

THE BOCES COMMUNICATOR



Fall/Winter 2011

VIEWPOINT

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



I join with our Board of Trustees to extend to each and every one of you our heartfelt and enthusiastic commendation for the way in which we have opened the 2011-12 school year. Our enrollments remain robust. Our programs are in many instances models for others and for all of this we are indebted to you.

Some important capital improvement projects are now underway. These include a complete roofing project at CTI; significant boiler repairs for SPC and a new hot water heater system at SPC. These projects will take some time to complete--likely into the next school year. As many of you are aware, we have been working for several years to get them underway and we are gratified to be at the point we are today.

Of course, there are always challenges for public education and the ones confronting us now are as serious as any. Funding for public education has been seriously reduced for future years. We might think that with reduced funding there would be reduced mandates, but the opposite is the case as has been true in the past. The BOCES leadership team is already stepping forward to meet these challenges and I am confident that the outcomes will be as positive as can be expected.

It is hard to believe that we are already near the mid-point in the school year, but we are! So, to you and yours may your holidays be joyous and restful.

Annual Youth Forum

The 1st Annual Dutchess County Youth Forum commenced in October of 2009. Now in its third year, the event is a joint partnership between the Dutchess County Division of Youth Services, Dutchess BOCES and school districts throughout the county. Each year focuses on a particular topic – Youth Governance in 2009, Leadership and Volunteering in 2010, and in 2011 the focus was on Bullying.

Each district selects middle and high school students who play some kind of leadership role in their schools to attend the event. The students gain knowledge from leaders as well as their peers, and bring this information back into their own schools. Local leadership gets a better understanding of the concerns of today's youth. Each year, the participation averages about 115 students and leaders.

The forum's planning committee, comprised of representatives from Dutchess BOCES, Dutchess County Youth Services, and the Arlington, Spackenkill and Wappingers school districts, meet quarterly to organize the event.

Dutchess County Executive William Steinhaus, who has played an integral role in promoting the event and its concept, provided opening remarks. *Take a Stand – Stop Bullying* was the keynote address delivered by Laurie Noonan from New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal. Workshop sessions provided information on ways to implement the anti-bullying message. The "Mix-It-Up" session is a student favorite and is designed to get students to learn about other students and discuss issues that they have in common.

According to June Ellen Notaro, Director of the Dutchess County Youth Services, "The students walked away from this session feeling empowered to bring back the anti-bullying message to their schools and communities along with resources and 'know-how' so they can implement change."

The forum is at no cost to the students and the school districts. The SPC multi-purpose room serves as the event's venue. The students are transported on buses that are already bringing students to the BOCES Salt Point Campus. Community leaders



Aspiring Leaders at the 3rd Annual Youth Forum

who participate in the forum and those on the planning committee volunteer their time to make this event possible. Dutchess County Division of Youth Services handles all communication and registration with the schools and provides funding for breakfast and lunch for the participants.

Students are given time to complete an evaluation form, on which candid and honest responses are encouraged. One student stated, "Thank you for everything you have put together." Another responded, "This was awesome. It helps and touches more people than you will ever understand."



From Educating to Coaching

Our workday ends at BOCES and we venture on to do other things--the list being endless! After work, many BOCES employees work as coaches in many of our local school districts. This issue of The Communicator introduces five individuals who enjoy coaching students. Our spring issue will highlight more!



SCOTT CALCAGNI worked the past seven summers as a physical education teaching assistant, as well as a one-to-one aide. Calcagni attended DCC, earning a Liberal Arts and Humanities Degree. He completed his bachelor's at SUNY Brockport, attaining a physical education K-12 teaching certificate. While attending high school and college, he played on a number of sports teams. For the past four years, Calcagni coached soccer, winter track, baseball and spring track in a number of different school districts, including Spackenkill, Arlington and Hyde Park.

VALERIE CANTONE works as a teaching assistant in the PEACCE program at the Salt Point Educational Center. Cantone graduated from John Jay High School and earned her bachelor's degree from Mount Saint Mary College in childhood and special education, as well as history. She looks forward to completing her master's degree from Mercy College in December 2011, concentrating in adolescence and special education. While in high school, Cantone was a cheerleader and a member of the gymnastics team. This is her first year coaching modified cheerleading at Todd Middle School in the Spackenkill Union Free School District.



MARK DOLAN has been a crisis intervention counselor at AHS for six years. Dolan feels students can learn about responsibility, camaraderie and discipline while playing sports. He is enjoying his third year as the head modified football coach for the Spackenkill Spartans. "I enjoy coaching at this level because the student athletes are often new to the sport. It is a great opportunity to teach them the fundamentals of football as well as what it means to be part of a team." Next spring he will begin his second year as the assistant varsity track coach. "It is exciting to coach track and field because of all the different events in which each team competes."

