



Your Kids, Your BOCES

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Dear board members in the Herkimer BOCES region,

Summer is such an interesting time in education – while most people think that school slows down, it definitely ramps up for BOCES and most of our schools! First, we have the celebrations of June that start off the summer with such a clear focus on why we do all this... for student success!! Thank you to everyone who participated in the various celebrations and for all of YOU, as students cannot succeed without their Boards of Education supporting their teachers, leaders and programs. Thank you for the time and attention you give your local districts as well as BOCES so that we can do this important work.

Once those celebrations are over, we jump right into hiring and planning for the new school year, closing out the books on the last school year and offering summer school opportunities for different learners and needs. This summer, BOCES is offering Regional Summer School (7-12 grade students), Extended School Year Program for students with IEPs or 504s and who require summer programming in order to sustain their growth, drivers' education, a certified nursing assistant (CNA) program for adult learners, starting a new LPN cohort, Rescue Heroes program for 14-17 year old young women interested in first responder service (this is a new grant from the county), and many different programs in technical education. So you can see that summer is very busy at BOCES!

I hope you have followed the work preparing for the capital project at BOCES. The Facilities Advisory Committee met a few times, and all the notes and drawings are available at <https://Bit.ly/2022CapitalProject>. Right now, the preliminary plans and drawings are currently up at NYSED for review. This is the first big step in getting the project going!

We have also opened up the Gateway Center, which is the professional development and adult education hub located on the second floor of 420 E. German St. Instructional Support Services and LPN staff are busy setting up these new spaces. Moving these adult services out of our two main student campuses frees up space that is needed either as "swing space" during the construction phase of the project and/or to expand student programming on the campuses. It is exciting that we will be able to have all the BOCES staff in one location for our opening day in September!

The other big news at BOCES is that the Board of Education conducted a successful search for my successor. They spent many months planning for the search and then conducting the interviews including stakeholder interviews of the two finalists. The board selected D.J. Shepardson as the next district superintendent of Herkimer BOCES. Mr. Shepardson will begin right on Oct. 1, the day after my retirement. I am so appreciative of the process and time that the board gave to this important decision.

Let me end by thanking you all for allowing me to be part of this region and to experience the incredible dedication and collaborative spirit that exists within our region. It has truly been a privilege and an honor to be a leader in this region with all of you and the superintendents. While I look forward to more time with my family, I will truly miss the people and the good work that happens here! I wish you all a successful opening of the new school year and encourage you to continue your steadfast focus on creating opportunities for growth.

-Sandy



You're invited to "Sandy's Shindy" Sept. 22

As you may know, terms such as hoedown, hootenanny, bash, festivity, etc. all reference a party or celebration of merrymaking. Shindig evolved from its origin of shindy; meaning also, a social gathering or reception with some music, food, laughter, and fun!

Oftentimes, President Abraham Lincoln would refer to the White House party Mary Lincoln was planning as a 'shindy'.

Together, please join us in celebrating: Sandy's Retirement Shindy!

*A celebration honoring
the retirement of*

SANDRA SHERWOOD

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

"SANDY'S SHINDY"

*Friday | September 22 | 2023
3:00 in the afternoon until 7:00 in the evening*

HERKIMER BOCES GATEWAY CENTER
HOSTED IN THE PROGRESS ROOM
420 E. German St. Herkimer, N.Y. 13350

9-01-2017 9-30-2023

Future District Superintendent Donald (D.J.) Shepardson welcomed at board meeting

The annual Herkimer BOCES Board of Education reorganization meeting always involves voting on the board leadership, but this year, it also included officially appointing the next district superintendent and chief executive officer.

Board members formally appointed Donald (D.J.) Shepardson to the district superintendent and CEO position, and Shepardson signed a three-year contract. The board then took a brief recess to hold a dessert reception in his honor.

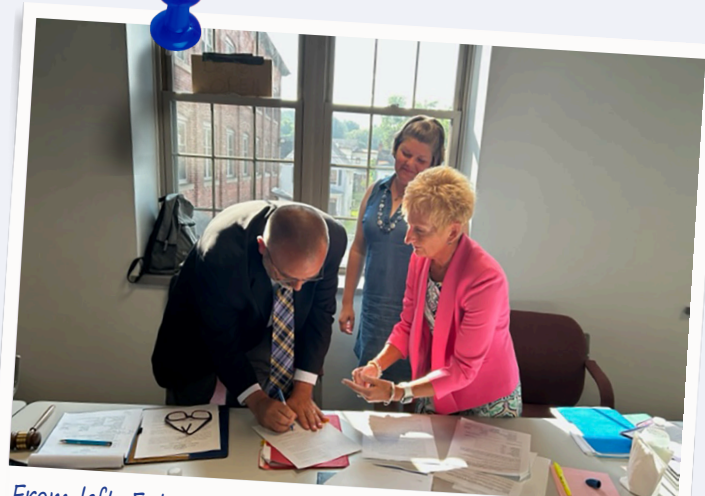
Shepardson, who is superintendent of West Canada Valley Central School District, starts at Herkimer BOCES on Oct. 1, following the retirement of current Herkimer BOCES District Superintendent and CEO Sandra Sherwood.



Future Herkimer BOCES District Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer Donald (D.J.) Shepardson at his desk at West Canada Valley, where he is the superintendent. Shepardson will start at Herkimer BOCES on Oct. 1.

The Herkimer BOCES Board of Education's reorganization meeting took place on July 6 in the new Herkimer BOCES Gateway Center on the second floor of the Arc Herkimer Business Park building at 420 E. German St. in Herkimer.

During the meeting, board members re-elected Holly Pullis to a one-year term as board president and re-elected Ronald Loiacono to a one-year term as board vice president. They both started their previous terms in the roles in January 2023, after then-Board President Michael Clements passed away unexpectedly in December 2022. Pullis was then the board's vice president and was elected as president, and Loiacono was elected as vice president.

