CANASTOTA STUDENT EARN NATIONAL AWARD

Allied Health Partnership student McKenzie Leahey, a Canastota senior, has been recognized by the National Technical Honor Society with the highly selective national Jon H. Poteat Scholarship. The $1,000 award recognizes excellence and promise in CTE.

McKenzie is one of only 250 award winners nationwide and the second MOBOCES student to earn this honor. McKenzie plans to attend Nazareth College to study biomedical sciences.

ONEIDA STUDENT SECURES SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Engineering student Jamie Jones, an Oneida junior, has been accepted into the Engineering and Computer Science Research Internship this summer at Syracuse University. It is the first time a MOBOCES student will be attending this prestigious, highly competitive program.

Through the internship, Jamie will work with SU students and faculty to develop data on a biomedical engineering project related to chemical compounds in the brain. This research could help in the development of brain therapeutics for treating Alzheimer’s and other diseases.

Jamie plans to study biomedical engineering in college and is excited about the opportunity to gain real-world, hands-on experience in her future field.

ROTARY CLUB HONORS 19 FROM ONEIDA, SVCS

The Rotary Club of Oneida honored 19 graduating seniors from the Oneida and Stockbridge Valley school districts for the success in CTE. Instructors selected students based on program accomplishments, attendance and academic success. This year’s honorees represented six CTE programs.

SLS CELEBRATES LIBRARIANS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AT ANNUAL BREAKFAST

The School Library System held its 2019 Administrator Breakfast and Annual Meeting on May 22 to recognize outstanding students, teachers, administrators and school librarians in the region for their work.

Rome Free Academy librarian Zack Snow received the School Librarian of the Year award.

Morrisville-Eaton third grade teacher Stephanie Hughes received the Teacher of the Year award.

Morrisville-Eaton Middle/High School principal Tracee Durkee received the Administrator of the Year award.

In addition, SLS recognized two retiring librarians from Oneida for their years of service – Linda Zuber and Zoe Hicks.

Fourteen K-8 students from the region were also recognized for the outstanding essays, poems and drawings they submitted for this year’s SLS Calendar Contest. This year’s theme was “Everybody Belongs @ Your School Library.”

Louisiana school superintendent Warren Drake delivered this year’s keynote, joining the room virtually to help highlight SLS’s yearlong virtual communication initiative. He spoke on “An Evolving Vision for the 21st Century School Library.”
**Regional Information Center**

**TEACHERS ATTEND WORKSHOP ON CODING, PBL**

Model Schools Coordinator Laurie Yager recently led a regional workshop on “Coding and Project-Based Learning in Your Classroom.” During the workshop, she introduced participants to Apple’s “Everyone Can Code” resources, which use the free Swift Playgrounds iPad app to introduce students to coding and its application across the curriculum. The teachers first participated as students in activities from the Apple coding curriculum. They then had time to explore a variety of teacher resources and make plans for implementing the coding curriculum within their districts. Participants were from Rome, Vernon-Verona-Sherrill, Belleville-Henderson, Holland Patent and Little Falls.

**Alternative and Special Education**

**RURAL SCHOOLS RECOGNIZES STUDENT VIDEO**

The New York State Rural Schools Association has recognized a student video project with its Grand Prize Runner Up award in the RSA Student Video Contest. The contest recognizes videos on an important topic that have good scripting, production value and student participation. The statewide award includes a $750 prize.

Alternative Education High School students worked with a professional videographer from New York City last spring to create the video as their culminating project for the 2017-18 Regional Youth Leadership Summit initiative. The video focuses on acceptance and school climate and features students and staff from the program. Judges in the contest specifically highlighted the visual storytelling method and the powerful message the video carries.

**Early Childhood Education**

**FAMILIES VISIT CLASSES AS GUEST READERS**

MOBOCES pre-k families in Morrisville-Eaton and Stockbridge Valley were invited to stop by their children’s classroom throughout May to serve as guest readers. Parents and family members brought in special books from home or pieces of their cultural heritage to share with students. The activity helped reinforce and model literacy skills for students.

**SYLSTRA HONORED WITH REGIONAL AWARD**

Ann Sylstra, Pre-K Assistant for Family Services, received one of this year’s Friends of Children awards from the Child Care Council of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County. The awards recognize service providers from Herkimer, Madison and Oneida counties who devote their time and talents to children, families and the early education field.

Ann has been with MOBOCES for 15 years but this is her first year in Early Childhood. In her nomination, her Director Colleen Wuest noted: “Always prompt and professional, Ann’s compassion is contagious and both students and staff have quickly grown to love her nurturing style and empathy for both families and students.”

Ann supports pre-k classes in Canastota, Morrisville-Eaton, Oneida and Stockbridge Valley.

**Adult and Continuing Education**

**ROME ACCESS SITE HOLDS OPEN HOUSE**

The Rome ACCESS Site held an open house on May 21 to help community members and potential students learn more about the programs and services available to adult learners. The event included building tours led by adult student ambassadors and an informational fair highlighting programs, resources, partner agencies, and guest speakers.

Throughout the event, RAS instructors spoke about specific programs and classes, including the National External Diploma Program, Adult Basic Education, high school equivalency testing, home health aide, medical assistant and welfare diversion programs. Representatives from area businesses and agencies that employ and support RAS students and graduates were available to answer questions, and both BCCE and Mohawk Valley Community College representatives spoke about continuing education opportunities.

**CAMDEN HOSTS LOCAL BUS SAFETY EVENT**

Education, transportation and law enforcement advocates across the state joined forces on May 2 to remind drivers about the importance of stopping for school buses as part of this year’s Operation Safe Stop Day.

The Camden school district hosted an event for local bus safety advocates to reinforce the dangers and penalties of passing a stopped school bus. MOBOCES Transportation Supervisor Frank Sławiak manages the maintenance staff at the Camden bus garage through the Central Bus Maintenance service.