

THE BOCES COMMUNICATOR

Spring 2009

VIEWPOINT

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



Yes, the economy has taken a severe downturn, and it has affected everybody including those of us in education. But there is some good news. The initial service requests for Dutchess BOCES for 2009-2010 are holding up fairly well. Of course, we won't know for certain until service requests are finalized.

We need to continue what we do best, which is providing cooperative services that save money for school districts. This issue of *The Communicator* highlights only a few examples of the 130 cooperative services that we provide. In addition, we continue to explore ways by which we can expand services to districts and provide additional economies particularly in the area of support and business services.

We are especially excited about our involvement and visibility in the larger community. You'll note our participation in **Go Red for Women and Kids Expo** this year, and we will have a week-long presence in the **Dutchess County Fair** this summer. We are also developing a partnership with **Pace University** to provide a leadership training program for aspiring administrators, not only in Dutchess County but also in the Mid-Hudson area generally.

As always, our future depends upon the quality of services that we provide. That quality is built and sustained by each and every one of you working together collaboratively. Be assured that the BOCES Trustees and I fully appreciate and admire what you do.

CNA Student Clinicals Held at Elant

The Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program is a 12-week program offered several times a year through the Adult Education Program. Students learn basic nursing skills through lectures, laboratory demonstrations, practice, and clinical experience. At the end of each session students complete their clinicals at the Elant Nursing Facility with resident patients. They practice the skills they learned in class such as taking blood pressure and pulse readings, performing oral care, making beds, fluffing pillows and generally helping to keep patients comfortable and happy. Students work under the supervision of their lead instructor, Kathy Beale.



CNA students take a blood pressure reading

Elant is a 62-bed skilled residential facility located in a historic building in Wappingers Falls. It's small enough to maintain a compassionate, friendly feeling but large enough to offer comprehensive rehabilitation programs for short and long-term care residents. Students quickly develop bonds with the residents and look forward to their daily interactions.

Upon successful completion of the program, BOCES CNA students take a State Certification Exam. After receiving a passing grade they are able to apply for jobs in hospitals, nursing homes and hospice care centers.

CNA jobs continue to flourish as baby boomers age and require daily living assistance. For further information on CNA classes visit, www.dcboces.org and click on "Adult Education Course Catalog" under "Publications".

American Heart Association Activities

The annual *AHA Heart Walk* took place on March 14 at Vassar College. The walk officially began at the Walker Field House and continued for a four-mile stretch. Two BOCES employees participated in the event, Kathleen Gibson-Ferris and Robert Patterson. Together they raised \$684.00! Additionally, in February Dutchess BOCES employees raised \$800 for *Go Red for Women Day*. The *Go Red for Women Program* empowers women with knowledge and practical tools to take positive action in reducing their risks of heart disease, stroke, and to protect their health. Thank you for the great team effort!

BOCES Booth at Kids Expo

Kids Expo 2009 was held at Poughkeepsie Mid-Hudson Civic Center on Saturday and Sunday, April 4 and 5. The Dutchess BOCES booth hosted three activities this year. "Picture Your Future" gave children the opportunity to draw a picture depicting the career they wanted to pursue. "Feel the Eel" had a live juvenile eel borrowed from the Hudson River to represent the CTI Environmental and Agricultural Sciences program. Representing the CTI Culinary Arts Program, "Mozzarella Madness" had an area where CTI students demonstrated how to make mozzarella cheese and carve exquisite swans from apples. Our presence at this event is just another way to reach out to our community and spread the word about the great programs and services offered by Dutchess BOCES. Special thanks to CTI's Mitchell Shron, and several of his staff members and students for volunteering to assist at our booth. In addition, thanks to Anna Marie Martino and Jackie Cardascia for organizing the booth.



Dutchess Academy of Environmental Studies teacher, Mark Angevine, explains eel migration to curious onlookers.

Safety and Risk Department Expands Services

Dutchess BOCES Safety and Risk Department recently expanded its services to school districts to help them save time and money. Previously the Safety and Risk Department processed fingerprints in the conventional way—using ink. Fingerprints were sent to the State Education Department (SED) for processing, which included manually entering information and scanning the fingerprints to their computer system. This was a lengthy process. With the new "livescan" system, employee information is entered either by the hiring district or the prospective employee and payment is made online. Once SED receives payment they are contacted by the employee to schedule an appointment with our Safety and Risk Department. After the fingerprinting is completed, districts receive the results within 48 hours. This saves a tremendous amount of labor and time. In the past, prospective employees were allowed to work while waiting for certification clearance, which could take months to complete. Now, as a result of our quick turnaround process, the protection and safety of our children has been further supported.

Trade Seminar for ECT Students

CTI Instructor, Al Berti and his Electric Construction Technology (ECT) students were invited to a seminar hosted by the Dutchess County Electrical Contractors Association (DCECA) on March 28. DCECA is a not-for-profit trade association of independent small businesses, not affiliated with any labor union. Most members are master electricians in business as sole proprietors or small corporations.

