

DCBOCES SPOTLIGHT

June 2015

What a Year!

As we come to the end of the 2014-2015 school year, join us in celebrating our graduates and enjoy a few highlights from this year's achievements.

NOT AFRAID TO TAKE THE PLUNGE!



For the second year, a BOCES team jumped into icy waters at the Special Olympics Polar Plunge, raising more than \$5,500 to support the organization. The team was awarded a trophy for being the top school fundraiser.

The brave team included:

Erin Scott (4th year)
Al Berti (2nd year)
Eric Hirsch (2nd year)
CJ Kelly (2nd year)
Mitchell Shron (2nd year)
Joanne Williams (2nd year)
Ray Campanaro (1st year)
Jim Fitzmaurice (1st year)

All money raised directly supports the athletes in the Hudson Valley Region. This year, the event was even more rewarding because several Dutchess BOCES educators received training,

volunteered many hours, and established a new Special Olympics team for Salt Point Center students.

Six athletes participated in basketball skills at a Special Olympics event held at Marist

College this spring. They came away with medals, honor certificates, and joy. Under their nurturing coaches' watchful eyes, the athletes practiced basketball skills every other day for four months before the competition.

"The families all came and stayed for the day," said teacher Erin Scott. "It was a really nice home-to-school contact and it was great to see the kids out in the community. The families loved watching the students succeed."



The hope is to expand the program next year to include bowling and to have more students participate. Anyone interested in joining the Polar Plunge team for the next jump on February 21, 2016 should contact Erin Scott at 486-8004.

SPC Athletes
Niomi Blanc
Gold Medal

DeMari Clarke
5th Place Honor

Hayden Maegerle
Two 5th Place Honors

Tristin Moe
Silver Medal

Malcolm Lewis
4th Place Honors

Special Olympic Coaches

Eric Hirsch

Sam Rivera

Erin Scott

Maria Sita

Tracey Smith

Lisa Wilson

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Graduation 2015

AHS GRADUATION & HIGHLIGHTS

The Alternative High School (AHS) honored 35 students at its 2015 Commencement held June 12th. Graduate speakers Shannon Kelly and James Zenette offered their classmates inspiring remarks during the ceremony. AHS students experienced rich learning experiences both inside and outside of the classroom during the 2014-15 school year. Volunteer activities and academic projects augmented more traditional classroom instruction to provide students with challenging, enjoyable opportunities.

Teacher Dion King served on the school's Incentive Committee with many others, which coordinated the end-of-year school trip to Lake Compounce in Connecticut. Students and chaperones enjoyed a fun, sunny day at the amusement park. Earlier in the year, students stayed closer to home, but also enjoyed the outdoors and breathtaking views when they visited the Walkway Over Hudson State Historic Park.

In the classroom, AHS welcomed a new teaching tool, Reading Plus, to enhance English language arts instruction. Art teacher Caroline Van Wagner collaborated with Mr. Coleman on an art project that was included in his Global 1 unit on geography and culture in Africa. Students were assigned to use their creativity to make African masks.

Mary Lynn Valis, teaching assistant, and many other staff members spent many rewarding hours coordinating the Helping Hands Committee. The group completed many charitable efforts to benefit the community including knitting lap quilts for the Lutheran Care Center residents, stuffing envelopes for a Dutchess Outreach fundraiser, and volunteering to serve at the Lunch Box, a soup kitchen in Poughkeepsie.



Shakespeare came to life in Jim Fraser's class. The culminating project of the Shakespeare unit was the performance of famous scenes and the recitation of well-known lines from "Hamlet." Students created props, choreographed scenes and demonstrated a deep understanding of the play. There was a greater appreciation for the lines "To be or not to be" and "To thine own self be true" after the performances.

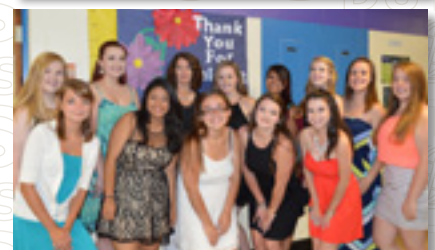
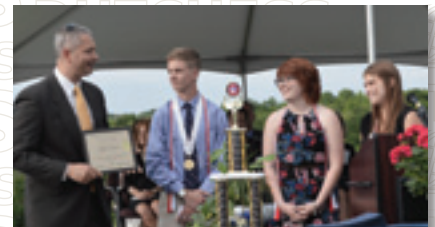
"The entire staff is very proud of all of our students for their hard work and accomplishments," said AHS Principal John Jeffrey. "It has been a great year."

CTI RECOGNITION NIGHT

The Dutchess BOCES Career and Technical Institute (CTI) held their 2015 Recognition Night on June 17th, honoring 230 seniors for completing a range of career and technical education training programs.

Valedictorian Francesca Zani, a Culinary Arts student from Spackenkill High School, will be attending the Culinary Institute of America this fall. Co-Salutatorians Deydy and Jeydy Acevedo, both cosmetology students from Spackenkill will be attending Dutchess Community College in the fall on full scholarships from the Charles and Mabel Conklin Scholarship for Academic Excellence.

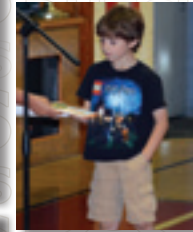
The Friends of CTI Community Recognition Award for 2014-2015 was presented to the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce for their excellent work in the community and their support of education throughout the county.