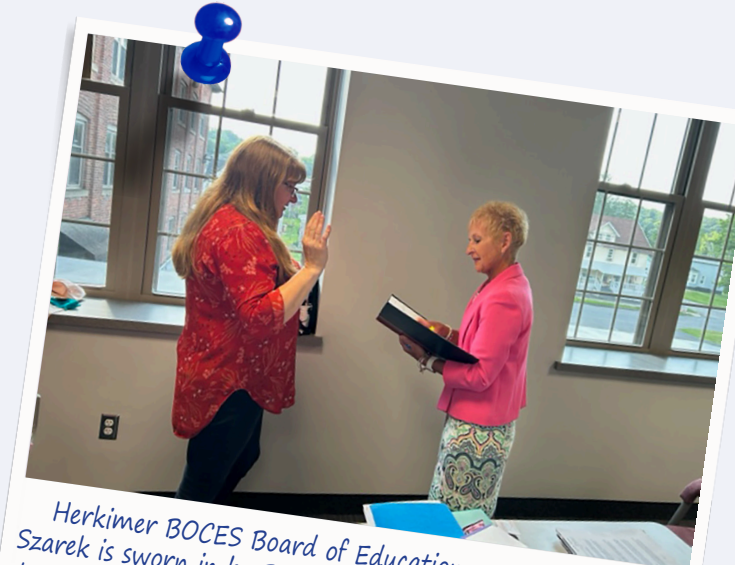


From left: Future Herkimer BOCES District Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer Donald (D.J.) Shepardson signs his contract, as Board of Education President Holly Pullis and Board Clerk Shawn Maxson look on.

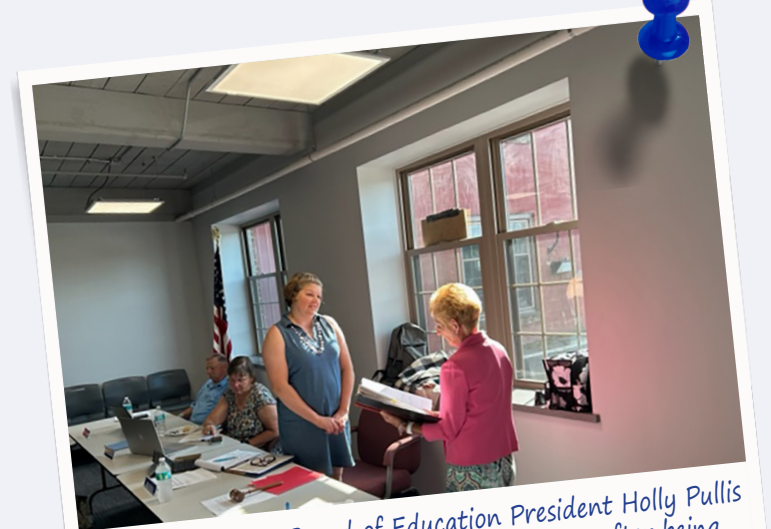
On April 20 during the BOCES administrative budget and board vote, four people were elected to the Herkimer BOCES Board of Education. Loiacono and James (Bob) Schmid were re-elected to three-year terms. Michele Szarek, who was appointed by the board in fall 2022 to fill a vacant seat, was newly elected to a three-year term. Kathy Sarafin, who was appointed on Feb. 9 to fill Clements' seat on the board through April 19, was newly elected to fill the rest of the term from April 20, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

Loiacono and Szarek were sworn into their board seats by Board Clerk Shawn Maxson during the reorganization meeting. Schmid was absent and will be sworn in at a future meeting. Sarafin was sworn in immediately following the April 20 election.

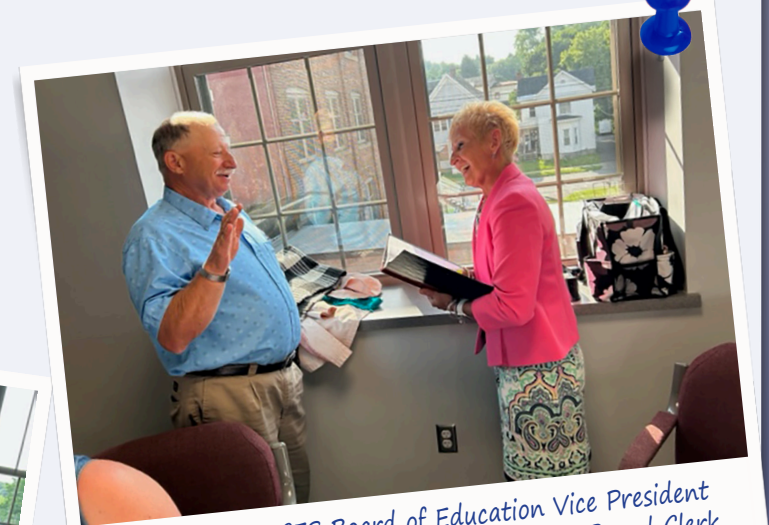
Pullis represents Owen D. Young on the BOCES board, Loiacono represents Mount Markham, Schmid represents Dolgeville, Szarek represents Poland and Sarafin represents Frankfort-Schuyler.



Herkimer BOCES Board of Education member Michele Szarek is sworn in by Board Clerk Shawn Maxson for a new term as a board member during the board's reorganization meeting on July 6 in the Herkimer BOCES Gateway Center.



Herkimer BOCES Board of Education President Holly Pullis is sworn in by Board Clerk Shawn Maxson, after being re-elected as board president during the reorganization meeting on July 6 in the Herkimer BOCES Gateway Center.



Herkimer BOCES Board of Education Vice President Ronald Loiacono is sworn in on July 6 by Board Clerk Shawn Maxson, after being re-elected to the board in April and re-elected to a one-year term as vice president.

Herkimer BOCES students win SkillsUSA national championship

Three Herkimer BOCES Visual Communications Media Arts students teamed up to win a national championship at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, which took place from June 19-23 in Atlanta.

