

BOCES THE COMMUNICATOR

Fall / Winter 2010

VIEWPOINT

*A message from
John C. Pennoyer,
District Superintendent*



The 2010-2011 school year has begun very well for Dutchess BOCES.

Our enrollments have been holding steady, with the exception of the Alternative High School. Our "main mission" remains as it has always been -- keeping our customers happy and generating new business wherever possible.

As I wrote last spring, we had to reduce staff by almost eighteen full-time equivalencies (FTEs) last June. We were able to recall about five FTEs when we opened in September, but the decline in Alternative High School enrollments will necessitate mid-year reductions once again.

When New York won its grant in the "Race To The Top" (RTTT) federal program, much work fell upon us. Linda Heitmann and her staff have done a superb job in supporting our thirteen component districts and helping them to respond as required by the state. But even with this RTTT money (about \$1.6 million for Dutchess County districts) there are big questions.

The returning Congress may not fund the RTTT program fully in January. And in any case, our state budget, like so many others, is seriously in the red. As you know, our new governor and legislators are talking about a tax cap which, if it happens, will reduce a district's ability to contract for BOCES services.

I don't want to be too bleak as we approach the new year, but I also don't want to be unrealistic. Please let us know however and whenever we can be of help.

21st Century Curriculum Mapping Seminar

The Millbrook Central School District (MCSD) held a Superintendent's Conference Day on October 20th. It was an exceptional day in many ways. The entire administration and teaching staff, as well as administrators and teachers from eleven other Dutchess County school districts, attended 21st Century Curriculum Mapping, presented by Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacobs. Teachers and administrators were thrilled to meet the highly regarded educator, who has helped thousands evolve their teaching methods for the twenty-first century by utilizing new technology.

The seminar and workshop was a collaborative event between Dutchess BOCES and the Millbrook Central School District, enabling school districts to actively participate in this county-wide educational opportunity. Dr. R. Lloyd Jaeger, Millbrook's Superintendent, spoke about the impact of curriculum mapping on the future of teaching and Dr. Jacobs' contributions to education and curricular design. Dr. Linda A. Heitmann, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services at Dutchess BOCES, reiterated that real change comes from county-wide collaboration and every time we come together, our only limitations are created by ourselves.

Dr. Jacobs, an internationally recognized author and consultant in curriculum mapping, designed a model for schools to examine and revise curriculum. As president of Curriculum Designers, Inc. and executive director of the Curriculum Mapping Institute, Jacobs works with schools nationally and internationally on issues pertaining to curriculum reform, teaching strategies to encourage critical thinking and strategic planning and assessment. "Ten percent of the twenty-first century is already over," Dr. Jacobs said. "This is a very exciting time to teach; let's not mythologize the past. It's a new time and with the Internet and social media, we now have a new



Jeanne Tribuzzi, Millbrook ELA consultant and Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacobs, president of Curriculum Designers, Inc.

type of learner." As a firm believer in using new technologies and Web resources to keep students engaged, Dr. Jacobs states, "Curriculum mapping is now all over the world. Tools change what kids do and mapping allows us to prepare our learners for the future." If every teacher made one curriculum mapping upgrade, collectively it would create a big change. This ripple effect creates a very positive shift in schools and how children perceive learning.

Twenty-first century technology is integral to the current educational landscape. Dr. Jacobs gave an example of how students benefit from laptops, including use of Web tools and programs for creating live blogs and podcasts, editing video and photos, data entry, Skype and more. A highlight of the session included a live, ten-minute Skype conference call with social studies teacher, Steven Wilmarth, from his teaching location at a school in rural China.

Dr. Christine Ackerman, Millbrook Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, affirmed, "Heidi Hayes Jacobs challenges all of us to redesign our instructional delivery to meet the needs of twenty-first century learners. Upgrading instructional activities and assessments will enable us to transform our educational program in a way that prepares our students for a technologically advanced society."

