

# DCBOCES SPOTLIGHT

October 2016



*As we embark on a new year of fresh faces, challenges, and exciting work, we would like to thank each of you for your continuing efforts to help young people excel and to share a few noteworthy items. We hope you are energized and feel inspired to continue to enable and celebrate student achievements through the year!*

## NEW SPACE FOR THE PEGASUS PROGRAM

The Facilities and Operations Division is always busy during the summer, and this year was no exception. F&O's tasks included the renovation of a CTI classroom for a special education class, including work to provide greater accessibility for students with disabilities. F&O designed a kitchen and bathroom using ADA guidelines. The bathroom involved the most infrastructure



work because of the plumbing and tile work. All fixtures are now accessible for students with disabilities. The kitchen island turned out to be a wonderful work space for the students. It accommodates both students who use wheelchairs and students who don't.



This project involved multiple trades and was accomplished all in-house using the talents of our amazing staff. The space was configured to ensure ample maneuvering space; varied countertop heights and desk/work areas; the sink was installed with knee clearance and controls for fans and lighting were relocated to counter height for easy accessibility. "This was a tremendous job that provides a space that supports our students," said teacher Martha Schultz. "We know they can succeed and we strive to help them be the best that they can be."

## MOVING FORWARD WITH PBIS

The Alternative High School originally launched its Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program before it was a popular trend across the state. This approach to restorative disciplinary methods has been significantly successful. These PBIS principles, as well as improved curriculum, new clubs created as positive incentives, and a seasoned staff, has helped to transform the Alternative High School's culture into a culture of success.

As an example of this success, consider that during the 2010-11 school year, students completed 239 courses. In comparison, students in the 2015-16 school year (last year) completed 1,062 courses. Enrollment numbers remain at a similar level. "It's a different place in large part due to the staff and their dedication," said Duane Sharrock, Coordinator of Alternative Education. "By changing the culture, and by responding to students' needs and interests, we have seen greater student success."



# GO!

*continued on back...*

In an effort to continue the success, BOCES has now implemented the methods provided by The Crisis Prevention Institute to employ strategies that help to de-escalate a student incident or behavior before it reaches a crisis stage.

Crisis staff members and administrators were trained this summer and soon other staff members will be able to attend an abbreviated training on a volunteer basis.

"If you fully embrace the program and the skills taught, it will lead to a reduction in behaviors and students will be more engaged in class," said Victoria Saffioti, the staff specialist who is delivering the training. "It's really about building a rapport with students and recognizing stressors, anxiety, and situations. The skills we have learned make it easier to work with a challenging population and to offer appropriate support to our students so they can learn."



## ENROLLMENT IS UP AT ALI

The Adult Learning Institute (ALI) has already seen a 24 % increase in enrollment for fall classes as compared to 2015. "We have 246 students enrolled and can attribute that to a combination of offering the right things and being sure our community knows what we offer," said Liz Hayter, ALI Administrator. The HVAC, Auto Mechanic, Nurse Assistant, and Major Appliance Repair programs are popular, she added.

ALI continues to accept students for its wide variety of courses including Phlebotomy, Security Guard Training, How To Make A Basket, Anyone Can Draw, Salsa Dancing, and Introduction To Guitar. The Spring catalog will be published in early January.

## OVER THE SUMMER

### Dutchess BOCES Hosts Regional Summer School

Students from across the county had the opportunity to recover credits and to stay on track for graduation thanks to the establishment of a Dutchess BOCES Regional Summer School in partnership with the Hyde Park Central School District.

Nearly 200 students from five school districts took advantage of the summer program which was hosted by FDR High School from July 6<sup>th</sup> to August 16<sup>th</sup>. It culminated with the administration of 418 Regents examinations.

"This was an exciting collaboration with the Hyde Park School District. All of the students who participated benefited from the opportunity to reclaim credit, and were also able to prep for an additional opportunity to pass a Regents exam or to raise their grade," said Bill Ball, BOCES' Director of Educational Programs. "We had an opportunity, because of our economy of scale, to create a program that some of our smaller partners would benefit from," said Ball. "We hope for even greater participation next year."

### Dutchess BOCES Students Support Autism Awareness

Dutchess BOCES students, members of the BOCES Faculty Association, job coaches, families and student volunteers came together on July 18<sup>th</sup> to support the Autism Directory Service/Autism Awareness Golf Tournament (ADS). BOCES students helped sell and announce raffles and also enjoyed mingling with golfers, putting a few holes and taking golf cart rides.



ADS has generously awarded many grants and supported numerous programs to benefit students in the PEACCE program including adaptive curriculum, field trips to New York City, challenger leagues for bowling, basketball and baseball, and job coaching in the summer. Congratulations to everyone who helped to make the day a success!