Little Falls senior Madison Battisti, Poland senior Jolene Manipole and Frankfort-Schuyler senior Corey Wohler won the SkillsUSA national championship in the Promotional Bulletin Board competition. The students qualified for the national competition by winning the state championship in the Promotional Bulletin Board competition during the SkillsUSA New York State Leadership and Skills Conference from April 26-28 at the Syracuse Fairgrounds.

The students created their bulletin board as a class project under the advisement of Herkimer BOCES Visual Communications Media Arts instructor Melinda Maycock.

The Herkimer BOCES SkillsUSA co-advisors are Cosmetology instructor Holly Rotundo Fischer and Cosmetology teaching assistant Sarah Jacquays-Alberts.

Herkimer BOCES Cosmetology student McKenzie Schuster, a junior of West Canada Valley, also advanced to the national conference by winning the SkillsUSA state championship in the Customer Service competition. At the national conference, Schuster placed in the top 10 in the Customer Service competition.



SkillsUSA national champions!



Top 10 in the nation!

SkillsUSA winners featured on WKTV

Herkimer BOCES also hosted a news event on June 29 at the Herkimer BOCES William E. Busacker Complex to honor the four students who competed at the national conference. WKTV and Spectrum News attended the event and spoke with the four students for TV news stories. **You can view the WKTV story online by clicking here or on the TV icon below.**



WKTV and Spectrum News interviewing students.



Talking to local media.



National competitors posing in their shirts from Atlanta.

Students excel at SkillsUSA state event

Herkimer BOCES students won three state championships at the SkillsUSA New York State Leadership and Skills Conference from April 26-28 at the Syracuse Fairgrounds. Overall, Herkimer BOCES students placed in six of the state-level competitions.

“This year’s theme is ‘SkillsUSA Champions at Work – Our Time Is Now,’” Herkimer BOCES SkillsUSA co-advisor Holly Rotundo Fischer said. “How very fitting, when we continue to hear about the skills gap in the workforce. These students rose to the occasion and stepped out of their comfort zone to showcase their vocational skills.”

Herkimer BOCES sent a total of 48 students to the state conference. Herkimer BOCES had 42 students registered in 32 contests, four student delegates and two student helpers. Rotundo Fischer, the Herkimer BOCES Cosmetology program instructor, is the Herkimer BOCES SkillsUSA co-advisor with Cosmetology teaching assistant Sarah Jacquays-Alberts.

Herkimer BOCES students listed below won SkillsUSA state championships in the following events:

- **First Place in Promotional Bulletin Board:** Herkimer BOCES Visual Communications Media Arts seniors Corey Wohler (Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District), Jolene Manipole (Poland Central School District) and Madison Battisti (Little Falls City School District).



Herkimer BOCES Cosmetology student McKenzie Schuster (West Canada Valley) after winning the state championship in the Customer Service event at the SkillsUSA New York State Leadership and Skills Conference.

- **First Place in Customer Service:** Herkimer BOCES Cosmetology junior McKenzie Schuster (West Canada Valley Central School District).
- **First Place in Cosmetology Junior:** Herkimer BOCES Cosmetology junior Kaylee Lynch (Dolgeville Central School District).



Herkimer BOCES Cosmetology student Kaylee Lynch (Dolgeville) after winning the state championship in the Cosmetology Junior event at the SkillsUSA New York State Leadership and Skills Conference.

There isn’t a national level competition for Cosmetology Junior, so Lynch wasn’t able to attend nationals with the other state champions.

Herkimer BOCES students listed below also placed in the following SkillsUSA New York state competitions:

- **Second Place in Welding Fabrication Team:** Herkimer BOCES Welding and Metal Fabrication seniors Brogan Graves (Richfield Springs Central School District), Aidan Monahan (West Canada Valley Central School District) and Robert Teel (Owen D. Young Central School District).
- **Third Place in SkillsUSA New York State Pin Design Contest:** Herkimer BOCES Visual Communications Media Arts senior Jolene Manipole (Poland Central School District) – in a competition that included more than 200 entries.
- **Third Place in Nail Care:** Herkimer BOCES Cosmetology seniors Madison Williams and Grace Koppany (both of Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District). Williams did the nail care, and Koppany was the model. Both members of the team received medals.



Welding and Metal Fabrication students Aidan Monahan (West Canada Valley), Robert Teel (Owen D. Young) and Brogan Graves (Richfield Springs) after winning second place in the state SkillsUSA Welding Fabrication Team event.



Herkimer BOCES Visual Communications Media Arts student Jolene Manipole (Poland) after winning third place in the SkillsUSA New York State Pin Design Contest at the SkillsUSA New York State Leadership and Skills Conference.



Visual Communications Media Arts students Corey Wohler (Frankfort-Schuyler), Madison Battisti (Little Falls) and Jolene Manipole (Poland) after winning the state championship in the Promotional Bulletin Board event.



Cosmetology students Madison Williams and Grace Koppany (both of Frankfort-Schuyler) after winning third place in the state SkillsUSA Nail Care event. Williams did the nail care, and Koppany was the model. Both received medals.



Board of Education hosts SkillsUSA winners

The Herkimer BOCES Board of Education hosted SkillsUSA state winners who were able to attend a board meeting on May 18 to recognize them for their accomplishments.



Visting the Herkimer BOCES Board of Education.



Welding students and instructor speak to the board.



State champions at a Board of Education meeting.

Photos from SkillsUSA national conference

Here are some photos of the Herkimer BOCES students at the SkillsUSA national conference in Atlanta.



At the national conference with the winning bulletin board.



National competitors enjoying visit to Atlanta.



On stage accepting the SkillsUSA national championship.

Students learn about first responder jobs through Rescue Heroes Summer Day Camp

When 13 local female students recently went through the first Rescue Heroes Summer Day Camp at Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES, there were many ‘aha’ moments as the students learned about first responder careers.

