

# DUTCHESS BOCES SPOTLIGHT

June 2016

## Celebrating!

As we come to the end of the 2015-2016 school year, join us in celebrating our graduates and enjoy a few of this year's highlights and achievements.



In a few short days, I will have finished nine months working with you at Dutchess BOCES. I am amazed to think how quickly the year zipped by.

My learning curve was quite steep, and the workings of a BOCES are unlike anywhere else I have ever been. That being said, I was assisted and supported by so many of you, that the challenges were minimized. Indeed, the help I was given on a daily basis was staggering. Thank you for that. I so appreciate how kind and considerate people in this Agency have been to me as I misspoke or screwed up one of the Agency's acronyms or forgot the name of the person I met only the day before.

I can also reflect on some exciting developments that have helped to create a new understanding of Dutchess BOCES in the wider community. During the winter, students in Mr. Lawson's Computer Graphics class submitted designs for a holiday card. The one that was selected

(Dylan Moyer's) was then printed in CGR and sent out across our components and to the BOCES across the State. In April, the first CTI Expo hosted community members, families, middle school teams and Board members from across the County. Staff worked tirelessly to prepare their classes and to plan the event. Students demonstrated their skills and talents and exhibited their work. The business department used this opportunity to conduct the budget presentation; and later in the month, the BOCES budget passed unanimously among our 13 districts. After meeting with the CTI faculty, we have agreed to another Expo next year with participation from our other two schools: BETA and the Salt Point Center.

This year, BOCES has been more proactively involved with our component districts. The administrative team has spent more time at district Board meetings and district events, and we have worked collaboratively to meet the requests of our districts. This includes the establishment of our first countywide academic summer school at Hyde Park. When Linda Heitmann announced her retirement, we asked central office

personnel from three districts to join our diverse group of internal staff to assist with the interviews.

The prominent place that Dutchess BOCES held in the Special Olympics and Polar Plunge helped to underscore our community presence and our support of students, families and component districts.

These efforts may seem small to you, but together they create a foundation for the Agency upon which we can build a new identity based on service, solutions and savings for Dutchess County and our partner school districts. Thank you for a wonderful year.

Richard M. Hooley, Ed.D.  
District Superintendent

### In this Issue:

- AHS Graduation Day
- CTI Recognition Night
- Special Olympics
- SPC Awards & Moving Up
- ALI Highlights
- Practical Nursing Grads
- RSE-TASC
- Educational Resources

# Graduations & Highlights

# 2016



## ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

Proud families and teachers proudly looked on as 35 students graduated under the tent at the Alternative High School on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony celebrated academic success and closed a year where students and staff enjoyed new clubs and activities.



One new club was the Robotics Club, which provided students the opportunity to build robot vehicles to run in competitions. Other clubs include Anime Club, Chess Club, and Computer Game Club. The Helping Hands Club volunteered each month serving lunch at a soup kitchen in Poughkeepsie. The effort also helped them earn the required hours for their Participation In Government class.



Some BETA students literally participated in government by jumping into presidential politics at Bernie Sanders' rally at Marist College and Donald Trump's rally at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center. In school, student government organized a school-wide assembly to speak out against bullying, to recognize good deeds, and to congratulate honor roll students.



Other benevolent efforts included creating 60 toiletry filled shoe boxes for the homeless, making 160 Valentine's cards for residents of the Lutheran Home, and holding a food drive. The "Green Team" organized a school grounds clean-up day and was responsible for recycling efforts throughout the building. The club also created posters to promote ways to improve the environment.



Throughout the year, students earned incentive awards for good behavior, attendance and completing required work. These included a trip to the Walkway Over the Hudson, movies and popcorn, BINGO games with prizes donated by the staff, and a trip to Lake Compounce.

An ice cream social, 3-on-3 basketball, a creative arts show, field day, and clubs held on Fridays were other events that helped to contribute to a successful school year.





# CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

The Dutchess BOCES Career and Technical Institute (CTI) held their 2016 Recognition Night on June 9<sup>th</sup>, honoring 275 seniors for completing a range of career and technical education training programs.

Valedictorian Brian Griffing, a Culinary Arts student from Spackenkill High School, will be attending Dutchess Community College (DCC) this fall. Salutatorian Kiara Truscott, a Cosmetology student from Roy C. Ketcham High School, will also be attending DCC in the fall. Both were awarded Conklin scholarships.

The Friends of CTI Community Recognition Award for 2015-2016 was presented to the Patrick Seaton of Four Star Services for his contribution to the field of cosmetology and education.

