Dear Colleagues,

Well, here we are back at it, as another year of excellent educational programs commence at Capital Region BOCES. Many of the student faces are new, but the smiling, curious faces are familiar. I’m hard at work and I’m sure you are too.

As I think about how we do our jobs, I shake my head at the plan for the future that has been forced upon us. I shake my head because the plan is incomplete and loosely thought out. Of course when people who really know little or nothing about what it takes to educate children in the public schools decide to force change on those who practice the art of teaching, this is what you get. I shake my head knowing that in the end this plan will evolve into something very different, if it is to succeed at all. Exactly how this all plays out is yet to be determined.

Still, in spite of the changes, the essence of teaching remains much the same. We connect with kids and make a positive difference in their lives. That is what we do. Like that statement and belief, there’s something about the innocence of this time of year, where you are meeting new students and begin to get to know them. There is a sense of anticipation and at the same time some trepidation as to what the year will bring. In some ways it is like spring with a rebirth of each class, and perhaps through our students a renewal in us.

I believe that how we teach and meet individual needs will help determine whether our charges are successful. How we teach is as important if not more important than what we teach. How we respond each time one has a question or seeks our help is probably more important than the answer we give. Our careful, positive reinforcement is what will encourage each student to continue and seek success in our classes and in their future endeavors.

We not only work to educate our students, but we also serve as role models. We have the opportunity to become some of the most formative people that will work with these young adults, helping to not only give them more career options but also shape the kind of person they will be. Though that may seem a bit idealistic, it’s true. It is a responsibility we share with others in this profession and one we take very seriously.

Many things have changed and I expect that will continue. As things change we will change with them. What has not changed is that what we teach will not make as big a difference in our student’s lives, as what kind of a teacher we are.

I know that each of you, in your various jobs, will work hard to help our students be successful. They are counting on you, us!

Looking Forward, Doug
## Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association
### Important Dates for 2012-13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOCES Board of Education</th>
<th>Executive Board</th>
<th>Representative Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 15, 2012 Schoharie</td>
<td>October 3, 2012</td>
<td>October 17, 2012 900 Watervliet Shaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 17, 2012</td>
<td>December 5, 2012</td>
<td>December 19, 2012 900 Watervliet Shaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 14, 2013</td>
<td>January 30, 2013 (February meeting)</td>
<td>February 13, 2013 1031 Watervliet Shaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18, 2013</td>
<td>March 6, 2013</td>
<td>March 20, 2013 900 Watervliet Shaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 10, 2013</td>
<td>April 10, 2013</td>
<td>April 24, 2013 1031 Watervliet Shaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20, 2013</td>
<td>May 1, 2013</td>
<td>May 15, 2013 900 Watervliet Shaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 17, 2013 Schoharie</td>
<td>May 29, 2013 (June meeting)</td>
<td>June 12, 2013 900 Watervliet Shaker</td>
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</tbody>
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## Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>HOME</th>
<th>WORK</th>
<th>E-Mail Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>H. Douglas Harple</td>
<td>899-1044</td>
<td>862-4776</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hdharple@msn.com">hdharple@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Patricia Gollub</td>
<td>583-1119</td>
<td>862-4716</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Gollub02@yahoo.com">Gollub02@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVP TA/EA</td>
<td>Colleen Condolora</td>
<td>393-2244</td>
<td>356-8349</td>
<td><a href="mailto:condolora@aol.com">condolora@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVP Service</td>
<td>Sandy Smith</td>
<td>869-7421</td>
<td>229-1403</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shortmom02@yahoo.com">shortmom02@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVP Spec. Educ.</td>
<td>Flora Fasoldt</td>
<td>674-0223</td>
<td>377-9018</td>
<td><a href="mailto:electflora@aol.com">electflora@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVP C T E</td>
<td>Jeannine Moran</td>
<td>587-7662</td>
<td>862-4816</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmrmoran@hotmail.com">jmrmoran@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>Barbara Burnham</td>
<td>334-1193</td>
<td>862-4720</td>
<td><a href="mailto:baburnham@googlemail.com">baburnham@googlemail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corresponding Sec’y.</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Deborah Sorvari</td>
<td>452-8138</td>
<td>334-1296</td>
<td><a href="mailto:debmom39@nycap.rr.com">debmom39@nycap.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Chair</td>
<td>Lisa Mink</td>
<td>372-7240</td>
<td>464-3979</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmink8@hotmail.com">lmink8@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grievance Chair</td>
<td>E.J. Hanley</td>
<td>321-0485</td>
<td>356-8342</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ehanley1@nycap.rr.com">ehanley1@nycap.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This year I got a clock.

