It’s March, and that means schools are once again facing difficult budget decisions. I want to applaud the educators of our region—administrators, teachers, aides, coaches, therapists and everyone else—for working so tirelessly and passionately each day to do what’s best for the learners of our region. Through your work, you’ve advocated for students’ needs, developed innovative programs, led regional initiatives and enhanced student engagement.

At MOBOCES, we have been working on fostering new partnerships and collaborations in the region. It’s one of the things we do to ensure all students receive the support they need and opportunities they want to reach their highest potential. In this issue of The Banner, you’ll read about new programs we have launched with The Arc of Madison Cortland, Kids Oneida and Mohawk Valley Community College, among others. You’ll also see collaborative efforts happening across the region between teachers and librarians and among different programs on our campus. We’re excited to share these efforts, as well as the successes and achievements, of our students with all of you. Collaboration is one of the cornerstones of our organization. It is one of the things we have always done to help build community on our campus and in the region. It is work we will continue to do during the upcoming budget season and beyond.
Grants Support Virtual Communication Projects

Expanding Our Students' World grants have been awarded to:

- **Oneida** librarian Linda Zuber and teacher Bonnie DeGroat for a videoconference between 8th grade students at Otto Shortell Middle School and a Holocaust survivor.
- **VVS** elementary librarian Elizabeth Collins and teacher MaryKay McAndrew for a videoconference between 4th graders at J.D. George Elementary School and an animal expert.
- **VVS** librarian Tina Laramie and Earth science teacher Chris Carr for high school students to videoconference with a seismologist and research plate tectonics.
- **Stockbridge Valley** librarian Amanda Ingalls and teachers Lindsey Taylor and Nicole Byron for 1st graders to take a virtual field trip into space guided by a non-fiction author of space books.
- **Rome** librarian Nicole Iverson and teacher Tracy Guiliano for 6th graders at Joy Elementary to meet virtually with a 6th grade class in Indiana and discuss a book they are both reading. Rome students have already videoconferenced with the author of that book.
- **Morrisville-Eaton** librarian Jessica Jacobs-Broedel and teacher Kristan DeGeorgio for 7th graders to talk virtually with an author whose book they are reading.

In her application, Jacobs-Broedel said this project will provide students with an authentic learning experience, broaden their experiences beyond their home town and enhance their presentation, public speaking, questioning and listening skills.

“A focused, educational videoconference with experts and peers provides students with an invaluable opportunity to develop communication skills in a hands-on, real-world context,” LeBlanc added.

LeBlanc introduced the grant at a kickoff workshop in September and used it to reinforce the new expanded role of the school librarian.

“The school librarian's role as an expert is about more than books and databases,” she said. “Their knowledge and expertise includes a wide variety of educational experiences available through videoconferencing.”

She said several librarians in the region have developed videoconference-based educational experiences for their students even without a grant. **Rome** librarian Cathy Woodruff connected 2nd graders in her school with their counterparts at a school in Brooklyn to discuss similarities and differences between their communities.

**Hamilton** librarian Amy Jerome hosted two videoconferences so her 4th graders could talk with their peers in Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

For both librarians, this was their first attempt at an educational videoconference. Jerome said she borrowed atlases from the SLS catalogs and taught students to read maps in preparation for their Google Hangout sessions. She said LeBlanc's September workshop helped plant the seeds for her work.

“The presentation made it look more doable that it had felt previously,” she said. “The students really enjoyed it.”

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**SLS Breakfast Features Remote Keynote Speaker**

The Expanding Our Students' World and virtual communication initiatives have been so well-received this year that LeBlanc plans to incorporate that theme into this year’s SLS Administrators Breakfast on May 22.

The event’s keynote address - given by Louisiana school superintendent Warren Drake, who was named national Library Administrator of the Year in 2017 - will be given via videoconference, and area school librarians will share their own videoconferencing experiences with breakfast participants. Participants will also hear from educational technology teacher Jonathan Redeker about building empathy with students through global connections.

To register for the event, visit www.moboces.org, Professional Development.

You can also submit nominations for Teacher, Administrator and School Librarian of the Year at moboces.libguides.com/awards. Awards will be presented at the breakfast.
Twenty-one MOBOCES Career and Technical Education students will be advancing to the New York State SkillsUSA Competition in April after successfully finishing in the top 3 of their contests at the Area II Regional SkillsUSA Competition on February 8.

