

# THE BOCES TECH COMMUNICATOR

Spring 2010

## VIEWPOINT

*A message from  
John C. Pennoyer,  
District Superintendent*



We were very pleased that all thirteen of our component school boards approved our administrative budget this year. With Linda Poleski's leadership, the entire administrative team, supported by the Business Office staff, worked hard for virtually the entire year to produce as many cost reductions as possible. Budget lines and equipment were reduced by 65% compared to the previous year; by 4% in the supply lines; and by 10% in contractual expenses. As always, however, we are burdened by the same fixed costs that affect us every year--increases in TRS and ERS, increases in medical insurance and retiree health insurance, and the new MTA payroll tax hit us for another \$77,000. When all of the cost reductions and zero-growth lines were factored in with the "high ticket" fixed costs, the overall administrative budget increase was 4.7%.

So the good news is that we were supported unanimously by our component districts. The bad news is that service requests for 2010-11 are significantly lower than in previous years. The impact has been that we have had to lay off almost eighteen full-time equivalent staff. Hopefully, service requests will increase early next fall and we will be able to recall some of those staff members.

The Governor has proposed a reduction in state aid to school districts by over 5% for 2010-11. And the overall picture for the out years is also not encouraging.

We will all have to be vigilant regarding expenditures for the foreseeable future.

## Dutchess BOCES CTI Students succeed at the SkillsUSA State Competition in Syracuse

SYRACUSE, NY – Six Dutchess BOCES Career and Technical Institute (CTI) students took places in the 44th Annual SkillsUSA State Conference and Skills Championships. The competition was held in the OnCenter in Syracuse, on April 14 and 15. The scope of the contests includes an intense practical hands-on component as well as a written knowledge test.

Students who placed in the following trade areas include: 3rd place - Zachiya Roberts (FDR) and Connor Thompson (Spackenkill) in Video/TV Production; 2nd place - Joe Zastenchik (Arlington) in Small Engine Repair; 2nd place - Lauren Del Biondo (FDR) in Pre-School Teaching Assistant; 2nd place - Megan Kalkowski (John Jay) in Job Demo; 1st place - Victoria Stagias (Pine Plains) in Commercial Baking.

Our first place winner, Victoria Stagias, will represent New York State in the National SkillsUSA Competition in commercial baking to be held in Kansas City, MO. Megan Kalkowski will also be joining her to compete in the Job Demo national contest. These students will be asked to compete against the best in the country.



**Girls: Front Row L to R:** Lauren Del Biondo (FDR) 2nd Place Pre-School Teaching Assistant; Megan Kalkowski (John Jay) 2nd Place Job Demo (Open); Victoria Stagias (Pine Plains) 1st Place Commercial Baking.

**Guys: Back Row L to R:** Zachiya Roberts (FDR) 3rd Place Video/TV Production; Connor Thompson (Spackenkill) 3rd Place Video/TV Production; Joe Zastenchik (Arlington) 2nd Place Small Engine Repair

CTI's SkillsUSA club and competitors will have to raise extra funds to help offset the costs to send these students to Kansas City.

SkillsUSA is a national organization created by teachers, for teachers, as a way to reach and develop their students. A nationwide partnership of business and industry, career training students, instructors, and school

*Continued on page 2...*

## CTI Students Invited to CIA Leadership Awards



*CTI Culinary students at Cipriani's Restaurant in Manhattan*

NYC, NY – Attending a prestigious gala in New York City does not happen very often—especially for high school students. Several Dutchess BOCES Career and Technical Institute (CTI) Culinary Arts Program students and Chef Instructor Darcy Sala were invited by The Culinary Institute of America (CIA) to attend this year's annual CIA Leadership Awards. The gala took place on March 18 at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York City. CTI students who attended with Chef Sala were Lauren Vassallo (Wappingers), Paul Valenti (Arlington), Alicia Mata (Pine Plains), Victoria Stagias (Pine Plains), Fletcher Campbell (Hyde Park), Hugo

*Continued on page 3...*

## Earth Day Car and Recycling Projects with Elementary Students

On April 24 and 25, Dutchess BOCES participated in the 40th Anniversary Hudson Valley Earth Day Celebration at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. It was the first time Earth Day was celebrated at the fairgrounds. Dutchess BOCES was represented in three areas; early childhood education, automotive repair, and construction.

Students in the Early Childhood Program taught kindergartners and younger children about the recycling process. They provided a hands-on activity that included sorting paper, plastic and metal then tossing items into appropriate bins.

Students from the Automotive Program built a green car powered by photo voltaic solar energy. The car achieves 45 miles to a charge and travels at a speed of 25 miles per hour. It is still a work in progress.

