

## Updates from Herkimer BOCES Board of Education meetings

### Remington purchase agreement amendment:

▶ During a special meeting on April 2, Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES District Superintendent Sandra Sherwood explained that since the BOCES vote to purchase the Remington building has been postponed, a new agreement with Central Valley Central School District needs to be signed to extend the time by which the vote must occur.

The discussion that followed included the vote to purchase the Remington building and budget implications due to the financial issues resulting from the public health emergency.

## REMINGTON REMINDER:

**Just a reminder that we still need to hold our vote for the purchase of Remington... hopefully one more thing to celebrate in September!**

▶ Herkimer BOCES Board of Education Vice President Daniel Voce concluded the meeting by thanking Sherwood for all her efforts and support to the component districts during the coronavirus pandemic.

Other board members concurred with this sentiment.

**Board of Education updates continued on next page...**

### Featured online:

## Herkimer BOCES celebrates CTE and VP-TECH Class of 2020 with virtual graduation ceremony



Ms. Kathy Fox  
Director of Technical Programs

CLASS OF 2020



**CTE**



*Congratulations!*

Good luck to the Class of 2020!

To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.

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## *Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued*

### **Board member news from their districts:**

The following news was shared by Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES Board of Education members during recent board meetings about their school districts and other topics:

- ▶ Congratulatory comments were extended to Richfield Springs Jr./Sr. High School Principal Joseph D'Apice for being appointed as the Mount Markham Central School District superintendent of schools.
- ▶ Herkimer BOCES Board of Education member Jane North noted that Central Valley is serving lunches to 800 children during the NYS Pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ Herkimer Board of Education member Linda Tharp stated that Owen D. Young seniors are deciding how their end-of-the-year activities will be held and that the superintendent and business official are assisting with homework and food deliveries to students.

▶ Herkimer BOCES Board of Education member William Miller reported that the New York State School Boards Association is supporting school districts and holding virtual meetings and informational webinars.

▶ Herkimer BOCES Board of Education President Thomas Shypski stated that Richfield Springs has been a 1:1 laptop school for a long time and therefore is handling virtual learning very well. There are students without reliable Internet at home, but they use the school parking lot for Internet connection.

▶ The board held a discussion on school budgets and the struggles that districts are being faced with.

▶ The faculty and staff were commended for doing an outstanding job during these unprecedented times.

▶ Herkimer BOCES Board of Education member James Schmid congratulated

### **Featured online: Herkimer BOCES honors Pathways Academy, Special Programs seniors with parade to homes**



To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.

Pathways Academy students for their presentation to the board and recognized Technical Education students who received their national certifications.

▶ Tharp complimented the Board 2 Board newsletter and noted the unexpected expenses to districts in order to meet the new requirements associated with the pandemic. She concluded by expressing her concern for all administrators' well-being as they are under a lot of stress during this unprecedented time.

▶ Shypski echoed the concern for administrators. He concluded by reporting that the construction project at Richfield Springs has continued throughout this time of NYS Pause.

▶ Herkimer BOCES Board of Education member Michael Clements reported that Frankfort-Schuyler has completed its search for a new superintendent

by selecting Schenectady City School District Assistant Director for the Office of Planning and Accountability Joseph Palmer. Clements complimented Sherwood for her guidance in the process.

▶ Shypski discussed School Board Institute events and indicated that during the pandemic some training will be held via videoconference. He shared his thoughts on the cost of the budget vote now that it is being conducted by absentee ballot only.

▶ Clements said he was hoping for positive results on the Frankfort-Schuyler budget vote and that graduation ceremonies can be held for the seniors.

▶ Schmid congratulated the employees who were granted tenure and this year's retirees. He recognized the National Technical Honor Society inductees and Adult Practical Nursing Program students

## Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

who passed their "Boards."

► In response to Schmid's inquiry about the CARES Act and if schools would see any of that funding, Sherwood stated that it's a debate that is going on now - will it go to schools or can the state distribute the funding as they want? He also inquired about the governor's order that delays the deadline date for tax collection. Sherwood shared that bond counsel is recommending districts conduct a cash flow analysis regularly so that they can proactively plan for any pending shortfall. They are further recommending board approval of Tax Anticipation Notes (TAN) and Revenue Anticipation Notes (RAN) in the case of any revenue shortfalls.

► Tharp reiterated issues around the absentee ballot voting process.

