Annual Report 2018-2019

In cooperation with member schools: Camden, Canastota, Hamilton, Madison, Morrisville-Eaton, New York State School for the Deaf, Oneida, Rome, Stockbridge Valley and Vernon-Verona-Sherrill
On behalf of the Madison-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services, I am pleased to present the 2018-19 Annual Report. This year’s Annual Report highlights major achievements during the past school year and some of the ways that we have worked to set ourselves apart as educational leaders, creative problem-solvers and community collaborators, which are all hallmarks of our organization. Some themes you’ll notice throughout this publication include:

- Connecting our students with local employers and community resources
- A commitment to mental health education and supports
- Developing leadership skills in both students and educators
- Offering both large-scale and smaller professional development opportunities to strengthen the entire region
- Launching new services, programs and resources in response to regional needs

We have embodied these goals for quite a long time, but as the educational landscape changes, so do the ways in which we deliver on these goals. But no matter what our programs and services look like, one thing that remains the same is our commitment to support teachers, administrators and schools in our region and ensure all students are successful. I look forward to our continued partnership in these endeavors.

Dr. John J. Costello, Sr.
Board of Education President
Madison-Oneida BOCES
ABOUT BOCES
Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) exist in New York State to help school districts better serve their students. School districts throughout the state depend on BOCES to meet their educational and financial goals through shared programs and services. By focusing on collaboration and creating efficiencies, BOCES agencies help to relieve some of the financial burdens increasingly placed on local taxpayers.

THE MADISON-ONEIDA BOCES
✦ Serves about 160 learners under age 5 through Early Childhood programs; more than 1,100 high school students in Career and Technical Education courses; about 160 students in Alternative and Special Education programs; about 1,700 adults and out-of-school youth in literacy programs and 3,700 adults in vocational and avocational classes.
✦ Offers academic and enrichment summer programs for more than 1,600 students in grades Pre-K-12.
✦ Houses the Mohawk Regional Information Center (MORIC), one of 12 statewide information centers, which provides participating districts in five counties access to state-of-the-art technology services, training and support for teachers, students, and administrators.
✦ Partners with a neighboring BOCES to host a Continuing Education Consortium, which offers vocational and avocational programs at multiple sites across three counties.
✦ Operates 3 of the state’s Literacy Zones, a grant-funded family and community literacy initiative, and participates in the Madison County and Oneida County Literacy Coalitions.
✦ Employs about 750 full-time and part-time faculty and staff.

STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

COLLABORATION
Madison-Oneida BOCES programs and services are planned, delivered, and evaluated in collaboration with participants.

OUTCOMES
Madison-Oneida BOCES programs and services supply participants with the means, knowledge or opportunity to achieve their educational goals.

RESOURCES
Madison-Oneida BOCES programs and services use all resources efficiently and effectively.

ANTICIPATION
Madison-Oneida BOCES anticipates emerging educational service needs and develops programs and services to address those needs.
FROM THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Jacklin G. Starks

If you’ve been with us over the past several years, you know that MOBOCES has achieved some significant milestones and, correspondingly, made some changes to our programs and services, our operations and our visual identity. It seemed only logical that this year’s Annual Report, which helps to illustrate who we are as an organization, undergo some changes as well.

Rather than our traditional focus on the achievements of each division, we have taken a holistic view of our work. This includes different program areas working toward common goals and a growing desire for interdisciplinary learning opportunities. All of our divisions serve as leaders and experts in their respective fields, they develop innovative solutions to meet regional needs, and they partner with agencies and businesses to enhance education in the Mohawk Valley.

You may be aware that I will be retiring this year after 40 years in education, 16 of them leading MOBOCES. I want to thank all of you for your friendship, your support and your commitment to excellence. MOBOCES will be under new leadership soon and things may look a little different, but the core of this agency’s work will always remain helping teachers and learners succeed.

Jacklin G. Starks
District Superintendent
Madison-Oneida BOCES
MISSION STATEMENT
Madison-Oneida BOCES cooperatively and responsibly provides educationally focused programs and services which enable learners to excel.

MADISON-ONEIDA BOCES
BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS

♦ Instructional and administrative support programs offered by Madison-Oneida BOCES are aligned with best practices, current research and component districts’ needs.

♦ Operational procedures of Madison-Oneida BOCES will make effective and efficient use of all available resources.

♦ Technology services available through Madison-Oneida BOCES are aligned with current research, best practices and component districts’ needs.

♦ Collaborate with regional leaders and utilize data to increase the performance of all students, respond to statewide initiatives and achieve efficiency in operations.

♦ Systematically communicate with various publics the roles, needs, and accomplishments of component districts and the BOCES with regard to the achievement of state standards for students and schools.

BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

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Ravo Root, Ed.D., Superintendent
(315) 245-2500

**CANASTOTA**
Bill Haddad, President
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(315) 697-2025

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**NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**
Joyce Long, Superintendent
(315) 337-8400
Inaugural Career Fair Connects Seniors & Employers

We anticipate educational trends and needs and develop services, resources and expertise to support teaching, learning and school operations.
The BOCES Consortium of Continuing Education (BCCE) launched a Family Welcome Center at its Rome ACCESS Site, creating its third Literacy Zone in the Mohawk Valley.

Literacy Zones are state grant-funded reform initiatives intended to help close the achievement gap in communities with high rates of poverty and low levels of literacy. Literacy Zone providers offer or coordinate services to help address literacy deficits in their communities through high school equivalency preparation, English as a Second Language programs, workforce development programs, and transition support for veterans, out-of-school youth, adults leaving incarceration settings, senior citizens, individuals with disabilities and families living in poverty.

BCCE has operated the East Utica and West Utica Literacy Zones for nearly 10 years, offering services through its Utica ACCESS Site and community sites, such as the Utica Public Library, Resource Center for Independent Living, and the Veteran’s Outreach Center.

Symposium Addresses Mental Health

The 2nd annual regional Mental Health Symposium in March featured keynote speaker Dr. Marc Brackett, a professor in Yale University’s Child Study Center and the founding director of the Yale’s Center for Emotional Intelligence. He encouraged schools to adopt a systemic approach to addressing social-emotional learning and make mental health and wellness a core part of their daily work with students and staff.

After Brackett’s address, participants attended smaller sessions addressing suicide prevention and awareness, mindfulness, chemical dependency, restorative justice and mental health information.

MOBOCES Principals Tonia Davis and Owen Maranville led a Restorative Justice session, sharing the work they are doing with the Alternative Education programs on campus.

BCCE Opens Rome Literacy Zone

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This year’s Leatherstocking Conference focused on student engagement strategies, entrepreneurial learning and creativity in education. Keynote speaker Kevin Honeycutt encouraged educators to step outside their boxes, try new tools, and to become learners again, and he reinforced the importance of relationships and self-directed professional development.

Librarians, teachers and administrators from three BOCES regions attended the conference, which included presentations by author James Preller on picture books, early chapter books, bullying and middle-grade novels. Librarians and educators from Camden, Morrisville-Eaton, Rome, Stockbridge Valley, MOBOCES and MORIC also led breakout sessions.

This year’s regional Youth Leadership Summit focused on the theme of Building Community. The 80 student participants embraced the challenge to launch community-building initiatives in their high schools, creating spirit weeks, pep rallies, thank-you breakfasts for staff and birthday recognitions. Tina Louis, director of the Madison County Youth Bureau, talked with students about leadership development and encouraged them to keep their work and enthusiasm going. Youth Summit teams from Camden, Canastota, Madison, Morrisville-Eaton, Oneida, Rome and VVS participated this year.
Captain Nice Leads Kindness Initiative

CTE Health Related Careers students kicked off the school year with a Suicide Awareness and Prevention event to inform teens about the suicide risks, impacts on family and friends, and places to seek help. The event helped launch a year-long kindness campaign to support the well-being of all students and staff and enhance school climate.

Students and staff were encouraged to leave positive notes in the Compliment Mail box, and Captain Nice - a superhero who spreads kindness - delivered the messages each week. Both students and staff received compliments and said it helped make the entire CTE program a more welcoming, supportive and encouraging place to work and to learn.

Conference Addresses Relationships

More than 150 educators and administrators attended the two-day 2019 CNY Education Conference to learn more about building positive relationships with students to improve classroom behaviors and support academic achievement. Breakout session topics included Restorative Justice; motivating and managing disruptive students; relationship building and the effects of stress on the brain; reaching at-risk youth; and creating a classroom community to address challenging behaviors

Aspiring Leaders Attend Conference

Dozens of aspiring school leaders from the area attended the regional Growing Our Administrators Locally (GOAL) Conference in March to learn more about responsibilities, certifications and other considerations to entering educational administration. The GOAL conference, which occurs every two years, is a collaborative effort between three BOCES regions. Conference participants then had the opportunity to apply for a seat in the two-year Elementary Leadership Mohawk Valley (ELMV) cohort beginning this fall.

IN 2018-19, MOBOCES...