SkillsUSA is an education-industry partnership that engages students in technical skills competitions and fosters leadership development. More than 60 different contests challenge students to put their career-focused skills training into practice. More than 900 students from technical high schools and BOCES in the region typically compete.

MOBOCES regional winners this year represent seven CTE programs, seven component districts and 14 SkillsUSA competitions. There were eight first place finishers, four second place finishers and five third place finishers.

Top finishers at regionals have the opportunity to compete at the state level. This year’s state meet will be held in April at the NYS Fairgrounds. From there, winners who qualify can compete at nationals in June.

MOBOCES state qualifiers are listed below along with their competitions, districts and CTE programs.

### 1st Place Finishers
- Culinary Arts - Andrew Peters, Madison, Culinary Arts
- Diesel Equipment Technology - Zachary Strong, Morrisville-Eaton, Recreation and Outdoor Power Equipment
- Electrical Construction Wiring - Emily Metott, Madison, Electrical/HVAC
- Extemporaneous Speaking - Imani Turner, Rome, Criminal Justice
- Motorcycle Service Technology - Devan Pelky, Morrisville-Eaton, Recreation and Outdoor Power Equipment
- Power Equipment Technology - Cole Szweczyk, Morrisville-Eaton, Recreation and Outdoor Power Equipment
- Prepared Speech - Katelyn Lanz, VVS, Electrical/HVAC
- Small Engine Service Basic - Dominic Stith, Hamilton, Recreation and Outdoor Power Equipment

### 2nd Place Finishers
- Auto Vehicle Maintenance - Alex Hyman, VVS, Auto Tech
- Collision Repair Technology - Darin Champney, VVS, Auto Body Repair
- Food Prep Assistant - Alexis Matteson, Madison, Culinary Arts
- Job Demo A (team) - Sabrina Fonvergne, Camden, and Molly Lewis, Rome, both in Cosmetology

### 3rd Place Finishers
- Electrical Construction Wiring - Christopher Eiholzer, Hamilton, Electrical/HVAC
- Health Knowledge Bowl (team) - Beth Bunce, Antonia DePerno, Elizabeth VanDresar, all from Camden, and Ashley Drummond, Canastota, all in Health Related Careers
- Medical Terminology - Lauren Sepeda, Rome, Health Related Careers
- Power Equipment Technology - Nethanial Sorrell, Rome, Recreation and Outdoor Power Equipment
- Prepared Speech - Jewel Dupont, VVS, Cosmetology
Pre-K Learns About Kindness

MOBOCES pre-k students at 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 this lesson into “Have You Filled A Bucket Today?” which they read earlier this year.

Following those discussions, students brainstormed ways they could show kindness and made 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.

Presentation Addresses Bullying Awareness

CTE students participated in an anti-bullying workshop as part of a division-wide effort to enhance school climate and raise awareness about bullying-related issues. They discussed what different types of bullying - such as physical, emotional, social and cyber bullying - look like and key issues surrounding the topic. Coordinator of Student Services Susan Keller and Guidance Counselor Anna LaBella shared tips on what to do during a bullying encounter and encouraged all students to be “upstanders” when they see a situation that appears to be bullying.

CKH Training Continues With Process Champions

Educators from four districts attended the Capturing Kids’ Hearts Process Champions workshops in February. Process Champions is phase 2 of the Capturing Kids Hearts (CKH) training model that MOBOCES has been sponsoring regularly over the past year. CKH offers ideas and strategies for teachers and administrators to help transform their school’s culture and climate.

The Process Champions workshop is a follow-up to the initial training, and it is specifically for teachers and administrators who have already implemented a significant portion of the CKH strategies in their schools and classrooms. This second level training helps provide ideas and techniques they can use to encourage and support other colleagues in adopting CKH strategies.

Participants were from Camden, Morrisville-Eaton, Stockbridge Valley and VVS.

CBOE Creates Coffee Cart Project

Community-Based Occupational Education students are learning life-long skills thanks to the Coffee Cart program. Teacher Jean Thompson developed the program around the holidays as a way to give the students an entrepreneurial experience and a greater social presence in the building.

Every Tuesday through Thursday, students deliver baked good and refreshments up and down the hallways of Rossetti. Staff members place their orders via email, and Thompson creates a picture menu for students to use as a guide when filling orders. Students prepare the baked goods the day before in their classroom kitchen, equipped with new ADA compliant appliances.