► Voce congratulated the students inducted into the National Technical Honor Society and specifically called out the Herkimer Central School District students for the great honor they achieved.

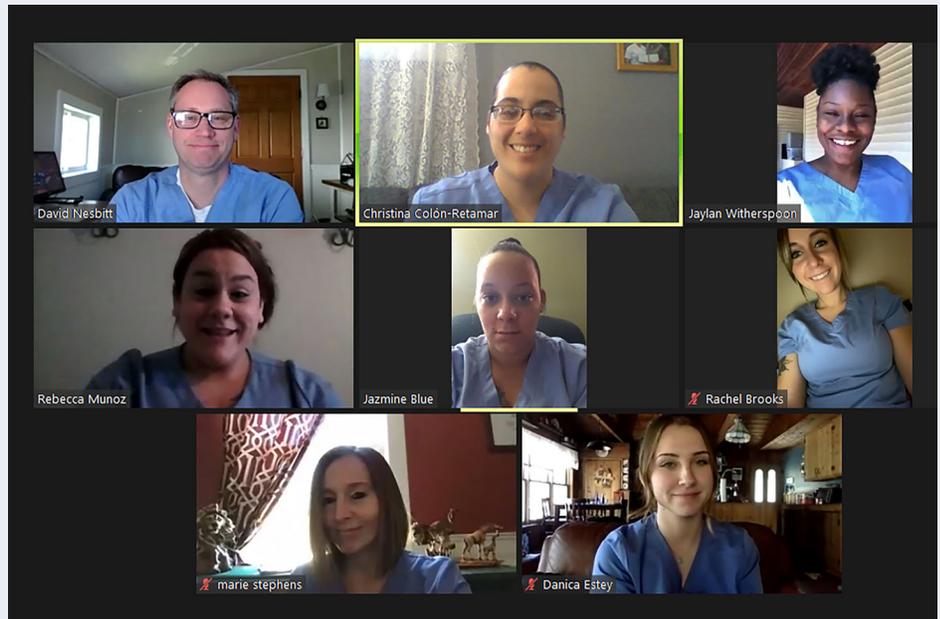
### NYSSBA updates:

► The Herkimer BOCES Board of Education received the NYSSBA 2020 Resolution Kit, and members were provided the dates of the 2020 NYSSBA Conference, which will be held Oct. 29-31 in New York City.

► Miller reported that NYSSBA's Board of Directors has been meeting virtually. He noted that NYSSBA is providing various webinars and information on the governor's executive orders that relate to education.

► Sherwood requested Miller share some of her thoughts with the NYSSBA Executive Committee regarding the 2020 Annual Convention. She stated that the CDC guidelines recommend that no student field trips be held for the fall, which would include the convention's student presenters. Sherwood noted that NYSSBA continues to call for proposals of

### Featured online: Herkimer BOCES adult nursing students graduate after completing program virtually



To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.

student presentations. She further stated that at-risk convention attendees may not consider attending this year's convention in New York City and suggested the organization show some creativity and possibly offer mini sessions via videoconference.

► Herkimer BOCES Board of Education member Ronald Loiacono reported that he attended the SBI Executive Committee meeting and there was discussion around serious cuts to school budgets and that some districts may not renew their NYSSBA membership. According to Miller, NYSSBA Area 5 Director, NYSSBA is considering waiving its dues for the 2020-2021 school year.

### Certifying the 2020-2021 administrative budget vote:

► Sherwood provided the results of the administrative budget vote and board

election that was held by component districts between April 15 - April 30.

► The proposed 2020-2021 administrative budget in the amount of \$3,195,750 was approved by the Herkimer BOCES component Boards of Education 10-0.

► Four members were elected to the Herkimer BOCES Board of Education, each elected to serve a three-year term of office from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2020: Loiacono, Schmid, Tharp and Deborah Kessler.

### Positive thoughts

► A thank you note from the Mount Markham Central School District Board of Education was received to Sherwood for her dedicated work as she led them through a successful superintendent search.

## Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

▶ A thank you letter to Stewart's Shops from Patrick Corrigan, Pathways Academy principal, was shared for Stewart's making a donation of 130 single cone cards. The cards are being used to recognize student progress and improvement during virtual learning.

*The following positive thoughts from newspaper articles were shared:*

▶ Remington school vote and the BOCES budget were discussed at the Frankfort-Schuyler Board of Education meeting on March 11.

▶ Schools cancel spring recess as state requires remote learning to continue.

