
Alternative and Special Education

BETA's Business Education Teacher Kathy White promotes excellence by encouraging several of her students to participate in the U.S. Department of the Treasury Fall 2008 National Financial Literacy Challenge. The following students scored in the top 25th percentile: Bria Age, Samuel Huff, Paul Pierson, Lauren Rizzo, Brie-Anne Sloniker, Maurice Smith, Marissa Turner, and Annie Vannostrand. A special recognition to Bria Age who scored in the top one percentile. Congratulations students on your accomplishments!

SPC RUNNERS! Norah Merritt was proud to announce that a small group of SPC students went to Philadelphia at the end of November to participate in the Marathon Project. This project was sponsored by the Council on Addiction, Prevention and Education (CAPE).

LITERACY NEWS! SPC Literacy Coach Dierdre Collin will be working with teachers in the classroom to improve student literacy education. Visit <http://www.dcboces.org/saltpointcenter/events.php> and click on "link" for additional information.

According to Roger Risko, our list of job training worksites continues to grow! The Community Based Training program welcomes Walgreens and Avalon Assisted Living to the already existing list of 60+ training sites. In addition, Lutheran Care Center has agreed to come back on board!

The Teachers of the Deaf have formed a "peer coaching group" to implement the Thinking Maps curriculum to enrich their instructional strategies for literacy and comprehension with their students. Thinking Maps is a guided curriculum to assist students in being able to logically convey their thoughts in writing. This group includes Sue Tornatore (trainer), Linda Previll, Renee Tancin, Lynn Brickman, Amie Fredericks, and Valerie Trzcinski.

Business Office

The Administration Building Staff reached out to families in need during the holiday season. Thanks to the organizational efforts of SPC school nurse, Betty Morton and Business Office employees, Lois Schwarze and Mary Grunow, contributions were made to brighten the holidays for three SPC students and their families. Many thanks to all who participated in this very worthwhile project!

Linda Poleski is pleased to report that the first phase of budget development for the 2009-2010 school year has been completed. A team of staff members will meet with component district personnel to review the budget and provide information about the programs and services at Dutchess BOCES.

K-12 Alerts is now in full swing. Kelly Seibert reported that all the necessary information has been entered into the system. Information will be provided in English and in Spanish, and will also be accessible from the Dutchess BOCES Website.

Career & Technical Education

Students and staff at CTI are very saddened by the recent loss of one of their teachers, Stefan Yablonsky. Stefan began his career at Dutchess BOCES on September 1, 1989, as a Teacher of Trade Electricity. At a recent CTI faculty meeting, staff members shared moments about him. A scholarship opportunity in his name is being explored for a trade electric student.

At a recent national convention for technical educators, we were pleased to learn that CTI is on the cutting edge of technical education. According to the National Research Center for Career & Technical Education, our programs match the top standards for promising practices. CTI teachers Daniel Tierney and Susan Willhite have been invited to submit their promising practices to the center for review.

Staff members from Adult Education met with approximately thirty clients at the Turning Point in Beacon to share our Adult Education programs in literacy and job training. We are looking forward to a continued partnership with Turning Point whose clients are referred to us for job training and GED classes. A formalized intake and assessment process is being set up.

Adult Education Administrator Sherre Wesley is pleased to announce a new season of adult education offerings involving "green technology". The response to these courses has been very favorable.

Our Community Solutions for Transportation (CST) program was featured in an article in the Poughkeepsie Journal on December 30th. CST's Deb Goodpaster continues to seek Dutchess County individuals for used vehicle donations to be given to our eligible program participants. Donated cars will be repaired with program funds then donated to low-income county residents to obtain, maintain, or improve their employment. Donated vehicles should have \$1,500 or less in repairs, and be recently registered and insured. Vehicle donations to the program may be tax-deductible since they are being donated for use by low-income individuals. Please contact Deb Goodpaster at 845-486-4405 or email debbie.goodpaster@dcboces.org for details on donating your vehicle.

Another successful class of graduates walked across the stage during the Graduation and Pinning Ceremony for CTI's Licensed Practical Nursing Program. On December 16th, twenty-eight students received their pins and diplomas. Congratulations!

Central Administration

Committee Chairperson Roger Risko cordially invites any interested staff members to attend our next Enterprise Group meeting scheduled for January 22 at 3 pm in the CTI Conference Room 301.

