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**Alternative and Special Education**

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Creative Writing and Story Telling Residency – Lorraine Hartin-Gelardi provided a unique creative writing and story telling experience for our SPC classes. Hartin-Gelardi individualized her program to meet the needs of our middle school students. She met with eleven classes each week from mid-January to mid-February, working on literacy, building stories, and creative dramatics. The students and staff thoroughly enjoyed their time with her.

Congratulations to Brandon Reed, a Dutchess BOCES/Spackenkill student, for receiving the Prism Award from Spackenkill High School. This award was given to Brandon in recognition for his random acts of kindness, compassion, leadership, generosity and teamwork!

Great art speaks powerfully, inspires fresh thinking, and connects us to our past. BETA Art teacher Caroline Van Wagner is pleased to announce that her grant application has been accepted by American Library Association for the Picturing America Series. Picturing America, an exciting new initiative from the National Endowment for the Humanities, brings masterpieces of American art into the classrooms and libraries nationwide. Through this innovative program, students and citizens will gain a deeper appreciation of our country's history and character through the study and understanding of its art. A collection of forty high-quality reproductions of American art, along with a Teacher's Resource Book will arrive sometime in March or April.

Erin Scott's Community Based Special Education students continue to send cheer to senior citizens. As Valentine's Day approaches, Scott's students are making Valentine's Day cards, which will be delivered to seniors at the Elant Nursing Home. Scott's class also traveled on the LOOP bus to take a tour of the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel, as they are learning about hotel and motel jobs.

BETA Art teacher Jeanette Straebler provided the opportunity for her students to take a virtual tour of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. Although students were not physically at the museum, they were able to enjoy many of its exhibits.

BETA teacher Kathy White is pleased to report that six out of seven business education students passed the Financial Literacy Certification test. In addition, BETA once again received the designation of being a Blue Ribbon School. The Challenge was developed by the U.S. Treasury in consultation with four non-governmental economists and the following education organizations: Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, Junior Achievement USA, the National Council on Economic Education, and the National Endowment for Financial Education. Congratulations to all students!

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**SPELLING BEE FOR LITERACY:** This year, Marist College will once again host the annual Spelling Bee for Literacy, a competitive, fun event that benefits various reading and literacy programs throughout Dutchess County. Thanks to the efforts of the Arlington Rotary and various local businesses, Dutchess BOCES student teams participate in this event. For more information contact Roger Risko at 845-702-6665 or 845-486-4840 ext. 3055.

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**Business Office**

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Linda Poleski and a team of other administrators have been engaged in meetings with several of our component school district central office personnel to discuss our 2009-2010 programs and services.

Each year the Mid-Hudson Chapter of School Business Officials offers a \$500 scholarship to a student who plans to pursue a degree in education or business. To apply for this scholarship, students need to submit an essay. For more information, contact Linda Poleski at 486-4800, extension 215.

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**Career & Technical Education**

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CTI Principal Mitchell Shron is thrilled to announce collaboration between Dutchess BOCES and the Dutchess County Fair. Plans are underway for our students to build a poll barn at this summer's fair. More information will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.

Congratulations to twin brothers Dennis and Edgar Rivera! The Poughkeepsie students who are enrolled in CTI's New Visions Health program, will be attending Vassar college tuition-free. Both students excel in academics and have been very involved in community and school activities.

Many thanks to the CTI residential construction students who built several ballot boxes for the Dutchess BOCES Capital Project vote. The boxes will be used for a future vote date to be determined by the Dutchess BOCES Board of Trustees.

The Adult Education Division recently experienced an increase in people interested in taking adult education courses. Numbers have doubled in the last six weeks. Adult education courses include a variety, including HVAC, GED classes and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). The Division is also working more specifically to meet business needs. For example, the CNA program is moving forward to offer training to staff members at the Putnam Ridge Nursing Home.

The Adult Education Division is conducting a survey to gather information from their students about their classroom experiences – what is working, what is not, and suggestions for improvements. Mary Fayne Simpson reported that students have provided positive feedback as well as suggestions on how we can help them meet their goals. These suggestions have been beneficial to instructors.

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**Central Office**

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In response to public opinion as expressed in the Poughkeepsie Journal, the Dutchess BOCES Board of Trustees passed a resolution at a special meeting held on February 4, 2009 to suspend the Centralized Campus Project bond referendum vote that had been scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2009. In the near future, the BOCES Board of Trustees will schedule a new date for the vote with multiple polling locations to be determined. Absentee ballots for the February 10th bond referendum vote are now void. Applications for absentee ballots for the rescheduled bond vote will be made available when a new date for the vote has been established.

District Superintendent John C. Pennoyer extends sincere thanks to everyone who worked on the capital project thus far. We will continue to keep the staff informed as we move forward with the vote. Updates will be posted on our website at [www.dcboeces.org/onecampus](http://www.dcbooces.org/onecampus).

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## Communications & Grants Research

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In addition to the Picturing America Award that Caroline Van Wagner received for BETA art classes, several other Dutchess BOCES programs will receive the same collection of forty high-quality reproductions of American art. CGR's Anna Marie Martino filed applications on behalf of the Adult Education Division, Salt Point Center, Career & Technical Institute, and School Library.

Dutchess BOCES welcomes Poughkeepsie City School District to the Public Information Service. The CGR Division now provides this service to eight school districts plus Dutchess BOCES.

