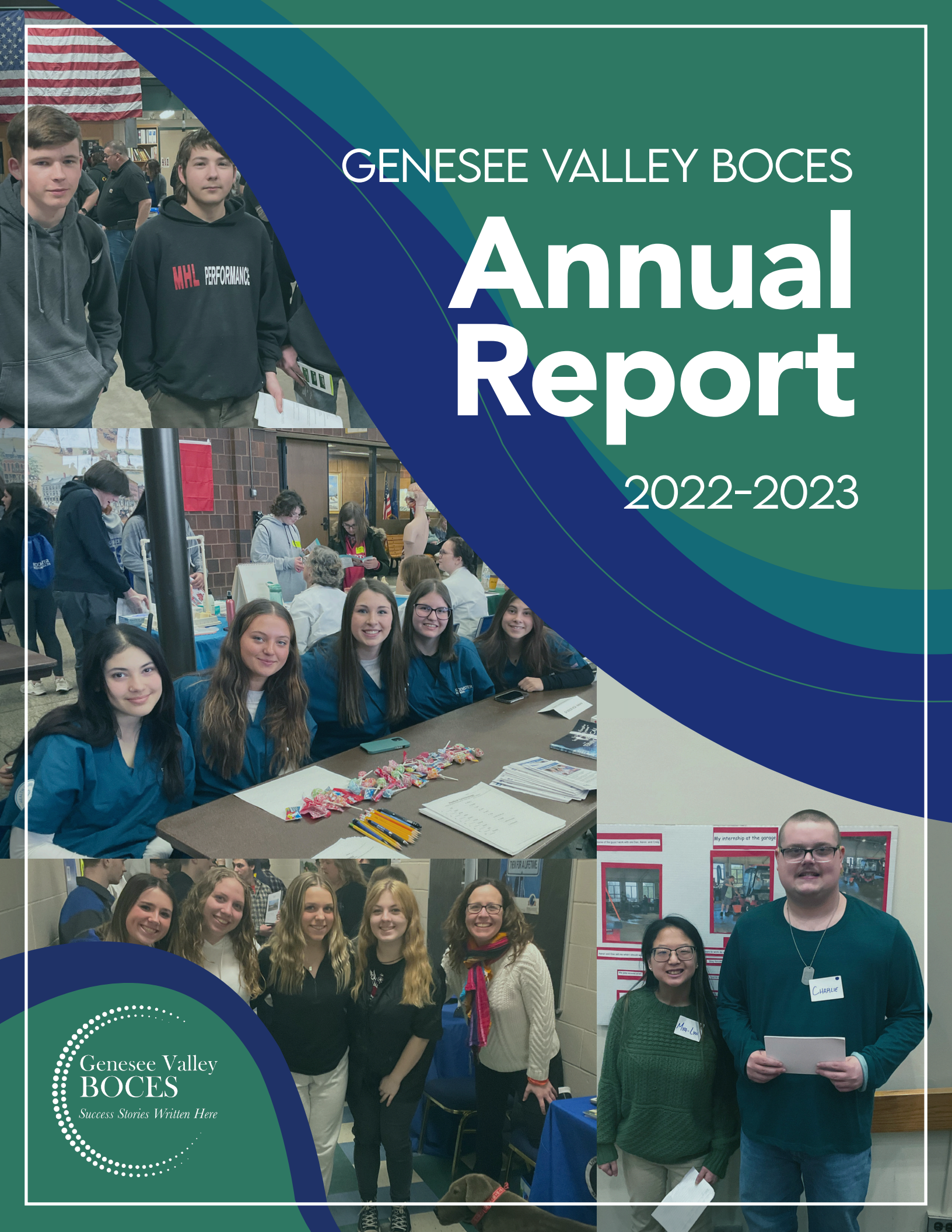


GENESEE VALLEY BOCES

Annual Report

2022-2023



Genesee Valley
BOCES
Success Stories Written Here

Kevin M. MacDonald

District Superintendent



As we embark on another year, it's a time to celebrate the resilience, dedication, and achievements that define Genesee Valley BOCES. Our journey is paved with stories of success, growth, and commitment to excellence in education. Amidst the evolving landscape of education, our educators and staff have continued to demonstrate an extraordinary dedication to ensuring that every student achieves to the best of their ability.

At the heart of our mission is understanding that each student and staff member brings unique strengths and perspectives that enrich our community. It is with this understanding that we embrace the wisdom of the adage, "Students will not care to learn, until they know you care." This sentiment captures the essence of our approach to education at Genesee Valley BOCES. Our educators and staff go beyond the call of duty to show that they genuinely care about the well-being and success of each student, fostering a nurturing environment where everyone feels valued and empowered to contribute.

As we look forward, we remain dedicated to innovating and enhancing our programs to meet the diverse needs of our students, staff, and the wider community. Our commitment to creating a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment remains steadfast. By continuing to nurture the unique talents and abilities of our students, we empower them with the confidence and self-esteem necessary for success in their future endeavors.

None of our achievements would be possible without the unwavering support and collaboration of our 22 component districts. As we move through this year, let us hold onto the belief that through care, understanding, and mutual respect, there is no limit to what we can accomplish together.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to making Genesee Valley BOCES a place where everyone can contribute and thrive.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. MacDonald
District Superintendent

Kevin M. MacDonald
District Superintendent
80 Munson Street
LeRoy, New York 14482

Julie Donlon-Yates, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent
80 Munson Street
LeRoy, New York 14482

**Genesee-Livingston-Steuben-
Wyoming Board of Cooperative
Educational Services**
80 Munson Street
LeRoy, New York 14482
(585) 344-7900 or 658-7900

www.gvboces.org

Alexander
Attica
Avon
Batavia
Byron-Bergen
Caledonia-Mumford
Dansville
Elba
Geneseo
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LeRoy

Letchworth
Livonia
Mount Morris
Oakfield-Alabama
Pavilion
Pembroke
Perry
Warsaw
Wayland-Cohocton
Wyoming
York

Genesee Valley BOCES

2022-2023

Central Administration

The Genesee Valley BOCES functions as a Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) serving more than 24,000 students in 22 school districts located in Genesee, Livingston, Steuben, and Wyoming counties in upstate New York. Genesee Valley (GV) BOCES offers a wide range of programs and services including career and technical education, special education programs and services, alternative education, instructional and technical support services, and management services. Each year, new programs and services continue to be developed in response to the emerging needs of area school districts. GV BOCES operates two campuses, one in Batavia, New York, and another in Mount Morris, New York, that offer career and technical education, special education, alternative education, and adult education programs. A specialized program for high school-age students called Early College High School is housed at Byron-Bergen Centrals Schools and a special education and Intensive Therapeutic Program for elementary-age students is located at Mount Morris Central Schools. The Genesee Community College Campus, located in Dansville, New York, is where special education programs, as well as, some career and technical education programs are offered to middle and high school-age students.

District Superintendent Kevin MacDonald

Deputy Superintendent Julie Donlon-Yates, Ed.D.

Chief Financial Officer Daniel N. Groth

Chief Legal Counsel Stephen Mahoney, Esq.

Director of Instructional Programs Jon Sanfratello

Director of Professional Learning Services Patrick B. Whipple, Ph.D.

Executive Principal, Batavia Campus Rachel Slobert

Executive Principal, Mount Morris Campus Matthew Flowers

Mission Statement

Our mission is to lead collaboratively in creating quality solutions to emerging educational challenges.

Core Values

We Believe

- All people have something to contribute
- Learning enriches life
- Accepting responsibility for choices and actions is essential for growth
- Quality relationships require honesty, trust, fairness, openness and mutual respect
- Embracing diversity enriches the individual and strengthens society

Strategic Goals

- Design systems to nurture innovation and expand services
- Utilize data to support student performance and organizational effectiveness
- Enhance services to ensure alignment with component district and community partner needs
- Maximize academic learning time to make every minute count

Non-Discrimination Notice

In accordance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the amendments to that act, it is the policy of the Genesee Valley BOCES to not discriminate in the treatment of students, employees or others in any program or activity on any illegal basis. Illegal bases include sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, race, color, national origin, and disability.

2022-2023 Board of Education

Norbert Fuest, President

Edward Engel, Vice President

Christy Crandall-Bean

Matthew Crane

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David DeLaVergne

Ernest Haywood

William Kane

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Professional Learning Services

The Professional Learning Services Department is comprised of several different departments within the Genesee Valley BOCES Organization: Enrichment, School Improvement, School Library Systems, and the Student Support Services Center. Each of these services, and their adjoining services, focus on improving teaching and learning across the PK-12 continuum.

The Enrichment Department facilitates programs to support and improve the learning experience of students across our region. Much of the work is provided directly to the students in schools and supports a wide range of academic areas. A key function of Enrichment work is providing additional avenues for enhancing student literacy through programs like Page Turners, Writers in Residence, and the annual Interscholastic Competition in English. Additionally, Enrichment provides STEM education through programs such as Ready For, Interscholastic Math, and Genesee Valley Robotics programs.

learning opportunities (PLOs), facilitation of cohort models, contemporary featured speakers/national presenters, teacher consultation, and administrative technical assistance to support regional districts in alignment with their professional development plans and district goals. SIT also supports districts with their shared district professional learning events, and provides districts with a monthly newsletter.

For years, the cohort model has been one of GVB's most successful delivery methods for regional professional learning- at least, from an anecdotal perspective. Over the past two years, quintessential cohorts have been layered with Breakspear's and Jones' (2021) Teacher Sprints Framework to operationalize professional learning and enact high-leverage teaching practices in the classroom. This shift in how SIT approaches cohort meetings has been a team success!



The School Library System (SLS) of the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership, established by Commissioner's Regulations in 1985, is a state funded program dedicated to improving the libraries of the region's 22 districts and non-public schools. Through cutting edge web development, professional support, and the facilitation of resource sharing tools, the SLS provides mission critical support for libraries and classrooms. Our programs have been recognized nationally as exemplars of the next generation of library services.