CTI chartered new territory this year, expanding career offerings and increasing community engagement.

CTI successfully launched a new veterinary science program which teaches students the skills necessary for small animal care. Instruction included diagnostic equipment, grooming tools, animal handling, restraint, pet emergency care, reproductive management, and animal welfare.

Forty CTI students qualified and participated with the best of the best in a statewide skills competition in Syracuse. Another example of superior achievement occurred in the Nurse Assistant Program where 100% of the high school students passed their CNA exams. CTI also acquired two 3D printers to enhance opportunities for students to embrace new technologies.

Small engine and auto body classes refurbished two off-road vehicles for the Mills Norrie State Park, and construction trade students built flower boxes for the Dutchess County Fairgrounds and toss-game boxes for a local community organization.

Culinary arts students brought sweet treats out to the community and had the opportunity to serve popular television chef Sarah Moulton, when she was guest speaker at the Poughkeepsie Library Gala. Offerings included a wide variety of baked desserts and a beautiful fresh fruit display.

After the BOCES annual meeting, CTI welcomed the public to its classrooms for an Expo to showcase course offerings and the skills and talents of students. Middle school students participated in a fun skills competition. The event was such a success that planning has already begun for next year's event.





# SALT POINT EDUCATIONAL CENTER

*Staff and students at Dutchess BOCES have a long-standing, exceptional partnership with the Special Olympics. The synergy has grown in recent years, resulting in rewarding experiences for all involved. Here we showcase three inspirational events from this school year.*

## NYS SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMES TO DUTCHESS



Dozens of Dutchess BOCES staff members volunteered to share their hearts and serve as champions for Special Olympic athletes February 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. Athletes were welcomed to Dutchess County for the New York State Special Olympic Games on Friday with cheers and thunderous applause. An enthusiastic crowd filled the Mid-Hudson Civic Center offering support as the torch was lit and



the games were declared open. Volunteers help set up, cheer, coach, and congratulate the athletes as they competed in a variety of events spread across three counties. The “can do” spirit of the athletes was contagious.



## THE TRIUMPHANT THRILL OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Take a moment and think back. Remember the elation you felt after wobbly riding a two-wheeler for the first time because someone let go of the back without telling you? Or maybe the time your bat surprisingly smacked the ball in a Little League game? Or perhaps you hopped across the finish line first in a sack race on your elementary school’s field day? Whatever your moment, no feeling compares to the pride that swells up within you when you succeed.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, students from the Salt Point Center (SPC) were able to compete and rise above the challenges before them at the Special Olympics basketball skills competition held at Marist College. It was the second year in a row SPC sent a team of enthusiastic athletes under the caring supervision of their volunteer coaches who work with them at school Monday through Friday. Students participated in the skills competition which included dribbling, passing, and shooting baskets. Students competed against other athletes of same age and ability group. Special Olympics New York offers year-round training and competition in 22 Olympic-style sports.



The delight and pure joy visible after each athlete competed warmed the hearts of all of the family and friends gathered to cheer on the competitors. The victories were especially sweet because there are not many opportunities for students with special needs to participate in sports or competitions in Dutchess County. For many, the Special Olympics experience is the first time a family has had the chance to celebrate the accomplishments of their student at a public competition. And the fanfare associated with the medal ceremonies was just what the athletes needed and deserved. Six educators from SPC spent weeks volunteering as coaches to prepare for the Special Olympics and enjoyed being by the students’ sides as they accomplished their goals.



For more information about how you can volunteer or help out the SPC Special Olympics basketball skills team, contact Erin Scott at SPC or visit the Special Olympics website <http://specialolympics-ny.org/>.



# SPC AWARDS & MOVING UP CEREMONY



Family, friends, and SPC staff celebrated students at an Awards Ceremony on June 14<sup>th</sup>, looking back on a year of success and personal achievements. The accomplishments of the 29 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are moving on to high school next year were recognized in a ceremony held June 15<sup>th</sup>. Principal Doug Damiani congratulated the students for their achievement and offered some important advice. "Anything is possible for you, don't let anyone tell you differently," he said. "Take advantage of the education



system that is available to you. As in everything, it all comes down to your choices."

Keynote speaker Deputy Superintendent Dr. Linda Heitmann told the



students that as they move from childhood toward adulthood they should always remember that they are individuals, that they are special, and that they are loved.