- Developed a new Hospitality program through Adult and Continuing Education to prepare workers for upcoming positions in area hotels.
- Led a two-day summer training for a school in Louisiana on EngageNY Math Standards.
- Participated in a statewide workgroup to develop a new coser for recovery schools.
- Presented at statewide events on a variety of topics, including technology, labor relations, communication, adult education.
- Created a regional mental health newsletter and a statewide data security newsletter to better inform colleagues on these issues.
- Deployed a new assessment tool through MORIC to collect and analyze social-emotional learning data.
- Joined with its 36 sister BOCES from across the state to showcase programs and services for state legislators and education leaders.
The School Library System awarded grants to seven school librarians to support librarian-classroom teacher partnerships that utilized virtual field trips and digital communication experiences for students. The new Expanding Our Students' World grants supported curriculum-tied projects in Oneida, Rome, Stockbridge Valley and VVS for students in elementary through high school. Librarians said the projects provided students with authentic learning experiences, broadened their global views, and enhanced their speaking, questioning and listening skills.
Auto Tech Classes Move To Nye

Seniors in the CTE Automotive Technology class spent the spring semester learning at Nye Automotive Group in Oneida. Nye provided classroom space and opportunities for students to work alongside professional staff to learn and complete various tasks. It’s the first two-year program at MOBOCES with an embedded component. The model offers students a hands-on look at the industry and a behind-the-scenes look at a local business. Seniors each year will continue taking classes at Nye, while juniors will continue in classes on the Verona campus. In its inaugural year, 5 of the 10 seniors in the program received employment offers from Nye.

BCCE Holds Employment Prep Event

The BOCES Consortium of Continuing Education (BCCE) partnered with the Workforce Development Board to hold a job-readiness event at the Kallet Civic Center in Oneida. “Get Ready to Get Hired” brought several employment resources and services to one location so local residents could more easily access them. Through a variety of small breakout sessions, participants gained tips and help on preparing for job interviews, dressing for success, creating a resume, understanding employers’ expectations and basic personal finance. They also spoke with local job placement specialists about work readiness and browsed racks of gently used interview attire.
The Mid-State Teacher Center at MOBOCES partnered with Project Fibonacci, a Rome-based nonprofit focused on STEAM promotion and development, to host a Drone Camp. The camp provided students from MOBOCES, Oneida and Vernon-Verona-Sherrill with an opportunity for hands-on exploration of drone and STEAM technology.

In addition to Project Fibonacci, NUAIR, ANDRO and CNY Drones sent representatives to work with students at different activity stations. These included flight simulation, drone programming, remote-controlled drone operation, low-tech cardboard gliders, physics of flight, and an overview of FAA and national air space rules.

The Camden and Hamilton districts partnered with MOBOCES Planning and Grant Writing Specialist Lisa Seitz to secure a year-long grant to support afterschool programming. The two districts shared the grant funding and a coordinator, but each offered a variety of enrichment classes in their own schools for their own students. Across both districts, hundreds of elementary students extended their learning day through robotics, Spanish, baking and other courses. Students chose which sessions they wanted to attend and classes often met three to four times a week to provide in-depth learning experiences.
Madison-Oneida BOCES

Annual Report 2018-2019

CTE Classes Continue Collaborations

CTE continued its Operation Collaboration initiative this year by continuing to promote internal partnerships through cross-program activities and projects. The initiative, in its second year, encourages instructors from different programs to collaborate and exposes students to classmates and industries with which they might not otherwise interact. Some of this year’s activities included:

Equine and Animal Science and Community-Based Occupational Education held two joint activities with community agencies. In the fall, they carved pumpkins donated by Critz Farms in Cazenovia; in the spring, they met some of the Utica Zoo’s travelling animals.

Health Related Careers led a hands-on demonstration for Heavy Equipment Operation students on workplace safety and first aid response.

Career Exploration, Community-Based Occupational Education, Vocational Technical Preparation and Conservation jointly ran a farmers market in the spring to sell plants, crafts, baked goods and maple syrup.

Manufacturing Technology, Auto Collision Repair and Electrical/HVAC created a residual oil collection system for the Automotive Technology class.

Culinary Students Help Rescue Mission, Oneida School With Holiday Feasts

The Culinary Arts program continued its annual Thanksgiving tradition of supporting the holiday meal preparation efforts at the Rome Rescue Mission. Students helped prepare potatoes and turkeys for the annual community event.

This year, the class also supported the North Broad Street Elementary School’s annual family Thanksgiving feast in Oneida by baking 60 pies, using apples and pumpkins donated by local businesses.

IN 2018-19, MOBOCES...