Doesn’t sound like much but it is important. People who have worked for BOCES for 30 years get a clock. It’s kind of neat. The clock face is in a sphere and you can put a photo in the back of the sphere. There are two rings around the sphere and you can spin them all while daydreaming. But more important is what it stands for.

30 years and 8 months ago, there was a snow day. But after that, I was very busy making my way through the BOCES system. It was not an easy system to navigate. I was blessed with colleagues that helped me through those first years – Sue Valachovic, Maxine Back-Heffron, and Karen Krug were my first mentors. Since then there have been so many that have helped me and enriched my teaching. Even now I find myself looking for new ways to make my classroom more captivating for the kids and for me.

There have been so many changes. When I first arrived, there were two supervisors and 4 social workers. This was before most classes had social work support. Since I started, I have worked with 14 social workers and 13 supervisors/principals. There have been 4 superintendents and 2 Special Education directors. I have worked with 33 TAs/EAs/aides, 11 speech therapists, 11 Occupational Therapists, 5 Physical Therapists, 3 Teachers of the visually impaired, and one Traumatic Brain Injury consultant. I’ve also had 12 favorite secretaries and we know who is really in charge. I have worked in schools where I was the only BOCES teacher and at Maywood School where we all work for BOCES. At my first opening day both special education and occupational education fit in a building at what is now called CTE. Now we struggle finding a place to fit all of us.

Through it all, I find a constant – people wanting to do a good job for kids. We have so many challenges – budget restrictions, state mandates that threaten to eat up precious teaching time, the students that we work with that have so many issues that inhibit learning…it’s overwhelming. But somehow we manage to keep going and even have success, success that is measured in unique ways.

Another constant for me has been our Association. The connections I have made through them have supported me through many challenges. I have been a rep for most of my 30 years as well as performing other duties. Attending the Rep council meetings gives me a great deal of information, gives me a chance to network with others, and be with people facing the same challenges that I am. BOCES is a huge organization but meeting with these folks once a month makes it seem smaller and more manageable. I urge you to get involved with your Association and have this opportunity.

After 30 years I have experienced a lot of changes and have continued to grow with those changes. I am a strong proponent of lifelong learning and view these changes as a chance to continue my education. I have worked with a variety of interesting folks who have enriched my teaching. I have even learned from principals and directors. You just have to be open to all the opportunities. It doesn’t matter if it’s your 3rd year or 30th. My goal is to be someone who stays as long as I have something not only to learn but to contribute.

So, this year, I got a clock.

**RETIREE UPDATES**

**Cecie Evans**, TA, 10 years retired, e-mailed us from the beautiful Adirondacks. She has become adept at using the social media to stay in touch with family and reconnect with long lost friends. She enjoys the on-line interactive games. Cecie informed us of the sudden passing of a friend who had subbed as a TA back in the 1990’s. Mary Lou Almond She was 89 and worked at Woodlawn and Zoller. The village of Mayfield is looking forward to the completion of their new Church by Easter 2013. It replaces the one destroyed by a lightning strike. A trip to the track this summer proved the facility to be less than user friendly for an individual with walking issues. Cecie will be telling us more.