Communications & Grants Research

The 2009-2010 Dutchess BOCES Services Guide is now available in print and is also located on our website at www.dcboces.org/publications/servicesguide.pdf.

If you would like to publicize recent and future program activities, please keep the Dutchess BOCES website in mind. Let it help you highlight your programs. According to the most recent numbers gathered from Google.com, www.dcboces.org greets more than 20,000 visitors a month, who make more than 50,000 visits and view more than 150,000 pages while there. Please contact your program's coordinator or Jeff Rouse (jeff.rouse@dcboces.org) to have your program's content get placed on the website.

The 2009 Dutchess-Ulster Heart Walk is planned for Saturday, March 14, 2009. The Dutchess BOCES *Go Red for Women Day* is scheduled for Friday, February 27, 2009. For additional information about the AHA Walk or Go Red, please contact Anna Marie Martino at 486-4840, extension 3030.

One Campus – Endless Opportunities: Bond Referendum Information

Tuesday, February 10, 2009 – 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
BETA Site –
900 Dutchess Turnpike (Route 44),
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Voter qualifications--eighteen years of age and thirty days residency in Dutchess County. Please provide proof of residency unless you are a registered voter in Dutchess County.

To obtain an APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT:

1. **CALL:** Front Desk Receptionist, Dutchess BOCES Administration Building, 845-486-4800 to request an application for absentee ballot to be mailed to your Dutchess County residence.
2. **IN PERSON:** Absentee ballot applications are available at all of the Dutchess BOCES office locations. Directions--call 845-486-4800 or visit www.dcboces.org/contactinformation/maps.php

For further information, look at the Dutchess BOCES website at www.dcboces.org. If you have additional questions, please write them to onecampus@dcboces.org

VOTE POSTCARDS are now available in the reception areas of each of our buildings. If anyone would like additional postcards, please contact Jackie Cardascia at 486-4840, extension 3070.

Dates to Remember

- January 19, 2009 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 10, 2009 – Dutchess BOCES ONE CAMPUS Vote
- February 16, 2009 – President's Day
- February 26, 2009 – Superintendent's Conference Day

Educational Resources

Linda Heitmann is pleased to announce that approximately 170 pieces of Dutchess County student art were brought to Middletown as part of the Regional Scholastic Arts Award Program. A consortium of organizations, the Orange County Arts Council, Enlarged City School District of Middletown, and the Dutchess, Orange-Ulster, Sullivan and Ulster County BOCES, have come together to organize and present this program for Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster Counties. This is the first year the four-county region will have an organized presence. The Awards, which are open to students in grades 7-12, bring outstanding visual arts by teenagers to an audience by showcasing their remarkable work and encouraging their creative journey and career development. Awards will be presented on both the local and national level of The Scholastic Art Awards, and high school seniors who submit portfolios are considered for more than \$1.5 million in tuition scholarships at colleges across the nation. Last year, two of National Art Portfolio Gold Award recipients were from Ulster and Dutchess counties. Many thanks to ER's Maria Dewald and Jodi DeLucia, and BETA art teachers Caroline Van Wagner and Jeanette Straebler for their assistance in program submissions.

Now past the planning stage and into reality, Erin Scott's Red Oaks Mill Community Based Learning class will work hand-in-hand with ER's Jodi DeLucia assisting with the preparation of numerous boxes for Regional Scoring. Sincere thanks to the staff and students who made this inter-divisional project possible!

The Spring 2009 Professional Development catalog is now available in print and online at <http://www.dcboces.org/publications/professionaldevelopment.pdf>. The front section of the catalog now includes all ER consultant names and biographies. ER has so much to offer, so don't miss the opportunity to participate in one of the many staff development sessions available. Linda Heitmann sincerely thanks all those involved in the publication of this catalog.

THE GIFT OF GIVING! Staff from ER, CGR & HVRSSC once again participated in the *Adopt-a-Family* program sponsored by the Grace Smith House. This year a mother with three children benefited by receiving holidays gifts from the staff. Many thanks to Rachael Brammer, Debbie Meier, and Karen Van Slyke for organizing this project and to all those who contributed.

Facilities and Operations

Dutchess BOCES will soon offer electronic fingerprinting to its component school districts under the Safety & Risk program. This system allows for quick turn around time to process fingerprints – approximately 24-36 hours, compared to waiting several months when processed through SED. A part-time position is being explored to process the fingerprints.

*"A master can tell you what he expects of you.
A teacher, though, awakens your own expectations."*
– PATRICIA NEAL