• Partnered with Mohawk Valley Community College to offer a new combined Heavy Equipment Operator/CDL program for adults.
• Provided 13 New Initiatives grants to support summer reading partnerships between school and public libraries.
• Supported a 1:1 computing initiative in VVS and an attendance improvement initiative in Oneida through the MORIC.
• Partnered with Madison County to offer community-based summer employment and financial literacy lessons to dozens of area youth.
• Headed the reorganization of the Madison County Early Childhood Committee, a partnership of agencies that focuses on early learning and parent support.
• Worked with Flippen Group to offer a regional Capturing Kids’ Hearts Process Champions workshop for schools that are utilizing CKH strategies in their schools.
The Arc of Madison Cortland launched a new, grant-funded program with the Alternative and Special Education division to better support special education students in the region. The Roadway to Employment initiative focuses on the transition needs of students in both on-campus and off-campus programs through postsecondary goal planning, employability profiles, employment preparation activities, and connecting students with community agencies, businesses and colleges. The effort is part of a division-wide emphasis on service coordination and case management to increase access to services and resources for students and their families.
CEP Grant Provides Free Meals

MOBOCES began offering free breakfast and lunch to all students in on-campus full-day programs through the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) grant. The federal support for school meals is based on a school's poverty rate, and CEP status allows all students to eat school meals at no charge.

In the program's first year, MOBOCES served 7,355 additional breakfasts and lunches - a 31 percent increase - compared to the previous year, ensuring more students who need a meal have access to one.

Showcase Speaker Discusses Innovation & Achievement

The Mohawk Regional Information Center's 2018 Technology Showcase focused on promoting innovation and student-directed learning in schools. Keynote speaker Brad Gustafson, a National Distinguished Principal from Minnesota, highlighted connections between innovation, technology and student achievement and encouraged educators to take risks.

In addition to longer breakout sessions on data, STEM, assessments, data security and project-based learning, MORIC included smaller, themed sessions on administrative leadership, instructional leadership and classroom technology integration. In these sessions, MORIC experts delivered 10-minute presentations on regional and district highlights, such as computer-based testing, video-based professional development, Google Play apps and information security practices.
Several years after the end of a state-funded professional development grant, the Professional Learning Communities movement it launched is still going strong in the MOBOCES region. Sixteen PLCs, initiated and facilitated by district-based staff, actively met during the 2018-19 school year - including new groups for Special Education, Technology Integration, School Counselors, Therapists, Pre-K, Middle Level Science, Technology Education and Music. Additional PLCs are already in the works for 2019-20.

PLCs Continue To Grow

Seven CTE programs worked with AmeriCU credit union in Rome to enhance their personal finance curriculum with a new online course for high school students. AmeriCU representatives spoke with students in the fall about financial responsibility, budgeting, interest, debt and other components of the online course. Students then worked on the curriculum throughout the year, as part of the personal finance work that is routinely integrated into their coursework.

Allied Health Partnership, New Visions Professions, Early Childhood Education, Auto Technology, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts and Health Related Careers piloted the program in its first year.

Personal Finance Moves Online
School Cooks Hone Skills At Summer Workshop

In 2018, MOBOCES marked its 20th year of hosting NYSED’s Professional Cooking program, a summer hands-on workshop for school food service workers from across the state. Participants attend one of four one-week sessions to learn food preparation skills, cooking methods, recipe development and nutritional analysis. Each week, they donate much of the food they make to the Rome Rescue Mission. In 2015, NYSED added a Managing Your Child’s Nutrition program for food service administrators, which covers cafeteria management, budget and finance development, food purchasing and menu planning.

Rome Sixth Graders Explore CTE

CTE typically invites students to explore available program options beginning in 8th grade. But this year, sixth-graders from Rome spent a morning touring the Rossetti Center and engaging in hands-on activities in different career fields. The visit was part of the elementary students’ career exploration work and aligned with CTE’s goal of exposing students to career pathways and options at a younger age.

Literacy Lab Improves Students’ Reading Skills

In an effort to better support students’ literacy instruction, the Alternative and Special Education division created a new Literacy Lab. The lab promotes “Reading to Learn” skills and provides an inviting, comfortable and welcoming environment with flexible seating and engaging individual or small group lessons. Students attend the lab for a set period every day for the school year, focusing on reading and writing activities that align with their classroom curriculum and prepare them for Regents exams and finals in all subjects.

IN 2018-19, MOBOCES...

• Offered recommendations and best practices to two Capital Region districts that have begun a shared bus maintenance service, which is based on MOBOCES’ model.
• Enhanced the culturally-sensitive library at the Rome ACCESS Site through a $10,000 grant from Dollar General’s Rome store.
• Partnered with Slocum Dickson Medical Group to launch a part-time practical nurse training program.
• Hosted a yoga workshop for therapists to enrich their knowledge of sensory and motor skills development.
• Continued the Young Adult Career Challenge to support high school equivalency students with employment preparation.
• Partnered with Integrated Community Alternatives Network (ICAN) to help students and families access health and support services.
• Utilized the Compassion Coalition teacher store in Utica to obtain Lego kits for pre-k students in Canastota.
We offer high-quality programs and services that offer opportunities for students and educators to achieve their goals.