The School Improvement Team (SIT) is one of several professional learning service (PLS) departments at Genesee Valley BOCES (GVB). The SIT aims to provide professional learning and instructional training that aligns with New York State (NYS) Standards while supporting local districts with continuous school improvement initiatives.

The SIT offers services such as embedded district work with professional learning communities, on-site/web-based professional

Thanks to the redesigned cohort model, district leaders can expect classroom teachers to learn research-based strategies, methods for data collection and progress monitoring, and reflection practices to make informed instructional decisions and support the implementation of new teaching practices. This transformation addresses one of the most significant challenges in professional learning: ensuring that it results in instructional shifts and targeted learning practices that lead to positive student outcomes.

Additionally, the SIT represents the GVB region at the Staff/ Curriculum Development Network (S/CDN) of New York State across various subjects, including English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL). The S/CDN Frameworks provide updates and professional learning from the New York State Education Department (NYSED), enabling SIT members to support the GVB region by disseminating information, acting as liaisons between NYSED and the region, and representing our region in various state-level stakeholder groups.

Moreover, the SIT aligns its professional learning initiatives with the mission and vision of NYSED/ GVB, ensuring that our PLOs are research-informed and based on best practices. Over the past year, the SIT has dedicated significant time to exploring how cognitive science/explicit instruction intersects with educational research. Consequently, the SIT has been deliberate in communicating this research throughout the GVB region. This includes integrating cognitive science principles into the regional cohort model and curriculum council meetings, and inviting leading experts in cognitive science to our region. It is through this long-term intentionality that evidence-informed practices are becoming established in the GVB area.

Genesee Valley BOCES' Student Support Services Center (SSSC) continues to serve as a Regional, Statewide, and National resource for future educators and educational leaders/administrators. The SSSC provides critical NYSED Certification Courses– i.e. Safe Schools Against Violence in Education, Dignity for All Students Act and Child Abuse Identification and Reporting– on an ongoing basis. To that end, the Student Support Services Center has built and maintained effective collegial partnerships with SUNY Brockport, the Rochester Institute for Technology, St. John Fisher University, and the University of Rochester to deliver ongoing, semester by semester certification courses aligned with NYSED's requirements for initial and professional licensure.

Similarly, the SSSC's partnership with the leadership of component districts results in the SSSC customizing the timelines and parameters for the delivery of NYSED Certification Course that meet the needs of districts. The NYSED Certification Courses developed and offered by the SSSC support educators and educational leaders/



administrators with enhancing the conditions for learning by reinforcing safe, inclusive, supportive and healthy learning environments that promote the success of all students.

The Professional Learning Services Department continues to lead important programs to best meet the needs of local districts. Please feel free to contact any PLS representative for assistance in achieving local district and school goals.

Business Education Organizations

Business education organizations in Genesee, and Wyoming counties work to bring school districts and businesses together and to enhance the career readiness of students. Opportunities include Junior Achievement, business tours, career exploration days, job shadows, career fairs and summer camps.

Special Education Programs

The Genesee Valley BOCES offers a broad scope of comprehensive special educational services for students who are ages five to 21 and reside in the 22 component school districts served by the Genesee Valley BOCES. Students are grouped based on age range, academic ability, management needs and physical development. Elementary classrooms are located in the Mount Morris Central School District. All other Special Education programs are located in classrooms at Genesee Valley BOCES Batavia, Mount Morris, and Dansville campuses. In all programs, Special Education teachers provide instruction utilizing explicit and differentiated instructional strategies to help all students achieve. Instructional content is aligned with New York Common Core Standards. Students follow course schedules based on their grade level and credit needs; project-based learning and applied academics are cornerstones of instruction to engage students in learning. In addition to the core content curriculum, students ages 15 - 21 have opportunities to participate in transition programming including Career and Technical Education classes or Special Education work experience programs, depending on the program attended.



Expected outcomes for all students include graduation from high school with a Regents or Local Diploma and/or Exit Credential.

Transitions (Level I), Awareness and Exploration

This half-day program supports students who are beginning foundational skills for employment. The goal is to develop entry-level employment skills and competencies based on New York State Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) standards. Students participate in the Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) as part of the Transition I curriculum. The PAES lab includes an evaluation of employability skills, interests, and job training in a simulated work environment. In addition, students participate in a work readiness curriculum to introduce basic job skills and behaviors for employment success. Work-based skills are introduced and practiced in school-based training experiences, classroom projects, and career awareness for a variety of jobs that students may pursue as a career choice. Career-specific skills are explored in various clusters as students develop an awareness of their skills, interests, and abilities.

Example of Skills Taught

- Career exploration and job readiness
- Managing personal finances
- Caring for personal needs
- Social skills and maintaining healthy relationships
- Interpersonal skills
- Following directions and maintaining attention to tasks

The Transitions Level I program runs at the Batavia Campus and the Dansville Campus.

Transitions (Level II), Awareness and Exploration

This half-day program is designed for students who have completed at least one year in Transitions I, or an equivalent program. Transitions II continues the foundation of career awareness and more career specific exploration is introduced through a work readiness curriculum and training provided in a variety of settings. Exploration of a variety of career options include; maintenance, customer service, groundskeeping, and hospitality.

Worker safety and job specific skills are emphasized; interdisciplinary academics reinforce skills necessary in the workplace, including reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics. Skills are modeled and practiced as part of the daily routine to help students develop and apply skills for success in the workplace.

Example of Skills Taught

- How to seek and maintain employment
- Appropriate work habits
- Awareness of quality of work
- Managing personal finances
- Caring for personal needs
- Social skills and maintaining healthy relationships
- Interpersonal skills
- Following directions and maintaining attention to tasks

The Transitions Level II program runs at the Batavia campus and the Dansville Campus.

Transitions III; Food Service Industry

This half day food preparation program is designed for students who have participated in Transition I and Transition II, or equivalent programming. In this program students apply the entry level knowledge and skills obtained in previous courses to work in the food industry. In the program, students run a school-based food enterprise and are involved in all aspects of this business including planning, shopping, and preparation of a meal. All skills are developed sequentially, with demonstration, practice, and reinforcement, so that skills become embedded behaviors. Instruction includes applied technology, reading, writing, listening, speaking and mathematics, as well as time management, problem-solving, teamwork, and other work success skills.

Upon completion of this program, students are ready for work-based experiences in the community.

Example of Skills Taught

- Food preparation and restaurant operation skills
- Safety & sanitation
- Equipment operations
- Work habits and customer service.
- Interpersonal skills
- Following directions and maintaining attention to tasks

The Transitions Level III program runs at the Dansville Campus.

LIVES

LIVES - Learn Independence, Vocational, and Educational Skills

The LIVES Program is a unique college experience for students. The LIVES Program is a transition program located on the campus of the State University of New York – College at Geneseo in collaboration with the Genesee Valley BOCES. Students, ages 18-22, with intellectual and/or other developmental disabilities, are provided with an inclusive educational community. The goal is to create independent lifelong learners who are connected to their community in a variety of ways.

What opportunities will be offered?

- Career choices
- Internships
- Employment Training and Readiness
- Friends, Clubs, Sports
- Independence
- Community Service
- Leadership
- Some admission requirements are:
 - be willing to make a two to four-year commitment
 - have a desire for greater independence
 - maintain a satisfactory attendance record
 - demonstrate successful participation in an academic setting, functional-skills curriculum, and in a vocational situation

- demonstrate developmentally appropriate social skills and the ability to act in a socially appropriate manner

A certified Special Education teacher facilitates instruction and individualized opportunities at the LIVES Program to ensure every student receives the highest quality education through this rigorous, challenging and engaging learning environment. All students benefit from close working relationships with faculty and staff to encourage intellectual engagement and personal growth. Individualized accommodations, supports, structure and specially-designed instruction provide a foundation for each student

Intensive Therapeutic Programs

The Intensive Therapeutic Program is a full day program in a 6:1:1 setting for students whose management needs are determined by CSE to be highly intensive and require a high degree of individualized attention and intervention. The program is designed to support the educational, social/emotional and behavioral needs of students grades K -12 who are experiencing school related and/or family challenges that disrupt their education. Students who attend the GVB ITP program need comprehensive and intensive support for emotional and behavioral needs which include mental health support, crisis intervention, psychological consultation, and/or psychiatric consultation. Academic instruction is delivered through specially designed instruction and is aligned with New York State Learning Standards for successful completion of New York State assessments and a New York State Diploma.

Alternative Education

Genesee Valley BOCES offers alternative middle and high school education programs. Each school provides a small, nurturing environment, which gives each student the maximum amount of attention necessary to improve academic and social skills. Programs have been specifically designed to provide an educational option for students from our component school districts whose needs are not met by our traditional secondary schools. Teachers assist students in attaining a high school diploma by maintaining the same academic requirements as home schools. Special education counseling services are available, if applicable, in the Alternative Education programs.



Continued on page 8

WEST - Work Experience Skills Training

This half-day program is designed for students who have participated in 2 - 3 years of Transition programming and are ready for work-based learning opportunities in the community. Work-based training is facilitated in the school setting, community, and worksite locations, creating a continuum of experience that progresses from a familiar environment to a community-based setting and then a worksite to demonstrate and apply skills. This supervised work experience training program is designed to progressively help students learn and develop employability skills necessary for independent employment. Work-based experiences vary based on individual skill level and readiness, which is continuously monitored and evaluated. The WEST curriculum follows the New York State Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) standards to help students achieve the ability to function with limited to no supervision.