During the school year, many exciting field trips and activities helped to augment student learning. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders attended a team building trip to Camp Tommy at Sharpe reservation and focused on improving leadership skills. Teacher Paula Goehring was awarded the grant that funded the trip.



In the fall, students attended the Junior United Nations in New York City and members of the Student Senate attended an anti-bullying seminar at Marist College. Students and staff participated in Keano's Toy drive to benefit child cancer patients at Westchester Medical Center. Keano, a former student, is a cancer survivor. Students also supported the local food pantry by holding a food drive.

Fundraising projects were also successful and enabled the entire school to go bowling and to enjoy an assembly called Bubble Trouble. Students also participated in the book fair, Halloween costume parade, Pinewood Derby, field days, the IDT picnic, and a performing arts festival.

## TAKING THE PLUNGE

On Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> the BOCES Polar Plunge team jumped once again to raise money to support local Special Olympics programs. The team raised more than \$7,000, making them the top school and third overall in fundraising. In addition to shattering the team goal of \$3,000, the team earned bragging rights and the honor of selecting the 2017 sweatshirt colors. The Cool School Challenge trophy will be proudly displayed at BOCES throughout the year for the second year in a row. Congratulations to all for a great effort!



"It's great that 100% of all fundraising money stays in the Hudson Valley and supports our athletes. It was amazing to see the support Dutchess BOCES gave this year to Special Olympics," said volunteer Erin Scott.

"Next year we will again be participating in basketball and the plunge and hope for an even bigger team. The Winter Games will also return to the Hudson Valley and I look forward to having another great Dutchess BOCES presence."

### DUTCHESS BOCES POLAR PLUNGE TEAM

Erin Scott (captain), Raymond Campanaro, Ashley Clisby, James Fitzmaurice, Nicole Haight, Ashley Hastings, Eric Hirsch, CJ Kelly, Charles Lynch, Maureen Moloney, Jeff Scalzo, Kate Seliga, Mitchell Shron, Lisa Slagle, Tracey Smith, and Daniella Valentine.





# ADULT LEARNING INSTITUTE

The Dutchess BOCES Adult Learning Institute (ALI) increased enrollment, added new classes, graduated nurse-assistants, awarded equivalency diplomas, and advocated for adult education needs throughout the school year.

ALI saw a 9% increase in Adult Basic Education/High School Equivalency/ESL enrollment with an additional 2% educational gain, as calculated by NYSED Adult Career and Continuing Education Services, over last year. Adult students spent an average of 92 hours in ALI classrooms.

This year, seven ESL students had an opportunity to become nurse-assistant trained in a NYSED pilot/cohort model integrated curriculum. Career and technical classes also had an increase in enrollment due to the return of the popular HVAC class. Students take a NORA and an EPA certification exam, all at no extra cost in tuition. Welding, automotive pathways, and phlebotomy classes were also popular. Seventeen adults, including one who persevered through ten attempts, were acknowledged for receiving New York State High School Equivalency Diplomas at the 2015 Dutchess BOCES Adult Education Graduation on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony, filled with tears, smiles, and words of encouragement, was held at the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center to recognize those who had recently passed the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC™). New York State Senator Sue Serino joined the celebration for these dedicated adult students.



ALI also continued to support the community outside the classroom. Six local residents were given used cars October 6<sup>th</sup>, so that they can more easily travel to and from work and school while supporting their families.



Before the keys were presented, the recipients' transportation struggles such as unreliable taxis, the lack of public transportation late at night, and the need to walk for hours to arrive at work on time, were highlighted. Eleven additional cars were awarded throughout the year.

The Community Solutions for Transportation Wheels to Work program is a cooperative effort between Dutchess BOCES, Dutchess County government, and local businesses. Recipients must meet the criteria of the program, which includes attending budgeting and car maintenance classes to prepare for the responsibility of vehicle ownership.

Elizabeth Hayter, ALI Administrator, also advocated for adult education needs statewide at several conferences and functions, including testifying at the New York State Senate Task Force hearing about workforce issues in New York State. As a result, a new bill was passed to invest in a skilled workforce in New York.





# SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL NURSING AT CTI



The Dutchess BOCES School of Practical Nursing, an independent school housed in the Career and Technical Institute, qualifies students for the New York State certification exam. This year, 75 students graduated ready to move on to health care careers.

Thirty-five students graduated December 15<sup>th</sup> and additional forty students graduated June 16<sup>th</sup>. Family, friends, and BOCES staff celebrated the graduates at moving pinning ceremonies. The first was held in the Salt Point Center gymnasium and the second was held at Beacon High School. Both celebrations featured a candle lighting ceremony and the Florence Nightingale Pledge.