CTE Has Two State Champions!

Two CTE students finished first in their SkillsUSA contests at the New York State competition and qualified for spots at nationals in Kentucky. Katelyn Lanz, an Electrical/HVAC student from VVS, took first place in Prepared Speech, and Devan Pelky, an Outdoor Power Equipment student from Morrisville-Eaton, took first place in Motorcycle Service Technology. Two other students, Dominic Stith of Hamilton and Cole Szewczyk of Morrisville-Eaton, both from Outdoor Power Equipment, also earned medals at the state competition.
MOBOCES received five awards from The Genesis Group this year during its annual Celebration of Education:

• Laurie Yager, Model Schools Coordinator at MORIC - Outstanding Educator
• Health Related Careers (CTE) - Outstanding Program
• STARRS (Alternative and Special Education) - Outstanding Program
• Youth Summit regional student leadership initiative - Outstanding Program
• Dr. John Costello, Sr., a 31-year MOBOCES board member from Oneida - Education Distinguished Service Award

MOBOCES inducted a record 112 high school seniors into its chapter of the National Technical Honor Society. This year’s class represented 17 CTE programs and nine area high schools. NTHS is an honor society recognizing excellence in career and technical education. To join, students must be nominated by their teachers, carry a minimum 3.0 grade point average, demonstrate excellence in their CTE program and participate in extracurricular activities at BOCES and/or their home school. Eight student representatives helped lead the ceremony – Kassidy Allen, Camryn Sullivan and Ashlee Gilbert of Camden; Joanna Musacchio of Canastota; Gabriel Camp of Morrisville-Eaton; Garrett Craft of Rome; Alana Murphy and Katelyn Lanz of VVS. Kendall Dust, of VVS led the Pledge of Allegiance.
The School Library System recognized outstanding support of school libraries at its annual awards breakfast. Awards went to a librarian from Rome and a teacher and principal from Morrisville-Eaton, and SLS celebrated two retiring librarians from Oneida.

In addition, SLS presented the 14 area students whose artwork and writing is featured in this year's regional calendar. Those students were from Camden, Canastota, Madison, Morrisville-Eaton, Rome and Vernon-Vernon-Verona-Verona-Sherrill.

The New York Association of Continuing/Community Education (NYACCE) recognized three Adult and Continuing Education teachers and two adult learners with statewide honors this year. Literacy instructor Shawn Fuess, ESL and Hospitality instructor Mersiha Omeragic, and Dental Assistant instructor Kimberly Salatino were among 10 to receive Teacher of the Year awards. Myo Min Tun and Sandy Rolf earned Student of the Year awards. Myo, a refugee from Burma, took classes in Utica, and Sandy took classes in Rome. Both enrolled at MVCC after earning their high school equivalency diplomas.

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

Oneida Rotary Presents CTE Awards
SBI Honors Students, Board Member

Three MOBOCES students were recognized at this year’s Oneida-Madison-Herkimer School Boards Institute’s Student Recognition and Distinguished Service Awards Ceremony. Teachers nominated them for their character and commitment.

The students are: VVS junior Darin Champney, CTE Auto Collision Repair; Oneida junior Emily Dickan, CTE Early Childhood Education; and Rome junior Mariah Saxe, Alternative Education High School program.

In addition, Dr. John J. Costello Sr., a 31-year MOBOCES board member from Oneida, received a Distinguished Service Award.

Allied Health Student Earns National Scholarship

Allied Health Partnership student McKenzie Leahey, from Canastota, received one of the National Technical Honor Society’s highly selective national Jon H. Poteat Scholarships. The $1,000 award recognizes graduating seniors who show excellence and promise in CTE. She is one of only 250 award winners nationwide and only the second MOBOCES student to earn this honor.

McKenzie plans to attend Nazareth College to study biomedical sciences.

Engineering Student Secures Summer Internship

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

Through the internship, Jamie worked 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.

IN 2018-19, MOBOCES...

• Earned its 10th consecutive School Safety Excellence Award, Titanium with Honors level, from Utica National Insurance Group.
• Received 12 awards from the New York School Public Relations Association for outstanding print, visual and digital communication.
• Saw its second Early Childhood Education student, Alana Murphy, of VVS, earn a national Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.
• Recognized Pre-K Assistant for Family Services Ann Sylstra for her Friend of Children Award from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County.
• Celebrated the Alternative Education High School Student Leadership Group for its statewide recognition by the Rural Schools Association of New York State for an outstanding video project.
ANNUAL MEETING

MOBOCES hosted our 51st Annual Meeting on April 10, 2019, with a theme of Building Community. The event helped highlight some of the ways MOBOCES partners with districts, educators, businesses, colleges, governments and community agencies.

