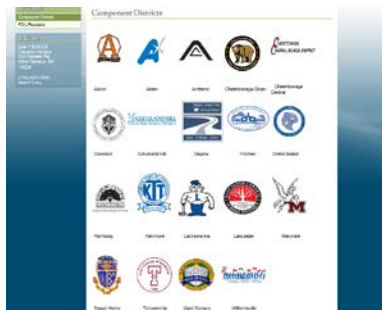


Inside Story

Common Grounds



Did You Know?

Erie 1 BOCES is comprised of [19 component](#), or member, districts. The board members of those component districts vote on Erie 1 BOCES administrative budget and also elect the members of Erie 1 BOCES' Board of Education. Erie 1 BOCES exists to help their components share resources via shared services.

For any BOCES to offer a service it must be requested by two or more component districts. The BOCES then applies for "cooperative service" (Co-Ser) approval from the commissioner of education. In this Co-Ser arrangement, the BOCES service must be designed to be cost effective. Often proving tasks for districts to do on their own would be more expensive. School

districts in [neighboring BOCES](#) regions* are able to work with Erie 1 BOCES via grants, state contracts and cross-contracts. (*Note: The [WNYRIC](#), based at Erie 1 BOCES, provides technology support to five BOCES and 100 school districts.)



Don't Get Scammed – Learn What Phishing Is

The reports of phishing attempts have recently increased including a scam about W2 forms, which you [were notified](#) about on MyErie1. Phishing is defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as: a scam by which an e-mail user is duped into revealing personal or confidential information which the scammer can use illicitly. [Here](#) is an example of a phishing attempt to bypass internet security protocols. If you believe you've received a phishing email, do not open it or click on any links contained within the message.



Training for Adult Learners

Do you know an adult looking to jumpstart a new career? Some sessions for the spring are still available. See more details on www.e1b.org/AdultEd to browse the part time and full time classes. All adult education programs can be completed in one year or less.

Changes to Note



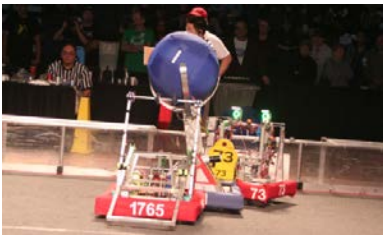
Affordable Care Act 1095 Forms

All employees deemed full-time will be receiving 1095 forms indicating their participation in the Erie 1 BOCES healthcare plan, a requirement of the Affordable Care Act. The deadline for sending this form to employees has been extended to March 31, 2016, though employees will receive the 1095 form prior to that date. As per IRS guidelines, this will not prevent you from filing your 2015 tax return. You can complete your tax form indicating your participation with either the Erie 1 BOCES health plan or another carrier. When you receive your 1095 form in the mail, retain the form with your tax information. To learn more, [click here](#).



Attend the Fashion Show

Students of Erie 1 BOCES Fashion Design and Merchandising program will be showing off their creative talents on March 10, 2016. Ten students, representing a total of eight districts, will pizzazz the public with the “Limitless” fashion show. The aspiring designers have gained the tools necessary to kick-start their careers in the fashion industry. Harkness instructor Darleen Meek has led students to stardom in the fashion show for six years running. This year’s event will be held at the Lord & Taylor Court in the Walden Galleria at 6 p.m. and will repeat at 7 p.m. [Read more...](#)



Preparing for FIRST Robotics Competition

Garth Merlino, team chairman, and his fellow instructors at Harkness Career & Technical Center are preparing students for FIRST Finger Lakes Robotics Competition at RIT. The students are building a robot to compete at the event happening Thursday, March 24 through Saturday, March 26, 2016. In this year’s challenge, two alliances of three robots each are on a quest to breach their opponents’ fortifications, weaken their tower with boulders, and capture the opposing tower.