The Dutchess Regional Chamber of Commerce turned to Dutchess BOCES to provide assistance in copying files onto 350 memory sticks. The sticks were favors at the Chamber's recent James Bond License to Thrill 007 Ball. Keeping with the Think Green Campaign, the decision was made to provide this year's gala program in electronic form. Many thanks to Daren Lolkema, Anna Marie

Martino, Jaime Keener, Gary Calcagni and Rudy Accardi for assisting the Chamber with this process.

On Friday, February 27, Dutchess BOCES will Go Red for Women. For only \$5 you show your support for this cause by wearing jeans and/or red to work that day along with your RED DRESS LAPEL PIN that you will receive. All proceeds will go to The American Heart Association as part of the Dutchess BOCES team's contribution at the American Heart Walk on March 14. Also, we need volunteers for the American Heart Walk that will take place on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie. All you need to do is collect donations from individuals and walk. It's that easy! Come out and walk for a worthy cause. If you are unable to walk, please sponsor a walker. To register for the AHA Heart Walk and obtain your collection envelope contact Tracey Smith at Salt Point Center at 486-8004 or Anna Marie Martino at BETA at 486-8051. Register online at [www.heartwalk.kintera.org/poughkeepsie](http://www.heartwalk.kintera.org/poughkeepsie)

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## Educational Resources

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### THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS SERIES

*Dutchess BOCES is pleased to announce their partnership with PACE University in presenting the 7th Annual Distinguished Educators Series. This series of live video presentations is hosted by Dutchess BOCES. A separate registration is required for each session and is available online at [www.dcboces.org/professionaldevelopment](http://www.dcboces.org/professionaldevelopment).*

- LOCATION - Dutchess BOCES CTI, Room 301, 5 BOCES Road, Poughkeepsie (Video Presentation)
- TIME - 6:00pm – 8:00pm (A light dinner will precede the event beginning at 5:30pm)
- COST - \$0
- CONTACT INFORMATION - Jodi DeLucia (845) 486-4840 ext. 3114 / [jodi.delucia@dcboces.org](mailto:jodi.delucia@dcboces.org)
- REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE - Kip Newman (845) 486-4840 ext. 3012 / [kip.newman@dcboces.org](mailto:kip.newman@dcboces.org)

New York State Grades 3-8 regional scoring has been completed successfully. Representative teachers from around the county joined together at our BETA site to score English Language Arts exams. Many hands made light work. Thanks to all of the staff and our ER consultants who made this possible!

Model Schools is pleased to announce that through Co-Ser participation, districts have the opportunity to send five educators to the 7th Annual NYS CATE Hudson Valley Conference at no cost. The event will be held at Roy C. Ketcham High School on Saturday, March 7, 2009, from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Brochures can be acquired through our Model Schools Office.

Professional Development enrollment is on the rise. Spring 2009 workshop offerings are filling quickly! Please take a moment to view our catalog online at [www.dcboces.org](http://www.dcboces.org).

The Hudson Valley Scholastic Consortium, consisting of the Enlarged City School District of Middletown, Orange County Arts Council, and the Dutchess, Orange-Ulster, Sullivan and Ulster County BOCES, announced the winners of the 2009 Hudson Valley Scholastic Art Awards. The awards were chosen from a pool of over 400 submissions from 25 schools in the four-county region, Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster. This is the first year the four-county region will have an organized presence at the national level. Gold Key, portfolio and individual, is artwork demonstrating the highest levels of achievement in technique, originality, and personal voice. Gold Key winners are forwarded to New York City for National Adjudication and American Visions Award Nominees are chosen in areas of the country with a Regional Affiliate of the Alliance. Five Gold Key individual artworks are nominated as "Best of Show." These works are reviewed in a special adjudication for the American Visions Award. One National American Visions Award recipient is recognized from each region. A panel of nine judges representing the different mediums and counties juried the awards. Several art students from Dutchess County participated in this exhibition. The winners were recognized in a ceremony on Friday, January 16 at the Middletown High School. For more information about the awards, visit [www.hudsonvalleyscholasticartawards.org](http://www.hudsonvalleyscholasticartawards.org) or call 845-469-9168 or Maria Dewald at 845-486-4840.

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## Human Resources

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On February 5, Dutchess BOCES held its mid-year New Orientation for fourteen new employees. Information was presented on various topics about Dutchess BOCES. We welcome the following new staff members:

Al Berti - Trades Electrician Teacher  
Anthony D'Amanto - Teacher Aide  
Keisha Ervin - Teacher Aide  
Renee Gremillot - Administrative School Secretary  
Audrey Keller - Teacher Aide  
Sandra Krol - Teacher of Speech and Hearing  
Kenneth Louis Jeune - Coordinator of Special Education  
Amanda Mortensen - Teaching Assistant

DorothyAnn Nichols - Teacher Aide  
Jennifer Piccione - Special Ed Teacher  
Breece Rinehart - Automotive Instructor  
Dawn Sanford - Teacher Aide  
Duane Sharrock - Coordinator Of Alternative Education  
Daniel Vail - Teacher Aide  
Elizabeth Yeager - Teacher Aide

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Content compiled by Dutchess BOCES Communications & Grants Research

Anna Marie Martino - Director

900 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Voice: 845.486.8051 ~ Fax: 845.486.4958

[www.dcboces.org](http://www.dcboces.org)