**Anita Riccio** (Teacher) spent most of September on her annual trip, living and working in the outback of the Dominican Republic and Haiti. One of the schools has 2 classes of 60 students each. There are no books or pencils and the teacher’s only supplies consist of chalk and a chalkboard. Students learn by repeatedly reciting the information presented. Many students walk miles to attend and love school. It is a different world from the one we know.
TEACHING ASSISTANTS/EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS/AIDES

By Colleen Condolora, Chapter VP

Dear Constituent,

I hope everyone’s school year has gotten off to a good start and you have settled back into your routine nicely. As you can feel in the air, fall is upon us and that means it is time for each Teaching Assistant to consider the evaluation process he/she will choose. Each tenured Teaching Assistant may select from one of three options (Special Project, Principal Evaluation and Growth Plan.) If anyone needs clarification, the forms and a webinar explaining each evaluation option are located on the capitalregionboces.org website under Staff Resources. It must be noted, untenured Teaching Assistants may only select a Principal evaluation each year they are untenured. Contractually by November 1st all Teaching Assistants should have spoken with their respective principals and notified them which evaluation process they have selected. If anyone needs any assistance in this process, please contact me at condolora@aol.com or 393-2244.

I need to update all Teaching Assistants and Aides regarding the recent changes made to your salary. After noticing a reduction on my payroll stub, I made a call to payroll for clarification. I was told the calculation for our pay has changed for the 21 pays we receive for the school year. The 2012-13 BOCES District school calendar has only 184 school days this school year rather than the usual 185 day calendar we have always used in the past. Following that conversation, I then spoke with Human Resources and pointed out there are districts in which we work which have a 185 day calendar. I recommend each person who is an hourly wage earner to keep track of the number of days worked this school year. For the districts that work the 185 day school calendar, when you reach your 185th day you will submit a form to payroll, requesting your pay for the extra day. After doing some research of each district, I have pointed out there are districts in which we work which have a 185 day calendar. I recommend each person who is an hourly wage earner to keep track of the number of days worked this school year. For the districts that work the 185 day school calendar, when you reach your 185th day you will submit a form to payroll, requesting your pay for the extra day. After doing some research of each district, I know Niskayuna, Schenectady, Schalmont, and South Colenie each have a 185 day school calendar. Please be vigilant to carefully keep track of your days worked if you are located at a building in the above school districts. Also, please double check to see if your district has 185 days, I may have inadvertently missed one. If you have any questions, please give me a call and I will assist you.

As you are aware, our contract will be up at the end of this school year. It doesn’t seem possible but it is true. As you know we were a year out on the current contract and since it was only a two year contract it means we will be back to the table again in the spring. Chris McDonough, Barb Burnham, Kevin Rheden and Colleen Condolora will be meeting this winter to discuss proposals and strategies for the upcoming negotiations with administration. We will be keeping an eye out to see what transpires with the Teachers and Service Chapter contract talks currently taking place. If anyone has any item you would like for consideration, please contact someone on the negotiation team.

Sarah Growick, Kevin Rheden, Barb Burnham and I will be meeting shortly for the TA/Aide Professional Development Subcommittee. If there are any professional development opportunities you would like to receive, please contact one of committee members so we can discuss this in committee. The committee will be changing administrative participation since Dr. Kathryn Gerbino has retired. I am unsure which direction we will be going or who will be taking her seat. The committee wants to make sure our voices are heard and the TA/Aide unit continues to receive valuable, relevant and the most current professional development opportunities available.

In closing, I know these have been challenging times for everyone in education and anxiety has been running high for many of us working in this field. Please know that the Association has been working very hard to keep the lines of communication open with administration. I will continue to advocate and speak out on your behalf when I hear and see any situation that is detrimental to your work environment. Please keep me abreast of all the concerns you currently may have. Issues cannot be addressed unless we know about them. Take care everyone and please stay positive. Be hopeful, the field of education has to turn around; there can be no other alternative.

In Solidarity, Colleen Condolora

Start planning now for Food Day

On Oct. 24, Americans will celebrate the second annual Food Day, a grass-roots effort to advocate for healthy and affordable food produced in a sustainable way. This national initiative by the Center for Science in the Public Interest is a way to educate Americans on the importance of eating food that is healthy for consumers, their environment and the farmers who produce it. Improving our nation’s food policies is another driving force behind the event.
ZUMBA Fitness®
Class

Capital Region BOCES Employee Assistance Program, along with instructor Lynn Thornton, are pleased to offer an after work ZUMBA Fitness® class at the Maywood School starting October 15th.

“Ditch the workout and join the party!”

Join the millions of people who have decided that having fun and working out are NOT mutually exclusive. Join those who’d rather have a blast!