Four presenters were at the seminar to demonstrate new products, techniques and safety practices used in the field. Pictured from left to right: Joe Romeo, Russ Bovee, Doug Emiicke, Frank Commisso, Chris Rosario and Harrison Calamar.



BOCES CTI Programs

The Career Technical Institute (CTI) has been an integral part of BOCES for three generations of students. In fact, many students learn about CTI from their parents and/or relatives who have graduated from CTI programs. However, the CTI Division of BOCES has been greatly misunderstood by those who are not familiar with it. It is a work-based learning program designed for students who want to explore trade technologies.

CTI offers an extensive array of programs that accommodate virtually any area of interest: Graphic Arts/Design, Media Arts/Video Production, A+ Computer Training, Fashion & Retail Marketing, Automotive Body, Automotive Mechanics, Construction Project Management, Electrical Construction Technology, Finish Carpentry, Plumbing & Heating, Residential Construction, Small Engines/Turf Equipment and ATV Maintenance, Welding and Fabrication, Licensed Practical Nursing, Health Care, Pre-Nursing, Environmental Studies, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts & Restaurant Management, Early Childhood Education, Education, Law, Security and Law Enforcement, and more.

The Culinary Arts program has always been quite popular with students. Upon graduation every student is capable of finding an entry-level job in the restaurant field. However, most choose to further their education by obtaining a degree from the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Hyde Park, Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island, or an equally recognizable school. Long-time CTI instructor and CIA graduate, Darcy Sala, instills the importance of self-discipline, mindfulness and having good work ethics for her students by setting an example in everything she does. She is a mentor to her students and is passionate about their successes. Her devotion to teaching is felt by everyone who meets her.

Career and Technical Education graduates have been very successful. They become small business owners, managers and supervisors; they are nurses, journeymen carpenters, plumbers and electricians, machinists, electronic technicians, licensed cosmetologists, auto and auto body mechanics, cooks and chefs, etc. A Placement Specialist and teachers assist students who have successfully completed the program in finding jobs in the field for which they are trained. Typically over 94% of graduates are working or continuing their training beyond high school.

CTI is for anyone who has an eagerness to learn! Additional information can be found on the BOCES website at <http://www.dcboces.org/CTI/>.

CTI Students Win Four Awards at SkillsUSA State Competition

Each Spring students from New York State gather to compete in their area of career and technical study. Participating schools send their best and brightest students to compete in industry standard competitions, which are judged by professionals from all over the United States. This year four of our CTI students took honors in the SKILLS USA state finals in Syracuse.



Amberly Ouimette,
Culinary Arts

Second place winner from Dutchess BOCES CTI is Frank Comisso [John Jay High School] for Residential Wiring. Third place winners are Zach Pardee [Roosevelt High School] for Photography, Amberly Ouimette [Stissing Mt. High School] for Culinary Arts, and April Colley [Millbrook High School] for Extemporaneous Speaking in Cosmetology. Congratulations to all!

HEART SAFE Communities

Joan McMahon, School Nurse Teacher/Safety Chairperson/AED Coordinator, filed an application with the Dutchess County Department of Health to have each of our eight AED sites be recognized as HEART Safe Communities. After a review of our application and visit to eligible sites, the following BOCES sites have met the Heart Safe designation criteria of bronze by having 25% of the staff in their department certified in CPR: Career and Technical Institute 36%, Educational Resources 26%, Manufacturing and Technology Institute 25%, Salt Point Education Center 27%. Those sites that have attained bronze criteria can work towards silver and gold by increasing the number of staff CPR certified within their departments.

At this time a few BOCES locations do not meet the HEART Safe criteria. Their applications will be kept on file and when the number of CPR certified staff in these locations reaches 25%, the Dutchess County Heart Safe committee will be notified and will conduct a site visit that will lead to recognition.

Anyone wishing to be certified in CPR/AED should contact Joan McMahon at 486-8047.

Getting to Know You...

This issue of the Communicator highlights several recipients of the 2008 Dutchess BOCES

Annual Employee Recognition Awards:

Wayne Brathwaite, Edward T. Gnos, Ramsey C.T. Hall, William G. Murphy, Leon D. Scutt, Daniel Trusz, and James Wallace III.

They are members of the Salt Point Campus "Snow Removal Team". These men work when others sleep. They are called out in the worst weather, and must achieve lasting results as employees and visitors rely on their performance. They maximize personal strengths to improve job performance and can be relied upon to meet schedules and deadlines.

Wayne Brathwaite began working for BOCES on March 10, 2001. He started as a custodian and after two years was promoted to Custodial Supervisor. In the morning Brathwaite first checks his computer for work orders. He schedules his day and that of his staff according to what needs to be accomplished. Brathwaite is a "people person" and loves challenges. In his spare time he enjoys traveling out-of-state with his family for sight-seeing and shopping.