Types of Work-based Experiences:

- Community-based group experience; a group of students participating at the same worksite doing the same or different tasks with staff supervision and monitoring.
- Internship with supervision & support; students participate at a worksite with direct supervision from a staff member.
- Internship without supervision; the student is at the worksite independently, and the worksite mentor supervises.
- Paid work experience
- Work experience can vary from 1 to 4 days per week with 4-5 different internship rotations/locations. The classroom component of this program is designed to promote career exploration and the development of workplace skills and competencies for entry-level employment.

The WEST program runs at the Batavia campus and the Dansville Campus.

Adult Education

The Genesee Valley BOCES offers a comprehensive range of programs including vocational training as well as classes for those seeking to broaden their skill set.

GED Preparation programs are offered for individuals looking to obtain their high school equivalency diploma. They are offered free of charge for those who qualify and are always convenient and confidential. The programs are available at different site locations and there is flexibility with regard to days and times. Books are provided and individual attention is always provided. It should also be noted that the Genesee Valley BOCES is a NYS approved testing center and offers the exam multiple times throughout the year at no charge to the test taker.

Genesee Valley BOCES School of Practical Nursing is a 1,200 hour program, is certified by the New York State Education Department, and is designed to prepare graduates for the NCLEX-PN Examination for licensure as Licensed Practical Nurse.

The Certified Nursing Assistant Program is no less than a 120 clock hour program, approved by the New York State Education Department, and prepares graduates for immediate employment following successful mastery of the post-program certification testing.

Genesee Valley BOCES also offers a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Program that includes A, B, and Bus Driver training. These in-depth one-on-one training courses give students the experiences necessary to be prepared for work in the trucking industry.

Genesee Valley BOCES also offers short term vocational continuing education programs in areas such as Welding, Fork-Lift, Defensive Driving, Five Hour Pre-Licensing, Precision Machining, and employer specific training.



The Best of Enrichment

The Genesee Valley BOCES Enrichment Department coordinates programs with component school districts to offer general Enrichment as well as Gifted and Talented programs, Arts-In-Education presentations, several competitions, and a Summer Institute program.

By providing workshops, performances, competitions, and residencies, students have opportunities to engage in hands-on activities, connect with other students with similar interests, awaken their curiosity to explore new possibilities in the world around and beyond them.

Ongoing research proves how arts-in-education programs provide learning experiences that are active and experiential, reflective, social, evolving, and focused on problem-solving.

Below is a list of the Genesee Valley BOCES Enrichment Department Arts-In-Education winners for the 2023 school year.

Literary Contest:

2023 First Place Winners:

Grades 5-6 Poetry: Livonia CSD

Grades 5-6 Short Story: Livonia CSD

Grades 7-8 Poetry: Avon CSD

Grades 9-10 Poetry: Livonia CSD

Grades 9-10 Short Story: Caledonia CSD

Grades 11-12 Poetry: Avon CSD

Grades 11-12 Short Story: Livonia CSD
Caledonia-Mumford

Competition Winners:

Academic Challenge Bowl: Livonia CSD

Brainstormers: Geneseo CSD

Scholastic Bowl: Elba CSD

Chess:

Elementary School Division: Caledonia-Mumford CSD

Middle School Division: Dansville CSD

Interscholastic Competition in English:

Winning School: Geneseo CSD

Interscholastic Mathematics Competition:

High School North Division:

Byron-Bergen CSD

High School South Division:

Geneseo CSD

Middle School North Division: Attica CSD

Middle School South Division: Geneseo CSD

Odyssey of the Mind:

Teams from Geneseo, Livonia, Perry, Mount Morris, and York qualified for the New York State Tournament. Six teams from Geneseo, Perry and York continued on to the World Finals.

Page Turners:

Regional Final Winners:

Chapter 1: St. Agnes

Chapter 2: Alexander CSD

2023 Genesee Valley Robotics Winners:

Overall Champion: Oakfield-Alabama CSD Hi-Tech Hornets

Finalist: Wayland-Cohocton CSD Golden Eagles 2

Utica National Insurance Group Safety Award of Excellence

GV BOCES is one of 156 school districts and BOCES in New York state to receive the 2022 School Safety Award from the Utica National Insurance Group. This year GV BOCES received a titanium award with honors; the highest level presented. This is the 21st year that GV BOCES has received this prestigious award.





CTE NTHS Inductees

CTE Students Inducted Into NTHS Chapters

Recently, the National Technical Honor Society Chapter of the Batavia and Mount Morris Career and Technical Education (CTE) Centers welcomed 99 new members. These students have demonstrated exceptional skills and academic excellence, and have been recognized by the NTHS for their achievements. The NTHS is a national organization that honors top CTE students and promotes excellence in the competitive, skilled workforce of today. To become an NTHS member, students must meet

stringent criteria, which include demonstrating leadership, scholarship, skills, honesty, citizenship, service, and responsibility. Additionally, a minimum GPA of 3.0 is required, and selection is based on completed credit hours, attendance, volunteer service, and membership in other student organizations. Congratulations to these outstanding students on this impressive accomplishment!



Criminal Justice students from the Mount Morris CTE Center strike a pose at the NTHS ceremony. From left to right: Terry Soto, Criminal Justice Assistant; Kayla Ballew; Taylor Tucker; Lily Morris; Kaiden Ellis; Nate Arend; Colan Eiffert; Loannis Bechakas, and Instructor Judy Essig.



NTHS inductees from the Sports Science program at the GV BOCES Dansville Campus smiled for the camera before the ceremony started. From left to right: Maggie Bacon, Instructor Jeremy Morris, Abby Roelle, Abby Lewandowski



NTHS inductees from the Animal Science program at the Batavia CTE Center pose for a picture with their teacher. From left to right: Sophia Moore, Riley Henning, Andrea Bradt, Instructor Shannon Drazkowski, Shyann Ruffino, Lily Haacke, Malina Bellos (not pictured, Nicole LiRos)

National Technical Honor Society students volunteer time to give back to the community

By Lyndsay Herkimer

Batavia Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center students Olivia Colon-Mercado (Attica), Lauren Mandel (Oakfield-Alabama), Grace Snyder (Attica) Emmaly Wilkosz (Oakfield-Alabama), Karli Houseknecht (Pembroke), Devon Grunthner (Alexander), McKenna Coniber (LeRoy), Matthew Cecere (Alexander), William Eschberger (LeRoy), Ryan Higgins (LeRoy), Kyra Rhodes (Oakfield-Alabama), and Grace Mileham (Notre Dame) all volunteered their time at the Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program (FLTAP). These CTE students are also a part of the National Technical Honor Society. Chaperoned by teachers Vanessa Taran and Erin Staley, students volunteered and helped FLTAP winterize their barn, and complete some daily chores.

“It is important for students to volunteer throughout our communities to not only learn that these organizations that help others exist, but to learn that volunteering will also make you feel good inside,” stated Taran.

By volunteering students are acquiring skills and developing positive habits to carry them into adulthood. Students also learn about the organizations and what the organizations do to help others. FLTAP helps ex-race horses find new homes and careers. The students were able to first hand witness how gentle these horses are, which sometimes get a bad reputation. Additionally they are able to put some of the skills they have learned in CTE to use. For instance, one of the jobs the students needed to help with was landscaping. Unfortunately, the weed whacker and lawn mower were not working, but Devon Grunthner from Auto Tech was able to fix both by using skills he learned in the classroom. At the end of the day, the students said how therapeutic it felt being there, and that they didn’t realize how much they love horses!



Olivia, Grace S., Lauren, McKenna, Emmaly, Karli, Grace M.



Will, McKenna, Ryan, Devon, Matt, Emmaly, Olivia, Lauren, Grace S., Grace M., Karli, Kyra

Western NY Tech Academy volunteer work

The Western New York Tech Academy spent a day in December volunteering and giving back to the community. They volunteered at the Genesee County Youth Bureau, Community Action, and Ken Barrett Chevy. Students were reminded of the importance of giving back. Keep up the good work!

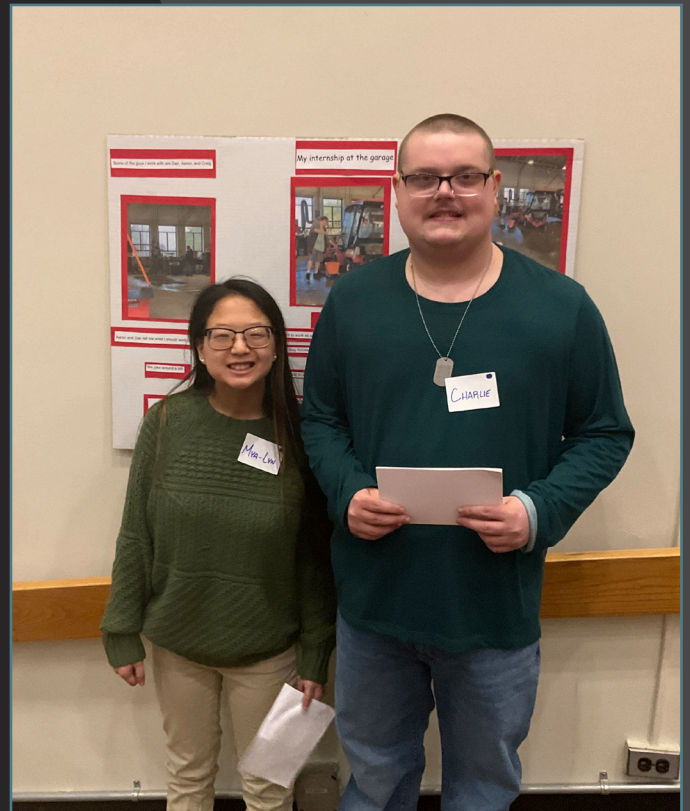


Photos by Carole Volpe

Geneseo LIVES

By Lyndsay Herkimer

The LIVES Program, a unique four-year transition program in collaboration with the Genesee Valley BOCES and located on the campus of the State University of New York - College at Geneseo, provides an inclusive educational community for individuals aged 18-21 with intellectual and/or other developmental disabilities. Its aim is to cultivate independent learners who are integrated into the community in various ways. Recently, LIVES students participated in GREAT Day, a campus-wide event that celebrates the creative and scholarly endeavors of SUNY Geneseo students. GREAT Day fosters academic excellence, encourages professional development, and builds connections within the community. The event offers a platform for students to present their research and ideas on topics that are significant to them. During this day, BOCES LIVES students and students from the Arc LIVES Program will share their experiences and insights on the visibility of the LIVES Program on the college campus and highlight meaningful aspects of the program. To facilitate attendance, all classes and activities are canceled on GREAT Day.