▶ BOCES announces it will donate 3D masks for healthcare facilities and first responders.

▶ Public vote on the Remington school sale is postponed.

▶ Due to the postponement of the vote, action by the Central Valley school board was required to approve an addendum to the real estate purchase and contract agreement for the sale of the school. The addendum extends the deadline to hold the vote to Nov. 30.

▶ In response to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's executive orders dealing with in-office workforce and working from home, BOCES will have essential staff working on a rotating and reduced schedule in the office and essential staff will work from home on the days they are not in the office.

▶ BOCES LPN program moves to virtual instruction and recruiting.

▶ School districts unanimously approved the BOCES budget and voted for four Board of Education Members.

▶ BOCES recently distributed 1,500 bottles of hand sanitizer to schools across the region. BOCES received two pallets loaded with bottles of the "NYS Clean" alcohol-based hand sanitizer produced by the state and distributed at

### Featured online: Herkimer BOCES celebrates retirees and staff receiving tenure

Herkimer BOCES Recognition Ceremony 06-04-20



To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.

no cost to local governments.

▶ The Jarvis School is preparing to reopen and one final step will be to bring in the BOCES classrooms and office furnishings.

### Special Education and Pathways Academy

*Director of Special and Alternative Education Roberta Matthews provided the following updates.*

▶ Matthews reported that the faculty and staff are stepping up to the challenge and working hard to both learn the technology of the "new normal" and to educate the students during this health crisis.

▶ Matthews worked closely with the component CSE chairs during the COVID-19 closure. New and different SED requirements come out weekly, and the

BOCES is worked collaboratively with the districts to ensure understanding of these new guidance documents, share newest information and compile information as to how districts and BOCES met SED requirements.

▶ Teachers used this time to participate in a book study. The book that staff read is "Help for Billy" by Heather Forbes.

▶ BOCES planned to work collaboratively with ICAN on two grant opportunities. The first grant is The Teen Outreach Program or TOP grant. The second grant is the Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

▶ Patricia Wilson worked collaboratively with special programs staff to create a newsletter for the students and their families.

## Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

► The focus in Special Programs is planning for the virtual Extended School Year (ESY) program.

► Staff training continues – Gina Cannistra and Kellie Maxwell are beginning the Crisis Prevention Re-Certification Training (CPI), and the Special Education and Pathways staff are participating in the professional development that is being offered by the instructional support specialists.

► Special Education and Pathways programs will participate next year in the Teaching Reconciliation in Education to Administration, Teachers, and Youth (TREATY) program, which is sponsored by Catholic Charities of Herkimer County. The curricula act as a base from which students can begin to change their attitudes and increase their understanding of conflict and violence.

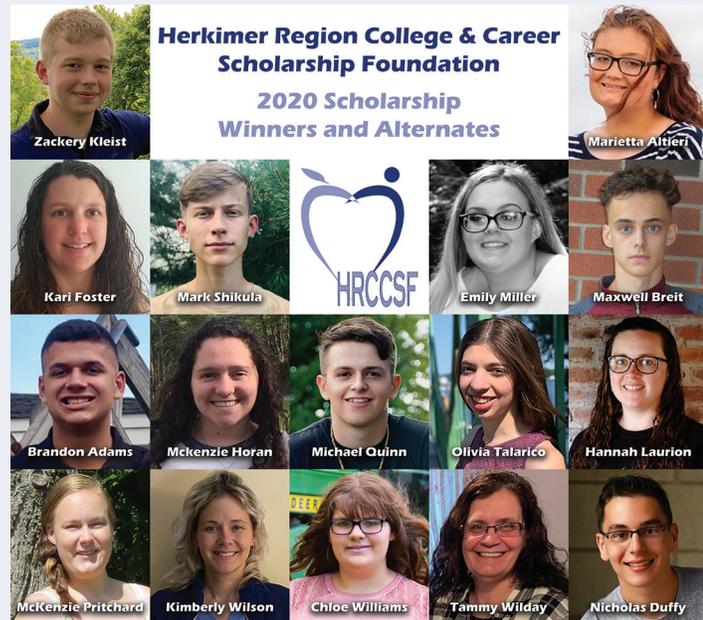
► The Special Education supervisors put together a virtual happy hour to thank faculty and staff for all of their hard work, especially during the last few months. Staff played a game via Kahoot where they answered challenging BOCES trivia. The virtual event was well attended.