The Construction Cluster built a model-scale (approximately 12' x 12') renewable energy home that uses current technology. The purpose is to demonstrate efficient methods in electrical and building construction. Spray foam insulation was used to achieve zero heat loss through electrical outlets; LED lighting was installed along with an occupancy sensor that automatically turns off lights to save energy; a 98% efficient wall-hung boiler was installed for domestic water and radiant heating, and low-e glass windows were installed, as well. The E stands for emissivity. Low-e glass works by reflecting heat back to its source. The proposed solar panels were not added due to time limitations.

The model house was approximately 70% complete at the time of the fair and is still under construction.

## A Closer Look at the e-Learning COSER

The BOCES e-Learning service provides professional development and support for digital technology that facilitates learning by enhancing classroom instruction. The practice of e-Learning in today's school environment is a viable and practical way to engage students.

Online education provided through tools such as MOODLE can facilitate the mastery of essential 21st century skills. Members of the e-Learning service will have full access to MOODLE, Ensemble Video, video conferencing, and virtual field trips.

In addition, this service will provide support for: Virtual learning opportunities from providers such as Accelerate U or Virtual High School; In-district development of online coursework; Advanced technologies such as multi-user virtual environments and webinar tools.

E-Learning environments/opportunities leverage the tools students are already accustomed to using while they are not in the classroom. These opportunities allow students to explore areas of content in a way that makes the most sense to them.

## BOCES Regional Certificate Office

Dutchess BOCES has been a Regional Certification Office since July 2006. It functions as an extension of the New York State Education Department, Office of Teaching Initiatives.

The Regional Certification Office serves the school districts and residents of Dutchess County by providing individual transcript evaluation and processing of credentials for those seeking New York State certification. The office is in close contact with the State Education Department and is available to answer questions and provide assistance to those needing assistance. In addition, the office also processes Temporary and Professional Coaching Licenses for school districts in Dutchess County.

The application and payment for licenses is done on the TEACH website and licenses are issued by the New York State Education Department. To set up a TEACH account and apply online, please visit [www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert)

A Dutchess BOCES Regional Certification Officer works with the directors of physical education and the athletic directors to ensure that all requirements are met.

Janet Quade is the Regional Certification Officer and can be reached by telephone at 845.486.4800, extension 217 or via e-mail at [janet.quade@dcbores.org](mailto:janet.quade@dcbores.org).

Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## SkillsUSA Competition *...Continued from page 1*

administrators, SkillsUSA is a professional society run at all levels: in the school, in the state associations, and in the national association. SkillsUSA prepares students to enter the work force by teaching leadership and professional development skills and by providing opportunities to put these skills to work. SkillsUSA has over 250,00 student members, organized into more than 13,000 local chapters. More than 13,500 teachers and school administrators serve as professional SkillsUSA members and instructors, and over 500 corporations, trade associations and labor unions support SkillsUSA at the national level. Together, SkillsUSA members work to improve their schools, workplaces and communities.

## Arlington/BOCES Prom at AHS



The Arlington/BOCES prom was held on May 14 at AHS. Students and staff had a wonderful time dancing and enjoying a light meal, snacks and desserts.

## Getting to Know You...

This issue of *The BOCES Communicator* highlights the last two of the five recipients of the 2009 Dutchess BOCES Annual Employee Recognition Awards: John Jeffrey and Paula Goehring.



John Jeffrey

**John Jeffrey, Administrator (AHS)**

has been with BOCES for thirteen years. He started as a physical education teacher, then advanced to assistant principal for two years before becoming principal. He is finishing his fourth year as principal at the Alternative High School. His typical day is very busy from start to finish; running the building, conducting meetings and addressing student and staff concerns. It brings him great satisfaction when he sees students succeeding academically, socially and behaviorally. Every successful at-risk student means one less high school drop-out. During his free time, John enjoys riding his motorcycle and camping. Sports are still a big part of his life, but due to time constraints he now appreciates sports as a spectator.



Paula Goehring

**Paula Goehring, Teacher (SPC)** has worked for BOCES for fifteen years, two years as a TA in the preschool program, one year as a TA in a primary SE program in district, one-half

year as a TA in the PEACCE program at the Center. She has been a DLS teacher for more than eleven years. She likes the range of students with whom she works. Paula knows all the students in the school because she has them in class. She says "I love working with our students to give them the best opportunities while they are with us at SPC. I also enjoy working along side my co-workers." Paula will be the treasurer for the BFA starting July 1, 2010. In her free time she enjoys boating, hiking, biking, skiing and camping.