MaryBeth Napolitano, Herkimer BOCES Rescue Heroes program coordinator, recalled some of those moments from the five-day camp. When state troopers came in with a dog for their canine rescue presentation, Little Falls student Aleyla Dygert said “This is my dream,” and when students visited Ilion firefighter Mary Reece, West Canada Valley student MacKenzie Christiano said “This is what I want to do.”

“And I tell you what: They will do it,” Napolitano said. “This is what this program was for – for that inspirational encouragement that they can do it.”

The Rescue Heroes Summer Day Camp took place from July 24-28 based out of the Herkimer BOCES William E. Busacker Complex in Herkimer. The Herkimer BOCES School to Careers program and the Herkimer County Integrated County Planning initiative coordinated on the camp and received a grant from the state Office of Children and Family Services to make it possible.

The program was open to female students ages 14-17 in



Students participating in the Rescue Heroes Summer Day Camp through Herkimer BOCES pose with Ilion Police Chief Laurie DeVaul and Ilion firefighter and emergency medical technician Mary Reece outside of the Ilion Fire Department.

school districts in the Herkimer BOCES region and had a goal of exposing students to first responder careers and volunteer work.

The Rescue Heroes participants were Central Valley students Savannah Abeling, Josephine Aney, Trinity Aponte, Cammie Callahan, Aryanna Dicob and Taylor Dicob; Dolgeville students Grace Leavitt and Alice Luquis; Herkimer student Christiana Leal-Fowler; Little Falls student Aleyla Dygert; Mount Markham students Payton Dauchy and Taylor Dauchy; and West Canada Valley student MacKenzie Christiano.

Napolitano, who also is the Herkimer BOCES School



to Careers liaison, work-based learning coordinator and Mentor Program coordinator, was the coordinator Rescue Heroes. The instructors for the camp were Robin Polkosnik, the instructor of the Herkimer BOCES Criminal Justice Career and Technical Education program, and Kelly Cave, an instructional coach for Herkimer BOCES Instructional Support Services.

“It was my pleasure and joy to work with a wonderful group of young women with similar interests in serving their community as an emergency service provider,” Polkosnik said.

Cave was also happy about the program.

“Rescue Heroes of 2023 are a dynamic and diverse group of young women dedicated to helping the world one person at a time,” Cave said.

Career options

First responder career experiences that students had included the canine rescue demonstration by state troopers; visiting Ilion Police Chief Laurie DeVaul, Ilion firefighter Mary Reece and Ilion Mayor John Stephens; and traveling to Little Falls Hospital to talk with department heads



New York state troopers give a canine rescue presentation to students participating in the Rescue Heroes Summer Day Camp through Herkimer BOCES.

of areas including emergency, surgery, radiology, laboratory and pathology, human resources and education.

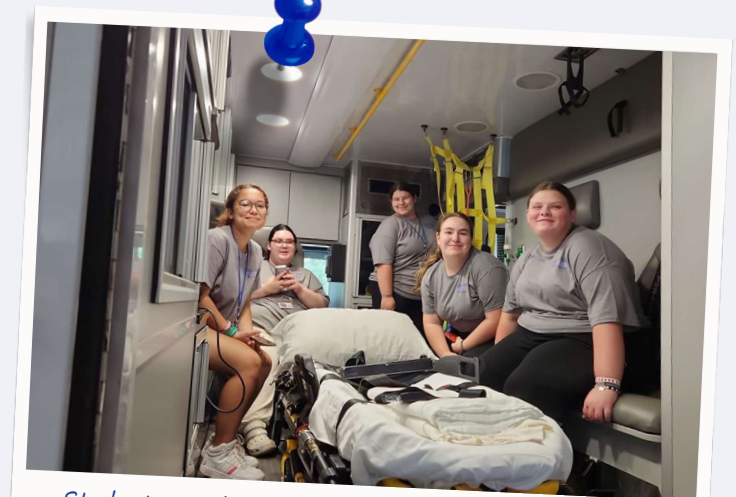
“We opened their eyes to a plethora of first responder and related careers,” Napolitano said.

Students also participated in first responder trainings that not only

introduced them to more career options but also provided skills that they could put to use immediately if needed.

“What we felt was so important at their young age is to look at what’s going on in the world and teach them, so they can save lives right now,” Napolitano said.

Continued on next page...



Students participating in the Rescue Heroes Summer Day Camp through Herkimer BOCES pose in an ambulance during first aid and CPR training from the Mohawk Valley Ambulance Corps Inc. (MOVAC).



Students learn about first responder jobs continued...

Students received Narcan training from the RISE Recovery Community Outreach Center, “Stop the Bleed” training from the Albany Med Health System Trauma Program, first aid and CPR training from the Mohawk Valley Ambulance Corps Inc. (MOVAC) and self-defense training from Herkimer BOCES school resource officer Darrin Miller.



Students participating in the Rescue Heroes Summer Day Camp through Herkimer BOCES receive first aid and CPR training from the Mohawk Valley Ambulance Corps Inc. (MOVAC).

‘That’s your dream’

One of the highlights of the week was a trip to the Iliion Fire Department to hear from Iliion Police Chief Laurie DeVaul and Iliion firefighter and emergency medical technician Mary Reece, who is a 2010 graduate of the Herkimer BOCES Criminal Justice program. Iliion Mayor John Stephens also visited the firehouse to provide words of encouragement for the students.

As far as anyone involved is aware, DeVaul is the first female police chief in the region, and Reece is the first female career firefighter in Herkimer County.

DeVaul told students not to listen to anyone who says they can’t be first responders.



Students participating in the Rescue Heroes Summer Day Camp through Herkimer BOCES receive “Stop the Bleed” training from the Albany Med Health System Trauma Program.

“If you want to do it, go for it – because that’s your dream,” DeVaul said.

Reece agreed.

“If there is something you really want to do, push for it and be your own advocate,” Reece said. “I love helping people, and that’s one of the main reasons I got into this.”

‘Embedding all of that’

The camp was required to include daily physical fitness, so students participated in the self-defense training, did yoga with Lisa Gallagher and had various movement,

walking and stretching activities throughout the week.