► The Special Education and Alternative Education Superintendents' Sub-committee recently met and reviewed special education tuitions as well as program enhancements for next year. Also discussed was the transition to Central Valley in the fall.

► Alternative Education Assistant Principal Dave Itzo recognized Pathways students that handed in classwork and participated in instruction by mailing them a Stewart's gift certificate for one ice cream cone.

► Connie Byrne, special education teacher, was recognized by the Genesis Group for her dedication and excellence during the COVID closure and for creating a successful virtual classroom learning environment.

### Featured online: Scholarship Foundation awards scholarships to students through mail this year



To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.

► There are three career-based program options in the special education division: Career Preparation or Career Prep, Career Awareness I and II, and Career Exploration I and II. Each are unique, but all share the goal of preparing students for the world of work. Work has been done to add credit to Career Awareness II and Career Exploration I and II, which will allow more choices in career options for Special Education and Alternative Education students.

► In addition to these programs, Trade and Service is also an option for students. This program is housed on the Pathways campus. Beginning in September, students will access a new version of Trade and Service, which includes all of the 16 Career Clusters across two years. New units are being

developed that will expose students to a wide range of career options.

► An important component of all of our career-based programs is the ability for our students to earn work-based learning hours. Work-based learning (WBL) is the “umbrella” term used to identify activities, which collaboratively engage employers and schools in providing structured learning experiences for students.

► The Special Education administrators have been working collaboratively with Central Valley administration on the transition of classes to Central Valley. The CVA administration has been very welcoming and collaborative. BOCES is very excited for the special education classes to be housed at Central Valley, as it will provide very positive academic as well as social experiences for the students.

## *Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued*

### **Technical Education**

*Director of Technical Programs and Instructional Support Services Kathy Fox provided the Technical Education and Instructional Support Services updates.*

► Sophomore visitation was held in March. Students from all component schools attended two classes of their own choice as a way to learn more about the programs.

► The Annual Open House for Technical Programs was held on March 11 and was another successful event. A BBQ was held as a fundraiser for SkillsUSA, numerous donations were given as door prizes and over 400 visitors were welcomed to the campus.

► Once a blueprint from Budmen Industries was received, the production of masks for our local healthcare facilities and first responders was underway. Mike Cimo, Advanced Manufacturing teacher, was printing the headbands from his home as the rest of the materials were gathered from a variety of locations, including a donation from Lowe's. Many donations were received such as rubbing alcohol, rubber gloves, transparencies, elastic and Ziploc bags.

► All 13 CTE programs compiled packets of review materials, which were distributed to students. All teachers opted to use Google Classroom or other electronic delivery options to share work with students.

► In an informal survey, approximately 18 percent of our students do not have access to the Internet. Therefore, all work shared with students electronically was also housed in paper-based form in the office.

► College Now classes through Herkimer College continued instruction through an online platform.

► Students in the Welding and Heavy Equipment programs trained online to complete their OSHA 10 certification.

### **Featured online: Herkimer BOCES students inducted into National Technical Honor Society**



*To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.*

► Health Science Careers student Breanna Martinez of Central Valley Academy, was elected to the 2020-2021 NYS HOSA reporter position; speeches and voting took place virtually.

► Students in Heavy Equipment worked diligently to earn their NCCER certification in Core and Heavy Equipment Operation Level 1. Dolgeville students Dylan Lamphear, Kyle Getman and Jazzlyn Grassel as well as Little Falls student Chris Giaquinto have achieved this national certification. Kyle Getman also earned his OSHA 10 training.

► Culinary Hospitality students catered many events prior to the closure in March. During the closure, Culinary students created ServeSafe online accounts. The training gave students an opportunity to acquire a three-year certification for free (ServSafe Food Handler certificate). Eight students earned the ServSafe

Certification to date.

► The Technical Education staff continued to improve online delivery of instruction. Although honing technical skills is not possible without live hands-on practice, students received instruction and support through virtual delivery. Resources continue to be reviewed and shared regularly as administrators and teachers attend career cluster meetings scheduled through the CTE Technical Assistance Center of NY.

► The new READiTEC program was presented to the Technical Education Superintendent's Sub-Committee, and the superintendents were unanimously in support of the program and excited by the potential opportunities for their students. Application materials were sent to the districts and the responses so far look very promising. READiTEC will allow students an opportunity to be exposed

## *Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued*

to the 16 career clusters and help them gain a better understanding of career options. The curriculum that students will learn addresses CDOS, SEL, ASCA (American School Counselor Association) and Next Generation Learning Standards. This will prepare them not only academically, but also for entry-level options in a wide range of career trades.

