

Inside Story

Common Grounds



Send Your Regards

After 40 years of service, Judith (Judy) Katz will retire from Erie 1 BOCES Board of Education. A booklet with comments from employees will be collected and created especially for her. By **June 1**, please take a moment to convey your regards and [appreciation using this online form](#).



Enroll In Your Benefits

By the end of this month, you **ARE required** to log into our benefit enrollment application (BSwift) to verify your existing benefits and dependents - even if there are no changes to your current plan. The month of May is open enrollment for your 2018-19 employee benefits. This is your opportunity to enroll or make changes to benefits afforded to you as an eligible E1B employee including: health, dental, and flexible spending accounts (must enroll annually). One information session remains this month on Tuesday, May 22, 2- 4p.m. at the Education Campus in Room B2a. There will be representatives from Independent Health, Dental Pay Plus, various financial services institutions, and more. Registration is not required, just show up. For all other enrollment assistance, please contact Sharon Brzoskowski at sbrzoskowski@e1b.org or 821-7078.



Email Change In December

As noted in a previous email to staff, Erie 1 BOCES' email system will be changing from Lotus Notes to Outlook. With a few minor exceptions, most of the features we utilize daily will remain the same. The projected timeline has the system changeover occurring in late December 2018. Please keep an eye out for future communications regarding email clean up, training dates and transition details. Thank you.



Lifetime Achievement Award

The Board Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Andrew Loeb, Erie 1 BOCES Board of Education Member this month. School Board U presented this award after Loeb completed a sizable amount of leadership development opportunities with the New York State School Boards Association. Congratulations!



Retirements

The following retirements were approved at the April 11th Board of Education meeting. Congratulations all!

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|----------------------|-----------|--|
| • Anne Marie Hornung | 6/30/2018 | Special Education, 33.3 years of service |
| • Catherine Fragale | 6/19/2018 | Special Education, 24.3 years of service |
| • Diane Miltner | 6/30/2018 | Special Education, 20.1 years of service |
| • Jefferson Bacon | 6/30/2018 | Technology Services, 6 years of service |
| • MaryAnn Thompson | 6/22/2018 | Special Education, 13.7 years of service |



Board Briefs

Following each Board of Education meeting, Communication Services posts a brief description of HR's personnel actions. While not the official minutes, which are approved at the following month's meeting, this brief provides employees advance notice of the approved changes. All [Board Briefs](#) are accessible on the home page of MyErie1. Read [May's Board Brief](#).



Welcome Lynne Bogden

Lynne Bogden is the new supervising accountant at the Education Campus. Bogden has more than 25 years of experience as a certified public accountant in government and not-for-profit settings. At Erie 1 BOCES she will be playing an important role in finance, New York State Education Department reporting and budget monitoring. She earned her MBA from the University at Buffalo with an accounting certification.

News Zone: Education Campus



Denim Day June 15

Participate in Denim Day and Father's Day 50/50 Raffle on Friday, June 15. Denim day passes are \$2, for sticker see: Valerie Winegarden, Dawn Schmidt, Dawn Novak or Sharon Hourihan. Tickets for the 50/50 Raffle will be sold starting Wednesday, June 13 through Friday, June 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside of Dave's Kitchen. Proceeds to benefit Employee Events Fund & Special Spaces Buffalo. The Employee Events Fund raises funds for events such as the 12-month employee summer picnic.



Room Reservation Reminder

Please pay close attention to the room reservation reminders that you receive in your email and please update your room request accordingly. We are starting to experience a good number of incidents where rooms are reserved, then the custodial staff sets up the rooms as requested but no one shows. We appreciate your attention to these details.



WNYESC Excellence in Teaching

The Western New York Education Service Council presented Cindy Angelo with the 2018 Award for Excellence in Teaching. Angelo, a special education teacher with Erie 1 BOCES for the past 25 years, has taught students of various ages and grade levels in a self-contained classroom setting.

"She demonstrates a balance between a firm and caring approach in establishing a culture for learning," said Justin DeMartin, director of Exceptional Education at Erie 1 BOCES.

"Cindy has mentored a multitude of teachers throughout her tenure with BOCES, providing them with knowledge, skills, and resources to help them feel successful in their first couple of years of teaching a challenging population."



Science Kits

Over the course of the 2017-2018 school year, many teachers in Special Education worked on incorporating more hands-on science experiences for students. Through the direction of Melissa Metz, teacher on special assignment, the division purchased roughly 30 science kits that aligned with standards and required students to learn about concepts using an active learning approach.

Kristen Tanski, an Erie 1 BOCES teacher at Hamburg High School, commented on her science kit titled Earthly Changes. "My class really understood the concept of this kit," Tanski said. "I used it to relate to real life and why there are cracks in the sidewalk. Everyone was able to independently complete the activity. We made it 'rain' on our sidewalks every couple of days. This was the extension activity. We were able to get a bean to grow in one of the cups. The other cups cracked the way a sidewalk would with a tree root.