“We infused physical activity every day,” Napolitano said.

Students also received nutrition education from Leah McCaskey, a SNAP-Ed nutritionist for Cornell Cooperative Extension through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Overall, the program integrated daily physical activity, life skills, 21st century skills, team-building, self-care, mindfulness and social-emotional learning.

“We were embedding all of that every day into whichever activities we did,” Napolitano said.

Self-care was a vital part of the camp, Napolitano said.

“In that first responder lifestyle, you see a lot of bad things,” she said. “You see death, you see injury, you see situations that can be extremely traumatic.”

Team-building activities also were important to the program.

“You’re not alone when you’re a first responder,” Napolitano said. “You need to be able to work as a team.”

Students also completed a character-strengths survey and discovered how their strengths connected with first responder careers they were interested in.

“We wanted them to understand the important strengths that each of them embody,” Napolitano said.



Iliion Police Chief Laurie DeVaul and Iliion firefighter and emergency medical technician Mary Reece speak to students participating in the Rescue Heroes Summer Day Camp through Herkimer BOCES at the Iliion firehouse.

In closing

Following all of the activities throughout the week, students participated in a team-building activity of preparing thank you messages and comments for people who supported the program.

“And then we celebrated our week together and our successes,” Napolitano said.

State Assemblywoman Marianne Butenschon, Herkimer BOCES District Superintendent Sandra Sherwood, Herkimer County Public Health Department Director Christina Cain and Herkimer County Youth Bureau Executive Director Gina Giacobelli participated in the closing celebration.

Butenschon shared contact information with students and asked them to keep in touch, inform her about what they end up doing for their careers and let her know if there is ever anything she can ever do to help them.

“I thought that was wonderful,” Napolitano said

Click here to read a longer version of this story online with additional photos.



Career and Technical Education graduation

The Herkimer BOCES Career and Technical Education Completion Ceremony took place on June 13 at Herkimer College.

View photos of the Class of 2023 graduating class for each of our CTE programs across this page and the following three pages.

Read more about the graduation ceremony online by clicking here.



Advanced Manufacturing



Child and Family Services



Conservation



Automotive Technology



Cosmetology



Building Construction



Criminal Justice



CTE graduation continued



Culinary Hospitality



Health Science Careers



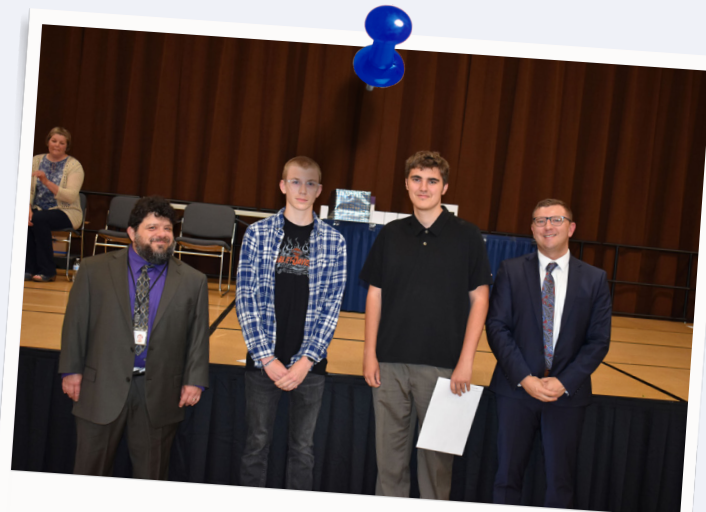
Outdoor Power Equipment



Visual Communications
Media Arts



Heavy Equipment Operation



ITA -Network Administration



Welding and Metal
Fabrication Technology



Conservation program 2019 graduate Gabrielle Lewosko gives the keynote speech at the 2023 CTE graduation.



Graduations and end-of-school-year events

Here are highlights from some other graduations, events and activities from the end of the 2022-23 school year. *Click on any of the photos in this section for stories on our website.*



The WEB Complex Special Education Graduation on June 21 recognized (L-R) Keira Ricci (Frankfort-Schuyler), Landon Horan (West Canada Valley), Anthony Humble (Mount Markham) and Brandon Brandt (Poland).



Local adults from across the region graduated during the Herkimer BOCES Adult Practical Nursing Program's 59th Commencement and Pledge Ceremony on June 16 and participated in a candle-lighting ceremony.



Students from every Herkimer BOCES component school district were honored during the Junior CTE Awards ceremony on June 6 at the WEB Complex.



Four VP-TECH students received diplomas from Herkimer College on May 12: (L-R) Mark Hanshaw (Central Valley), Christopher Janis (Frankfort-Schuyler), Alexis Farr (Central Valley) and Brianna Holtz (Central Valley)



Welding students showcased year-end projects. Junior winners are shown from left, from third to first place: Jarrett Breilinsky (West Canada Valley), Angelina Randazzo (Frankfort-Schuyler) and Zach Congden (Mount Markham).



Conservation seniors created projects about their career plans, and juniors conducted projects about animal conservation management. Pictured here: West Canada Valley juniors Rose Bauder and Bradley Comstock.



Pathways Academy at Remington graduates were recognized with this sign in the hallways of the Remington Educational Complex. They were also honored during the Pathways Academy Senior Recognition Dinner on June 20. Pathways Academy award ceremonies were also held throughout the school year. *Click on the picture above to view a story about one of those awards ceremonies.*



Health Science Careers graduates Katelyn Overacker and Morgan Ward visited current students to give them advice and participate in a pinning ceremony. Pictured here, Overacker (left) speaks with student Reagan Stock.



Special Education students visited Fulmer Creek to learn from a state conservation officer and Conservation student Nathan Sperrl (Central Valley). Sperrl (right) works with (L-R) Poland students Jesse Postal and Brian Walchusky.

Building Construction program continues 40-plus year tradition of building houses

Herkimer BOCES Building Construction students have been building a house each school year dating back to 1982, and the search was on this spring for the recipient of the next house.