► The National Technical Honor Society induction ceremony was held virtually and can be viewed on the BOCES website. Congratulations to the following inductees:

### **Central Valley:**

- Rhiannon Corsette, Building Construction
- Jessie Greig, Culinary Hospitality

### **Dolgeville:**

- Andrew Ashe, Conservation
- Zackery Kleist, Advanced Manufacturing
- Dylan Lamphere, Heavy Equipment
- Emily Miller, Health Science Careers
- Lexie Tennant, Culinary Hospitality

### **Frankfort-Schuyler:**

- Sarah Hamilton, Visual Communications Media Arts
- Mark Shikula, Culinary Hospitality
- Stephanie Smithling, Visual Communications Media Arts
- Olivia Talarico, Advanced Manufacturing

### **Herkimer:**

- Marietta Altieri, Advanced Manufacturing
- Matthew Gallagher, Visual Communication Media Arts
- Michial Nichols, Outdoor Power Equipment
- Karli Treen, Health Science Careers

## **Featured online: Herkimer BOCES VP-TECH student hired by CTM Corp. before graduation**



To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), [click here](#).

### **Little Falls:**

- Reese Battisti, Welding and Metal Fabrication
- Samantha Frere, Health Science Careers

### **Mount Markham:**

- Chelsea Mashtare, Criminal Justice

### **Poland:**

- Jack Oczkowski, Welding and Metal Fabrication

### **West Canada Valley:**

- Jordan Brelinsky, Cosmetology
- Kaleb Pohleven, Welding and Metal Fabrication
- Makes Spellman, Welding and Metal Fabrication
- Chloe Williams, Health Science Careers

► VP-TECH followed the same guidelines as CTE with the exception of College Now classes and online college courses, which moved ahead with new instruction, based on regulations from Higher Education.

► Students in VP-TECH participated in Virtual Mentor Monday, which was held with business partners who provided students advice on working virtually. The protocols that should be followed emphasized the need to continue being professional while working online.

► CTM in Frankfort is seeking to hire VP-TECH students for positions in qualityc. Zachary Kleist from Dolgeville has been hired. Congratulations to Zachary and the VP-TECH program for preparing him for this wonderful opportunity. Additional seniors were working on their resume and planned to apply as well.

## *Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued*

► Congratulations to four VP-TECH students who will earn their associate degree this year. These students managed to accelerate their learning and garner all their college credits while enrolled in high school. The following students have earned this credential: Marietta Altieri, Herkimer; Charles Buckley, Central Valley Academy; Zachery Kleist, Dolgeville; and Olivia Talarico, Frankfort-Schuyler.

### **Instructional Support Services**

#### **Mentoring:**

► On March 19, about 50 educators attended our first Google Hangout virtual meeting.

► Mentees were encouraged to schedule 1:1 appointments with Instructional Support to help guide them through this transition.

► The Mentoring Program continued to support mentees and mentors to ease their transition into the virtual platform.

► Regular meetings were held so the mentees have the opportunity to discuss what is going well, how to overcome roadblocks and potential resources they need or would like to share out.

► Each mentee cohort year has their own “classroom,” and the mentors have their own “classroom.” It allows Sarah Trunfio to share updates and resources quickly and efficiently. It has been impressive to see the dedication and hard work that each of them have put into this transition in order to help students be successful.

► The mentees are showing confidence in this new way of educating students. Mentees are feeling the level of frustration is decreasing and the comfort level for providing remote learning is increasing. In fact, many teachers have noted that there are some students who flourished in this new virtual learning environment that were struggling with engagement and work in the classroom.

► Teachers are reporting other positive

### **Featured online: Herkimer BOCES VP-TECH hosts virtual Mentor Monday with local businesspeople**



*To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.*

things about how the CSE meetings seem to be more organized and efficient virtually than they were in person.

► The mentees and mentors are often brainstorming to problem solve barriers or sharing resources they have found to be beneficial during the mentoring meetings.

#### **Curriculum work:**

► Instructional Support continued to work with BOCES as well as component districts’ teachers to strengthen lesson planning, prioritize standards and curriculum mapping in an effort to use time wisely in order to prepare educators for the next phase of learning.

► Much of the curriculum work in the month of April was to help the programs with the transition to remote learning and the continuity of learning plans. Professional development offerings

increased and are responsive to the current needs.