Students in Mark Lammerhirt's class at the Erie 1 BOCES' Learning Center worked on the Broken Rainbow science kit. The students were able to observe refracted light, through completing a lab. He added, "These kits are great and my class loves the hands on activities!"



Inkheart the Musical

Proud parents applauded the achievement of students in Mrs. Bartlett's class at Erie 1 BOCES' Learning Center during a musical they created from the ground up titled "Inkheart the Musical." The students worked together to write the dialogue and narrative based on a popular book, "Inkheart," as well as craft original choreography. They then learned their lines, their dance moves and song lyrics. Participating from start to finish were students

Rebecca Gura, Vivian Lynch, Elizabeth Rivera, Sean Nugent and Amanda Scurry.



Summer School Openings

Special Education's summer school has openings for nurses (RN, LPN), art teacher, music teachers, and aides. More [summer school details...](#)



Wild Artwork

Leigh Ziemczonek's Zoo Wildlife & Conservation students created their own unique artwork with help from sheep at The Buffalo Zoo. Using non-toxic paint, this enrichment exercise captured the sheep's nose and lip prints.



WNY Youth of the Year

The Boys and Girls Club honored Dialo Rivera-Stevens, a student in Erie 1 BOCES' Animal Science program at Kenton Career & Technical Center, as WNY Youth of the Year. The local teen is now in the running to be New York State's Youth of the Year. The Riverside High School senior was featured in a segment on WIVB Ch. 4. See [Ch. 4's report here...](#)



Danforth Visit

Erie 1 BOCES Kenton Career & Technical Center students visited Danforth's pipe and sheet metal fabrication shops. Students were able to see first-hand their trades in a work-environment setting through the shop tours and learned more about the welding industry.



Welding on WakeUp!

Katie Alexander of WIVB Ch. 4 spent a morning with the welding class at the Kenton Career & Technical Center. For nearly four hours, "WakeUp!" viewers learned about the program, the industry and the students' success. If you missed the segments or the afternoon summary, you can [see the footage here...](#)



Prepaid SUNY Erie Tuition

The automotive industry needs qualified workers. As a result, businesses, educators and New York State officials have merged efforts to help close the skills gap in automotive technology and collision repair. This upcoming school year, high school freshmen from four distinct school districts may enroll in a grant-funded program that will provide an all-tuition-paid associate degree from SUNY Erie Community College. Recently, a \$3 million NYS P-TECH grant was awarded to a Western New York consortium organized by Erie 1 BOCES.

Lackawanna City School District will be the lead educational agency for this grant that will also extend to West Seneca, Frontier and Hamburg. Students from these four school districts will attend classes at Erie 1 BOCES and SUNY Erie from grade 9 through to grade 14. More [PTECH Grant details...](#)



House Auction

Students in the Building Trades program at Erie 1 BOCES Harkness Career & Technical Center have constructed a house in their parking lot. The three-bedroom home will be auctioned to the highest bidder on June 8 at 9:30 in the morning. If you, or someone you know, is interested in bidding see www.cashauction.com for more details on the auction process.

News Zone: Workforce Development



In April, 84 Workforce Development students graduated from the License Practical Nursing (LPN) program. The event, which occurred at Cheektowaga Central High School, brought together family, friends, business partners and teachers. Nurses are in high demand across the country. Locally, employers rely on programs like Erie 1 BOCES to maintain their staffing. See WKBW-TV [Ch. 7's report on the topic](#).

Kudos

Congrats Deborah Summers

Deborah Summers, R.N., was among 30 Health Care Champions noted in an article of the April 13th edition of Buffalo Business First. Summers works in Erie 1 BOCES Workforce Development division.

Kudos Andy Wheelock & CSLO

Congrats to Andy Wheelock and those that presented at the 3rd Annual TIF Talks hosted at Forestville High School. Wheelock organized and facilitated another excellent learning experience on behalf of WNYRIC CSLO. A special thank you to Forestville Central Schools for providing the space and technology support for the day. The event was featured in the [Dunkirk Observer](#).

Kudos CTE & GRIT

Patricia Balthasar, counselor for Cleveland Hill Middle School, shared her words of thanks to Career & Technical Education for the GRIT program. "I just wanted to thank you for the wonderful day yesterday...the girls had a fabulous day...So thank you again for your hard work in putting this day together."

Special Features

Quote of the Month

"You cannot swim for new horizons until you have courage to lose sight of the shore."
— William Faulkner



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. If you like, share or re-tweet E1B's postings you can quickly spread the word about the great work accomplished by E1B.

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