INTERACT CLUB Visits United Nations

New York, NY – The INTERACT Clubs from both the BOCES Alternative High School and Salt Point Center were invited to attend the Annual Rotary Day at the United Nations. Over 600 INTERACT students from chapters all over the world attended this prestigious event. Accompanying the students were BOCES staff members Paula Goehring, Jodiah Jacobs and Kathy White.

Highlights from the event included a review of community service projects by other INTERACT chapters, round-trip train travel and luncheon at the United Nations Ambassador's Café. The students also had an opportunity to enjoy the city sights as they walked between Grand Central Station and the United Nations Plaza.

Both chapters acknowledged Roger Risko, Work-based Learning Program Coordinator for BOCES, who assisted in establishing Rotary Club INTERACT chapters at several Dutchess County schools. Risko is also the INTERACT District Advisor for all sixty-five Rotary Clubs in the eight county Rotary District 7210.

INTERACT, like partner organizations ROTARACT and ELDERACT, is a leadership and community service club which bridges the generation gap between middle school, high school, college and senior centers.

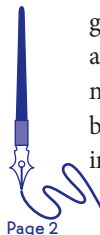


Teachers and students at the United Nations:

(l-r) Kathy White, Allie Wedaa, Jodiah Jacobs, Noel Brown, Keano Munoz, Paula Goehring, (front) Matthew Bush.

PEACCE Program Hosts Reach Event

The PEACCE Program hosted its first Reach Event of the school year on October 28th. The guest speaker, Dr. Peter Muir of the Institute of Music and Health, provided an engaging and enlightening presentation to parents and teachers. Through research, musical performances and personal experiences, the guests learned how music fosters social development and creative expression among students with special needs. Members of the program hope to bring Dr. Muir back soon to share the importance of bringing music into the classroom and student homes.

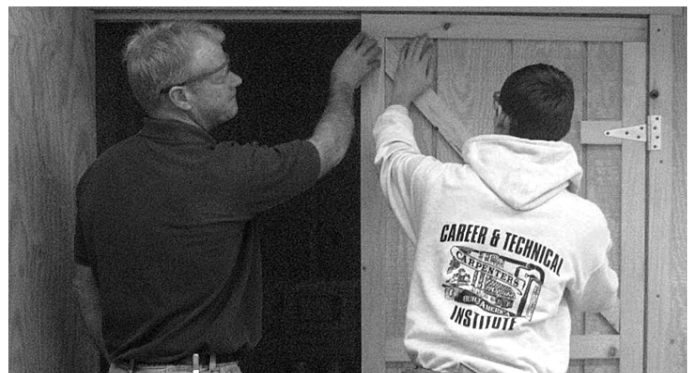


Spotlight on CTI's Carpentry Program

The Dutchess BOCES Career and Technical Institute (CTI) offers students the opportunity to develop skills and attitudes that lead to professional success. Articulation agreements with certain colleges and technical schools also allow students to earn post-secondary education credits or advanced standing. CTI students can explore diverse professional studies including graphic and video arts, computer technology, automotive trades, construction and welding, criminal justice, health and human services, and cosmetology. Other CTI work-based learning programs for students include the Career Exploration Internship Program (CEIP), mentoring, job shadowing and the paid School-to-Work Apprenticeship Program (SWAP) coordinated by the NYS Department of Labor.

Finish Carpentry, a one-year CTI program, introduces students to the tools, methods and skills used in the finish carpentry trade. Emphasis is placed on safety, theory, blueprint reading, related math, and quality. Students experience hands-on projects that include cabinet and furniture making, milling and installing trim, and wood finishing and refinishing techniques. Students who satisfactorily complete this 500 hour certificate course will be prepared for entry-level employment in the carpentry field and eligible to sit for the National Center for Construction Education & Research [NCCER] certification. Carpentry program instructor Darren Davidson has been in his position for ten years. "This is an excellent program," he says, "Seventy five to eighty percent of my students go on to successful work or continuing education in the carpentry or building trades. Even in this economy, this is a viable and important field – everyone needs a good roof over their heads!"