The delivery job itself is a popular one - students jump at the chance to push the cart. “The kids love it. It’s been great for morale and getting their faces out there in the CTE community,” Thompson said. “The staff has been really supportive and welcoming of our students.”

Proceeds from the Coffee Cart initiative help replenish supplies and support the student activity account.
The Alternative and Special Education division has begun new collaborations with two community agencies to enhance student success during and after graduation.

In January, the division kicked off the Roadway to Employment program, a transition initiative for special needs students, with The Arc of Madison Cortland. Through the program, two transition specialists from The Arc will work with eligible students with developmental disabilities who are aging out of school to help them develop and prepare for post-secondary goals. These goals could include securing employment, preparing for college or enrolling in vocational services.

MOBOCES is the first partner in this program, which The Arc developed with grant support.

“The goal of the program is to create a coordinated transfer for students to work experiences and community employment opportunities,” said Jack Campbell, Executive Director of The Arc of Madison Cortland.

The transition specialists’ support could include connecting students with community agencies, reviewing their employability profile, working with teachers and parents, contacting colleges about program requirements, and helping to identify students’ skills, strengths, interests and goals.

“We’re excited they are working with us and that we can offer this type of support to our students,” said Jim Weaver, Director of Alternative and Special Education at MOBOCES.

The launch of Roadway came about a month after another partnership that offers students in-school supports through a community agency.

In December, Kids Oneida began sending a care coordinator to campus two days a week. The coordinators, part of the CNY Health Home initiative, help students and families access medical, mental health and support services in the community. The initiative is part of the division’s overall efforts to address student wellness and increase participation in school.

The new collaboration builds on an existing partnership with Kids Oneida through the Elementary STARRS program. That program has KO staff, including behavior specialists and a psychiatric nurse, embedded into classrooms and on-site daily. The new care coordinators will be open to students from any on-campus program.

Weaver said both initiatives bring a greater level of service coordination and case management right into the school. This makes it easier for students and families to determine their needs, connect with resources and access services because it helps eliminate a number of barriers.

“If a family has to look up an agency number, take time off work, schedule a visit, drive there – there are a lot of things that could prevent that from happening,” Weaver said. “Here, a care coordinator will help a student and family really understand their needs and options and then coordinate service providers coming to the school.”

He said bringing in support services and case managers fits into the overall MOBOCES mission of meeting individual student needs and helping all students become successful.

“There’s a greater recognition that schools are a natural connecting point for many things,” Weaver said. “The kids are already here and we’re already working with them and their families, so this is another piece of that.”

Workshop Addresses Effect of Trauma on Learning

Dr. Joanne Joseph, a faculty member at SUNY Polytechnic Institute, led a recent workshop for area educators and mental health professionals on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). She focused on ways that stressful and traumatic events can lead to social, emotional and cognitive barriers in both teaching and learning, and she offered tie-ins to the new mental health education components of the state’s ESSA plan.

Dr. Joseph showed participants the movie “Paper Tigers,” which chronicles the journey of six Alternative Education students and the impact of disciplinary approaches that follow the ACES model. She also discussed trauma-informed teaching and learning environments.

About 40 participants attended, including teachers, administrators, social workers, therapists, case managers and more. They represented Camden, Canastota, MOBOCES, VVS, Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES and BCCE as well as a number of community social services agencies and Madison County departments.
Here are some of our major events coming up this spring. Visit our website for more!

March 13 - CTE Open House & Student Showcase (snow date: March 20)
March 27 - National Technical Honor Society Induction Ceremony
April 10 - Annual Meeting
April 24-26 - SkillsUSA State Championships
May 22 - SLS Administrators Breakfast and Awards Ceremony
May 8 - Allied Health Partnership Final Presentations
May 14 - Oneida Rotary Awards
May 21-23 - New Visions Professions Final Presentations
June 5 - CTE Senior Awards Ceremony
June 10 - Alternative Education Completion Ceremony
June 17-19 - CTE Completion Ceremonies
June 20 - Community-Based Occupational Education (CBOE) Graduation
July 17-18 - CNY Summer Education Conference

Utica National Insurance Group has recognized MOBOCES and its Risk Management Service with a 2019 School Safety Excellence Award, Titanium with Honors level. This is the highest level of recognition in Utica National’s annual safety awards program. This is the 10th consecutive year that MOBOCES has received a School Safety Excellence Award at this level. Risk Management Specialist Jack Angrisano will accept the award for MOBOCES during the 39th annual School Safety Seminar in East Syracuse on March 19.