## Wellness Workshops to Continue at MTI

*Dr. Safir will offer a series of inexpensive health and wellness workshops this fall through BOCES Adult Education. Topics such as Health and Stress, Balancing Hormones Naturally, Nutrition, Natural Solutions to Digestive Problems, and Secrets to Looking and Feeling Younger will be covered. Here he offers his perspective on health and wellness. Contact Manufacturing and Technology Institute (MTI) at 845.483.3640 for a schedule of Dr. Safir's workshops.*

We have more disease today than ever before. If our health care system truly works, then why are we so sick?

Our concept of what distinguishes health is wide and varied. Some people say they are healthy if they feel good. Many people base good health on a lack or presence of symptoms. According to Dorland's Medical Dictionary, health is defined as "physical, mental, and social well being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

Basing the condition of the body on symptoms can be dangerous. Sometimes one can have very poor health with no symptoms. For example, the first sign of a heart attack often is the heart attack itself. Occasionally symptoms can be extreme. If we eat spoiled food leading to diarrhea and vomiting, we are actually very healthy because our body is trying to get rid of the poison quickly, before damage is done. Yet, symptoms should not be ignored. If the check engine light goes on in your car would you be concerned enough to have it looked at? What if shortly after the light goes on it

goes off? Would you think that everything is actually all right? If the light stayed on, obviously you would bring your car into a professional and have it looked at because it could be dangerous if you continue to use it. Your body deserves the same attention. In this country we take better care of our car than our bodies. If I told you that you were only going to get one car at birth, and that was the only car you were going to have, would you take care of it? Well, you only get one body. Take care of it and it will take care of you.

Fortunately, there are methods of reclaiming our health by taking back control. This is the approach I take during the health and wellness series. Learn how to be proactive to have a healthier life.

### CTI Student's Art Appears on Cover of FDR Musical Playbill



Ashley Maurer

CTI senior Ashley Maurer was not only happy to be a part of the ensemble of FDR's spring musical production of *Beauty and the Beast*, but also was thrilled to have her artwork appear on the cover of the play's program and cast shirts. Maurer is a student of Jim Robishaw's Communication Tech Academy afternoon class.

## Students Invited to CIA Leadership Awards

...Continued from page 1

Castellanos (Wappingers), Kristie Figueroa (Pine Plains), Kyle Navarro (Millbrook), and Daniel Elder (Hyde Park).

Ted Kleisner, President and CEO of Hershey Entertainment and Resorts, donated the table in honor of his relationship to the CIA. He serves on the CIA's Board of Trustees.

For more than sixty years, the CIA has been setting the gold standard for excellence

and defining the future of the growing world of professional culinary education. The Leadership Awards support the CIA Scholarship Fund and honored Eric Ripert as the CIA's Chef of the Year, as well as Cat Cora '95 and Chris Muller '88 as the college's Alumni of the Year. It is indeed a true pleasure and amazing opportunity for the Dutchess BOCES CTI students to have been a part of this most rewarding event.



## New Guitar Club Formed at SPC



Guitar Club student practices chords to new song

The Guitar Club, supervised by SPC teacher Barbara Mauer, is for students who want to explore music and learn how to play guitar. Students learn about different types of guitar music and techniques. They have been learning chords and fingering so they will be able to play a song. The club has been split into two groups to keep the more advanced students moving forward. There are several students who can now play a song with two or three chords. The Guitar Club currently meets once a week.

## Assistance Dog Assembly

Michael Clair is a new student at the Alternative High School. A volunteer with East Coast Assistance Dogs (ECAD) for the past five years, on May 27 he conducted an assembly for his peers regarding assistance dogs. ECAD breeds and trains special dogs for children and adults who suffer from physical or mental disabilities that limit their daily activities and who can be helped by the use of a specially trained dog. Michael brought along two-year old Hope, a graduate of the training program, to demonstrate how these extraordinary dogs can assist their owners.



Dog handler and high school student Michael Clair poses with Hope

### 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:

#### Anna Marie Paolercio, Title IX and Section 504

Anna Marie Paolercio  
Director - Communications and Grants Research  
Dutchess BOCES BETA, 900 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

voice: 845.486.8051

fax: 845.486.4958

anna.paolercio@dcboces.org

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## BOARD PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*A message from  
Christopher Como*



As I look back on nine years of service on the BOCES Board of Trustees, it is with a

sense of sadness that I pen this last letter to all of you. It is clear to me why Dutchess BOCES is one of the premier educational organizations in the region. So many highly motivated, dedicated and exceptional administrators and staff are the nucleus of this successful BOCES team.

It has been a genuine privilege and honor for me to have represented and served with so many fine professionals on what is a most important endeavor—the education of our children. To say that I will miss the participation in this mission and the many individuals in its commission is an understatement.

After serving twenty-four years on three separate school boards (Dover, Millbrook and BOCES), it is easy to conclude that it is the most rewarding public service that one can perform. I leave you to continue the work, each in your own area and with the best you have to give.

God bless.

--Chris

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