and sustainable.

### Strategic Goals

- The Dutchess BOCES Education Foundation will unveil its strategic plan encouraging philanthropy by hosting special events, either on our own or in partnership with others, to educate the community about new, exciting and enriching opportunities for students
- We will support innovative academic projects that fall outside the BOCES budget in three areas: research & development/innovation, technology, and infrastructure
- We will work closely with the Board of Trustees and District Superintendent to identify priority programs that enhance teaching, encourage learning, and support curriculum
- We will secure new funding or provide financial assistance for facilities and new equipment

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The development committee continues to work on protocols and plans for future fundraisers and community events. Several donations have already been received.

**If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please send it to: Dutchess BOCES Education Foundation, c/o Dutchess BOCES, 5 BOCES Road, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601. The Foundation is also interested in recruiting volunteers to assist with future events. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Merritt by telephone at 845-486-4800 or email the Foundation at [dutchess.foundation@dcboces.org](mailto:dutchess.foundation@dcboces.org).**

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**DUTCHESS****BOCES**

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