

# DUTCHESS BOCES SPOTLIGHT

## Party Celebrates!

June 2021

### RETIRING ADMINISTRATORS



Three retiring Dutchess BOCES administrators were honored with a party on June 10 on the lawn of the Alternative High School.



Mitchell Shron for their many years of service.

BOCES staff gave speeches thanking Superintendent Dr. Richard Hooley, Deputy Superintendent Cora Stempel and Career and Technical Institute Principal



The ice cream man was on site offering cool treats.

The three honorees were each given mementos made by SPC and CTI students and paintings made by BETA students. Students from CTI's Plant and Animal Science Program made four bright floral arrangements featuring yellow roses. Each administrator gave a speech thanking colleagues for their efforts and reflecting on their respective careers.



Classic rock played as the honorees and staff chatted, had some barbecue catered by the Grille Wagon, played corn hole and posed for pictures with life-size cardboard cutouts of Hooley, Stempel and Shron.



"To spend the last almost six years here learning that I don't know everything and learning new lessons has been terrific," Hooley said. "When everybody pulls in the same direction we can do wonderful things for kids."



## Rotary Honors Five BOCES Students

Five Dutchess BOCES students were honored for community service, leadership and concern for others, during the Student of the Month Ceremony, held virtually on May 13. The Poughkeepsie-Arlington Rotary, who hosts the award ceremony several times a year, has continued to do so virtually during COVID, pausing their typical luncheon. Ellie Charwat, Rotary liaison, explained, "A major focus of the Poughkeepsie-Arlington Rotary Club is supporting youth programs. Students of the Month helps fulfill that goal by recognizing students from Dutchess BOCES who have made great progress in school and work."



*Alternative High School students, Josh Hoag and Tristan Levesque, Work Based Learning Program student, Anthony Gil, and Salt Point Center students, Nia Allen and Trevino Hiraldo, each received a certificate and a \$25 first-time savings account deposit generously sponsored by TEG Federal Credit Union.*

"So often you find that the students you're trying to inspire are the ones that end up inspiring you! TEG is honored to be part of recognizing these students who have been outstanding contributors to their schools and their community," said TEG representative, Sarah Reilly.

Hoag is a positive influence who always attends school, despite any challenge, art teacher Caroline Vanwagner said. "He missed the bus a few weeks ago and actually took an Uber to school and paid for it with his own money," Vanwagner said. "He's kind, helpful and always respectful."

Getting the award was a goal for Gil, whose stellar work ethic makes his job coaches proud, teacher Maureen Maloney said. "He's gained skills that make him employable," Maloney said.

Gil thanked his family and Maloney for their support and appreciated receiving the award for his hard work. "I work hard and I listen to all my job coaches," Gil said. "I feel like I have matured a lot."

Allen completes all her assignments and is well liked by her classmates, teacher Cindy Kirkland said. Allen thanked her teachers for their assistance with assignments and her mother for her support. "It really means a lot to me and I appreciate it very much," Allen said.

During the school year, Hiraldo's work ethic shifted – he now attends all classes and is a role model for other students, Kirkland said.

"Trevino has made the connection that doing well in school is the pathway to a bright future," Kirkland said.

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Hiraldo credits his teachers for encouraging him to change. "It really does take a lot of courage and obedience to make a change like the one I made and the benefits are so worth it," Hiraldo said.

Dutchess BOCES teacher, Jeanette Straebler, commented on the event, "We are so proud of our students who have overcome different challenges in order to achieve this award, and we are very grateful to the Rotary and TEG for their partnership and support of the young people in our community."



**Summer school programs will be held this year, both in-person and remote. The new location for Regional Summer School will be the Alternative High School. CTI Assistant Principal and Regional Summer School Co-Principal Brian Conte said the program will be shorter this year, running from July 19 to Aug. 11.**

"We will not be offering the Regents exams," he explained. Classes in English, health, physical education, math and social studies will be offered in two sessions Monday through Thursday. The first session is from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and the second from 10:05 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

Students will be allowed to participate remotely in a synchronous fashion with district permission.

Participating districts (Red Hook, Rhinebeck and Pine Plains for now) will receive a student handbook and registration packet, Conte said.

The school expects to employ six to seven teachers from Dutchess and surrounding counties for the summer, including at least one current Dutchess BOCES employee as part of the faculty, Co-Principal Rebecca Green said. Class sizes are expected to range from 9-15 students based on the COVID-19 regulations in place at the time and room size, Green added.

The Extended School Year Program for K-8 students with disabilities will be fully remote this summer, as the agency was unable to secure an alternate location. Component districts did not have space available to rent.

After announcing ESY would be remote, the community got involved to try to help. Ultimately, space was found at Dutchess Community College, however just last week it was learned that the space did not meet fire code regulations for K-12 classrooms. Specifically, classrooms must have two means of egress and the classrooms do not because that standard is not applicable for Community Colleges.