This year's video featured vignettes from a variety of community-building efforts on our campus and in the region, with a focus on kindness, mental health and social-emotional wellness. Following the video, guests visited informational displays around the Courtyard highlighting some of the innovative programs we offer to help foster community-building among students and in the region.
MEETING

As always, Culinary Arts students prepared and served dinner and dessert, and Career Exploration students created table centerpieces. In addition this year, students from Conservation, Carpentry, Graphic Design, Foundations of CTE and Manufacturing Technology collaborated on an intricate wooden display of a “CTE Village,” featuring houses representing each programs. The Select Choir and Jazz Band from Madison provided dinner entertainment.

Candidates for four Board of Education vacancies spoke to the group about their interest in serving the region: Sally Sherwood, of Camden; John J. Costello, Sr., of Oneida; Suzanne Carvelli, of Rome; Joseph Monfiletto, of Stockbridge Valley.
CTE hosted its annual open house events in October and March to help prospective students and community members learn more about available programs and future pathways. At both the fall and spring events, current students offered demonstrations and led hands-on activities in their classrooms and lab spaces, and staff was available to answer questions about enrollment, credits, curriculum and college articulation agreements. Representatives from colleges, trade schools and the military were on hand to talk with students and parents, and the BOCES Consortium of Continuing Education provided information on vocational, professional and hobby classes.

In the fall, Alternative and Special Education programs hosted an open house for families of current students to learn more about the curriculum and meet their children’s teachers. The school held a spaghetti dinner to welcome families and included an agency fair for students and families to learn more about community supports and resources available to them.

Gingerbread House Family Event

Students in MOBOCES pre-kindergarten programs across the region constructed - and ate - gingerbread houses out of milk cartons, frosting and candy in December. The decades-old family holiday tradition allows parents to come to school and help their children build edible houses using milk cartons, graham crackers, frosting and candy decorations.

The activity promotes parent involvement and allows the students to practice their colors, shapes, counting, motor skills and creativity in a fun, hands-on way. Pre-k students and family members from Canastota, Morrisville-Eaton, Oneida and Stockbridge Valley participated.
Special Olympics

More than 300 student-athletes competed in the 8th Annual Special Olympics Autumn Games in October at Canastota High School. The games included a variety of track and field events, such as 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 reciting the Special Olympics Oath. MOBOCES students participated both as athletes and as volunteers. The CTE Early Childhood Education classes set up and staffed an Olympic Village, where athletes, volunteers and spectators participated in crafts and activities in between events.

Cultural Dessert Hour

The Utica ACCESS Site hosted its annual Cultural Dessert Hour in October for students in its English as a Second Language, GED and other adult education programs. Nearly 100 people enjoyed a buffet of food from all over the world. All of the food was prepared by staff and students, who were asked to make a dish that represented their nationality or culture.

Local community members also joined the event, including Oneida County Sheriff Rob Maciol and staff from neighboring agencies. The event offers students, staff and community members an opportunity to talk and network over a meal in a setting outside the classroom.

Field Days

Special Programs students celebrated the year with their annual Field Days in June. Activities included live animals, a photo station, sack races, face painting and many motor and sensory activities for students to explore.

Pancake Breakfast

The CTE Conservation Club hosted its annual Pancake Breakfast in April, cooking pancakes and serving them with student-made maple syrup.
100th Day of School

The STARRS program celebrated the 100th day of school with a math party! Students made hats, necklaces and art projects and they played games to celebrate this awesome number!

Child Abuse Awareness

Health Related Careers and Early Childhood Education students from CTE partnered on a month-long project to recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and raise awareness among their classmates about child abuse, neglect and abductions. Students completed research projects on statistics, laws and cases involving child abuse and displayed them in the Courtyard. They ended the month by creating wallet cards and posters explaining how to report a child abuse situation and selling handmade pinwheels to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Syracuse.

Kindness in Action

MOBOCES pre-k students in Stockbridge Valley had a hands-on lesson about the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As a class, students read several books about Dr. King's life and had an age-appropriate discussion about his dream of having people get along and act nicely toward each other. Teachers tied the lesson into the character education book “Have You Filled A Bucket Today?” which they read earlier in the year.