The selected homeowner pays the cost of materials and transportation of the house from Herkimer BOCES to its location. The labor is provided for free by high school juniors and seniors under the supervision of Building Construction instructor John Martin and teaching assistant Shelby Creater.

The Herkimer BOCES Building Construction program is the only BOCES program in the state that constructs a full house every school year.

“Students learn hands-on skills through our Building Construction curriculum that will prepare them for a career in the industry,” Martin said. “To be able to professionally build a house every year during their education is a unique



Building Construction student Brayden Hurteau, from Little Falls City School District, works on the outside of the program's 42nd house during the 2022-23 school year.

opportunity – for both our students and for the homeowner who receives the house.”

Building Construction students completed the program's 42nd house during the 2022-23 school year. The 43rd house will be built during the 2023-24 school year.

During the process of getting the word out about the then-need for potential house recipients, the Building Construction program was featured in local newspapers and in a feature story on WKTV.



Building Construction student Colton Roark, from Poland Central School District, does drilling work inside the program's 42nd house during the 2022-23 school year.

Pathways Academy students record podcasts for English class, NPR competition

Herkimer BOCES Pathways Academy 11th and 12th grade English language arts students have enhanced their learning by creating podcast episodes during the 2022-23 school year.

Working with English teacher Corrie Clements and using a recording booth that was created through a collaborative effort at Pathways Academy, the students were able to record podcasts on a topic of their choosing and select the style of podcast – such as talking solo, interviewing someone or hosting a roundtable discussion. Students did writing in preparation for the podcasts and recorded and edited the podcasts.

“I just wanted to give students an opportunity for ELA that wasn't writing another essay,” Clements said. “This project teaches 21st century skills. It provides practice with public speaking and research and allows students to have autonomy on what they're doing.”

Pathways Academy ELA students worked on podcasts throughout April. The projects were for a grade for class, and students also had the opportunity to submit their podcasts to the NPR Student Podcast Challenge. Many students listen to podcasts, so recording podcasts helped students stay engaged with the project, Clements said.

Many people were involved with creating the podcast recording booth. Pathways Academy teacher Adam Spatto's trades students built the structure, art students created the table design and many other students and staff helped.



From left: Pathways Academy student Kearah Davis (Herkimer), English language arts teacher Corrie Clements and students Aiden Johnston and Lorenzo Kemp (both from Frankfort-Schuyler) pose by the Pathways podcast booth.

“We've had some really amazing things happen in this booth,” Clements said. “When we sit down, the students have something to say.”

To read more of this story online, [click here.](#)



Pathways Academy student Trent Linder (Herkimer), who recorded a cook-off podcast for his English language arts class, poses in the Pathways Academy Learning Center.



Guest readers visit Owen D. Young Preschool

Christina Ostrander, a teacher at the Owen D. Young Preschool, invited guest readers for the month of March: Herkimer BOCES District Superintendent Sandra Sherwood and Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Kati Ferguson.

Sherwood and Ferguson visited the classroom and read to the excited students. The guest readers were treated as “famous” visitors. They selected some of their favorite books to share with the students during what was a special visit for all involved.



Herkimer BOCES District Superintendent Sandra Sherwood poses with Owen D. Young Preschool students during her visit to read books to them in March.



Herkimer BOCES Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Kati Ferguson poses with Owen D. Young Preschool students during her visit to read books to them in March.

Special Education students growing garden

Herkimer BOCES Special Education teacher Heather Treusdell’s class learned about what is necessary for living things to survive. The students used this knowledge to start growing various vegetables from seeds.

Supervisor of Special Education Tim Johnston tilled the class a garden plot, and then the students transplanted the seedlings.

The end result will be fresh produce grown right at Herkimer BOCES!



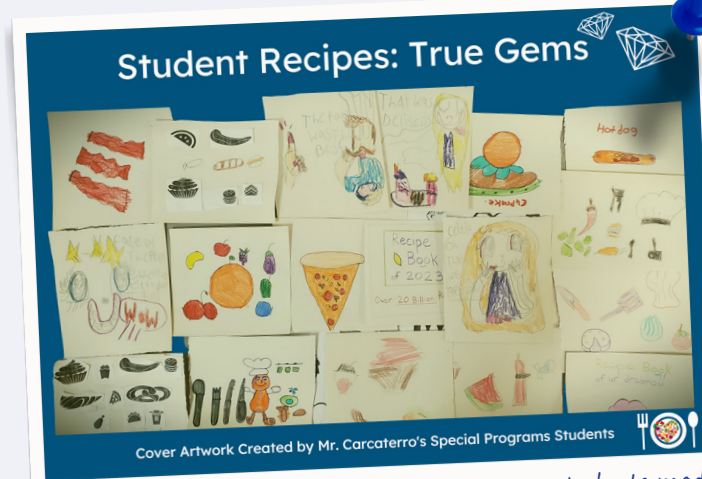
Herkimer BOCES Special Education teacher Heather Treusdell’s class works outside on planting seeds for a new garden to grow fresh produce at BOCES.

SBI Showcase features programs from Herkimer BOCES, component school districts

Herkimer BOCES and its component school districts had the chance to share some of their many successful educational programs with local Board of Education members and superintendents during the Oneida-Madison-Herkimer Counties School Boards Institute Educational Showcase.

“The SBI Showcase highlights school and community-based programs, projects and opportunities that improve the skills, abilities or development of students in Herkimer County school districts,” Herkimer BOCES Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Kati Ferguson said. “Through this showcase, neighboring school districts had the opportunity to view ideas and concepts and potentially improve student programming in their schools.”

The O-M-H SBI Educational Showcase took place this year on March 16 at the Herkimer BOCES William E. Busacker Complex.



Teacher Mario Carcaterro’s Special Programs students made artwork for recipes of food Culinary Hospitality students served at the SBI Showcase. Guests collected the pieces to create a miniature recipe book (cover pictured here).