ZUMBA Fitness® is like no other workout you will ever experience! It is a fun, exhilarating, no pressure class! Zumba Fitness® combines Latin rhythms with easy to follow moves to create a dynamic fitness program you will love.

Sign up for preferred time by emailing: bailandolynn@gmail.com OR calling/texting 518 505-3351. Class times will depend upon interest.

Choose a day (or two!) and time:

Mondays 2:45 PM OR 4:30 PM / Thursdays 2:45 PM OR 4:30 PM.

Minimum of 5 to run class.

Cost: $7 drop-in rate OR buy a punch card of 6 classes for $30. (CLASSES ONGOING)

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SERVICE CHAPTER

Sandy Smith, Chapter VP

Hello everyone, welcome to the new school year.

Let me start by introducing myself for those who have yet to meet me. I’m Sandy Smith your new Service Chapter VP. I have been working for BOCES for a little over four years now and you can find me in Sub Service. I spend the early morning hours helping teachers and subs fill absences for 18 school districts. I have an awesome job- I help put people to work and at the same time I get paid to talk!

The school year has gotten off to a great start; I enjoyed meeting many of you at our opening day and hope to meet more of you as the year goes on. I also would like to extend an open invitation to all Service members to come join us at the monthly Association meetings held at 900. Our Chapter is also in need of reps. Come to a meeting and see if you wouldn’t mind being the voice for your Chapter.

I would also like to update you on our contract negotiations. As of yet, we are still at the negotiating table with Administration. I’m sorry to say, but we haven’t reached an agreement where we feel the outcome is in the best interest of the Service Chapter members. The members of the negotiating committee will continue to meet until we feel everyone in the Service Chapter has a fair contract. Until that time the Service Chapter and Administration will abide by the existing contract.

In Solidarity, Sandy
November 18th Faculty Association Bus Trip
To the Lee Premium Outlets
$15.00 per person
Each person may bring 1 guest. Maximum 25 people

Name ____________________________________________ Guest #1 ________________________
Home Email Address _____________________________ Cell Phone No. ________________
Emergency Contact Person_________________________________________________________________
Emergency Contact Person’s phone #________________________________________________________

We will be leaving Maywood School (1979 Central Avenue) at 9:00 am and returning at approximately 5:00 pm.
Please arrive no later than 8:45 am.

Please send completed registration form and payment* to:
Carolyn Pierce
1247 Trinity Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12306

*Checks should be made out to CRB FA - Deadline to Register is November 10th
You will receive an email confirmation when your seat(s) on the bus have been secured.

Dec. 8th Faculty Association Bus Trip to New York City
$30.00 per person
Each person may bring up to 2 guests.

Name ________________________________ Home Email Address ______________________
Phone Number _________________________
Guest #1 ___________________________________________________________
Guest #2 ___________________________________________________________
Emergency Contact Person _______________ Contact’s phone # ________________

We will be leaving Maywood School (1979 Central Avenue) at 8:00 AM and returning at approximately 9:30 PM. Please arrive no later than 7:45 AM.

Please send completed registration form and payment* to:
Carolyn Pierce
1247 Trinity Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12306

*Checks should be made out to CRB FA - Deadline to Register is December 1st.
You will receive an email confirmation when your seat(s) on the bus have been secured.
Greetings,

Did you read Catherine Jakway’s article, last month, describing her experience with the process of changing from Medco to Express Scripts? In August, did you receive a large white envelope from New York State Civil Service, with information about Medicare Part D and prescription coverage? We did also, and found that Cathi well expressed our own frustrations over the ever changing processes we must wade through for our survival services. This is especially difficult for those with limited outside contacts or who have moved away from the area with no one to share information. It is strangely comforting to know that even the young folks do not adapt readily to the “Change it police”.

Since we did not grow up with computers, we are not that comfortable with using them and feel our old method of having hard copies of important information is more reliable. No worries of crashing with the loss of everything and requiring a techie to find/fix it. We continue to rely on the old fashioned and uncomplicated method of ordering meds, consisting of an order form, a paper script, a check and snail mail to deliver it. When the meds arrive, the invoice says “Balance Due $0.00. No further action is needed.