Custodian **Edward Gnos** started working for BOCES in March 2003. He considers BOCES his "second home" because the staff and students treat him like family. Gnos especially likes sharing pizza with the automotive mechanic students, who repair his car when something goes amiss. For fun Gnos enjoys mountain biking, hiking, and fishing. He is a dedicated team-player and loves to keep busy.

Leon D. Scutt has been working at Dutchess BOCES for 26 years. He was a custodian for ten years before transitioning to maintenance. Scutt likes people and thinks of BOCES as home. He is easy-going and believes in the importance of approaching work with a fresh start every day by leaving personal problems at home. He enjoys four-wheeling, hiking, swimming, camping and hunting.

James Wallace III started working at BOCES as a cook in 2001. In August 2003 he became a groundskeeper. His job responsibilities include mowing, flower planting, seeding, mulching, etc. He loves nature and feels great satisfaction by "turning nothing into something beautiful." Outside of work Wallace enjoys hunting, fishing, four-wheeling and horticultural pursuits. He is a very dedicated, loyal and professional employee.

Daniel Trusz has been with BOCES for 11 years. He works in Facilities Operations and Maintenance, managing heating, air conditioning, electrical and plumbing systems. Trusz enjoys interacting with others. He loves his job and says that working at BOCES is all about the children...to keep them safe, protected and comfortable. At home Trusz enjoys gardening, walking on Hudson Valley trails, fishing and

being outside. He asserts, "Mother Nature is commercial-free!"



Top row: James Wallace, Wayne Brathwaite, Leon Scutt and Ed Gnos
Bottom row: Ramsey Hall, Daniel Trusz, and William Murphy

Ramsey Hall has been a custodian at BOCES for ten years. He believes he has a wonderful job. Hall takes great

pride in what he does. He especially likes to see the before and after results of his efforts. It makes him feel good when coworkers compliment him on a job well-done. Hall is a Reggae singer in his free time. He is recording an album, *Let's Pave The Way*, which will be finished by the summer. All his material is original. Hall also likes yard work and gardening.

William Murphy has been a custodian here for three years. He likes his job and the people very much. Murphy has worked for many other schools and says BOCES has the nicest staff. He takes great pride in a job well done. For enjoyment Murphy likes working on his computer and listening to Reggae and Bebop music.

DAES Students Live Aboard the Clearwater

Exciting events and projects are happening in Mark Angevine's *Dutchess Academy of Environmental Studies (DAES)* program at Dutchess BOCES and Norrie Point Environmental Center.

Angevine is taking a group of five students from Poughkeepsie and Hyde Park on a week-long field trip aboard the Clearwater. Beginning May 4, 2009, they will live and work alongside the regular crew members.

Clearwater, the nonprofit, environmental conservation sloop, was founded in 1968 by singer-songwriter and activist, Pete Seeger. Since its launch, the Clearwater's mission has been to preserve and protect the Hudson River.

During the week-long participation, the Clearwater will be anchored at 79th Street Boat Basin on NYC's Upper West Side. It will take two educational sails a day, and Angevine's students will be teaching other students, mostly from NYC, about the Hudson River, its history, biology, physical structure, and conservation.

For DAES students, this trip is comparable to an art class going to Italy, an astrophysics class going to Johnson Space Center, or a

computer programming class going to Seattle to meet with Bill Gates. It is a real adventure filled with action and fun.

In addition, DAES students are collaborating with students from Marist College, staff at Bard College, and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on an American Eel/Herring Study. The students set up an eel fyke net in Crum Elbow Creek in Hyde Park, that they check daily. Data is turned over to NYS DEC and experts in eel conservation at Bard College. Although eels (a type of fish) have been in existence for millions of years, their numbers have declined recently without any reasonable explanation. Student-level research can help answer some basic questions about this very mysterious animal and the habitats eels use throughout their remarkable lives.

This year commemorates both the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage up the Hudson River and Pete Seeger's 90th birthday! It seems only natural to give this great river the recognition, study and attention it deserves to make sure it stays viable for the next 400 years. Kudos goes out to Angevine and his students.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*A message from
Christopher Como*



In these uncertain economic times it is necessary, as ever, for BOCES to watch that bottom line.

Thanks to the federal stimulus package it would appear that BOCES and component school districts have dodged a severe fiscal crisis for the next two years. This should give us sufficient breathing room to plan for what happens next.

In the future BOCES will need to play a larger role in creating strategies to save districts—and perhaps other public entities—more money through cooperative purchases and services. Although it is difficult to navigate through so many fiscal unknowns, we must remain confident that this too shall pass. We are blessed in this county with a majority of people who strongly support public education. With the efforts of dedicated staff and teachers, that support must continue to grow and sustain our energy and determination to improve the educational opportunities in our county.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

	Schools Closed	Offices Closed
Memorial Day	May 22, 25	May 25
Independence Day		July 3
Schools Closes	June 25	
Superintendent's Conference Day	September 8	
School Opens	September 9	

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 individuals. These officials 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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