A Message from the WSWHE BOCES President

As we greet a new year, WSWHE BOCES is thankful to our area school board members and component school superintendents for all you bring to the children and families we serve. The occasion of the 2019 Legislative Breakfast allows us to present our regional legislative priorities, and also recognize our outstanding regional business partners. We are privileged to have strong relationships with so many business partners and our legislative representatives. Throughout this legislative session, we urge all board members to remain engaged with your representatives to discuss your district’s priorities and educational goals.

Every year our BOCES makes progress. We engage our students. Through hands-on lessons, project based learning, real-life experiences and embedded programming, our students are living the lessons they are learning. This is thanks to you and your support of our staff and administration. They are providing students, educators and communities with the expertise they need to be successful. We wish you a happy, productive 2019 and look forward to our continued collaboration.

Opening Eyes

Have you heard about Career Jam? It was a one-day event held at The Dome in Queensbury on October 18th. Over 1,800 regional 8th & 9th graders attended. The Saratoga Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), in partnership with WSWHE BOCES and the Saratoga-Warren-Washington Workforce Investment Board, collaborated with employers and school districts to inspire students and promote area job opportunities to raise awareness among the students, their families and educators of the direct skills and jobs needed in our region. Employers gave hands on demonstrations highlighting skills needed across 16 different career clusters. Career and Technical Education instructors and students also participated in the event.

Highlighting job options earlier can help influence student education and training choices and retain their talents to fill local jobs that can drive future growth. The event built upon the workforce development priority that led to the inaugural Career Jam in 2017 at HVCC-TEC Smart. The second annual version doubled the registered number of students coming from as far as Indian Lake.

“Career Jam has clearly built momentum because so many of us realize the need for demonstrating applied learning to advance the pathway to meaningful careers. Challenging employers from varied sectors of our economy and skill needs to come forward with engaging, hands on demonstrations of job options to meet this student interest has been a great partnership,” says Kim Wegner, Lead Coordinator for Innovative Programs, WSWHE BOCES.

“Connecting area young people and their families to the skills needed for real career options that exist in our communities will nurture talent to help us remain competitive and grow,” says Peggy Murphy, HR Director Espey Mfg. & Electronics Corp. and Vice Chair of Saratoga-Warren-Washington Workforce Development Board.

Important Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early College Career Academy Information Session</td>
<td>January 15, 2019</td>
<td>6:00-7:30 PM</td>
<td>SUNY Adirondack Queensbury Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTE Open House</td>
<td>January 17, 2019</td>
<td>6:00 - 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Southern Adirondack Education Center, Hudson Falls</td>
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<td>Combined Adirondack Area School Boards Association &amp; Saratoga County School Boards Association Meeting</td>
<td>March 18, 2019</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs</td>
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<td>Adirondack Area School Boards Association Student Community Service Awards Meeting</td>
<td>May 9, 2019</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saratoga County School Boards Association Meeting</td>
<td>May 13, 2019</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs</td>
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<td>WSWHE BOCES Annual Meeting</td>
<td>April 3, 2019</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Southern Adirondack Education Center, Hudson Falls</td>
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<td>Vote on Administrative Budget and Election of Board Members</td>
<td>April 30, 2019</td>
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BEARS Embrace CBE

If you stop in to the Fort Edward High School cafeteria, you may have seen a friendly face stocking the breakfast bar. Or if you are an employee at the Washington Country Office Complex, you may come across some students from the BEARS program washing windows, cleaning the break room, or organizing the food pantry. These students are learning employment and community skills as part of the BEARS classroom that was added at the Fort Edward Union Free School District during the 2017-18 school year. An important part of the program is Community Based Education, or CBE, to practice communication and social skills that students are working on.

Every Friday, the BEARS students go on CBE trips. At Market 32 students return bottles and cans; at Walmart they learn to shop; and at the Crandall Library they listen to a story and borrow books. The class has also visited the Hyde Museum for a tour and art project, learned how to bowl at Kingpin Alley, and they made holiday cards for residents at the Fort Edward Union Free School District have also said the students are doing a great job keeping the cafeteria stocked and helping with recycling.

“From a community perspective, the program has been well received. We like to see that,” says McGraw.

Using Skills In a Unique Way

Three local US Army veterans had much to be thankful for as they drove to their Thanksgiving celebrations in newly refurbished vehicles donated by Caliber Collision and GEICO.

To thank and honor them for their service to our country, on November 13, keys to the practically brand-new vehicles were presented to Josh Evans of Washingtonville, Shane Thomson of Delhi, and Anthony Gestone of Sharon Springs, in a special ceremony at the National Automobile Museum.

The vehicles for the veterans were donated by GEICO and restored by teammates at Caliber Collision-Saratoga Springs who volunteered their time and talent as a community service. Parts and materials were donated by LKQ Corp. The car donations are part of the National Auto Body Council’s Recycled Rides™ program in which collision industry businesses team up to repair and donate cars to individuals in need of reliable transportation.

The program has been going on for several years. New for 2018, students in the CTE Auto Body program at the F. Donald Myers Education Center assisted in the restoration. They worked on the 2015 Nissan Altima, one of the three vehicles that were donated.

The students performed final detail work to the vehicle using the skills they’ve acquired at CTE to help others who have given so much for their country. The students used buffers, polish and finishing glaze to make the car shine for its new owner. Meticulously detailing the car, panel by panel, inside and out, the students very proudly contributed to the effort of honoring our veterans. Along the way, they learned a few things about teamwork and completing projects under tight deadlines. The students were thrilled to meet Shane Thompson, the new owner at the unveiling and personally thanked him for his service.

James M. Kaplan Educational Site

WSWHE BOCES has a new education site. In October, family, friends, neighbors, students, staff, and area superintendents gathered to dedicate the James M. Kaplan Educational Site. The property on Walsh Road in the Town of Saratoga was donated by the Kaplan estate. Mr. Kaplan was a talented craftsman and outdoorsman. He enjoyed subbing at the F. Donald Myers Education Center and sharing his knowledge and skills with the students in various Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. The donation of over 40 acres, buildings, equipment and tools, will enrich the educational opportunities of nearly 40,000 students in the region and will be a launching pad for innovative uses and experiences. Plans to utilize the property include a land lab for at least three CTE programs as well as enrichment programs such as Project Adventure (to develop pro-social behaviors and collaboration), STEM, orienteering, and environmental sustainability.

Winter 2019

WSWHE BOCES CONNECTIONS