We learned the value of hard copies early on in our teaching career, back in the days before our Association was formed, in the days of mimeograph machines and carbon paper. P.L. 94-142 did not exist, which now entitles all children to a free public education. The term I.E.P. had not yet been created nor was the concept of the COH. The criteria for entrance into a BOCES class were the ability to verbalize and being toilet trained. Students who did not meet the criteria might attend an ARC, a private facility or stay at home. Most often, a student’s folder contained little more than a report of a score of “below 70” on the Stanford Binet.

The SETRC library was in its very beginnings and the many curricula we had acquired during our graduate work served as references in creating students’ programs. There were no guidelines or forms other than a required Progress Report mid-year and in June.

So as directed by the supervisor, my reports were prepared, using my portable Smith-Corona manual typewriter and submitted to the secretary. Several days later, there was called requesting my presence in the office, not something that occurred very often. The visit opened with an apology followed by the news that my 12 Progress Report had been lost and the directive was given to do them over. You can well imagine the gamut of negative emotions, but there was no recourse except to follow orders. Never had it occurred to me to make carbon copies as I typed. Fortunately, my scratch copies allowed me to recreate them. But before they were completed for a second time, there was another call. They had been found. Unbelievable!!!!! Henceforth, carbon paper and I became good friends and there are still occasions when it is useful.

But, back to our prescription coverage. After speaking to Nicole Yamin, from our BOCES Employees Benefits Office, I have learned the following:

♦ If you are in the NYSHIP, Empire Plan, DO NOT send in any cancellation forms. You will lose all of your Empire Plan health coverage.

♦ The prescription carrier for enrollees in MVP, CDPHP and Blue Shield, changes from Medco to Express Scripts.

♦ According the flyer enclosed in the envelope from New York State Civil Service, NYSHIP enrollees who are Medicare eligible, will receive a prescription card and related information, in December. It is to be used solely for prescriptions. The card we are currently using will cover Medical and Hospital services. Those who are not Medicare eligible will continue to use one card.

♦ The prescription plan from BOCES, meets or exceeds the minimum coverage required by Medicare.

If you have any questions, call Nicole Yamin at (518)-862-4913 or Anne Kennison at (518)-862-4912. They are there for us.

Hope you are well supplied with Halloween candy, especially your favorites in case you do not have many visitors, like the “change it police”.

Jeanette Christoff
September Rep Council Notes
By Lanny Barsale, Teacher, Spec. Ed.

There was no quorum so no business could be conducted. We had an informational meeting.

Chapter Vice-Presidents’ report
TA/EA/aides – Colleen Condolora
PDP committee – new plan for recording hours for level 3 TAs and certificate holders (teachers) with 175 hour requirement.
1. Submit form to request to principal
2. Complete individual recording form
3. After approval, submit evidence that you attended.
4. Principal fills out form to submit to Human Relations quarterly
   • If you have done other staff development, go to HR and have it imported. Check to be sure that it’s accurate. Always have back-up proof, e.g. certificates.
   • All TAs that were riffed are back at work.

Special Education Teachers – Flora Fasoldt
Beginning of year very chaotic
• Missing medical files
• Related service schedules a mess –
• Assigned a number of days but unable to do job in time allowed
• At time of meeting, no TVI has reported to Guilderland classes
• OTs/PTs supervision not clear – “in flux”
• People should speak to Peter if unsure
• Should have been in assignment letters
• Deven’s retirement left a big hole
• IEP direct is a mess

October 21st – Breast Cancer Walk
It starts at 8:30 AM and goes until 7:30 PM
October 18th – all day fundraiser for Breast Cancer Walk

BOCES Board meeting – Susan Kusalonis will still attend.

Negotiations going nowhere, last meeting was not good
CTE – concerns about APPR, not thrilled with Opening Day.
Sunshine Chair – need a new chair. Can have a committee.

APPR – must submit plan to state by 1/15/13. It focuses on classroom teachers.
• The state is advertising for help processing APPR applications
• It costs more money and requires more help – both not available

Need teachers for APPR committee – will be more intense this year.

TRIAD – meeting next Tuesday
• Only 260 active members are receiving the newsletter. Need more e-mail addresses in order to send
• People need to opt in if they want a hard copy.
• Please check with folks to see if they are getting the TRIAD and tell them to opt in for a hard copy or send their e-mail addresses.