Genesee Valley BOCES hosted First LEGO League (FLL) qualifier tournament in Mount Morris

By Lyndsay Herkimer

Local students from the region gathered this past Saturday at Genesee Valley BOCES Mount Morris for the First LEGO League (FLL) Qualifier Tournament. The competition tested each team's ability to complete tasks using robots built from Legos. FLL was designed to engage young people through STEM learning and exploration. Students obtained hands-on learning while discovering, exploring, and challenging themselves to apply their skills in an exciting competition.

Students from Dansville, Keshequa, Oakfield-Alabama, Warsaw, and Wayland-Cohocton competed against each other during three rounds that lasted two and a half minutes each. The goal was to complete the most missions and earn the most points.

"The Genesee Valley BOCES Robotics program encourages students to practice real-life engineering skills including computational thinking and iterative design. The social and emotional impact of a program like this is also important as it helps many students find new connections to their

school and classmates," explained Steve Nole, Coordinator of Enrichment Services at Genesee Valley BOCES.

Sixty students in grades four through eighth participated in this event. The first part of the day was the presentation portion. During the presentation competition, teams were judged on three specific areas, one being their innovation project, where they had to identify and research a problem to solve around this year's theme focused on clean energy solutions. Also, teams had to present their robot design. They had to identify their mission strategy and design their robot and programs to create an effective plan, and the last was on the core values, where they had to apply teamwork and respect each other's ideas and work together as a team on their specific challenge.

Ted Smith was the head judge of the competition and is the Senior Crisis Intervention Specialist at Genesee Valley BOCES Mount Morris Campus. Smith explained he enjoys looking for a student's level of interest and looks to see if they had

fun as part of the project. "Events like this are a wonderful opportunity for students to express their creativity, learn how to work together as a team, and think critically about a problem. These are all skills which they will need in their life, so being able to develop them in an event like this is good," explained Smith.

Congratulations to the following teams on advancing to the next round: The overall champion was the Oakfield-Alabama Hi-Tech Hornets. Wayland-Cohocton Golden Eagles 2 was awarded the finalist. Both of these teams competed at the First Lego League Championship on February 18 in Buffalo, New York. Awards were given to teams for core values; innovation project, robot design, robot performance, and a coach/mentor award.

The top two teams, Oakfield-Alabama and Wayland-Cohocton, will move on to the championship competition. Genesee Valley BOCES is pleased the event was a success and looks forward to hosting more FLL Challenges in the future.



Student is Wayland-Cohocton 7th Grader Ethan Bauer.



The students are from Warsaw. From left to right, Hannah Sonricker, Levi Bennett, Warren Fox.



Students from Oakfield- Alabama are (yellow hair hats) left to right are: Cameron Emerson, Lucas Bak, Connor Burgio, Carson Shelter. Nate Staebell is sitting behind Carson (no hat).



The two students from Dansville are Haylee Rigdon and Bristol Blair.

THE DIGIES

The Digies is an annual digital media conference and festival run by the School Library Service, a program of the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership. The mission of The Digies is to strengthen the digital media continuum between Pre-K-12 schools, higher education and professional institutions. The Digies recognizes student potential in an annual festival format and draws student entries from throughout the region and the Upstate New York area.

The in-person awards ceremony was canceled and an awards recognition video was created and posted to The Digies website at www.digies.org. Emilee Williamson and Andrea Fetterly, Library Technologies' Specialists, coordinate this conference. Fetterly shared that this year's festival drew a record number of entries.

"Creativity is intelligence having fun," Fetterly said. "We are excited to celebrate the amazing creativity and skill demonstrated by the participants in this year's Digies festival."

AUDIO

Pre-K-3

1st Ares Kohlerman, The Pika Podcast, Geneseo CSD

7-9

1st Megan Kinney, Tori Halpin, Concerned about Political Polarization?, Avon CSD

2nd Aydan VanDekken, Elisha Swift, Panagiotis Kolokouris, Nick Fries, Ryan Diddio, US Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities Podcast, Avon CSD

10-12

1st Gadge Savastano, Feilde, Mount Morris CSD

2nd Matthew Domzalski, Island Breeze, Orchard Park CSD

3rd Earl Kipler III, Evolution, Orchard Park CSD

GRAPHIC ARTS

Pre-K-3

1st Layla Price, Layla Price Self Portrait, Avon CSD

2nd Rayna Marciniak, Rayna Marciniak Self Portrait, Avon CSD

3rd Wyatt Vetter, Wyatt Vetter's Playground, Avon CSD

3rd Ashley Dechau, Ashley Dechau's Playground, Avon CSD

4-6

1st Alice Szustakowski, STEAM Award, Alexander CSD

2nd Christy Succes, Aurora Shadows, Livonia CSD

3rd Andrew Klancer, Emoji Art, Pavilion CSD

7-9

1st Isabella Ehrman, Self Portrait, Southwestern CSD

2nd Bennett Antonucci, Andy Warhol style Self Portrait, Geneseo CSD

2nd Olivia Mower, Portrait of Ellie from the Last of Us, Alexander CSD

3rd Madeline Ingraham, Self Rush-Henrietta District Calendar Cover, Rush-Henrietta CSD

10-12

1st Skylar Wilson, Hands With Water, Pittsford CSD

2nd Molly Chittenden, Fleeting Time, Pembroke CSD

3rd Lukas Ladd, Enduring Issues, Alexander CSD

INTERACTIVE

Pre-K-3

1st Jace Jordan, Scott Solis Berger, Dogman the Video Game, Letchworth CSD

2nd Donnie Anderson, Layla Bailey, Amelia Braley, Norah Chesnes, Cash Coyne, Arianna Crotser, McKenzie Cullinan, Andrew DeCarlo, Connor Freeman, AJ Heeres, Anthony James, Remington Knapp, Desire Maynard, Olivia Miller, Addie Nardi, Westley Paganin, Gracelyn Potter, Coltin Ranalli, Chole Ventura, Zack Walworth, Habitats and Animal Adaptations, Avon CSD

3rd Brooklyn Bannister, Bailey Granger, Briea Moore, Emah Powers, Ariana Sardina, Abby Stephens, Kendall Tucci, Lincoln Bowes, Maxon Logsdon, Grant Mead, Zack Moon, Jase Osterman, Monster Story Writing, Pavilion CSD

4-6

1st Teagan Heeb, One Wild Space Adventure, Letchworth CSD

1st Owen Lugo, Road Dodger video game, Alexander CSD

2nd Maria Kipphut, Meow Machine, Livonia CSD

7-9

1st Alexander Haywood, Masked (Demo), Town of Webb UFSD

2nd Ayden Midkiff, Steam Tractor, Pembroke CSD

3rd Brenna-Lynn Marleau, Jupiter's Quest, Town of Webb UFSD

10-12

1st Mya Button, Wes Morrell, Morgan Moses, Kyle Worden, Student Media Arts Collective, Wayland-Cohocton CSD

2nd Karli Hy, Photo Web Portfolio, Geneseo CSD

3rd Christopher Doody, Evelyn Northrup, Kylie Conway, Liam Campbell, Kean Cummins, Lauren Kingsley, Karley Zinkievich, Pavilion Gopher Pride Instagram, Pavilion CSD

VIDEO

Pre-K-3

1st Annie Tuttle, Dog Stuff Commercial, Geneseo CSD

2nd Paisley Emerson-Kunes, Polar Bears, Livonia CSD

3rd Nathan Sedore, Henni Baughman, Fiestas Patrias in Chile, Livonia CSD

4-6

1st Caden Montesano, Evan Vetter, Keaton Griffiths, The Booner's Solve, Avon CSD

2nd Gracie Stroud, Gianna Zidanich, Emelia Honan, Santa's Delivery, Avon CSD

3rd Noah Wheeler, Ethan Heeres, Dylan Jimenez-Rodriguez, The Corn Escape, Avon CSD

7-9

1st Ari Arnold, How to Build a Fire (featuring Harry and Ron), Avon CSD

2nd Benedict Lickona, Noah Lantz, Albert James Parker, Daniel Aforismo, Hayden Long, Break and Build, Rush-Henrietta CSD

2nd Keith Giardina, Animated Cart Wheel, Rush-Henrietta CSD

10-12

1st Adriana Ochoa, Fetch, Pittsford CSD

2nd Charlie Ritter, Dots, Pittsford CSD

3rd Ethan Taft, Rotoscope GIF, Dansville CSD

SkillsUSA Competition



Photos by Erica Gibson

The SkillsUSA Regional Conference was held on Tuesday March 7th. Batavia Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center students who competed this year were:

- Mason Bump** (Alexander): Collision Repair Technology
- Matthew Cecere** (Alexander): Prepared Speech
- Vincent Dickinson** (Batavia): Auto Service Basic
- Devon Grunthaler** (Alexander): Auto Service Technology
- Aidan Harding** (Pavilion): Computer Maintenance
- Colton Ingerick** (Cal-Mum): Auto Service Technology
- Sage Johnson** (Byron-Bergen): Custom Painting & Graphics
- Maria Roberts** (Attica): Collision Repair Basic
- Julian Schrauger** (Oakfield-Alabama): Computer Maintenance
- Owen Strzelee** (Attica): Welding
- Jaclyn Torrey** (Attica): Custom Painting & Graphics
- Emalyn Yates** (Pavilion): Nail Tech

Congratulations to all the BOCES students who competed in the SkillsUSA Regional Conference. Also a huge congratulations to Sage Johnson, an auto body student from Byron-Bergen, who took home the 2nd place medal in Custom Painting & Graphics.