Herkimer BOCES Instructional Support Services and Career and Technical Education administrators and staff worked collaboratively with the SBI to organize this year’s event. **Click here to read the full story online including a list of all the programs that were highlighted and more photos.**



Frankfort-Schuyler students and staff present about their “Hi-5 Friends” cross-age mentoring program during the SBI Showcase. Herkimer BOCES also offers a cooperative service for cross-age mentoring based on “Hi-5 Friends.”



From left, Herkimer art teacher Heather McCutcheon, Herkimer sophomore Jillian Hutchinson and Herkimer junior Lyndsey Voorhees present about digital art and social emotional artistic learning during the SBI Showcase.



Students receive Herkimer Region College & Career Scholarship Foundation awards

The Herkimer Region College & Career Scholarship Foundation awarded scholarships to local high school and adult students during the foundation's 32nd annual awards ceremony on May 24 at the Herkimer BOCES William E. Busacker Complex in Herkimer.

Board of Trustees President Sharon Baisley and Board of Trustees member Sarah Crowe presented students with their certificates.

For more details on the ceremony, the awards each student won and adult award winners, click here to read the whole story on our website.

The following high school students received General Scholarship Awards, Career Awards, Special Incentive Awards or were named as alternates for the awards:

- Madison Battisti (Little Falls)
- Klohie Bolton (West Canada Valley)
- Samuel Jacquays (Central Valley)
- Jayden Kamp (Dolgeville)
- Thaddeus Luke (Central Valley)
- Emily Marquissee (Herkimer)
- Jack McMurray (Frankfort-Schuyler)
- Angelina Tangorra (Frankfort-Schuyler)
- Aidan Monahan (West Canada Valley)
- Clarissa Zambri (Little Falls)
- Abigail Crimmins-Abbe (Little Falls)
- John Smith (Poland)
- Yariel Espinet (Little Falls)
- Michael Tubia (West Canada Valley)



Scholarship award winners and alternates who attended 2023 ceremony, from left: Abigail Crimmins-Abbe (Little Falls), Ashley Burlingame (Adult LPN Program), Marcia Thomas-Bruce (accepting the award for her son, Dolgeville student Jayden Kamp), Rachel Jones (Adult LPN Program), Samuel Jacquays (Central Valley), Briana McGuire (adult CTE student), Thaddeus Luke (Central Valley), Madison Battisti (Little Falls), Emily Marquissee (Herkimer), Angelina Tangorra (Frankfort-Schuyler), Clarissa Zambri (Little Falls), Jack McMurray (Frankfort-Schuyler), Aidan Monahan (West Canada Valley) and Klohie Bolton (West Canada Valley).

Golf tournament to support scholarships

The 20th annual Herkimer Region College & Career Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament will raise money to provide scholarships to local students attending college following a vocational education in high school.

The tournament will also help support the Career Award the foundation offers for students who gain employment in a Career and Technical Education field prior to or soon after graduation and incur expenses as a result of that employment. Students can apply for this award, which allows the reimbursement

of up to \$750 for trade-specific expenses such as employment clothing, personal protective equipment, tools, supplies, certifications, credentials and/or licenses.

The golf tournament is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 14, at the Cedar Lake Club in Clayville.

To date, the Herkimer Region College & Career Scholarship Foundation has provided more than 360 scholarships – totaling over \$205,000. The foundation's 19th annual golf tournament in August 2022 raised \$13,700 for student scholarships.

Herkimer Region College & Career Scholarship Foundation

Monday, August 14, 2023
at the Cedar Lake Club

Registration at 9 a.m.
Shotgun start at 10 a.m.

CEDAR LAKE GOLF CLUB

20th

ANNUAL

GOLF

TOURNAMENT

To sign up, contact
Herkimer BOCES:

Shawn Maxson: 315-867-2023
or smaxson@herkimer-boces.org



Director of school services and outreach serves on Rural Schools Association panel

Herkimer BOCES Director of School Services and Outreach Zane Mahar served on a panel for a session at the Rural Schools Association of New York State Summer Conference, which took place from July 9-11 in Cooperstown.

Mahar was the BOCES and Career and Technical Education representative for the panel and was joined by two administrators from rural school districts.

“It was an honor to be asked to represent CTE and all BOCES at the state level for rural schools,” Mahar said.

The panel discussed the benefits of having programs approved by the New York State Education Department, what are some of the advantages to rural students, what are some unique challenges in a rural setting versus some for suburban or urban settings, Mahar said.

One issue that Mahar brought up was poverty and transportation. A colleague on the panel stated that the director’s district used Perkins funds to provide bus passes for students to help facilitate travel to internship sites, but Mahar said a local lack of mass public transit such as rail or buses means even access to that funding doesn’t necessarily help our students, so that issue needs to be continually looked into.



Herkimer BOCES Director of School Services and Outreach Zane Mahar (in the right-most seat at the table) participates in a panel discussion at the Rural Schools Association of New York State Summer Conference.

Levatino, Matthews present about teaching careers at Major Discovery Days

Little Falls City School District Superintendent Dr. Keith Levatino and Herkimer BOCES Director of Special & Alternative Education Roberta Matthews put on a presentation about teaching and teacher careers during Utica University’s Major Discovery Days.

The teaching presentation was one part of the overall Major Discovery Days, which took place in February at Utica University. The event featured a variety of potential career paths.

Levatino and Matthews led a break-out session on why being a teacher is an excellent career choice.

Register Now!

Teaching is a great career!

Come and find out why at Utica University’s Major Discovery Days!

If interested in attending, please scan the QR code at the bottom of this page or go to the following link:

<https://utica.radiusbycampusmgmt.com/ssc/eform/GfKx7cJN670Gox670228.ssc>

About Major Discovery Days

Utica University’s Major Discovery Days will feature a variety of potential career paths. The Teaching Presentation will be one part of this event. To learn more about the Feb. 22 event, go to the following link:

<https://www.utica.edu/events/2023-02-22/major-discovery-day-liberal-arts-sciences-and-education>

MAJOR DISCOVERY DAYS

PRESENTATION ON TEACHING

Discover why teaching could be the right career path for you!