SPC AWARDS & MOVING UP CEREMONY



The Salt Point Center held its Awards Ceremony on June 16th and students and staff looked back on a successful year that included the achievement of many personal milestones. Danielle Knapp, one of the student presenters, said that BOCES truly helped her to reach her full potential and she encouraged everyone to always keep a positive attitude. "Saying hello to BOCES led to a million things. I experienced so much help from teachers and counselors. Never give up on yourself," said Danielle. "When it rains, look for rainbows. When it's dark, look for stars. Never give up. That's my goal in life, to succeed." Danielle, pictured with her mother, and SPC teacher A. J. Riehl, will be returning to the Arlington Central School District in the fall to begin 7th grade.



Salt Point Center (SPC) held their Moving Up ceremony on June 17th. 18 eighth graders were recognized by administrators, faculty, and family for their scholastic and personal achievements. Five students, Stanley Morris, Felicity Pitcher, Garrett Palmer, Summer McGrath, and Giovannina Verderber, read excerpts of their original writing prior to the certificate awards.

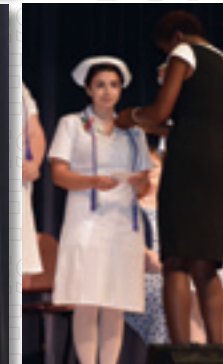
SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL NURSING GRADUATION



On June 18th, 41 practical nursing graduates took the Florence Nightingale Pledge, promising to devote themselves fully to the welfare of those in their care. Graduates received their certificates and pins before a moving candle lighting ceremony.



Six graduates, Imre Berta, Evelyn Clifford, Thomas DiMauro, Amanda Ludwig, Elyssa Nott, and Elisabeth Schmand, were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society during the ceremony. The Society honors scholastic achievement and personal excellence, recognizing students nation-wide who have a high GPA, excellent attendance, and outstanding participation in student organizations.



Two student representatives, Thomas DiMauro and Katrina Wuersching, had many inspiring things to say to their classmates.

ALI STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Anne-Marie Mauricette-LaMontagne was selected as the Dutchess BOCES Adult Learning Institute's student of the year for 2015 due to academic excellence



and dedication. After completing the literacy program and passing the nursing assistant vocational training at ALI, she is now enrolled in the Career and Technical Institute's Practical Nursing Program.

Ms. Mauricette-LaMontagne began her studies after moving to the Hudson Valley from the Caribbean and has been careful to balance, school work and family obligations. Faculty praises her

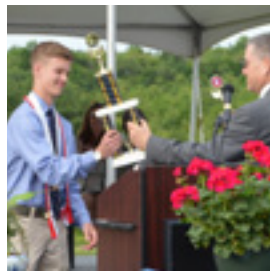
for her focus, participation, and clinical skills. She looks forward to completing her studies and having a long, successful nursing career in the community.



SkillsUSA 2015

Champions at Work®

Two students from Dutchess BOCES Career and Technical Institute took two first place finishes in the 49th Annual SkillsUSA State Conference and Skills Championships. The first place contestants are Wyatt Kelly (FDR) in the Photography contest and Deyry Acevedo (Spackenkill) in the Job Demo (Open) contest.



Top students from every part of New York State competed in their respective areas. Thirty-six students from 12 area high schools competed in areas such as culinary arts, cinema production, computer technology, crime scene investigation and other careers that represent the courses offered at CTI.

Both students will represent New York State in the National SkillsUSA Competition this June, to be held in Louisville, KY. CTI's SkillUSA club and competitors plan to raise extra funds to help offset the costs to send these students to Louisville.

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. The Career and Technical Institute at Dutchess BOCES is committed to providing students with the latest technologies needed for their future success in their chosen career path and/or higher education.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The STLE-2 Grant has allowed Educational Resources to assist in efforts to improve teaching and learning in five component districts: Beacon, Hyde Park, Dover Plains, Pine Plains and Webutuck. A by-product of this funding has been increased and diversified professional development offerings for all Dutchess County teachers and leaders. Educational Resources has compiled digital toolkits of professional development offerings and strengthened professional relationships with community partners. Institutions of higher education, renowned speakers and Academy members will continue to influence future efforts of Dutchess County educators to develop into highly effective professionals.



The STLE-D Grant has allowed its participants to share in the remarkable work that has come to fruition as a result of the STLE-2 Grant. Five component districts (Millbrook, Poughkeepsie, Rhinebeck, Spackenkill, and Wappingers) have had leaders participate in a cohort, sharing in successful STLE-2 practices. This cohort, led by two successful STLE-2 principals, has collaborated to develop leadership practices that will influence teaching and learning in their component districts. A showcase of their vision was presented June 9th.

RSE-TASC CDOS & PBIS

The Dutchess BOCES Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Center (RSE-TASC) worked to boost the skills of educators by providing targeted professional development and technical assistance to help improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

The RSE-TASC hosted 88 regional workshops in four counties serving a total of 1,725 participants. Educators took away new skills and strategies to help improve the delivery of special education services and supports back in their districts. Regional training, as well as embedded professional development and technical assistance in classrooms, are offered to school districts throughout the school.

The division also hosted two large events for educators, The New York State Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential Conference in November and the 1st Annual Mid-Hudson PBIS Showcase in May. Both events were held at the Samuel F. B. Morse Estate in Poughkeepsie and each supported more than 130 participants.

Attendees of the CDOS Conference learned more about a new credential designed to provide students with disabilities valuable skills and experience that will help them succeed after graduation. The credential, first implemented in the 2013-14 school year can supplement a Regents or local diploma, or in some cases be the exiting credential for students who do not meet graduation requirements.

The PBIS Showcase included a keynote address on cultural competence and its connection to behavioral supports. Additionally, educators were honored for demonstrating PBIS leadership and creating more positive school and district climates. Positive reinforcement, character education, reward systems, celebrating student success, and shared core values were discussed.



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