Following those discussions, students brainstormed ways they could show kindness and decided to make thank you cards for people around school. They selected bus drivers, the nurse, the maintenance team, secretaries and librarians. The students then delivered the cards to their selected person and saw first-hand how a personal connection and a thank you can mean so much to people.
Employee Recognition

Congratulations to our 16 retirees and all of our service award recipients! District Superintendent Jackie Starks and the leadership team formally recognized staff who are retiring and who have reached longevity milestones during an organization-wide ceremony in May.

RETIREES

Dave Britten
Andy Brumber
Andy Criscolo
Jennifer Didio
Beverly French
Doreen Gratton
Anne Guley
Brenda Heigl
Kathy Kaufman
Denise Kaylor
Shelly Lawrence
Kathy Nelson
Becky Onyan
Robin Peavey
Diane Pedone
Chris Pohl

40 YEARS
Maryann Lehner

35 YEARS
Patricia Vacca

30 YEARS
Kathy Nelson
Cathy Quinn
Laurie Ann Ross

25 YEARS
Jim Farruggia
Shari Harding
Charlene Netzband
Patricia Reittinger
Joanne Saya
John Theobald

20 YEARS
Lisa Addison
Randy Bartlett
Dave Britten
Rick Browell
Steve Coughlin
Joe DiFabio
Andi Hyle
Gary Magliocca
Bill Mammone
Betty Milson
Eric Nicholas
Tracy Sharlette
Michele Stevens
Shelley Warham

15 YEARS
Scott Carman
Carla Fountain
Jay Fowler
Joel Gualandi
Diane Hoag
Dawn Lehnen
Buddy Owens
Maria Papa
Jean Pexton
Cherie Relyea-Spraker
Ann Sylstra
Sherri Williams

10 YEARS
Hollie Ackerman
Jerome Anderson
Lisa Binsley
Rebekah Davis
Susan Gaffney
Emmy Gagnon
Stephanie Gillette
Kristin Guinto
Kristen Haeger
Jeff Hames
David Khan
Lisa Lee
Marci Magnanti
Brandy Nittiskie
Debbie O’Connor
Jill Pekarski
Martha Resig
CTE Completion Ceremonies

Career and Technical Education leaders presented certificates to 373 seniors who completed one of our one-year and two-year programs. The honorees included the first-ever senior class in Manufacturing Technology. Students from Camden, Morrisville-Eaton and VVS delivered speeches to their classmates. Students from Rome and Morrisville-Eaton led the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of each ceremony.

LPN Graduations

Thirty students completed the Adult Practical Nursing program in the 2018-19 school year, qualifying to take their PN licensing exam. Instructors and students’ families recognized them at graduations in October for Utica participants and July for Verona participants.

Adult Literacy Graduation

Adult Literacy programs helped 142 adult learners from the region earn their high school equivalency (HSE) diplomas this year by passing the TASC exam or completing the National External Diploma Program (NEDP), which assesses a portfolio of work and life experiences. This year’s graduation speakers were Caly Vasquez, from NEDP, and Luis Alvarez, from the traditional HSE program.
**Alternative Education Recognition Ceremony**

Nineteen seniors from seven districts earned their Regents diplomas through the Alternative and Special Education high school programs, and all of them have gone on to college or the workforce. At their recognition ceremony, Nakyiah Shaw of Rome led the Pledge of Allegiance before program administrators offered congratulatory remarks.

This year’s ceremony included two new awards - the Max Schoeneck Memorial Award, named for a student who passed away this year, and the Dream Big Award.

**Community Based Graduation**

Ten students from the Community Based Occupational Education class received their high school diplomas in a formal cap-and-gown ceremony in the Rossetti Courtyard. The graduates were from Canastota, Morrisville-Eaton, Oneida, Rome and Vernon-Verona-Sherrill. Keagan Ammer, of VVS, gave the student address.

Six students - from Madison, Morrisville-Eaton, Oneida and Oriskany - were also recognized for moving up from middle school to the High School Career Preparation Program.

**Pre-Kindergarten Celebrations**

Pre-kindergarten students in Canastota, Morrisville-Eaton, Oneida and Stockbridge Valley celebrated their first year in school with end-of-year picnics. Students had lunch and treats with their parents, grandparents and siblings. Before the celebrations, students sang songs and demonstrated the skills they learned during the year.
CTE Senior Awards