Several students from each class also earned membership in the National Technical Honor Society. Admission is based upon standards in the areas of scholarship, leadership, and service.

The June inductees were: Christine Battaglini, Shannon Bumbolow, Ashley Galik, Latoya Lucas, Christopher Paul, Danielle Ragaglia, Manisha Shrestha, and Katherine Woolley. Those named as Technical Honor Society members in December were Nana Agyeman, Shelly Burt, Soraya Carey, Joanna Deptula, Emily Gabriele, Doris Little, Winny McKinnon, Perla Ocampo, and Carrie Veach.

The June 2016 student representatives were Shannon Bumbolow and Christopher Paul. Joanna Deptula was the student representative in December. Student representatives from each class are selected based upon their overall academic achievements including GPA, attendance, and clinical performance.

“It’s a big commitment to undertake this rigorous program,” said Dr. Susan Moraca, Coordinator for Health Occupations. “We’re proud of all of our graduates and applaud their hard work and dedication. We are certain their nursing skills will be welcome additions to health care facilities throughout the Mid-Hudson region.”



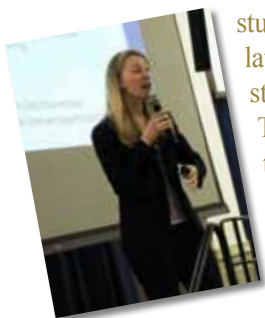
# MID-HUDSON REGIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUPPORT CENTER



The Dutchess BOCES Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Center (RSE-TASC) hosted 118 regional workshops in four counties serving 1,685 participants. Training topics were: special

education supports and services, behavior supports, bilingual special education, and transition.

The division co-sponsored two large events for educators addressing the area of behavior. Along with the NYS PBIS Technical Assistance Center, RSE-TASC hosted a training, “Restorative Relationships with Students Who Display Challenging Behavior,” at Mount St. Mary’s College. Restorative relationships between teachers and students are fundamental to the healthy development of students. These positive and supportive relationships are especially crucial for those students who display challenging behavior. Teachers who can establish and maintain this type of relationship, despite the presence of students’ challenging behavior, reduce risk and leads to



improved behavioral and academic outcomes.

The RSE-TASC also hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual PBIS Showcase in collaboration with SUNY New Paltz. The keynote

address on the Double Check: A Model for Promoting Cultural Responsiveness and Equitable Practices in Schools was followed by a panel discussion.



Local school leaders shared their efforts to establish Tier II interventions within their buildings. Attendees then selected a breakout session. The sessions were: PBIS in

Preschool, Kingston’s Journey to Implementation of a Comprehensive Social Emotional Support System, and Exhibiting Sensitivity to Students’ Culture and Cracking

the Code of Communication. Throughout the day, participants were encouraged to view posters highlighting the various ways PBIS has been established in schools and districts.



## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Educational Resources, through School Improvement, supports the 13 component districts regarding APPR, curriculum, instruction, and data. The division assisted districts in the development of APPR plans by providing up-to-date legal and regulatory information. Staff specialists also facilitated professional development related to data, literacy, motivation, student engagement, and mentoring. One workshop series entitled “Build Your Toolbox,” focused upon enhancing instruction in reading, vocabulary, discussion techniques, and the home-school connection.

Learning Technology purchased and installed RadWare, cybersecurity software to mitigate DDoS concerns across the county. DDoS, or a distributed denial of service, is an attack upon an online service that makes it unavailable due to overwhelming traffic from multiple sources. District and BOCES networks were also upgraded to a new 10 GB network and a new web filtering service.

Additionally, the division facilitated webinars from NYSED on the SmartSchool Bond Act and discussions regarding the implementation of computer-based testing. This year, the entire county participated in vendor scoring. Educational Resources staff transferred approximately 23,000 tests from district to vendor and back, and also to the Mid-Hudson RIC.

Model Schools’ workshops complemented LT initiatives and provided teachers with professional development on 1:1 technology initiatives and supporting instruction through technology using Apps, spreadsheets, and other instructional tools.

Educational Resources will start the 2016-17 school year with full-year initiatives including instructional rounds, which will be presented in partnership with Generation Ready, a national consultant that focuses upon improving skills and creating thriving learning environments.

Dutchess Board of Cooperative Educational Services, 5 BOCES Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Phone: 845.486.4800 Fax: 845.486.4981 [www.dcbores.org](http://www.dcbores.org)