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Capital Region BOCES announces the 2012-13 Mini Grant Winners
iPad s, interactive lessons, and accreditation of new programs round out winners
The 2012-13 BOCES Mini Grant winners will expose students to a variety of hands-on learning activities as well as provide enriching experiences for staff. Winning ideas include the creation of a new video series in the BOCES Insider, as well as a plan to provide students with increased access to career resources.

A total of $5,035 was awarded to eight different submissions, from various divisions around BOCES.
"For the past eight years, the BOCES Mini grant program has been helping our staff members turn their bright ideas into beneficial programs for our students and staff," said Kathryn Gerbino, assistant district superintendent for instruction. "We’re very much excited to see the newest batch of impressive programs come to fruition.”

If you’re interested in obtaining more information on the mini grants listed below, please contact the grant winner.

And the winners are...
• i-Touch-to-Imagine-and-Create - Nancy Henry, Special Education - $100
• Innovations – Moving Forward with the iPad - James Bailey, Special Education - $400
• Is it Work or Play? We’ll Never Say! - Vicki Belyna and Marypat Melsheimer, Special Education - $400
• “Cooked,” A Lesson in Life and Cooking - Joanne Agresta, Special Education - $599
• "Moving in the Right Direction - Karen Jaswick, NERIC, Plattsburgh - $720
• iNsiderCasts - BOCES 360 Team, Management Services - $817
• American Welding Society Accreditation – Increased Opportunities for National Certification - Christopher Lanese and Kim Brizzell, Career and Technical Education - $1,000
• Our Career Library - Gretchen McDonough, Career and Technical Education - $1,000
Let us support you in your fundraising endeavors.
By Jeanette Christoff

Americans seem to have an inborn spirit of generosity expressed in the many ways they offer help to others. Some support causes that have struck them or ones they love. Some are motivated by seeing the needs of others. Some follow the command to love thy neighbor. Many fulfill this desire to help through marathon and telethons, car washed and bake sales, some by cycling, walking or running. Some donate themselves by volunteering after hurricanes and earthquakes, and even by adopting babies from Romanian orphanages. Some contribute by making monetary donations.

Through the years our TRIAD has kept you informed of some upcoming events which those involved have shared with us. We realize also that, many of you have taken on causes we were not aware of and which other may have joined to support if they had known.

Therefore, we invite you to let us know of upcoming events so we can share the information with our readers.

To be included, we will need the following:
1. Your name and contact info
2. Name of the event
3. Date and place of the event
4. Name and address of the organization for those who wish to make a monetary contribution.

Example:

Oct. 21st is the Annual Breast Cancer Walk and Pat Gollub, Teacher at CTE, will be doing the walk and says that anyone is welcome to join her. She will have the Association Banner that day.

Very Useful Web Sites


Social Security planner: Estimate life expectancy and benefits...consequences of early or delayed retirement...how postretirement earnings affect benefits...spouse/survivor benefits...more. www.SocialSecurity.gov/retire2

Family health history: Create a family health portrait to identify risks and stay alert to early warning signs. https://FamilyHistory.hhs.gov

Bypass the phone menu of a large company, and connect to the right person. DeepDial will automatically dial and navigate the menu for you. Then you get a callback from the company and department you want to talk to. Free consumer service covers hundreds of airlines, large retailers, manufacturers and other businesses. http://DeepDial.com

Save the date for our fall open houses

All members of the community are welcome at Career & Tech's fall open houses. Save these dates and join us from 6-8 p.m. on Oct. 10 at our Schoharie campus and on Oct. 18 at our Albany campus. Tours, food, student demonstrations, displays, information about all of our programs for learners of all ages - see you here!

Thank you Mr. Todd

Career & Tech and the entire BOCES community mourns the recent passing of former Welding & Metal Fabrication teacher Mike Todd. Todd retired in June after 10 years as a respected teacher, role model, innovator and creative leader at the Albany campus. He taught both high school and adult students and established the latest orbital welder technology, used in high-tech and clean-room environments, into the Career & Tech curriculum. He will be dearly missed by his students, alumni, Career & Tech colleagues and many friends and associates. Efforts are underway to establish a scholarship fund in Todd’s memory.