9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 22
MacFarlane Auditorium
Utica University

About the Teaching Presentation

Dr. Levatino, Superintendent of Little Falls City School District, and Roberta Matthews, Director of Special & Alternative Education at Herkimer BOCES, will lead a break-out session on why being a teacher is an excellent career choice.



View Herkimer BOCES videos

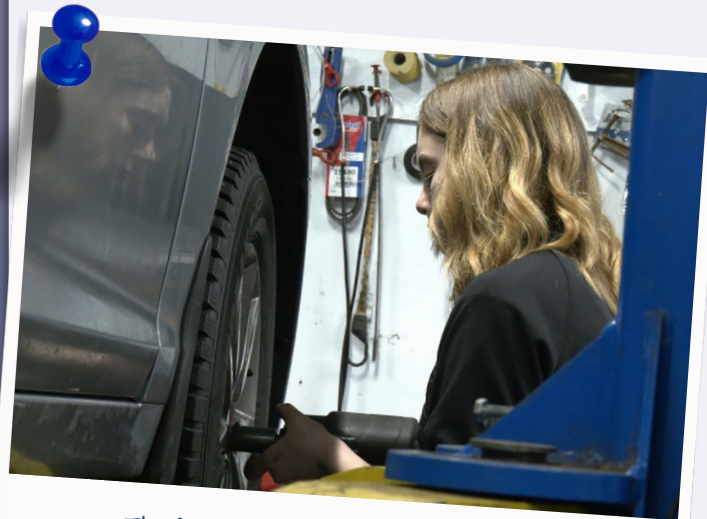
Click on any of the photos in this section to view the videos online.



Get an overview of what Herkimer BOCES and our slogan of "Creating Opportunities for Growth" are all about.



Three videos were produced to help recruiting for the Herkimer BOCES Adult Practical Nursing Program. The first video was titled "Commitment."



The first video of the Herkimer BOCES CTE Alumni Series featured 2022 Automotive Technology graduate Alexia Jaiken.



The second video of the Herkimer BOCES CTE Alumni Series featured 2010 Criminal Justice Graduate Mary Reece.



The third and final Adult Practical Nursing Program video was all about "Success Stories."



The second of three Herkimer BOCES Adult Practical Nursing Program videos was titled "Opportunity."

More Herkimer BOCES news online...

Click on any of the photos in this section to view the full stories online.



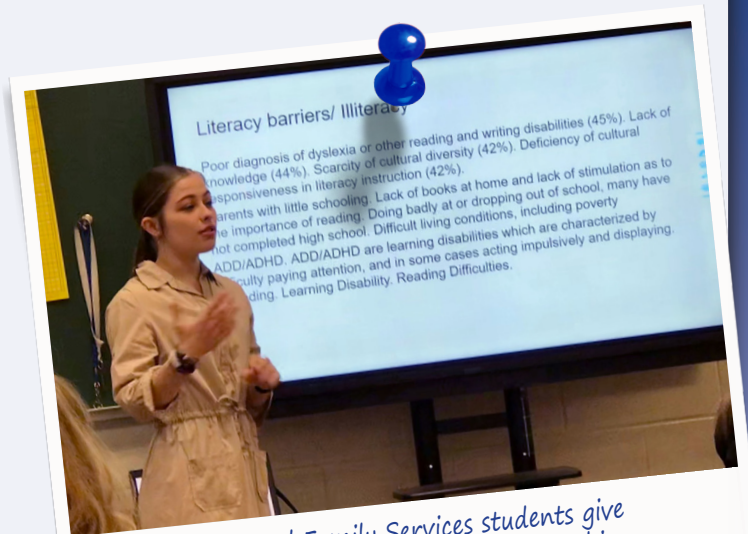
Herkimer BOCES student places 2nd at state HOSA-Future Health Professionals conference.



Frankfort-Schuyler recognized as 'What's Great in Our State' at NYS Office of Mental Health event.



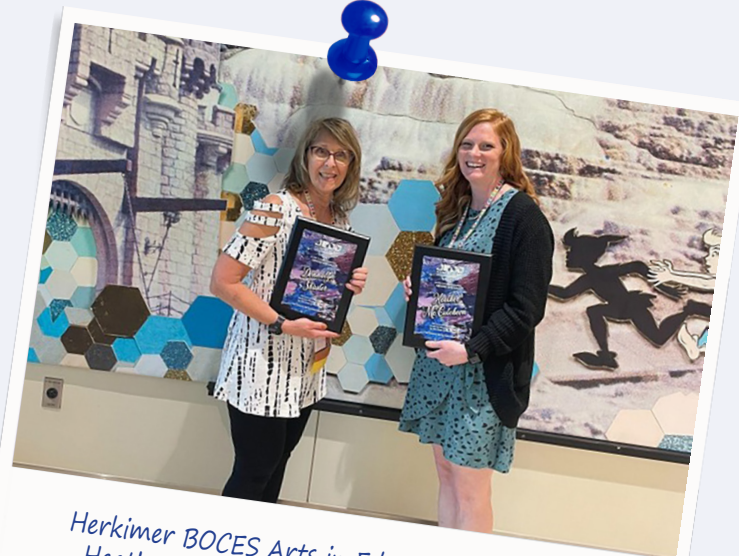
Herkimer BOCES adult nursing students make connections at LPN Career Fair.



Child and Family Services students give presentations to practice public speaking.



Visual Communications students create posters to help adult LPN program with recruiting.



Herkimer BOCES Arts in Education Coordinator Heather McCutcheon accepts New York State Youth Art Month award at national convention.



Herkimer BOCES launches free preparation course aimed at helping immigrants, others join adult nursing program.



Students participate in regional Art Career Day.



FoltsBrook Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation wins Herkimer BOCES 2023 Community Partnership Award.



***Thanks for reading the third issue of
“Your Kids, Your BOCES!”***