

# TASK FORCE

## BULLETIN

February 2015

The Task Force Bulletin is a monthly publication highlighting the work of the Dutchess BOCES Task Forces. District Superintendent John Pennoyer created the Task Forces in the 2013-14 school year in conjunction with the development of the BOCES Long-Range Strategic Plan (2013-2015).

### Partnerships & Alternative Funding

We all know funding is important. Partnerships are as well and we don't want to forget the partnership part of this Task Force's focus. As we work to deepen and expand our community relationships, we'd like to remind everyone of two great activities our partners are doing in February:

- **Wear Red Day/Go Red for Women** will be Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Contribute or collect pledges and wear red to promote women's heart health awareness. This year's contributors will receive wrist bands to show their support. "Go Red for Women" serves as a forerunner for the Heart Walk held March 14<sup>th</sup> at Vassar College. Dutchess BOCES has enjoyed this partnership for many years and we look forward to having an even greater participation and a bigger team at this year's heart walk. Watch your email and visit:



[www.dutchessulsterheartwalk.org](http://www.dutchessulsterheartwalk.org) for more information.

- A newer partnership will have Dutchess BOCES participating in the **Polar Plunge** in support of Special Olympics. This will be the second year Dutchess BOCES has fielded a team.



Special Olympics



One of our Special Education Teachers, Erin Scott, will be leading the parade of jumpers and carrying the torch with the athletes. The plunge happens Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill with 9:00 a.m. registration and 12:00 noon plunge!

Visit [www.polarplungeny.org/fishkill](http://www.polarplungeny.org/fishkill) for more details.

We hope you are able to walk, plunge, and/or wear red in support of the activities by our partners.

As always, contact Sherre Wesley with comments or ideas at [sherre.wesley@dcboces.org](mailto:sherre.wesley@dcboces.org).

### Web Site Task Force

The Web Site Task Force Tech committee has met several times this month. The committee continues to focus on migrating website content, incorporating new design features, and meeting with delegates to finalize individual web pages.

We continue to review progress to date, remaining tasks, and upcoming deadlines. We encourage everyone to attend Web Committee meetings.

Please send your ideas to [mark.stein@dcboces.org](mailto:mark.stein@dcboces.org).




## Professional Development

The Professional Development Task Force has met twice since our last Superintendent's Conference Day. During the November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Superintendent's Conference Day, faculty and staff in the Professional Development Task Force breakout sessions engaged in an activity to identify high priority areas for professional development.

The committee reviewed the results of these planning activities in order to gain a more thorough understanding of each constituent's professional development needs. The committee prioritized the identified needs by audience. The committee is working on planning documents in order to implement the top three professional learning opportunities identified by faculty and the top three learning opportunities identified by teaching assistants and aides.

Additionally, the Professional Development Task Force continues to work to support the professional development needs of our thirteen component districts. Members of the committee have paired with division and department heads in order to provide more expansive services to our component districts.

We are pleased to announce that Learning Technology is hosting a professional development session:



**Increasing Collaboration and Communication**  
 Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
 Noon-2:00 p.m.  
 SPC Building, Model School Lab  
 Room 136  
 5 BOCES Road, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Adobe Connect

Please send ideas to [linda.heitmann@dcboces.org](mailto:linda.heitmann@dcboces.org).

## Communications & Public Relations Task Force

Our Communications and Public Relations Task Force subgroup, Social Media, is exploring how school districts are using social media in their communication plans and what steps are needed to create social media guidelines.

Understanding how social media products are used by students, teachers, administrators, and parents will help us develop best approaches, in which to leverage this communication tool.

The Dutchess BOCES Facebook Fan Page is provided for the BOCES community and managed by the Communications and Grants Research Division. The designated page is used to

share as much as we can about Dutchess BOCES. Our current Facebook readership is up from last month, so please like us on Facebook!



Please send ideas to [norah.merritt@dcboces.org](mailto:norah.merritt@dcboces.org).