Check Out Our Tweets

Erie 1 BOCES’ career centers are on Twitter. Check out some recently Tweeted photos of students in action. To access all Twitter pages see the [locations page](#) on www.e1b.org.



“Criminal Justice students at Potter learn to crack cases.”

“Aviation students at Harkness test their propeller for balance.”



“Electronics & Computer Technology students restore Vietnam-era RADAR antenna for the Buffalo Naval Park.”



Free Playgroup

Erie 1 BOCES Harkness Career & Technical Center, located in Cheektowaga, has openings in a play group for children ages 2 to 4 years old. The Harkness playgroup is free and is held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The program will begin on Tuesday, February 23 and go through Friday, April 28. Activities include art, music, games, play and a snack. With an excellent student to teacher ratio, the program doubles as a learning lab for high school juniors interested in early childhood development careers. For more information, please contact: Holly Place, 716-961-4070. Enrollment is available on a first-come, first-served basis.



Jeans Day 3/17

The Education Campus Employee Special Events Committee, on Thursday, March 17, will hold a “wear green” jeans day. Please see your regular ticket seller for your \$2 jeans day pass for that day.



Many Faces of Newcomers

ESOL educators from central and western New York came together for a professional development day. In total, 235 teachers of English language learners participated in the sessions that touched upon inclusion and stressed the importance of ongoing, two-way, relationships to help students achieve. Among the presenters was Lissette Colón-Collins, assistant commissioner for NYSED OBE-WL. She spoke to attendees about ensuring equal educational opportunities for English language learners. [Read more...](#)



E-Scrap Collection

We are again collecting old electronics for recycling during the week of March 28- April 1. For every pound of electronics collected at the Education Campus, Sunnking Electronics Recycling will make a monetary donation to Camp Good Days to improve the quality of life for children, adults and families whose lives have been touched by cancer. Donations will be accepted at the warehouse loading dock in the back of the Building A at the Education Campus. See the [acceptable materials list](#) that is posted on MyErie1.

Kudos



Kudos Amy Edel

Jamye Smith, teaching assistant for Buffalo Public School #156, left the following message about Amy Edel in E1B’s certification office. “I just wanted to let you know that you have a great employee, and what a great job Amy is doing. Amy is excellent, and I really appreciate the service that she has provided to me in the last week and a half.”

Kudos Jessica Karches

Jessica Karches from the Technology Services division received the following commendation from Sharon Hance, director of student and staff learning at Alden CSD. “Just passing along the compliments I have received about your social studies frameworks session here in Alden. Teachers are excited and found you well prepared and delightful!”

Kudos Rebecca Zdon

Rebecca Zdon of Technology Services received the following note from Candace Reimer in Communication Services. “...your networking and willingness to make connections for us while you’re ‘out there’ has had a positive impact on our service. You are a great ambassador, I can’t thank you enough. Kudos to you!”

Special Features



Tax Season is Here

Don't forget to submit your taxes before Monday, April 18. If you need assistance in the process, the IRS offers [free tax guidance](#). Also, the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County is offering free tax preparation. To see who qualifies, [see MyErie1](#).



Fitness: Activity Trackers – the Latest in Wearable Technology

This new technology fad has been growing in every age group, from high school students to seniors. The “activity trackers” can monitor your heart rate, calories burned, steps taken and even your sleep schedule. Some of the most popular brands include: Fitbit, Jawbone, Garmin and the Apple Watch. Most trackers are enabled to sync directly with your smartphone, and they aren't just for the workout junkies! Learn more about them [here](#).



Jokes of the Month

Q. What did one ocean say to the other ocean?

A. Nothing, they just waved.

Q. Why do bees hum?

A. Because they don't know the words!

Q. What do you get from a pampered cow?

A. Spoiled milk.



Like Us, Share Us and Re-Tweet Us

One of the easiest ways you can help promote Erie 1 BOCES is by following us and interacting with us on social media.

Share or re-tweet E1B's postings to quickly spread the word about the great work accomplished by E1B.