

Component Connection



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February 2020

Culinary Students Cook Up Some Texas BBQ

Culinary students at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES recently smoked up some Texas barbecue at Bistro Nosh.

Weedsport High School student, Lauren Picciano, led the class as head chef and decided to follow her Texan roots in deciding to choose a barbecue theme. Each week a student is selected to lead the kitchen for a week.

"I was born in Texas, so it's kind of close to home for me and I knew most of it," said Picciano.

As head chef, it was Picciano's job to decide which recipes the class would make and then order the supplies. She then assigned students to specific jobs before serving the dishes.

"I go off everyone's strengths. Like for example, Angela. She's made mac and cheese I don't know how many times, so she's on mac and cheese. And I'm particularly good at barbecue, so I would be on meats if it wasn't my week," said Picciano.

Picciano said she has learned a lot since starting the class and is hopeful everyone liked the dishes she chose.



Outdoor Power Student Earns Certification

Through hard work, dedication and a commitment to improve, Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES Outdoor Power Equipment and Powersports Technology student, Gage Goodrich, recently became the program's first ever certified Yamaha Marine Technician.

Goodrich, who attends Jordan-Elbridge High School, said he is excited to obtain his certification and noted how it will help him advance his future career.

"It looks really good on a resumé," said Goodrich. "It's a great opportunity for me to get a good job out of high school."

Goodrich said his goal is to someday have his own outdoor power shop and work on a variety of equipment, including motorcycles and boats. Goodrich noted that joining a BOCES program has helped prepare him for his dream.

"I would encourage anyone to come to BOCES," he said. "It definitely gives you a head start on your future."



Compass Students Enjoy Bingo Game

Students in the Compass Program at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES were recently rewarded for their hard work and positive attitudes by getting to take part in fun games of bingo.

The bingo games were a part of the Compass Program's positive incentives, an initiative the program started about five years ago. Students earn points for good behavior, such as engaging positively in their program or completing their school work, which then allows them to attend fun and exciting events.

Compass Principal Drew Yakawiak said he has seen an increase in positive behavior since the positive incentives were started. Positive incentives vary, something Yakawiak said is good for the students.



Special Education Students Enjoy Lesson on Friendship

Students Kaden DeMott and Austin Walters from Amanda Tengi's classroom participate in weekly social skills instruction, and recently learned about the importance of friendship.



The class recently discussed friendship basics. Students started by identifying their positive traits on a drawing of themselves. Then they identified how they were the same and different from each other.

The lesson concluded with a choice activity that will begin to build cooperative play and other pro-social behaviors.

Nursing Students Prove That Being Nice Matters

Students in the Health Related Occupations program have been leading the "Nice Matters" campaign, which is designed to help promote empathy and caring throughout Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES.



"At the heart of the work we do in healthcare is caring for other people. During our campaign, our students encourage other students during morning and afternoon arrival to write a caring message for another student in the building," said instructor Robin McKay. "When they do this, they receive a piece of candy or a pen with our slogan."

On Friday, which happens to coincide with Valentine's Day (as well as CTE month), nursing students will deliver the messages to the rest of the students.

Cayuga-Onondaga's HERO Program is Family First

Showcasing a legacy of work ethic, three generations of the Jirinec family have been at the forefront of the Heavy Equipment Repair and Operation (HERO) Program at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES.

The roots of the HERO program can be traced back to 1973 when Daryl Jirinec first came to Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES to teach agricultural mechanics. Two years later, the HERO program was created, and Darryl became the program's first instructor.

For 30-plus years, Daryl held the mantle as the program's leader, teaching hundreds of students everything he could about heavy equipment, including his son, Cale. While both admitted the father-son turned teacher-student transition was a challenge at first, they were able to establish boundaries and persevere.

"It was different at first, but he was good. We both worked a lot together on the farm. He fit right in," said Darryl.

When it came time for Darryl to retire, Cale took over as lead instructor of the program, looking to build upon his father's legacy while also forging his own path.

"My first focus was to build and build and build onto the program and make it my own. Move it forward," said Cale.

Director of CTE, Steve Woodard, said that when you think of the HERO program at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES, you think of the Jirinec family.

"When you think of the HERO program here at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES, you associate it with the Jirinec family. We have been blessed for a long time with having a Jirinec leading the program," said Woodard.

Repeating family history, Cale eventually welcomed his own son, Bryce, into the HERO program. Bryce entered the program as part of a pilot program that Cale helped create. The pilot program allows certain students to enter a CTE program when they are in ninth grade.



Thanks to the pilot program, Bryce became the first student to graduate from two different CTE programs while in high school, successfully completing both HERO and Outdoor Power Sports.

"It was difficult. Nobody believed that I could graduate from two classes in four years. I wanted to tell them that they were wrong," said Bryce.

Both Cale and Darryl said they were very proud of Bryce for being the first and only student to complete the pilot program.

"He was a group leader both years and really excelled and really matured through the two years that I had him," said Cale.