DAVE MAFFEI has been working as a crisis counselor at the Alternative High School (AHS) since 2007. He has a master's degree in education from Long Island University. Aside from his daily routine at AHS, he has coached freshman football, modified football, junior varsity baseball, varsity B baseball, junior varsity A softball, and varsity winter track for the Arlington Central School District. Maffei changed direction in 2010 and began coaching in the Spackenkill Union Free School District, where he led the junior varsity football team to a 7-1 season. In addition, he also works as an assistant varsity football coach. Maffei enjoys coaching and feels it helps the students excel beyond the classroom. "I coach because I feel athletics teaches students life lessons that they don't learn in the classroom."



SAL ROSA, now in his twelfth year of teaching, is currently located at our Salt Point Educational Center as a K-8 physical education teacher. He also taught at AHS for six years and one year in some of our district classes. "Born in Manhattan and raised in the Bronx, my first love was basketball," stated Rosa. He began his high school years in the Bronx, but moved north and finished at Onteora High School. Sal attended SUNY Cortland and received his bachelor's degree in K-12 physical and adapted physical education, and also completed a degree in coaching. Rosa received his master's degree in curriculum and instruction at the University of Phoenix. While in high school, Rosa participated in varsity track and field, as well as baseball. Rosa has coached in the Millbrook, Webutuck and New Paltz school districts, with the varsity boys basketball, varsity boys baseball, as well as varsity boys and girls golf.

Adult Students Share Their HVAC Experiences

We often hear great stories about our adult education students and graduates who find employment in the trades. One trade in particular is that of Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC). Dutchess BOCES Adult Education Division offers HVAC Level I Course. Technicians enrolled in this course receive 250 hours of instruction comprised of a combination of lecture and laboratory hands-on. Upon successful completion of HVAC Level I, certification credentials are awarded through the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). Graduates of NCCER may be considered for the NYS Department of Labor Apprenticeship Training Program. William Parlapiano, Jr. is the Adult Education HVAC instructor and is very pleased with this program and its students. Parlapiano stated, "It is encouraging to know that people are benefiting from the work we do and hopefully will send others to our programs."

James McCaffrey graduated from our HVAC program. About a year ago, he started a full-time position at Astor as an operations technician. McCaffrey shared that he loves this position as it allows him to work on HVAC projects and many other related trades in which he is skilled. While in the HVAC program, McCaffrey rebuilt a Bryant oil-fired warm air furnace, a Riello burner, as well as an R-410a A/C unit. The rebuilding exercise was part of his performance tasks within the program coursework. McCaffrey was very helpful to others in the program, showing them how to use various instruments and tools of the trade. The knowledge he gained from the course helped him work on HVAC systems at home, saving him a significant amount of money and making his home more comfortable.

Thomas Fitzmaurice landed a job with S&O Construction Services. Jeffrey Senft, President of S&O Construction Services and member of CTI's Plumbing and HVAC Consultant Committee, reported that he hired Fitzmaurice, a graduate of the summer HVAC program. Fitzmaurice has a construction background and has been employed for a short time with the company. Senft advised that our graduates should send him their résumés as he is often looking for skilled individuals.

Matthew Perret, an honor graduate of HVAC program, is preparing to take the Building Performance Institute (BPI) written and field exams for heating and A/C heat pump professional certifications. Perret is already a BPI certified Building Analyst and Envelope Professional.

Getting to Know You

This issue highlights three of the five recipients of the 2011 Dutchess BOCES Annual Employee Recognition Awards



JEAN EYRING

Jean began her career at BOCES in 2001 in a work-study program, where she assisted students in finding a job. After two years of working in this program, she started working in her current position providing clerical support in the CTI main office.

During the past eight years at CTI, Jean has handled a wide variety of general office tasks, ranging from answering phones to assisting the constant influx of individuals who come to the office. Beyond those general office duties is the daunting task of managing a student attendance database for students from our thirteen component school districts, parochial schools, and our Alternative High School. This task offers challenges because many reporting scenarios exist, ranging from one-day events to Superintendent's Conference days. Detailed reports are generated to confirm and verify attendance information.

"I like everything about my job. I take pleasure in relating to the juniors and seniors at CTI, talking to them about their lives and hopes for the future." Jean also enjoys interfacing with the administrators and teachers, as well as the home school personnel. "Considering there was very little communication with the home schools eight years ago, now I like knowing exactly who to call."

Jean is highly regarded by her co-workers and the home school district personnel who depend on the student attendance information. According to a co-worker, "Jean has a fabulous sense of humor. She is quick-witted and keeps everyone on their toes!" Diversity, interaction and a constant flow of work are her delight!



SHERRE WESLEY

For the past three years, Sherre Wesley had been the Adult Education Administrator at our Adult Learning Institute (ALI). A great deal of her background has been associated with cultural and art organizations. "Quite ironically, one of my first arts management jobs was to work with artists to understand their accounting, bookkeeping, and financial management."