SkillsUSA State Competition

Batavia CTE Center students listed below traveled to compete at the SkillsUSA State Conference to participate in competitions related to their career and technical programs. Julian Schrauger brought home a bronze medal in Technical Computer Applications for his mastery of the Microsoft Suite including programming an Excel file to play the game Battleship.



Auto Body:

Sage Johnson (Byron Bergen) Automotive Refinishing

CIS:

Matthew Cecere (Alexander) Prepared Speech

Julian Schrauger (Oakfield-Alabama) Technical Computer Applications

Culinary Arts:

Navea Bazile (Batavia) Pastry and Commercial Baking

Kyle Hinze (Attica) Culinary Quiz Bowl Team

Austin Ruston (Alexander) Culinary Quiz Bowl Team

Ashton Vogel (Attica) Culinary Quiz Bowl Team

Graphic Arts:

Nicole Schuster (Attica) Photography

Metal Trades:

Owen Strzelec (Attica) Welding

Spencer Broughton (Attica) Welding

Kyle Carpenter (Attica) Welding

Ethan Houghton (Attica) Welding



Garrett Phillips places third at The Scholastic Welding Competition

By Lyndsay Herkimer

The American Welding Society (AWS) hosts various welding competitions, including the Scholastic Welding Competition, to promote and recognize excellence in welding among students. The Scholastic Welding Competition is primarily designed for high school and post-secondary students who are enrolled in welding programs. Its aim is to assess their welding skills, knowledge, and techniques through a series of practical tests. Participants are evaluated based on various criteria, including weld quality, accuracy, workmanship, safety practices, and adherence to the given specifications. Teams or individuals representing their schools or institutions compete against each other at local, regional, and sometimes national levels. The competition progresses through qualifying rounds, leading to the final stages where the top performers showcase their skills and compete for prizes and recognition. Congratulations to Garrett Phillips, a junior from Livonia Central School, who earned a third-place finish.



Executive Principal Matt Flowers, Garrett Phillips from Livonia Central School, Metal Trades Teacher Jeff Swift, and Yandel Santiago from Perry Central School.



GLOW with your hands

By Lyndsay Herkimer

The success of GLOW with Your Hands coupled with the urgent need for providers in healthcare and related science fields inspired the development of GLOW with Your Hands: Healthcare. The rural GLOW region is especially vulnerable in the post-pandemic era to the attrition of healthcare providers, resulting in diminished access to local healthcare.

Over 600 students in grades 8-12 connected with healthcare businesses, organizations, and post-secondary education and training providers through hands-on activities to learn about in-demand, rewarding jobs in healthcare and science related fields in our region and the pathways into those careers.

Students from the Batavia, Dansville, and Mount Morris GV BOCES campus attended GLOW with your hands healthcare hosted at Genesee Community College. Some of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center students spoke about the medical programs they are enrolled in, and other students who attended were able to learn first hand lessons from medical professionals while learning about potential careers.

Dansville BOCES Students competed in Special Olympics Bowling

By Lyndsay Herkimer

Special Olympics Bowling is a program that offers individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to participate in a sport that promotes physical activity, social interaction, and skill development. The program is part of the larger Special Olympics organization, which provides year-round sports training and competition for people with intellectual disabilities.

Students from the Genesee Valley BOCES Dansville Campus recently participated in the Special Olympics Junior Bowling North event held at Roseland Bowl in Canandaigua, NY. This event is specifically designed for younger athletes who are looking to develop their skills in the sport. The participants in the event were students from the Genesee Valley BOCES Dansville Campus who were able to showcase their abilities and compete against other students from the region.

Participating in the Special Olympics Bowling program and events like the Junior Bowling North event can have a positive impact on the physical, social, and emotional well-being of individuals with intellectual disabilities. It allows them to engage in physical activity, develop skills, build friendships, and gain a sense of accomplishment and confidence.

It is a great accomplishment for the students of the Genesee Valley BOCES Dansville Campus to have participated in the Special Olympics Junior Bowling North event, and congratulations are well deserved for their efforts and hard work.

FM 01 Division

1st place: Anthony C - YORK
2nd place: John B (JP) - DANSVILLE

3rd place: Miley C - WAYLAND COHOCTON

M04 Division

1st Place: Christopher C - MT MORRIS
2nd Place: Jeffrey H - DANSVILLE

M01 Division

2nd Place: Todd C - PERRY



Special Olympics Track and Field

By Lyndsay Herkimer

The Special Olympics Track and Field event is an inclusive sports competition designed to empower individuals with disabilities by providing them with opportunities to participate in sports and demonstrate their athletic abilities. Recently, the Genesee Valley BOCES Dansville students took part in this event, and they made a significant impact with their impressive performances.

The students prepared for the competition with hard work and dedication, and their efforts paid off as they won several medals in the event. Their success in the competition was a source of joy for their families, friends, and coach, and it was a testament to their athletic abilities and perseverance.

Participating in the Special Olympics Track and Field can have a profound impact on the students' lives, not only physically but also emotionally. The event provides an opportunity for the students to build self-confidence, develop social skills, and make new friends. By participating in the competition, the students demonstrated that they could excel in sports with the right support and encouragement. The event also promotes physical activity and a healthy lifestyle, encouraging participants to lead active and fulfilling lives.



The students' participation in the Special Olympics Track and Field event highlights the importance of inclusivity and equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their abilities. The event is a celebration of the students' hard work, determination, and dedication, and their success in the competition is a source of pride for their school, families, and the entire community.

Signing day!

Using a blend of technology, perseverance, and resourceful planning, the Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program successfully organized the 2023 Genesee Valley BOCES "Signing Days" at the GV BOCES Career and Technical Education Centers. This event brought together 52 high school students from the local area, along with their families and representatives from 16 prominent manufacturing businesses, at both the Batavia CTE and Mount Morris CTE Centers. Now in its third year, this groundbreaking initiative is run by the Rochester Technology & Manufacturing Association (RTMA) and Monroe Community College (MCC), with support from RG&E and Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. The program involves a competitive and multi-phased application and interview process that matches accomplished high school students with nearby manufacturing firms for relevant instruction, job shadowing, and paid co-ops. The "Signing Days" event is a momentous occasion that celebrates the successful pairing of these qualified students with their respective employers.

Batavia Students

Logan Almekinder, Pavilion, Metal Trades, OXBO CO-OP
Ty Baker Attica, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
Justin Ball Alexander, EMT, Turnbull CO-OP
Colin Bannister Attica, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
Daniel Bialek, Attica EMT, Gorbels Shadow
Bailey Burdett, Attica EMT, Nortera CO-OP
Bradley Burdett, Attica EMT, Maris CO-OP
Nathan Burger, Attica, EMT, Norterra Shadow
Thomas Condidorio, LeRoy, EMT, OXBO Shadow
Joseph Costa, LeRoy, EMT, TAMBE Shadow
Jacob Dulski Pembroke, EMT, Gorbels Shadow
Geoffrie Eisensmith, Attica, EMT TAMBE CO-OP
William Eschberger, LeRoy, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
Gabe Foster, Oakfield-Alabama, Metal Trades, Graham CO-OP
Ryan Galland, Attica, EMT, Nortera Shadow
Cory Hanlin, Alexander, Metal Trades, Gorbels Shadow
Hendrik Haymon, Byron-Bergen, EMT, OXBO Shadow
Ryan Higgins, LeRoy, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
Karli Houseknecht, Pembroke, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
Wyatt Kauffman, Attica, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
Matthew Kelsey, Attica, EMT, Nortera
Tyler Kidder, Alexander, EMT, OXBO CO-OP
Christian Kissell, Alexander, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
Alec Kulikowski, Byron-Bergen, EMT, Pro-Tech CO-OP
Bryce Lathan, LeRoy, Metal Trades, Turnbull Shadow
Tyler Marino, Alexander, EMT, OXBO Shadow
Robert McCarthy, Batavia, Metal Trades, Graham CO-OP

Hunter Meyers, Attica, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
Evan Piechowiak, Attica, EMT, Nortera CO-OP
Parris A Price, Batavia, EMT, DP Tool Shadow
Jarad Roberts, Alexander, Metal Trades, OXBO CO-OP
Evan Schlau, Attica, EMT, OXBO Shadow
Joshua Schwartz, Pavilion, EMT, Upstate Shadow
Dominic Scimia, Alexander, EMT, Six Flags Darien Lake Shadow
Jaden Snyder, Alexander, EMT, TAMBE Shadow
Brody Swinehart, Elba, EMT, OXBO Shadow
Ayden Taylor, Pavilion, Metal Trades, Gorbels Shadow
Aiden Uptegrove, Attica, EMT, TAMBE Shadow
Justin Valyear, Alexander, EMT, TAMBE Shadow
Gage Wagner, Alexander, EMT, TAMBE CO-OP
Hudson Weber, Pavilion, EMT, OXBO CO-OP
Noah Wheeler, Attica, EMT, Nortera Shadow

Mount Morris Students

Chris Thompson, Avon, MT, DP Tool Shadow
Eric Book, Letchworth, MT, LMC Shadow
Anthony Brongo, Livonia, MT, LMC Shadow
Garrett Phillips, Livonia, MT, SPX Shadow
Blake Siewert, Perry, MT, SPX Shadow
Daniel DeBadts, Warsaw, MT, Gorbels Shadow
Merissa Slayton, Wayland-Cohocton, MT, SPX Shadow
Kadin Akram, York, BT, CooperVision Shadow
Tanner Hodges, York, BT, LMC Shadow
Eric Rowe, York, MT Gorbels Shadow



Team riggi wins March madness einstein

By Lyndsay Herkimer

The Western New York Tech Academy is a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) that serves 13 regional school districts in Western New York. The WNY Tech Academy created Einstein Days which occur monthly and vary in theme to provide students a variety of unique learning opportunities. So far this year, students have engaged with peers across all grade levels in topics like business, meditation, volunteer work, and STEM.