Reprinted from the CTE website.
After the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and start of the meeting Dr. Dedrick asked CTE Director, Terry Swett, to discuss BOCES’ Adult GED program that is merging with the Albany City Adult Education program.

1) As the Albany program has been certified as non-compliant The State Education Department has asked BOCES to take over their program. Our BOCES financial people looked at this and felt that it would work.
   - This program is funded by EPE for adult student contact hour at $9.06 per hour. Current BOCES funding is $603,855 with 68,000 contact hours. Albany will add $168,000 and 18,000 more contact hours. The more adult students in a class the more likely this program will be self-supporting.
   - The SED is asking BOCES to take over the GED Test Site in Albany.
   - BOCES will open up additional sites in Albany; Pine Wood, Mildred Elley, Bryant and Stratton; at Schoharie CTE and in Cobleskill (new location).

Q. How many adult students receive their GED?
A. A large percentage gain in reading and writing skills which help them pass GED. A large number that take the program are adults with English as a second language and this is one hurdle to overcome.

Q. How many get jobs after?
A. We have a program with CSEA to help their current employees get their GED’s.

2) The Albany DA’s office has chosen Albany CTE to hold the Press Conference on Monday, Sept. 24th on a Drug Awareness Campaign. They intend to create drop boxes for prescription drugs. A webinar will be available by the following Friday to help educators learn how to handle this problem in the student population.

3) Tech Assistance Center has asked Capital Region BOCES to review two of CTE programs, which are Certified Nursing Assistant Program and Auto Body Collision Program. This will take place on Oct. 23rd and 24th. They have asked if a Board Member to come and speak with them at that time. This will be like doing another middle states review.

Dr. Dedrick stated that the China trip has been scheduled to take place from March 29th to April 8th. This will be during Easter Week. Board members were asked to contact Sharon Kisby if they were interested in going.

Dr. Dedrick wanted to let the Board know about the Testing Integrity Officer position that was on this board agenda. This officer will be a local liaison with the Investigative Unit of SED. Basically, school districts will be notifying us when there is a breech in testing. The call could be about opening the plastic too soon or changing answers on the test answer document. Michelle Handzel will be the Integrity Officer of record, but both Dr. Dedrick and Lynn Wells will be doing investigations with Michelle. Please note this is a new unfunded mandate.

Q. Is this really BOCES’ job or should it be SED’s?
A. DS was not placed on Committee, the BOCES was.

Q. How many errors are found in scanning the regent’s tests?
A. About ten percent of all the tests scanned are a problem. There is also machine that scans for erasures. When patterns develop then the State will report back to the District of record and not the BOCES.

Q. Is NYC excluded?
A. No, but they do have their own version of the RIC to do their scanning process.

Q. How come teachers can’t have assurance on this?
A. You cannot discern anything from this process. It is used to align with curriculum and also the readability of questions.

Comment made by a board member: With all the focus on STEM Education – jobs not being filled. One of the reasons given was that 40% of problem is applicants failing the drug test and inability to speak or write English.

Board Member Reports.
Sandy Beloncik (board member) met Steve Wozniak at the TECH Valley HS and found him to be very interesting. His web site is steve@woz.org. After his talk at TVHS he and his wife were going to do a fundraiser at Proctors to raise money supporting “Peaceful Acers Ranch” (a local rescue group for abused and abandoned horses). Sandy noted that the RA I students went to the ranch and wanted to be informed so she could join them. Inge Jacobs said that they have been going five times in the fall and will go five more times in the spring.
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Personnel Personals

No personals reported to the committee this month. Let us know what you are doing so we can share with our readers.

What’s happening in your life?
Babies, grand children, marriages, engagements, awards, graduations, trips, etc.

Sunshine Chairperson
If you know of someone who could use a little cheering up, our sympathy, or a get well card, please contact:
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Please contact Lisa Mink, Membership Chair, with any change in address that you have. You can reach her at lminx8@hotmail.com. In doing so, you will be assured of receiving all that correspondence that the Association will send you including your newsletter, the TRIAD.