► Professional development was offered for related service providers to help them make the transition to remote learning with their students.

#### **Professional Development:**

► Social studies teachers from six component districts and Herkimer BOCES completed scoring training for the New US Framework Exam. Two component districts were scheduled to complete training as well.

► The ISS team attended statewide meetings for Teacher-Leader-Evaluator, ELA and the NYS Council of Social Studies Conference. The ISS team has more current resources and strategies to share with the component districts.

► The ISS team has begun to provide professional development (PD) through

## Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

electronic portals given the current situation our state and nation are facing.

► PD offerings transitioned well over to the virtual platform. This has been a progressive approach that staff has been working on for some time now. We have seen an uptick in offerings and participation from the districts. The PD department looks forward to continuing this trend into the future.

► The total number of PD offerings in April was 44 with 743 participants.

► Instructional Support Services has moved toward helping Herkimer BOCES and component schools to utilize technology in the way they deliver their curriculum. This started out on a basic level of providing training on Google Meet, Google Classroom, as well as other technology features on the G-Suite platform such as Google Docs.

► Professional development has been provided via the Zoom platform, which has opened up opportunities to use breakout rooms for educators to be able to have time to discuss and think about the concepts and activities in the PD.

► “Mindfulness: Finding Calm in the Crisis” was offered twice and was a huge success. It met the maximum capacity of 30 participants both times. Sherri Spina, an elementary teacher from Central Valley, was the presenter. Sherri has a background of certification related to mindfulness. She provided great information and presented strategies that participants can use immediately for themselves and with their students.

► Professional Development continued with multiple online workshops that included vocabulary strategies, tech tools and support, autism and instructional strategies for remote learning. It was noted that there was an increase in participation this year due to the virtual delivery, particularly with teacher aides, as well as some individuals from outside our BOCES region.

### Featured online: Herkimer BOCES distributes hand sanitizer to local schools



To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.

► There were 26 PD offerings in May 2020 with 285 teachers, staff and administrators participating. In May 2019, there were eight offerings with 55 participants.

► Jon Griffith supported the Social Studies Statewide Curriculum Development team by facilitating a Q&A with one of the nation’s top historical authors and advocates for social studies instruction, Dr. Sam Wineburg of Stanford University.

► Jennifer Stanton and Jon Griffith presented online workshops in collaboration with the Math and Science Statewide Curriculum Development teams.

► Along with other PDs offered virtually, Sarah Trunfio provided professional development for our districts related to instructional practices for students

with autism. Sheri Perry continued professional development support for Google Suite applications throughout the month.

#### Virtual Online Learning Services:

► The various content providers were notified that the component districts are currently closed. The courses are completely online and students continue to have access to credit accrual and credit recovery courses during this time.

► There have been requests from districts to enroll students in virtual credit accrual and credit recovery courses during this time.

► Google Classroom training has been held to help teachers with digitizing and managing content with virtual teaching. One-on-one help has also been provided in helping teachers move to remote learning.

## Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

► Online courses have been added for students. BOCES has also been exploring how we can assist districts with online learning for the next school year. Currently, BOCES offers services from Edmentum, Accelerate U, and iTutor. Training has also been done for BOCES and district staff on the use of the LMS (Learning Management System) Google Classroom.

### Arts in Education:

► The school superintendents cancelled all field trips for the remainder of the school year.

► Staff worked in collaboration with Arts & Education school coordinators to cancel purchase orders and send invoices and W-9s to vendors in order to close out previously held events.

► Currently, field trip requests for next school year are not being accepted. Carol Dumka, Arts and Education coordinator, continues to share virtual field trips as well as arts and music activities with district arts and education coordinators.