"Einstein Days are important for our program and students because they offer a full day for students to immerse themselves in team building, STEM activities and exposure to Work Based Learning opportunities. These three areas are a major focus for our school culture. Einstein Days are offered one to two times per month for full days so we can devote our efforts in fostering the importance of that work. It provides students with project based STEM experiences, exposure to our business and industry partners and the career pathways they offer. And each Einstein Day has an element of fun, collaboration and team play so students bond as a tight school community," stated Catherine Bennett, Principal of The Western New York Tech Academy.

On Einstein Day, regularly scheduled classes are on hold and students participate in a variety of different lessons that range from career development to STEM to teambuilding. Through collaboration across courses and grade levels, students develop highly sought after employability skills such as effective communication, creativity, problem-solving teamwork, leadership, and conflict resolution.

"What do students get out of this event? Well, students will tell you they get a fun day off from classes. What they really are getting is workplace readiness skills. Our students engage in critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving. They have to develop communication skills, collaboration, leadership, and social skills to

work effectively as a group. They have to think, be innovative, show confidence, and even a little competitiveness! These are all traits that employers in any industry would look for in potential new hires. You can train for technical skills. The ability to resolve conflict, work effectively with others, take direction, show initiative... those things aren't as easy to develop on the job," explained Teacher Lindsay Warner.

The March Madness Einstein Days were held over a two day event. Over two days, in teams of five, students developed a P-tech pitch. The pitch was a 10 minute presentation pitching the WNY Tech Academy to a panel of qualified judges. Students had one day in the beginning of March to research, plan, strategize, and develop their pitch marketing materials. On Friday, March 31, they presented their pitches to judges for scoring, and ultimately a first prize winner was chosen. This event taps skills in public speaking, marketing and social media, and entrepreneurship!

Senior David Tetreault from Caledonia-Mumford Central School explained how Einstein Days are preparing students for their future. "Einstein Day isn't just a normal day at Tech Academy. It builds us young adults to communicate, value team bonding and most importantly, leading by example. These days make us prepare for proper management, communicating and how to be amazing workers. I couldn't even imagine a better way to do this. Taking one day out of the month to bring everyone together and put it into a fun-filled, learning environment is the most important and perfect way to do it," said David.

While teams were presenting their pitch to the judges, the remaining teams participated in a March Madness competition, competing in various games, puzzles, problems throughout our school wing, earning points to supplement their pitch scores. At the end of the event the winning team was Team Riggi!

The Albert W. Hawk Award

By Patrick Burke

The Albert W. Hawk Award for Distinguished School Board Service The Genesee Valley School Board's Association presents this distinguished award annually to a current or former Board of Education Member who, as decided by the Distinguished Service Award Committee, has displayed Outstanding Contributions to public education and children in his or her community. It truly is a reflection of their tireless efforts to improve and enhance public education and the lives that they impact on a daily basis through School Board service.

The award is named for Albert W. Hawk, a longtime advocate for rural schools and a member of both the Dansville Board of Education and the Genesee Valley BOCES. Hawk also chaired many state and national School Board Committees and served as President of the New York State School Boards Association. Hawk's legacy and his support for public education is visible to this day. His service has greatly inspired others.

The 2022 Al Hawk Award Recipient is Marirose Ethington. Marirose Ethington has served the Pavilion Central School District Board of Education for the past 16 years. A professor of Biology and the Director of the Science Department at Genesee Community College, she understands the needs of today's students and the importance that a solid community supported education provides for their success.

President of the Pavilion Board of Education for the past nine years, Ethington has served on the Negotiations Committee, Superintendent Search Committee, Rural Schools Conference, and the PCSD Capital Improvement.



Genesee Valley BOCES wins at the NYSPPRA 43rd annual communication contest

By Lyndsay Herkimer

The NYSPPRA Communications Awards celebrate and recognize efforts to enhance education through effective communication. Genesee Valley BOCES had three big wins in the NYSPPRA 43rd Annual Communication Contest. Maggie Fitzgibbon, retired GV BOCES Public Relations Coordinator, Megan Winter, Public Relations Assistant (Warsaw CSD and Perry CSD), and Leah Shepard, Public Relations Assistant (Honeoye-Falls-Lima CSD) all won awards. Of the 408 entries judged by communications professionals around the country, about 30 percent received awards. Maggie Fitzgibbon won the Award of Excellence in Video for The Western New York Tech Academy Video. Megan Winter won the Award of Excellence in Photography for her photo titled Trailblazers. Leah Shepard won the Award of Merit for Excellence in Writing. The story she submitted was titled From Kabul to HF-L, An Afghan Family's Harrowing Journey to America where they shared the brave story of a family who escaped Afghanistan.



(Left to right) Leah Shepard and Megan Winter at the NYSPPRA Communications Awards Luncheon receiving their awards.

Genesee Valley BOCES opens a new campus in Dansville, NY.

By Lyndsay Herkimer, Photos by Laura Carmichael

Genesee Valley (GV) BOCES announces the opening of a new campus in Dansville, New York. The new facility, located at 31 Clara Barton Street also known as the GCC Dansville Campus, houses six programs that ready students for in-demand careers, and a continuum of career awareness, exploration, preparation, and work-based experiences to prepare students for entry-level employment. GV BOCES, an educational service organization, serves more than 24,000 students in 22 school districts located in Genesee, Livingston, Steuben, and Wyoming counties in New York state.

"I think that GV BOCES is one of the best-kept secrets in Dansville right now. We have an open-door policy and welcome phone calls and questions. Tours are also available for anyone who wishes to visit in person," stated Mary Ordway, Principal of the Dansville Campus.

"GV BOCES is excited and deeply committed to making a positive difference in the lives of our students. Together we create a safe, nurturing environment that enables our students to reach their full potential," said Jon Sanfratello, Director of Instructional Programs, at GV BOCES. "By focusing on positive school culture, setting high standards, and increasing academic expectations for all students, our students are on track to be college and career ready," explained Sanfratello.

GV BOCES offers a wide range of programs and services, including career and technical education, special education programs and services, alternative education, instructional and technical support services, and management services. Each year, new programs and services continue to be developed in response to the emerging educational needs of area school districts. The Dansville location provides career and technical education, as well as, special education programs and services.

At this new campus, 20 special education students participate in full-day programming, half-day academics, and half-day work experience programs. Eight students participate in a half-day work experience program and also attend district academic classes. These students are enrolled in Transition I, II, III, and WEST (Work Experience Skills Training) programs. Career and Technical Education (CTE) students attend the Sports Science Academy and Health Careers Academy programs. Students from Avon, Caledonia-Mumford, Dansville, Geneseo, Keshequa, Letchworth, Mount Morris, Naples, Perry, Wayland-Cohocton, and York Central School districts attend classes at the GV BOCES Dansville Campus.

"The GV BOCES Dansville Campus allows us to expand services to students throughout the region. Waiting lists for student placements are a concern throughout New York state. One priority of GV BOCES is to focus on program expansion as well as staff recruitment and retention," stated Julie Donlon, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent of Genesee Valley BOCES. "In the future, there is potential for bringing more programming to the Dansville campus. There is a need in the community for different opportunities for students and this building has the space for more programs. If we do expand in the future, we will be ready for these programs to ensure successful results for our students."

GV BOCES is currently recruiting for open positions at the Dansville Campus which include Special Education Teachers, Alternative Education Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Substitutes, and Teacher Aides. Come be a part of an organization that enriches the lives of students and prepares students for real-world experiences. Apply today at gvboces.org.

On December 22nd, 2022 a Winter Wonderland Festival was held at the Genesee Valley BOCES Dansville Campus. Students, families and staff participated in multiple activities including karaoke, a photo booth, ornament making - snowmen and gingerbread houses, cornhole, and a wreath toss. The hot chocolate bar and cookie buffet were a huge hit. Fun was had by all and the event had a great turnout. In the future the goal is to continue to grow events and continue to invite families to participate.





Batavia CTE Technical Endorsement 2022-2023

These career and technical education students received a Technical endorsement on their Regent's Diploma, signifying the achievement of nationally recognized industry standards approved by the New York State Department of Education.

