Career and Technical Education

CTE HOSTS OPEN HOUSE AND STUDENT SHOWCASE

CTE hosted its annual Spring Open House on March 13, providing an opportunity for current and prospective students and parents to see different programs in action.

For the second year, the open house featured a Student Showcase in the Courtyard. Different CTE programs set up stations led by students and staff, with demonstrations, hands-on activities and informational displays. Programs also continued their traditional classroom visits and activities, and the showcase area included college and continuing education representatives as well.

CAREER FAIR CONNECTS STUDENTS, EMPLOYERS

MOBOCES hosted its first CTE Career Fair on March 1 to connect CTE seniors with local employers and potential openings right in the Mohawk Valley.

CTE Outreach Coordinator Rachel Helmer spearheaded the new event. More than 30 area businesses, agencies and colleges sent representatives to talk with seniors about their industries, upcoming openings, post-secondary options and career preparation. She said she hopes the event showed graduating seniors that there are many employment opportunities right here in the Mohawk Valley and gave employers a chance to see the local talent available to them. Several of the industry representatives were themselves MOBOCES alumni.

Staff and Curriculum Development

REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ADDRESSES MENTAL HEALTH

MOBOCES hosted its 2nd annual Mental Health Symposium on March 15 for teachers, administrators, health care professionals, counselors, therapists and youth workers from across the region.

Keynote speaker Marc Brackett of Yale University encouraged schools to adopt a systemic approach to social-emotional learning and make mental health and wellness a core part of their daily work with students and staff.

Brackett is a professor in Yale’s Child Study Center and the founding director of the Yale’s Center for Emotional Intelligence. “If you really want to help people grow, it has to be in the environment, in the ecology,” he said.

After Brackett’s address, participants attended breakout sessions on suicide prevention and awareness, mindfulness, chemical dependency and Restorative Justice. MOBOCES Principals Tonia Davis and Owen Maranville led the Restorative Justice session, sharing the work they are doing in the Alternative Education programs on campus.

Community partners that work with MOBOCES set up tables to provide participants with more information about their services. They included Community Action Partnership, Liberty Resources, Kids Oneida, CNY Home Health Network, Center for Family Life and Recovery and Madison County Mental Health.

Nearly 200 participants were from 23 school districts, nine BOCES and five community agencies. Component district participants included Camden, Hamilton, MOBOCES, Morrisville-Eaton, Oneida, Rome and Stockbridge Valley.
Adult and Continuing Education

**BCCE PARTICIPATES IN RFA CAREER FAIR**

Rita Kenyon and Michelle Sebastian represented the BOCES Consortium of Continuing Education at the Rome City School District’s 2nd annual Career and Job Fair on March 14 at Rome Free Academy. Both Rita and Michelle are based at the Rome ACCESS Site.

More than 1,100 high school students attended and BCCE was one of approximately 30 area businesses and organizations sharing information. Students had the opportunity to talk with employers, participate in on-the-spot interviews and learn more about companies, agencies and services available in the greater Rome area.

Regional Information Center

**DISTRICTS LEARN ABOUT NEW SEL SERVICE**

Seven MOBOCES districts participated in a March 7 training led by MORIC Data Team member Emily Blake-Twomey on a new social-emotional regional service that will provide districts with access to social-emotional learning assessments.

Social and emotional learning has become an integral part of curriculum. These assessments can assist districts in supporting the well-being of students. By leveraging these tools, districts can access reports and analyze student data in order to support data-driven decision-making by members of PBIS programs, Child Study Teams, and educators in general.

Educators and administrators from Camden, Canastota, Hamilton, Morrisville-Eaton, Oneida, Rome and VVS attended the training.

**MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**POLICY COORDINATOR PRESENTS TO BOARD CLERKS**

Policy and Benefits Coordinator Jennifer Russ presented to area board clerks at this year’s Oneida-Madison-Herkimer School Boards Institute Board of Education Clerk Workshop on February 27. At this annual workshop, held at Oneida BOCES, Jennifer provides board clerks with an overview of essential policies and procedures as well as legal updates related to their board work. She includes information on policies and notifications that clerks must distribute to parents, students and employees and post online; which policies require plain language summaries and which must be reviewed annually; and the process of drafting, reviewing and adopting board policies.

Early Childhood Education

**PRE-K STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT STEM**

MOBOCES pre-k students in the region have been developing their STEM skills this winter through a number play-based activities. In Morrisville-Eaton, parents were invited in to complete science and math activities related to Goldilocks and the Three Bears and The Three Little Pigs, as part of the Classic Tales unit. In Oneida, students had an opportunity to explore snow in their sensory table. In Canastota, students made telephones from paper cups and string. The activities all help reinforce literacy, numeracy, inquiry, creativity and critical thinking skills in an age-appropriate way.

**WORKSHOPS FOCUS ON STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**

Instructional and support staff from Alternative and Special Education attended a variety of workshops on the March 15 Superintendent’s Conference Day that focused on different student engagement practices and strategies. Many of the sessions were led by division staff.

Topics included increasing attendance (ELA teacher Ann Husak), dropout prevention (Coordinator Gina Calabro), parent engagement (STARRS Coordinator Amanda Hopkins), and a collaborative discussion and review of student IEPs (all program administrators). All staff also attended a morning session on teen substance abuse trends and vaping, led by staff from the Center for Family Life and Recovery in Utica.

Teaching assistants, aides and support staff attended a half-day session at MVCC on motivating and managing disruptive students, led by consultant Colleen Zawadzki. Many staff members from the division also attended the regional Mental Health Symposium.

**ALTERNATIVE AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**DISTRICTS LEARN ABOUT NEW SEL SERVICE**

In March, MOBOCES districts participated in a training session on a new social-emotional learning service led by the MORIC Data Team. This service will provide schools with access to social-emotional learning assessments.

Social and emotional learning has become an integral part of the curriculum. These assessments can assist districts in supporting the well-being of students. They allow educators to access reports and analyze student data to support data-driven decision-making.

Educators and administrators from Camden, Canastota, Hamilton, Morrisville-Eaton, Oneida, Rome and VVS attended the training.

**ADMNISTRATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**

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