Prior to coming to Dutchess BOCES, she had a variety of jobs in the non-profit world. "I've done some teaching privately and at the collegiate level and then stopped working full-time a few years ago to go back to school and do my doctorate in Adult Education/Adult Learning." As Sherre started looking for ways to use her degree, the Adult Education Administrator position was something she pursued. Along the way, she also completed her School Business Certification.

Sherre reflects back to her work at ALI. "Adult Education is really a more entrepreneurial part of BOCES because we don't have public income streams." She is very aware of the adult student's potential circumstances. "With other things going on in an adult's life, being a student may be a temporary priority, and possibly one of many things he/she is doing simultaneously." She always looked forward to attending the graduation ceremonies and listening to the adult students speak about the impact BOCES programs had on their lives. "There are alumni that I've run into who have spoken about their successes and were happy for the education they received through our programs. It's a classic win/win situation."

As of November 1, she is thrilled to have begun yet another challenge in her career—Assistant Superintendent of Business Services.



ROBERT PATTERSON

Robert Paterson has been working as an Offset Printer at BOCES for four and a half years. His printing experience began when he was a tenth-grade student at John Jay High School and enrolled in our CTI printing program. Robert received his high school diploma and earned a certificate of completion from the printing program. Six months after graduation, he landed a job in Poughkeepsie with a company that printed magazines.

Robert continued his career in printing and through the years received extensive experience in the many facets of this intriguing business. Prior to coming to BOCES, he worked for one company for 24 years. Robert stated, "With each job I learned more, increasing my knowledge of the industry."

Robert worked as a part-time employee in the BOCES Print Shop and when a full-time position opened up, he applied. When asked about the Print Shop, Robert stated, "The atmosphere in this shop is great. It's a team and we all work together. I liked my prior jobs, but I love my present job!"

BOCES couldn't ask for a more loyal and conscientious employee. "When I come in, I put on my smock. It is kind of like Superman's cape. It means that it's time to get down and get busy. I like that our shop is always improving the way we do things so that we can assure our customers' dollars are better spent here. I've been in printing since 1975 and to work at BOCES is to come full circle!"



Job Internship Program for Alternative and Special Education

The Dutchess BOCES Job Internship program greatly benefits both our students and local businesses. It is offered to our alternative and classified students as an introduction to the world of work following the School-to-Work (STW) model. Work experience in the community is identified. This program allows local businesses to support future workers by considering an internship or job coaching experience at their business. Program features include career exploration, workplace internships, job training, work attitude development, teamwork and social skills, communication skills, and job coaching assistance.

In this program, the students are not paid for their internship experience. Instead, it is an extension of their BOCES educational program. A BOCES youth aide escorts the student to his/her workstation at the job and assists with a daily work assignment, remaining with the student until his/her job performance no longer requires coaching or supervision. Currently, there are more than 20 youth aides assisting about 60 students to reach their goal of independence. Youth Aide Rosemary Tanner explained, "Working in this program has been a very satisfying experience for me for many reasons, but mostly it's seeing positive changes in students who become more independent and productive as they learn both job and social skills in their own business community. Their personal rewards are seen every day in their smiles!"



Ora Relaford with Coach Rosemary Tanner



2011 graduate Stefan Chamberlin enjoying his work experience at Pizza Hut

The facilitator of this BOCES program, Roger Risko, matches the skill levels of the student with employer needs. Currently, a variety of 50+ job sites are located throughout Dutchess County that partner with the BOCES to provide working experiences for our students. Several local small business owners open their doors to our students as well as larger businesses such as Big Lots, Hannaford's, Jo-Ann Fabrics, Just-A-Buck, Marshall's, Modell's, Petco, Planet Fitness, Price Chopper, Ruby Tuesday, ShopRite, TGI Friday's, and Walgreens. On the campus of Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, work locations include the bookstore, facilities garage, greenhouse, post office, and retreat café. Over the past two years, about 12% of the participating students have been given opportunities to continue employment.

Risko is very proud of this program. He stated, "The BOCES Work-Based Learning Program for alternative and special education students is a life-altering experience for students who normally would be in a classroom and not given the opportunity to explore the world of work. This is a win-win-win program for employers, students and parents."



Brandon Reed at his work experience job setting tables at Trinity Pawling High School

BOARD PRESIDENT'S SCORNER

A message from Edward L. McCormick



During the holiday season, I am reminded of how BOCES contributes everyday to our community. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend hearty thanks to our staff for all that they do to make BOCES a viable and productive community member.

As a result of its remarkable programs, BOCES is preparing students to enter the job market which fuels the economic engine of the local economy. The role of educating students has never been more important as we prepare for the challenges of today as well as the future. BOCES role will "span the gap" from cost containment to student achievement. It is critical that we continue to participate and engage not only school districts, but municipalities, social service agencies, and business groups ensuring that we optimize every opportunity to create excellence and improve the quality of life for our community.

Enjoy a safe and healthy holiday!

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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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