Animal Science

Thomas Strzelec, Attica
Jonny Fooks, Byron-Bergen
Sydney Zastrocky, Byron-Bergen
Laurel Kania, Oakfield

Auto Body

Laurel Kania, Alexander
Shawn Kimball, Batavia
Sage Johnson, Byron-Bergen

Auto Technology

Devon Grunthaler, Alexander
Andrew Pullian, Alexander
Zachary Salemi, Alexander
Julie Cswaykus, Batavia
Dylan Farruggia, Pavilion

Building Trades

Ethan Bisnett, Batavia
Ethan Lewis, Byron-Bergen
Nicholas Zwerka, Byron-Bergen
Cedric Bowen, Cal-Mum
Ethan Appis, LeRoy
Mckenna Coniber, LeRoy
Cooper Terry, LeRoy
Cole Harding, Pavilion
Kristian Tundo, Pavilion
Cody Captain, Pembroke
Chase Guzdek, Pembroke

Computer Information Systems (CIS)

Matthew Cecere, Alexander
Robert Gaylord, Byron-Bergen
Matthew Olander, Byron-Bergen

Cameron Havens, Elba
Evan Reynolds, LeRoy
Luke Boardman, Pembroke

Conservation

Noah Florian, Attica
Tyler Kauffamn, Elba
James Hudson, Notre Dame
Jonathan Patnode, Oakfield
Hunter O'Shea, Pavilion

Cosmetology

Grace Synder, Attica
Alexis Kunkel, Byron-Bergen
Madison Laney, LeRoy
Ashlyn Puccio, LeRoy
Emmaly Wilkosz, Oakfield

Criminal Justice

Molly Belknap, Byron-Bergen
Alyssa Houseknecht, Pembroke

Culinary Arts

Austin Ruston, Alexander
Kyle Hinze, Attica
Ashton Vogel, Attica
Navea Bazile, Batavia
Colton Cowell, LeRoy
Isaiah Baker, Pavilion
Joshua Starzynski, Pembroke

Diesel Mechanics

Charles Kegler, Batavia
Charlie Rubinrott, Cal-Mum
Ayden Malloy, Oakfield
Harrison Slocum, Pavilion

Electro-Mechanical Trade

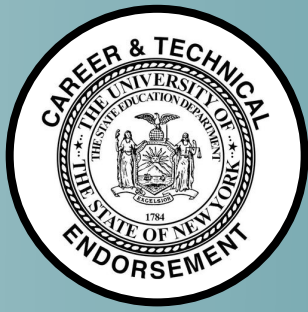
Justin Ball, Alexander
Tyler Kidder, Alexander
Gage Wagner, Alexander
Colin Bannister, Attica
Bailey Burdett, Attica
Bradley Burdett, Attica
Sir Marcus Eisensmith, Attica
Alec Kulikowski, Byron-Bergen
Ryan Higgins, LeRoy
Jacob Dulski, Pembroke
Karli Houseknecht, Pembroke

Health Dimensions

Becca Wozniak, Alexander
Alyssa Vickery, Batavia
Lydia Cone, LeRoy
Grace Mileham, Notre Dame

Welding

Joshua Noble, LeRoy
Jeremy Sharick, Pembroke
Cory Hanlin, Alexander
Jarad Roberts, Alexander
Spencer Broughton, Attica
Kyle Carpenter, Attica
Ethan Houghton, Attica
Aidan Schoonover, Attica
Troy Signor, Attica
Owen Strzelec, Attica
Parker Kleinbach, Batavia
Gavin Lawlis, Batavia
Robert McCarthy, Batavia
Jack Benstead, Byron-Bergen
Bryce Lathan, LeRoy
Gabriel Foster, Oakfield
Nathanael Taylor-Hilton, Pavilion



Mount Morris CTE Technical Endorsement 2022-2023

Animal Science

- Charissa Gelser, Keshequa
- Kyra Flint, Letchworth
- Erin Hogle, Livonia
- Nathan Bucknam, Perry
- Emily Feely, Wayland-Cohocton
- Jasmine Prigge, Wayland-Cohocton
- Haley Torrey, Wayland-Cohocton

Auto Body

- Dakota Donohue II, Dansville
- Connor Calnan, Geneseo
- Collin Sanders, Geneseo
- Grey Miller, Keshequa
- James Gillmer, Letchworth
- Destinee Blood-Pattison, Wayland-Cohocton
- Leo Schledorn Jr., Wayland-Cohocton
- Zeke Wise, Wayland Cohocton

Auto Technology

- Ethen DeStefano, Dansville
- Bryce Chambers, Geneseo
- Jesika Cobin, Keshequa
- Landon Nickerson, Warsaw
- Salvatore Mitrano III, York

Building Trades

- Matthew Cornell, Dansville
- Ian Gibson, Dansville
- Ethan Martin, Dansville
- Jay Baughman, Geneseo
- Ethan Bennett, Dansville
- Jacob Bzduch, Geneseo
- Rivers Dalmat, Geneseo

- James Hy, Geneseo
- Samuel Taranko, Geneseo
- Jaiden Buchinger, Keshequa
- Johnathan Isaman, Keshequa
- Ean Nichols, Livonia
- Corbin Gaddy, Mt. Morris
- Matthew Auble, Warsaw
- Jackson Conway, Warsaw
- Mason McClurg, Warsaw
- Kip Romero, Warsaw
- Christian Delaney, Wayland-Cohocton
- Ethan Emigh, Wayland-Cohocton
- Michael Pillsbury, Wayland-Cohocton

Computer Information Systems

- Samuel Wallin, Avon
- Maddox Gleason, Dansville
- Jaiden Buchinger, Keshequa
- Johnathan Isaman, Keshequa
- Ean Nichols, Livonia
- Corbin Gaddy, Mt. Morris
- Matthew Auble, Warsaw
- Jackson Conway, Warsaw
- Mason McClurg, Warsaw
- Kip Romero, Warsaw

Conservation

- Jacob Allen, Dansville
- Brandon Foster, Dansville
- Aiden Jubert, Geneseo

Cosmetology

- Katelynn Robinson, Avon
- Jadika Miller, Geneseo
- Cora MacWhorter, Perry
- Sarah Krajewski, Perry/Gilead

Criminal Justice

- Darrik Graham, Avon
- Taylor Freeman, Mt. Morris
- Anna Flint, Warsaw

Culinary Arts

- Grace Berwaldt, Letchworth
- Jeremy Cauwels Jr., Livonia
- Aiden Kelly, Livonia
- Jack Washington, Livonia
- Benjamin Bacon, Mt. Morris
- Luis Ortiz-Cruz, Mt. Morris
- Felix Roseboom, Perry
- Madeline Burger, Warsaw
- Jahki Lawton, Warsaw
- Justina Reed, York

Diesel Mechanics

- Thomas Herberger, Avon
- Lyndon Bailey, Geneseo
- Alexander Brady, Geneseo
- Gabriel Gross, Mt. Morris
- James Prattico, Warsaw
- Christopher Putalavage, Wayland-Cohocton

Health Dimensions

- Natalie Cox, Dansville
- Mackenzie Winnie, Letchworth
- Anna Noragong, Livonia
- Jasmine Follett-Martes, Mt. Morris
- Cheyanne Mehlenbacher, Wayland-Cohocton

Human Services

- Camryn Smith, Geneseo
- Amaya LaPlant, Wayland-Cohocton

Metal Trades

- Joshua Riojas, Avon
- Austin Wicker, Dansville
- Michael Adkins Jr., Geneseo
- Eric Book, Letchworth
- Christopher Shattuck, Letchworth
- Natalie Sumeriski, Letchworth
- Aidan Buck, Livonia

- Conner Ferran, Livonia
- Lucien Hildreth, Livonia
- Joseph Kurtz, Livonia
- Kevin Murphy, Livonia
- Peter Tonkery, Livonia
- Dakota Hinckley, Perry
- Dylan Burrows, Warsaw
- Sierra Davis, Warsaw
- Charidi Davis, Wayland-Cohocton
- Jonathan Eddy Jr., Wayland-Cohocton
- Evan Gotshall, Wayland-Cohocton

Batavia Academy took a step back in time

The Genesee Country Museum, located in Mumford, New York, is a living history museum that focuses on the history and culture of the Genesee region during the 19th century. The museum offers visitors a chance to step back in time and experience life as it was in the 19th century. It features a vast collection of historic buildings, artifacts, and interactive exhibits that provide insight into various aspects of daily life during that era. Batavia Academy students took a field trip to the Genesee Country Museum. High school students in grades 9th to 12th experienced an exciting and educational experience. The Blacksmith Shop, Schoolhouse, and the Woodworker Shop were the most popular stops on the field trip.



Congratulations to our Retirees!

Congratulations to the following staff members who retired at the end of the 2022-23 school year. Each of these staff members has served as an integral part of our organization. Their contributions will always be valued and remembered, as their hard work and dedication are worthy of admiration.

Glenn Cramer
Mary Falcone-Beswick
Augustin Ianello
Karen Reamer
Donna Devitt

Kimberly Flint
Judith Kruchten
Dorothy Livingston
Stephen Mahoney

Colleen Pilc
Edward Swain
Laurie Turner
Betty Lou Buckley
Cynthia Schmidt

New pavilion at Mount Morris GV BOCES Campus

By Lyndsay Herkimer

A pavilion was constructed on the school grounds of Mount Morris GV BOCES campus intended for the use of present and upcoming students for many years. The pavilion was constructed by Building Trades and Conservation students, who worked on the project for a total of three weeks. About 25 students participated in the project, with Conservation students performing a week of prep work prior to the building phase.

During the construction process, the students learned a number of valuable skills related to pole barn style construction. They installed metal sheets on the roof and ceiling, which involved measuring, cutting, and securing the sheets to the structure using appropriate tools and techniques. They also learned commercial wiring practices, which involved understanding electrical systems and how to install them safely and effectively.

Additionally, the students learned to work in all weather conditions, completing the project despite cold winds. This likely required them to adapt to changing conditions, use appropriate protective gear, and maintain their focus and motivation even in less-than-ideal circumstances.

The construction of this pavilion provided students with a valuable opportunity to learn practical skills that they can use in their future careers. In addition to gaining hands-on experience with construction techniques and electrical systems, the students also developed important teamwork, problem-solving, and adaptability skills that will serve them well in any field they choose to pursue.



GV BOCES CTE Enrollment Five-Year History Chart



This graph shows the number of enrolled CTE students as a percent of all component high school juniors and seniors. This information reflects our most recent data.



GV BOCES CTE Graduation Rate Five-Year Average



This chart shows the percentage of career and technical education students who graduated. This information reflects our most recent data.