### Honors Program:

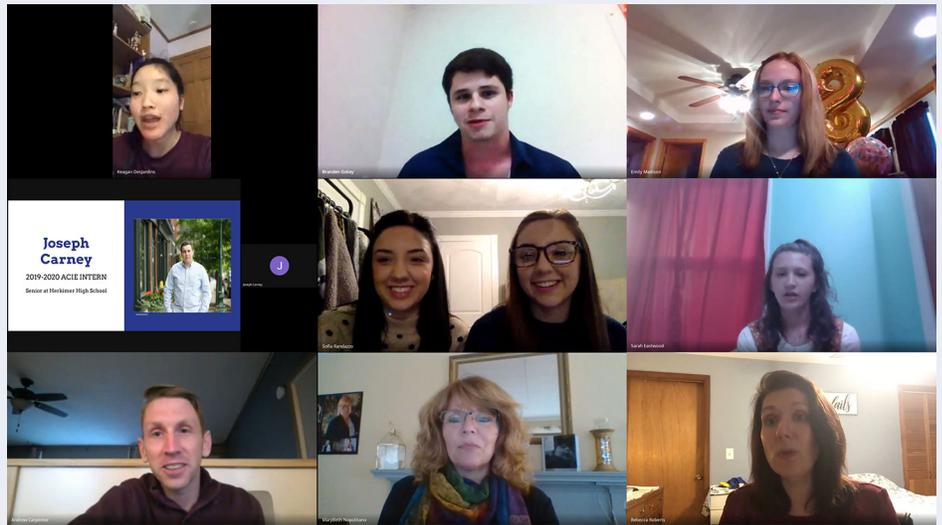
► Two exciting honors programs were held at the beginning of March. Sixth-graders were able to visit and explore the Wellin Museum at Hamilton College, and eighth-graders were able to experience an interactive presentation on the Civil War at the WEB Complex.

► Many great opportunities through different artists/performers for virtual experiences have been offered. Three districts have decided to continue offering their students the opportunity to attend honors programs for the 2020-2021 school year.

### School to Careers:

► STC staff have communicated with over 100 community partners to secure their participation in virtual career development. The school counselors indicated the activities that they would

## Featured online: Herkimer BOCES School to Careers honors students virtually for completing ACIE internship program



To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.

like to have available for their students, from virtual job shadows to online professional roundtables. The team has been working on formatting the information in a way that will be easily accessible via the BOCES website.

► New initiatives for the next school year include working, in coordination with the Frankfort-Schuyler Special Education Department, on the Work Based Learning opportunities for the Life Skills class, and providing VP-TECH seniors with a number of internship choices throughout their culminating year.

► STC met virtually with the ACIE Interns, which provided the students with an additional level of support as they transitioned to a new way of participating in school, along with helping them focus on their next steps along their chosen career path.

► STC assisted with the efforts of Sophomore Visitation as well as preparation and implementation of another successful open house.

► STC finalized the logistics and confirmed the career presenters for Poland's annual school-wide Career Exploration Day. The theme of day focused on construction trades.

► In the wake of COVID-19, STC is supporting the needs of component districts.

► In effort to stay connected virtually with the ACIE Interns, a Google Hangout was established to hold "Fearless Friday Check-In."

► The interns were directed to maintain positive and supportive communication with their internship supervisor/mentor and offer virtual assistance as a continuation of their experience.

## *Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued*

► In moving forward with CTE Internships, a WBL Classroom has been created to deposit all required forms, presentations and other informational materials for internship purposes.

► The fourth annual Advanced Career Immersion Experience (ACIE) Recognition Ceremony was held virtually and livestreamed. The students spoke about their internships with admiration, passion and gratefulness towards their unique experiences.

► The STC Team continues to work with business and industry partners on a virtual delivery of Career Awareness and Exploration. The team is also participating in the Career and Technical Support Center's Work-Based Learning statewide meetings.

### **Home Instruction:**

► Home Instruction continues to grow. Three new students have been added to the program. The two coordinators continue to review third quarter reports and letters of intent for the 2020-2021 school year are being received.

### **School Boards Institute:**

► Due to the program showcase scheduled for March 26 being canceled, next year the showcase will be hosted at Herkimer BOCES.

► The Student Achievement nominations have been reviewed and selections have been made.

### **Adult, Early Childhood and Outreach Education**

*Director of Adult, Early Childhood and Outreach Education Mary Kline provided the following updates.*

#### **Early Childhood Education:**

► Prekindergarten (PreK) registration information is posted on the BOCES website. PreK classes are held at Frankfort-Schuyler, West Canada Valley, Dolgeville, Herkimer, Owen D. Young and one integrated class at Central Valley.

► The Pre K staff continued working together to provide instruction to all students during the period of online learning. A variety of techniques were used.

► An updated Continuity of Learning plan was developed and has been submitted for Preschool as part of the BOCES response to the SED request.

► PreK teachers, teaching assistants and aides attended many virtual workshops that were offered by the Instructional Support Services team. This was an excellent opportunity to receive training and build skills.