American Red Cross Scholarship - Rachelle Johnston, Health Related Careers, Camden
BOCES Education Foundation Scholarships - Zachary Strong, Outdoor Power Equipment, Morrisville-Eaton; Anna Tarry, Early Childhood Education, WVS
Camden Chamber of Commerce Award - Erin Bourgeois, New Visions Professions, Camden
Christ Church United Methodist Appreciation Awards - Elijah LaGoy, Criminal Justice, Oneida; Christina Wrigley, Criminal Justice, Morrisville-Eaton
Conservation Club Awards - Tyler Walker, Conservation, Morrisville-Eaton; Hunter White, Conservation, Chittenango; Jacob Drummond, Conservation, Canastota; Isaac Messier, Conservation, Camden; Jacob Simiele, Conservation, Rome
Cosmetology Professional Development Awards - Danielle Ingraham, Cosmetology, Camden; Gabrielle Moriarty, Cosmetology, Rome
Dave Hagadorn Memorial Award - Ryan Chevier, Automotive Technology, Oneida
David Phelps Memorial Award - Jarod Pilgreen, IT Systems, Rome
Deanna Prior-Ingalls Memorial Award - Olivia Moody, Cosmetology, Canastota
Early Childhood Success Awards - Autumn Cherry, Early Childhood Education, Canastota; Rainbow Graham, Early Childhood Education, Oneida
Jon H. Poteat NTHS Scholarship - McKenzie Leahey, Allied Health Partnership, Canastota
Local Advisory Council Awards - Katelyn Lanz, Electrical/HVAC, WVS; Morgan Durr, Allied Health Partnership, Oneida
Mary Maitland Memorial Scholarship - Savannah Murray, Equine & Animal Science, Camden
MOBTA President’s Award of Excellence - Julia Fusillo, New Visions Professions, Camden
MVCID Construction Career Day Award - Zachary Coleman, Carpentry, Oneida
Nicholas Bastable Memorial Awards - Noah Dailey, Conservation, Camden; Dustin Smith, Conservation, Rome
Nola Vrooman Nursing Recognition Award - Beth Bunce, Health Related Careers, Camden
NYS Woodsman Employability Award - Kenneth Megerell, Jr., Conservation, Rome
NYS Woodsman Scholarship - Tyler Walker, Conservation, Morrisville-Eaton
Richard Engelbrecht Award - Zachary Coleman, Carpentry, Oneida
Richard Riedel Award for CTE - Christopher Wilson, Auto Collision Repair, Rome
Rome Teachers Federal Credit Union Awards - Kira VanHooven, Health Related Careers, Rome; Maryrose Scaccia, Criminal Justice, Rome; Andromeda Yahoudy-Macner, Allied Health Partnership, Camden; Emily Metott, Electrical/HVAC, Madison; Kara Hyde, New Visions Professions, Canastota
SkillsUSA Championship Scholarships - Zachary Strong, Outdoor Power Equipment, Morrisville-Eaton; Dominic Stith, Outdoor Power Equipment, Morrisville-Eaton; Devan Pelky, Outdoor Power Equipment, Morrisville-Eaton; Cole Szewczyk, Outdoor Power Equipment, Morrisville-Eaton
Spirit of Cosmetology Awards - Avery Pabis, Cosmetology, Rome; Emma Coy, Cosmetology, Oneida
Sue & Lyle Pelton Memorial Award - Kira VanHooven, Health Related Careers, Rome
Tappet Twirlers Automotive Scholarship - Tyler Monroe, Automotive Technology, Rome
Abigail Vanderhoof, Criminal Justice, Madison
Alana Murphy, Early Childhood Education, VVS
Alex Hyman, Automotive Technology, VVS
Alexis Dingman, Health Related Careers, Camden
Andrew Peters, Culinary Arts, Madison
Anna Tarry, Early Childhood Education, VVS
Chassitty Schoff, Culinary Arts, VVS
Christa Winchell, Cosmetology, Oneida
Francene Madonia, Health Related Careers, Canastota
Makenzie Capron, Cosmetology, Camden
Santos Cruz II, Criminal Justice, Rome
Trevor Wiley, Electrical/HVAC, Morrisville-Eaton
Zachary Coleman, Carpentry, Oneida

Rossetti Scholarship Awards

The Andrew D. Rossetti Scholarship Fund Committee awarded $2,500 scholarships to two high school seniors who plan to pursue careers in teaching. Abigail Walker, of Camden, plans to study Early Childhood Education, and Kacey Cashel, of Canastota, plans to study Adolescent Math Education.

The Rossetti Scholarships were created in 1988 to honor Andrew D. Rossetti, an Oneida resident and District Superintendent of the Madison-Oneida BOCES from 1973 to 1984. Rossetti, also a former Vernon-Verona-Sherrill superintendent, had a lifelong passion for teaching.
Learning happens year-round at MOBOCES for students, educators, administrators and support staff! Our summer programs include: summer school for special education students and for high school credit recovery; summer enrichment programs for elementary students; a variety of professional development opportunities, including a large regional conference with nationally-known presenters; summer reading programs funded by the School Library System; and high school equivalency, English as a Second Language, practical nursing, vocational and hobby classes for adult learners from the region.