The BOCES Career and Technical Education program also provides both credit and non-credit programs that include paid and unpaid work experience internships with local employers. The program, formerly known as Capstone, is New York State certified and offers students the chance to "earn while they learn" for 20-weeks at a part-time job in their career interest area. Students work for an employer who trains, mentors and supports the trade school instruction. This work experience lets students expand and explore their trade talents, and evaluate a professional work experience in the field. The program is closely monitored by Roberto Bonefont, Sr., a NYS certified Coordinator of Work-Based Learning Programs for Career Development at the Dutchess BOCES Career and Technical Institute and also the Job Placement Specialist. "I am a liaison between students, their employer, their home schools, and their parents," Bonefont explained, "I make sure that students are involved in seeking internship opportunities, completing paperwork, and meeting the education and employment standards required to remain in the program."

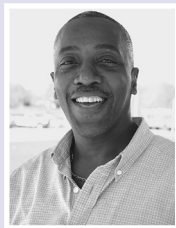


CTI Carpentry Instructor Darren Davidson works with a student during a class project.

Getting to Know You...

This issue highlights two winners of the Dutchess BOCES Annual Employee Recognition Awards – Maurice Hollis, alternative high school teaching assistant and Kelly (McCarthy) Felipe, ABC Program teacher.

Hollis has been in his job for eleven years and enjoys some of the best times of his day at work. "It is interesting," he says, "because each day varies. And I've had very few bad days



Maurice Hollis

-- that is what I like." He also enjoys interacting with the kids. "These are typical teenagers and I love spending time with them." Hollis is the father of three and grandfather of two, though you would never know it to look at him. "I go to the gym a lot!" He explains. He also enjoys practicing karate with his four-year-old grandson. When asked what he has learned from his time here, Hollis replied with excellent advice: "I have learned that most of the time 'it' is not my fault.

I just have to deal with it!"



Kelly McCarthy

Felipe is very happy with where she is, both as a ten year teacher (an original ABC staff member) and as a new bride (10/23/10!). She adds, "I have always loved teaching. It is what I wanted since third grade." Felipe's day starts with a morning meeting with students and then she and a team teacher split subject responsibilities. She reports, "I really like the people with whom I work. We are a cohesive group with a lot of support, not only for the students, but for each other." Felipe loves being outdoors and hiking, but these days, she is happiest at home with her new husband, enjoying the post-wedding peace, quiet and reliving memories of their big day.

Cutting-edge HR Services = Success

Assistance provided by the Dutchess BOCES Human Resources Division include cutting edge, centralized services to facilitate the success of component school districts' human resource efforts.

The Mid-Hudson Cooperative Recruitment Program provides shared staff recruitment services, including local, regional, and national vacancy advertising, coordination of applicant information, a database of job applications and résumés, liaison services with placement officers, attendance at recruitment fairs, as well as the development of joint efforts to broaden the range and diversity of the applicant pool available to participating school districts.

The system is simple to use via the Dutchess BOCES Web site under "job opportunities." Teaching jobs, professional and non-professional educational support vacancies are searchable by job title, school district, position description, job reference number and application deadline. Participating organizations in the Hudson Valley regions of New York State include: Arlington, Beacon, Dover, Ellenville, Marlboro, Millbrook, New Paltz, Pawling, Pine Plains, Poughkeepsie, Rhinebeck, Rondout Valley, Spackenkill, Wappingers, Webutuck and West Park school districts, as well as Dutchess and Ulster BOCES.

First time service users create a general interest application requiring the usual personal information (certification / licensure information, districts or areas of interest) and can upload a general cover letter and résumé. Personal information security is guaranteed, as the site is a *Networks Solutions Secure* site. To apply for specific vacancies, follow the "Step 4" link to the Mid-Hudson Cooperative Recruitment home page and direct the system to send applications, with or without a résumé and cover letter, to specific organizations. Applications are kept online for six months and can be updated as needed. Users of the online service should NOT also apply for the position by mail or



fax. Interviews will then be initiated and conducted by the hiring organization.