Success Stories

Taylor Santasieri

Journey to becoming a Nurse Practitioner

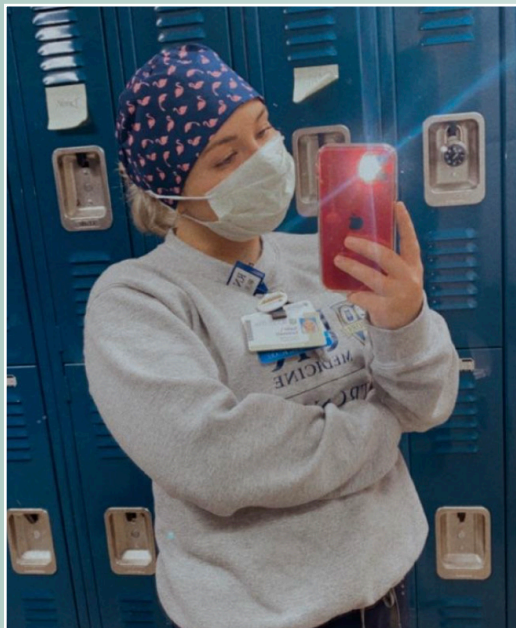
By Lyndsay Herkimer

Taylor Santasieri's journey from Livonia Central High School to her role as a Nurse Practitioner was a path paved with determination, guidance, and a passion for nursing that started at a young age. Graduating in 2016, she took a significant step towards her dream during her junior and senior years at Genesee Valley BOCES Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center in Mount Morris.

Immersing herself in the field of Health Dimensions, Santasieri found the perfect opportunity to test the waters of her desired career without the immediate commitment of college. This was especially important given the financial challenges she faced with the cost of higher education. BOCES provided her with a valuable chance to gain hands-on experience, a treasure that time alone could offer.

One figure who played a crucial role in shaping Santasieri's early career was her instructor, Mrs. Linda Blythe. Memories of Mrs. Blythe's emphasis on attention to detail, symbolized by the insistence to clean a patient's glasses, stayed with Santasieri. Mrs. Blythe's advice to become an RN first and then explore specialization resonated deeply, guiding Santasieri through her career decisions.

Entering the nursing profession, Santasieri spent nearly two years at Highland Hospital before transitioning to the challenging environment of the Medical ICUs. Working in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) demanded a level of dedication and resilience that few could comprehend. The long hours, emotionally charged situations, and the constant need for critical decision-making tested her skills to the fullest.



Three years later, she finds herself not only thriving but also pursuing her master's degree, aiming to become a Nurse Practitioner. Reflecting on her career, Santasieri expresses a profound appreciation for the complexity of her job, emphasizing teamwork and the joy of meeting new people. Working in intensive care, she highlights the daily discussions where the healthcare team meticulously reviews each patient's condition, interventions, and progress. To her, nursing is a team sport, and the collaborative effort is the key to success.

The most rewarding aspect of her job, Santasieri notes, is the impact of seemingly small gestures on patients. Her satisfaction comes from people remembering and appreciating the little things she did to make a difference in their lives. This realization echoes Mrs. Blythe's wisdom about the significance of small actions accumulating into significant outcomes.

With genuine enthusiasm, Santasieri encourages current and prospective nursing students, assuring them that the journey may be challenging but is undoubtedly worth it. Her advice is grounded in the principle of taking things step by step, semester by semester.

Santasieri emphasizes the importance of patience and persistence, drawing inspiration from the demanding nature of her work in the ICU. Nursing, she believes, is a continuous process of learning and adapting to the ever-evolving healthcare landscape.

For Taylor Santasieri, nursing is not just a career; it's a rewarding and unique journey filled with moments that affirm the impact of compassionate care. In her words, there is no other job like it in the entire world.

"The Day the Librarians Disappeared" book release by the school library system of GV BOCES

The School Library System (SLS) of Genesee Valley BOCES, an educational services agency supporting 22 small, rural school districts in Western New York, is honored to announce the release of a national resource for advancing understanding around the many roles of school librarians. "The Day the Librarians Disappeared" is an ebook developed in partnership with GapingVoid, a culture design firm, and made possible in part by a National Leadership Grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services [LG-250060-OLS-21]. The ebook is available online at <https://forum.libraries.today> and has been released under a Creative Commons license to allow free use in libraries across the country.

In 2021, the SLS received a two-year National Leadership Grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the federal funding agency for museums and libraries. The Libraries.Today project (<https://forum.libraries.today>) was established to investigate the shifting roles of school librarians during the pandemic. Christopher Harris, Ed.D., Director of the School Library System of Genesee Valley BOCES, is serving as the principal investigator for the grant. The first national forum for the Libraries.Today project was held in May, 2022. The forum included interactive discussions that collected evidence of the amazing work undertaken by school librarians during school shutdowns and in the changed educational setting as the pandemic progressed. A report from the forum is available on the grant website at <https://forum.libraries.today>.

A key finding from the forum was that much of the work school librarians were recognized for, such as organizing electronic resources and providing instructional technology support, was actually taking place prior to the pandemic but without full awareness in schools and communities. The Libraries.Today advisory board recommended taking action to reframe stakeholder understanding around the role of school libraries and the value that school librarians bring to their communities.

The ebook uses a narrative story to explore the consequences of an event where all the school librarians and library resources disappeared. As the narrator discovers, despite some outdated stereotypes, modern school libraries serve critical roles in education for students, teachers, and families. Research supports this story; there is a strong correlation between the presence of a certified school librarian and a quality school library program and student achievement. "Despite the research, there have been more cuts to library positions across the nation. These cuts are often taking place in districts where other staff are being added, so it's not because of a budgetary issue. It's an understanding issue," explained Dr. Christopher Harris, Director of the School Library System of Genesee Valley BOCES.

The ebook created by GapingVoid is being released nationally today. "We have enjoyed learning about and reframing the valuable work that school librarians do each day for their students and communities. All transformation is linguistic and stories bring clarity where there is confusion. We hope this simple story transforms your thinking in an impactful way," stated Senior Culture Science Engineer Kevin Denton, the lead from GapingVoid on developing this ebook.

The Libraries.Today grant project will work with other national organizations around school libraries to spread the word about the importance of this resource for explaining the work of school librarians. "GapingVoid did an amazing job of developing the graphics in the book to be stand alone posters or images that can be used in other ways," Dr. Harris noted. Given the Creative Commons Attribution, NonCommercial, No Derivatives license, school librarians are free to make wide use of the ebook and graphics. This wide usage will help the story bridge the gap of understanding and lead to a better awareness of what school librarians bring to their communities

About the School Library System of the Genesee Valley BOCES: The School Library System (SLS) of the Genesee Valley BOCES, established by Commissioner's Regulations in 1985, is a state funded program dedicated to improving the libraries of the region's 22 districts and non-public schools. Through cutting edge web development, professional support, and the facilitation of resource sharing tools, the SLS provides mission critical support for libraries and classrooms.

About GapingVoid:

Gapingvoid is an end-to-end culture design firm that believes culture is central to meaningful work. Their cross-disciplinary team utilizes storytelling to increase human connection and transform organizations.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services:

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. The views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in the ebook do not necessarily represent those of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

NYS Conservation Contest

The Conservation/Heavy Equipment class from Mount Morris Career and Technical Education Center actively took part in the New York State Conservation Contest held at SUNY Cobleskill on Thursday, May 18, 2023. The students invested significant effort into their preparations for this significant occasion, and their hard work yielded fruitful results. Numerous participants achieved commendable rankings in their respective contests, and overall, the entire class had a rewarding and educational experience.

Equipment Contests:

- 2nd Place Bulldozer Trenching: Jack James (Keshequa)
- 4th Place Bulldozer Backfill: Jesse Isaman (Keshequa)
- 5th Place Skidsteer Rodeo: Team A: Louis Godfrey (Livonia) and Trevor Maylin (Avon)

Forestry Contests:

- Tree Climbing
 - 5th place: Elijah Bender (Dansville)
 - 3rd Place: Aiden Jubert (Geneseo)
 - 1st Place: Jordan Castellanos (Geneseo)

Surveying Contests:

- 3rd Place Compass and Pace: Kaida Arend (Dansville)
- Fish and Wildlife ID:
 - 3rd Place: Trevor Maylin (Avon)
 - 1st Place: Wesley Sanford (Keshequa)

Woodsman's Contests:

- 3rd Place Axe Throw: Jesse Isaman (Keshequa)
- Team Peavey Log Roll
 - 5th Place: Tyler Hulbert (Avon) and Trevor Maylin (Avon)
 - 4th Place: Brandon Foster (Dans) and Luke Gilbert (Livonia)
- 2 Person Crosscut Saw
 - 2nd Place: Jordan Castellanos (Gen) and Aiden Jubert (Geneseo)
- Team Pulp Throw
 - 5th place: Aiden Jubert (Geneseo), Jordan Castellanos (Geneseo), Evan Earle (Wayland-Cohocton), and Jesse Isaman (Keshequa)



Student Spotlight

Auston Caryl, a sophomore at Letchworth Central School, and Colby Mcelfresh, a freshman at Letchworth Central School built a hope chest while studying Building Trades at the Mount Morris CTE Center.



Genesee Valley BOCES

Genesee Valley BOCES is composed of 22 individual school districts that are located in Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston, and Steuben Counties. Both instructional services and instructional support services are provided to each district. This list notes the current Superintendents.

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Genesee Valley BOCES



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Attica Central School District • Dr. Kiel Illg

Avon Central School District • Ryan Pacatte, Ed.D.

Batavia City Schools • Jason Smith

Byron-Bergen Central School District • Patrick McGee

Caledonia-Mumford Central School District • Robert Molisani

Dansville Central School District • Tom Kopp

Elba Central School District • Gretchen Rosales

Geneseo Central School District • Cindy Flowers

Keshequa Central School District • Lesley Powers

LeRoy Central School District • Merritt Holly

Letchworth Central School District • Todd Campbell

Livonia Central School District • Dr. Jeremy Lonneville

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Perry Central School District • Daryl McLaughlin

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