Career and Technical Education

CTE Holds Open House and College Fair

CTE held its annual Fall Open House and College Fair on October 18. Hundreds of current and prospective parents and students visited the MOBOCES campus to learn more about CTE programs, curriculum, enrollment and post-graduation options.

Current students showed class projects and hands-on demonstrations, including a horse in the Equine and Animal Science room, Heavy Equipment Operation students running machinery, and Early Childhood Education students reading stories and leading crafts to preschoolers.

Nearly two dozen college, trade schools, continuing education and military representatives participated in the college fair, speaking with students and parents about career options that align with different programs.

Alternative and Special Education

Student-Athletes Compete in Special Olympics

More than 300 student-athletes competed in the 8th Annual Special Olympics Autumn Games on October 10 at Canastota High School. The games include a variety of track and field events, including shot put, softball toss, long jump, and running races as well as Adaptive Games for students with additional needs.

The Games began with the traditional Parade of Athletes, with students walking in by school delegation, and the reciting of the Special Olympics Oath. MOBOCES Education Coordinator Laurie Ann Ross, a longtime event organizer, joined Canastota Superintendent June Clarke in sharing welcome remarks.

MOBOCES students from Alternative and Special Education and several CTE classes were among the student volunteers at the event, in addition to students from many area districts. MOBOCES Early Childhood Education students again set up and staffed an Olympic Village, where athletes and spectators participated in crafts and activities.
**Staff and Curriculum Development**

**LEATHERSTOCKING ADDRESSES DIGITAL PIONEERS**

Librarians, teachers and administrators from across three BOCES regions attended this year’s Leatherstocking Conference in Utica.

This year’s keynote speaker, Kevin Honeycutt, presented on “Trends, Tactics and Tools for 21st Century Learning,” encouraging educators to try new tools, and to become learners again. He reinforced the importance of relationships and self-directed professional development. Following his keynote, Kevin led breakout sessions on creativity in education, entrepreneurial learning and re-engaging students through the library.

This year’s featured speaker was children’s author James Preller, who led sessions on picture books and early chapter books as well as bullying and middle-grade novels. Other breakout session presenters included librarians and educators from Camden, Morrisville-Eaton, Rome, Stockbridge Valley, MOBOCES and MORIC.

**Adult and Continuing Education**

**BCCE SUPPORTS TASTE OF ROME EVENT**

The BOCES Consortium of Continuing Education participated in the Rome Art and Community Center’s Taste of Rome event on September 29. Vocational Coordinator Natalie Zumpano and Job Placement Specialist Rachel Burleigh hosted the BCCE informational table, sharing information with community residents about vocational and literacy class opportunities.

The free family-friendly event included food trucks, art activities, live music, local farmers and children’s activities. Participants were encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to local food banks and veterans groups.

**Early Childhood Education**

**RED GRAMMAR SINGS ABOUT GOOD CHARACTER**

MOBOCES pre-k students in Canastota had an opportunity to watch and interact with Grammy-nominated recording artist Red Grammer, a well-known children’s musician who plays music that celebrates good character, kindness, diversity and unity. The Parent-Teacher Association arranged the visit to Peterboro Street Elementary School to coincide with the school-wide character education program and PBIS initiative. All classes at both Peterboro Street and South Side schools attended the program.

**Regional Information Center**

**SHOWCASE SPEAKER FOCUSES ON INNOVATION**

Nearly 150 education and technology leaders from the region engaged in conversations about promoting innovation and student-directed learning at this year’s MORIC Technology Showcase.

The annual Tech Showcase brings together administrators, educators and technology coordinators from four BOCES regions to discuss and exchange ideas with MORIC experts and vendor partners on educational technology.

Keynote speaker Brad Gustafson, a nationally recognized principal from Minnesota, shared strategies he has used to make his school more innovative and relevant to students. Gustafson is a 2016 National Distinguished Principal and on the National School Boards Association’s list of “20 to Watch.”

Following his keynote, Gustafson led a breakout session on “Inventing the Future Through Failure,” where he discussed how leaders can encourage responsible risk-taking and increase buy-in for initiatives. Other breakout sessions, led by MORIC and district staff, focused on data security, student assessments, data visualization, transforming the school library into a STEM center and Legos in the classroom. Canastota teacher Cecile Retrosi led a session on student-driven technology-based lessons.

New this year were MORIC Ignite! sessions focused on Administrative Leadership, Instructional Leadership and Classroom Integration, during which MORIC experts gave 10-minute presentations on regional or district highlights, such as computer-based testing, video-based professional development, Google Play apps and increasing information security.

**Management Services**

**STATEWIDE GROUP DISCUSS RECOVERY SCHOOLS**

Planning and Grant Writing Specialist Lisa Seitz represented MOBOCES at a recent meeting of a statewide workgroup to discuss a potential new Recovery Schools CoSer. The workgroup, convened by NYSED officials, discussed student needs, current available programming, logistical considerations of starting Recovery School programs, such as finances and sustainability.

Capital Region, Western Suffolk, Monroe 2 and CITI BOCES are also part of the workgroup.

Recovery schools are alternative, multi-service programs for adolescents treated for or at risk of a diagnosed substance use disorder (SUD) that provides a safe, sober and supportive educational environment. Recovery supports are integrated into the school day to facilitate personal, academic, vocational, and recovery success for the student.

MOBOCES has been working with several community partner agencies, NYSED and the NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) to explore the possibility of establishing a recovery high school in the Mohawk Valley.