#### **Licensed Practical Nursing:**

► The LPN staff provided instruction through the Zoom platform. An online clinical component for the LPN program was used and approval from the licensing agency was obtained.

► Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) classrooms were converted to online learning, as well. Unfortunately, the CNA online clinical portion was not approved. The students completed the classroom portion but will have to wait until the onsite clinical can be held. Additional CNA classes are on hold for now.

► Recruitment for the LPN program continued. Open houses were held in the virtual world and proved to be a successful way to reach out to potential students as the 2021 class has 14 new full-time students. These students will begin the program on June 29.

► At the time of the meeting, five LPN students finished the program early, and one had already passed her LPN boards. Since, all LPN students completed the program.

► This year's job fair was held virtually.

#### **Adult Literacy:**

► The adult literacy staff contacted as many of their students as possible to touch base and make sure they had the basic survival things such as food and

shelter. Referrals were made to local food banks to help those in need.

► Most of the work of Adult Literacy requires in person, seat time in order to generate funds for the instruction provided. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) worked to develop some innovative ways that can be used for online/virtual instruction and/or packet-based curriculum for student learning. The required plan has been submitted and staff modified their instruction delivery. Fiscal implications will be addressed once they are known.

► The New York State Education Department provided three webinars concerning temporary program modifications that can be implemented by local sites. In the area of instruction, a plan was been submitted to provide both individualized and group virtual classes. A new way to demonstrate the contact time has been developed as well. New training was rolled out for the program case managers and new data collection protocol has been instituted. These are temporary measures.

► No new students are allowed to be added to the programs, as there is no provision for intakes to be done virtually. In addition, the TASC test is currently not being given because there are no provisions in place for remote testing.

► The Adult Literacy program continued to support the adult learners that were in the program before the shutdown of in person instruction. NYSED continues to offer modifications.

#### **Outreach Education:**

► The initial task was to coordinate with each student's home district to ensure that they were on the list for food delivery or could get to the drop off locations, if families had Wi-Fi, computers and/or cell phones. Referrals to food pantries were made when school district food was not available or accessible.

## *Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued*

▶ The tutors established at least weekly sessions to help school-aged students work through the materials they received.

▶ The preschool children and the out-of-school youth were contacted and online learning supported.

▶ Zoom meetings were held to support staff members that work with this vulnerable, under-resourced population.

▶ A grant in the amount of \$4,900 was received from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation to support migrant students from Columbia and Greene County to attend summer camp and to participate in other extended learning opportunities.

▶ The Migrant Education Tutorial and Support Services Program continued to help support students and families. The areas of focus continued to be food security, childcare and academic support.

▶ Districts reached out to staff for assistance because a connection had already been established with most families.

▶ The program was required to submit weekly updates on progress in each of the following identified areas: food, childcare, academics, emotional support and emerging issues.

▶ Migrant staff had the opportunity to attend virtual professional development

offered by the New York State Migrant Program, BOCES and the RBERN. In addition, bi-weekly staff meetings were held.

▶ The Migrant Education Tutorial and Support Services Program continued to help support students and families. Summer programming will be held virtually. Activities and lessons are being created that will involve the whole family. Some include outdoor components, virtual field trips with related activities and contests.

▶ The New York State Migrant Education Program has established an "Unpause" committee to plan for the gradual reopening and what it will mean specifically for the program. Representatives from Herkimer BOCES were selected to participate.

▶ The NYSED Migrant unit has converted their residential ten-day, college-based program called Summer Learning Academy (SOMLA) to High School Learning Academy (HOLA). Ninth- to 11th-graders were recruited to participate in the 20-day program.

### **Community outreach and trainings:**

▶ The Herkimer Hunger Coalition provided five new bicycles to children in various programs.

### **District superintendent updates**

▶ Sherwood provided an update on the superintendent searches she was conducting.

▶ Discussion was held on the following topics: various aspects of the virtual learning environment; the governor's executive orders relating to education; efforts across the whole region on meal provisions to students; the general shifts in the way everyone is doing their work, and what schools will look like moving forward.

▶ Due to the pandemic, questions were raised about what the new school year would look like. Various programs were discussed and questions asked about how they managed during the period of virtual learning.

▶ Sherwood reported that reopening workgroups have been formed. The workgroups will be looking at Georgia's plan, which is a three-tier approach. This will be a big effort, and all constituent groups are invited to participate.

▶ Sherwood commended the administrators for coming up with creative ideas on ways to celebrate student success.

# *Thanks for reading!*