Although a fully remote program is not what Dutchess BOCES prefers, we are confident that our ESY program will provide students with appropriate summer instruction and enriching experiences.

ESY begins July 6. The program will be Monday through Friday from 8:15 to 11:15 a.m. and school will end on August 13.



## WE ARE **BOCES!** Newsman makes a difference



After his 30-year career as a journalist ended following corporate layoffs, Irwin Goldberg decided to turn the setback into success and move into a second career.

A long-time advocate of youth as a member of Optimist International, Goldberg sought a job as public information officer with Dutchess BOCES, a job he has held since September 2019.

Goldberg is assigned to the Communications and Printing Services division, primarily serving the Poughkeepsie City School District three days per week and Webutuck Central School District one day a week.

"I've always enjoyed writing, reporting and telling stories in a variety of ways. This job gives me a chance to put all of my journalistic skills into play to highlight all of the positive things happening in our schools."

Children, like adults, seek to emulate those they view as successful, so Goldberg believes he is helping children grow by showing them other successful children - and adults.

Goldberg has been getting paid for writing and reporting since he first started doing freelance writing while in high school. The feeling that he is making a difference in how school districts, students and teachers are perceived is what keeps him coming back.

"So many of the students I interview - at all ages - have such good hearts and want to make a positive impact that I can't wait to write the next story," he said.

If he wasn't doing this, Goldberg would probably be a DJ, singer or both. "I've always loved music and ran a successful karaoke/DJ company for many years when I lived out west. I didn't find my voice until later in life, but I love to sing and make up songs."

Outside of work, Goldberg enjoys listening to music of all types, reading books on business and personal development and spending time with his wife, Marion and chihuahua, Crescent.

When it comes to TV, Goldberg doesn't watch much, but counts "The Rookie," "A Million Little Things," and "This is Us" among his favorites. **KISS** is his favorite musical group.



**Student of Distinction** Tyrese Williams, a student in Dutchess BOCES' Pegasus Program, received the April Student of Distinction Award during Dover Union Free School District's April 27 board meeting.



BOCES Superintendent Dr. Richard Hooley established the award to enable BOCES principals to highlight our students with our component districts. Nine awards are given every year to students who are hardworking, dedicated to their studies and embody positive behavior.

"This is a very unique recognition and quite deserved," Hooley said.

Coordinator of Special Education Kenneth Louis Jeune read from a note written by Williams' teacher Krystine Nardozzi, who nominated him for the award. He then invited Williams up to speak, who thanked everyone for the award. "I appreciate it," Williams said.

Williams has near perfect attendance and navigates Google Classroom and Kami, a digital classroom app, with ease, Nardozzi said.

"He has exceeded all expectations set forth for him, especially this year as he adapted so well to remote learning," Nardozzi said. "He's always signed on and ready to go."

Williams is a positive force in the classroom encouraging his fellow students and engaging them in conversation, Nardozzi said.

"He's so positive and excited to be there," the proud teacher said. "I am truly lucky to be his teacher."

When Louis Jeune called Nardozzi to inform her of the news, she got emotional because teachers do not always expect their students to receive the award.

"It makes everything we're doing worth it," Nardozzi said. "He's so excited to get the award."

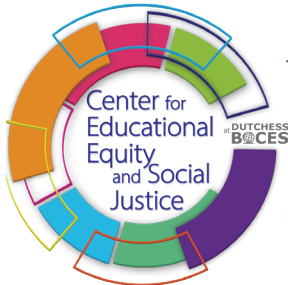
Nardozzi, teaching assistant Mary Everett-Healy and a few other BOCES staff members came to congratulate Williams, who Louis Jeune said has done well in all his classes.

"He's come a long way," Louis Jeune said. "He's been very successful."



## Enrollment open for new centers

Dutchess BOCES launched two new centers in 2020-21, designed to address the ever-changing education landscape. The Center for Educational Equity and Social Justice and the Center for Sustainability and Climate Education both operate out of the Educational Resources division.



The Center for Educational Equity and Social Justice is BOCES' newest program. It held its first "Designing for Equitable Schools" conference May 12 featuring sessions on confronting critical issues and nutritional equity, identifying who is being left out and what they're being left out of, representing the student population in books, music's role in equity and more.

The Center for Sustainability & Climate Education held its first Sustainability Summit April 14 bringing students, activists and educators together to discuss critical issues surrounding climate change and sustainability.



Programs put an emphasis on how to inspire and empower youth through involvement in environmental clubs and whether electric cars are a solution to climate issues.

Seven districts have signed up for each center, but districts can still add services from these centers. Contact Jenny Schinella at 845-486-4840 ext. 4614 or via email [jenny.schinella@dcbores.org](mailto:jenny.schinella@dcbores.org).