

Component Connection



News that's relevant to your district!

November 2019

Students Celebrate Halloween in Style

Students in Mr. Ferris' class at Moravia Elementary went all out this year for Halloween! Check some of their incredible costumes!



"Nice Matters"

CTE students at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES have been participating in the "Nice Matters" campaign. The campaign is the brainchild of the Health Occupations program and promotes writing compliments to peers.



CTE Instructor Named NYS Master Teacher

Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES' Computer Systems and Network Administration instructor Matthew Champlin has been named a New York State Master Teacher, an honor amongst educators.



The New York State Master Teacher Program celebrates the work of the highest-performing K – 12 STEM and computer science teachers. Out of the 1,200 teachers who have gone through the program, there are approximately 10 BOCES instructors.

To become a master teacher, Champlin had to go through a multi-step interview process. He had to take a component test, go through an interview, have students, parents and principals send in references and write a one-page paper on what he planned on doing with the program.

Once he made it to the final round, he then went to SUNY Cortland to interview with other master teachers. While going through the interview process, Champlin said he was able to meet instructors who share similar interests. He looks forward to working with them again.

"It's kind of nice to be able to go build curriculum with other people who are passionate about this type of field," said Champlin.

Champlin said his students are what motivate him to continue to develop his teaching skills. He said he's excited to learn what other Master Teachers do in their programs and how they engage their students.

Students Tour Local Medical Facilities

The Work-Based Learning program at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES recently helped coordinate job shadows for students at Jordan-Elbridge High School who are interested in careers in the medical field.

The students were able to visit SUNY Upstate and Crouse School of Nursing, providing them with a great opportunity to explore state-of-the-out medical facilities.



Compass Student Finds Success for Robotics Team

Student Tim Edwards represented the Compass DarkLego Masters Robotics Team at the November 16 Competition held at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES.

Tim faced 3 panels of judges and discussed the robot used in competition, the process the team used to solve problems and how he would improve on city designs. For the robotics part of the competition, Tim successfully completed at least 3 of the missions each time.



Compass Enjoys Annual Pinewood Derby Races

The Compass Program recently held its annual Pinewood Derby races, with students building their own race cars and then competing to see who built the fastest car. Congratulations to all students who participated!

Ponto Set to Present at NCTE Convention

Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES English teacher Crystal Ponto will be attending, and presenting, at the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Convention in Baltimore, Maryland starting November 21.

The convention joins thousands of educators, authors and publishers together to take part in workshops, speeches and special events related to literacy, language and composition. The goal of the convention is for literacy professionals to learn and share new strategies and practices for teaching English.

Ponto will be presenting with author Mark Oshiro, who wrote the acclaimed book "Anger is a Gift." The book touches on several important topics, including the LGBTQ community, protesting and racism.

Ponto, who teaches the book to her Compass program students at BOCES, said it is important to take risks in the classroom to help students expand their creative thinking.

Ponto said providing a balance between newer, more progressive books and classic novels, such as "To Kill a Mockingbird," creates an opportunity for students to succeed.

"That's the joy of alternative education," said Ponto. "We're given the flexibility to add in new, tougher books."

Ponto said she is thrilled to be presenting at the convention but is also looking forward to attending workshops and other events to take ideas away from other literacy professionals.

"I've been teaching at BOCES for 20-plus years and as an adjunct professor at Le Moyne College for 13 years, but I'll be a huge fan when I'm down there. I'll be excited to provide my two cents, but excited to listen."