The school safety program helps participating schools and BOCES enhance their overall safety through measurable assessments in 14 categories ranging from bullying prevention to playground safety.

The MOBOCES Early Childhood division is launching a new partnership with the Chittenango school district to offer pre-kindergarten. It will be the first time the Chittenango district has been able to offer pre-K to its families.

Early Childhood Director Colleen Wuest said she has been working with Chittenango Superintendent Michael Eiffe for more than a year to design and develop a program for 3- and 4-year-olds.

“We’re excited to begin this new collaboration and help Chittenango launch this new educational opportunity,” Wuest said.

The half-day class will meet in the morning and have 18 seats. It will be located at Bridgeport Elementary School and serve eligible students from anywhere within the Chittenango district.

The BOCES Consortium of Continuing Education (BCCE) is offering three new training programs for adult learners in the region.

Earlier this winter, BCCE launched two vocational programs in the hospitality field, specifically geared towards adult English Language Learners. The intensive programs - Guest Room Attendant and Breakfast Attendant - were developed by the American Hotel and Lodging Education Institute and will lead to a nationally-recognized employment credential. The trainings and credentials will help prepare students for entry-level jobs in the many hotels opening up in the Utica area.

Funding for these programs comes from a federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) grant. The programs include integrated English as a Second Language and vocational instruction.

BCCE has also partnered with Mohawk Valley Community College to offer a new combined Heavy Equipment Operation and Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) training. The program will be held at MOBOCES and is expected to begin in April.

The Madison County Career Center connected BCCE and MVCC to jointly offer this program after hearing from several local employers who were looking for candidates with these two credentials. Both of these job titles have been identified as “priority occupations” in this region by local workforce development agencies. Program funding is through a Department of Labor grant.

MOBOCES Earns 10th Safety Excellence Award

New District Adds Pre-K

BCCE Offers New Training Programs To Area Adults
CTE 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.

“The intent of this event is to allow our senior CTE students to explore careers they may be interested in after graduation,” Helmer said. “We want to show students that there are job opportunities to be found in our region and help employers connect with the future workforce.”

The senior class was divided into three groups, with each group having about half an hour to visit tables in their chosen fields. Several of the industry representatives are themselves MOBOCES alumni.

CTE leaders hope to make the event an annual one.

Area Students Explore CTE Options

Middle school and high school students from the region have been exploring CTE programs and career pathways this winter.

CTE Outreach Coordinator Rachel Helmer visited component high schools in January and February to inform 10th and 11th graders about the 1-year and 2-year program options available to students. She shares with sophomores a brief overview of the 17 two-year programs available, including integrated credits, college articulation agreements, internships and collaborative opportunities. She also talks with juniors about the four one-year New Visions programs. Some of the CTE instructors have joined Helmer on these visits to speak about the curriculum.

The CTE team has also hosted eighth and ninth graders at the Rossetti Education Center, providing those students with an opportunity to visit classrooms, speak with teachers and students and ask questions.

The CTE visitation and exploration process, revamped to the current model several years ago, provides most students in the region with two to three opportunities to explore program options before deciding whether to enroll as juniors.
HRC Hosts Heart Event

Health Related Careers students organized a Healthy Heart Day in February, creating stations and displays to help their classmates and teachers learn more about heart health and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

These interactive stations included CPR demonstrations, breathing simulators to show the impact of smoking on the body, guessing the amount of sugar in various drinks and a 3-D viewer of a human heart. HRC students also created visual displays and developed an informational presentation that teachers could use with their students after the event.

ECE, CBOE Collaborate For Utica Zoo Visit

The Utica Zoo visited MOBOCES on March 1 to discuss winter animals with the Early Childhood Education (ECE) and the Community-Based Occupational Education (CBOE) programs. The zoo staff discussed winter and native animals and brought along a corn snake, a box turtle and an opossum to show. Students and staff learned about their unique traits and habitats and had an opportunity to touch the animals if they wanted.

The guest presentation was part of a long-standing collaboration between ECE and CBOE. The partnership helps provide ECE students with a hands-on learning experience for their special needs curriculum, and it offers CBOE students an opportunity to interact with their typical peers. The two classes have met for the past two years for the zoo visit and have also collaborated at other times during the year, including the Special Olympics, student internship placements and community shopping experiences.