The Regional Certification Office is the Dutchess BOCES extension of the New York State Education Department, Office of Teaching Initiatives. The certification office serves component school districts and residents of Dutchess county by providing transcript evaluation and processing credentials for NYS certification. The office also processes applications for temporary and professional coaching licenses for school districts in Dutchess County. The office works with athletic directors to insure all requirements are met and maintains files with supporting documentation. Application and payment is done on the Teach Online Web site at www.highered.nysed.gov/cert.

Both programs are competitive and centralized to Dutchess and Ulster counties, making them more efficient. Matthew Carr, Business Administrator for Human Resources, reported that districts using the services report a high success rate in finding and placing candidates in a timely fashion. Those applying for certification and licensure have also found that proceeding through the certification office resulted in a smoother and quicker process. Offices are open 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. For information contact the Mid-Hudson Cooperative Recruitment Program at 845.486.4957 or Certification Officer Janet Quade at 845.486.4800, extension 217.

Pawling High School INTERACT News

The BOCES INTERACT Club at Pawling High School hosted its monthly BOCES Café event on Tuesday, November 23rd, for the school's staff and students. At this month's gathering, all attending made Christmas cards for U.S. soldiers overseas.

The BOCES INTERACT Club members and staff wish to thank the Pawling High School community for their participation and support.

Board Approves BOCES Goals for 2010-11

On November 10th, the Board approved six BOCES Goals for 2010-11. These are available in full text at www.dcboces.org/BOE/goals. Highlighted here is **Goal 2--Develop the BOCES Long Range Strategic Plan**. Every division will develop its report of the BOCES Long Range Strategic Plan and project goals and objectives over the next three to five years, according to the schedule below:

Career and Technical Education/Secondary..... Presented December 8, 2010 and Adult Education

Special and Alternative Education..... January 12, 2011

Communications and Grants Research February 9, 2011

Educational Resources..... March 9, 2011

**Business Services / Human..... April 6, 2011
Resources / Facilities and Operations**

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Dutchess BOCES offers employment and educational opportunities without regard to sex, race, color, national origin or disability. Inquiries regarding this nondiscrimination policy may be directed to the following individual. This official will provide information, including complaint procedures to any citizen, student or employee who feels that his or her rights under Title IX or Section 504 may have been violated by the BOCES or its officials:

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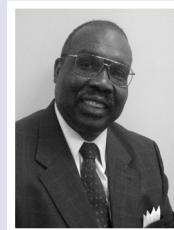
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BOARD PRESIDENT'S

CORNER

*A message from
Edward L. McCormick*



This time of year, we gratefully reflect on the valuable and important things in our lives. I want to reflect on the value and virtues we derive from our BOCES system.

Starting as an interim agency to enable school districts to combine resources for services that would have been uneconomical, inefficient, or unavailable otherwise, BOCES has developed into an established institution, still enabling districts to do more with their budgets, but also empowering students, families and the community at large with ever-evolving tools and programs to move confidently into the future.

This past year, Dutchess BOCES put many plans and programs in place to realize savings and increased efficiency. Joining the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance saved approximately 16% on electric costs. Contracting copy machines and service through the New York State Office of General Services means a savings of \$25,000 over the next three years. The BOCES Human Resources department processes professional certifications and electronic fingerprinting faster, improving administrative function and lowering costs. A real-time emergency notification system, K12 Alerts, now contacts staff, parents/guardians and community members with emergency notifications. The Dutchess BOCES' Web site is an award-winning communication tool which ensures timely and relevant information, literally at their fingertips, for 20,000 visitors a month. The Communications and Grants Research Office has assisted in accessing vital grant funds and the Shared Printing Service continues to be a major asset and money saver.

These and more are vital and timely for the educational and economic survival of our communities and students in the 21st century. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thanks to all for the excellent service and support of BOCES.

Happy Holidays to you and your family!

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LINDA POLESKI Assistant Superintendent

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