

# DUTCHESS BOCES SPOTLIGHT

December 2016

## Behind the Scenes of the Holiday Card



## Students Gain Work Experience

Recognizing the Dutchess BOCES philosophy that real-life experiences provide students unique opportunities



to grow, District Superintendent Dr. Richard Hooley turned to the Graphic Design II class at the Career and Technical Institute when he wanted to spread a little holiday cheer.

The District Superintendent challenged the class to provide designs for the Agency's holiday card. He chose the design created by Beacon HS senior Benjamin Morgan. His card

features holiday lights and ornament lettering. About 600 cards were commercially printed and distributed.

"It's our responsibility to go beyond typical assignments and to challenge our students to gain experience that will help them in the college and career arenas," said Dr. Hooley. "Field trips, internships, job shadowing, and actual employment related to their areas of study do wonders to prepare students for the future."

Teacher Steve Lawson provided the students with the logo, required information, and general instructions. Then it was

up to them to be creative and produce a non-denominational card for consideration. Mr. Lawson acted as the art director and made suggestions throughout the process. All of the project hours qualified as required work-based learning hours.

"Work-based learning is more meaningful than a regular assignment," said Garrett Palmer, 18, a Hyde Park Central School District student. "You have to get the project done and you have to work with other people and their specifications."

Fellow student Ruben Colon, 17, from Spackenkill HS, agrees that working on real projects instead of typical assignments is beneficial. "It may end up that you have to be less creative, but you work with the client directly and you learn to follow guidelines," he said.

"There are higher expectations that you have to get the job done when you are doing it for someone and it's a real job," said Mr. Lawson. "You have to get it done on deadline. It's more legitimate."

Sierra Kolzy, 17, a Beacon HS student, is taking the next step in developing her career skills. She has secured an internship with Printing and Graphic Concepts in Pleasant Valley. She has been designing forms, flyers, and posters. "I've already had both the experience where the client is really excited about something I've done and sometimes they aren't," she said. "It's a learning experience."