

# Inside Story

## Common Grounds

### Spring Into Teamwork

A Letter from Dr. Lynn Fusco, District Superintendent/CEO



Yesterday, the distinct sound of Canadian geese synchronously announcing their return home caught my attention. Whether you use the term squawk, honk or call – locally we can agree that their voluminous flight is a treasured symbol of change. Often, the parallels drawn between nature and our own 21st century lives inspire reflection.

Similar to schoolchildren who begin their journey each September, these young geese often fly their first long-distance trip in the fall. By spring, they are older, wiser and travel home as masters of new life skills. In addition, whenever a V-shaped flock passes above me I think, "teamwork." Because migratory birds use this formation for a collective goal, they are the embodiment of a successful cooperative.



In March, Northtowns Academy received an unconfirmed report of a suspected weapon on the premises. Faculty, staff and students flew into action – enacting the lockdown lessons they practiced earlier in the year. In conjunction with administration and the local police, everyone worked as a team toward a collective goal. After an "all clear" was called, normal operations resumed.

Regardless of the situation, it is an apparent fact that large-scale movement requires individual growth coupled with community interdependence. Whether that movement occurs between physical locations or planes of understanding, in the sky or on the ground, teamwork is a shared personal responsibility.



### Protection from Cyber Threats

At the WNYRIC, we have seen a marked increase in the number of compromised school computer systems. The majority of these threats arrive by innocent-looking email, links and ads. To help you at work and at home, we put together a poster with some simple [tips and reminders...](#)



### Dell Discount for Employees

Dell would like to extend Erie 1 BOCES (E1B) Preferred Account status to E1B employees. From now through May 1, 2017, by visiting [Dell.com/mpp/E1B](http://Dell.com/mpp/E1B), employees could save money on select Dell PCs \$999+. [Learn more on MyErie1.](#)

## Changes to Note



Maria Schmidt

### Congratulations Retirees

- Maria Schmidt from Technology Services began her career with Erie 1 BOCES in December of 1994. Maria retired after 22 years of service on March 17.
- Beverly Kuszczak from Special Education retired the second week of March. Beverly began her career with Erie 1 BOCES in 1995.

Congratulations and thank you both for your service.

## Career & Technical Education



### Through a Student's Lens – Plastic Pollution

High school students from Erie 1 BOCES, Zoo Wildlife and Conservation Careers Program at the Buffalo Zoo teamed up to create four short videos highlighting the impact of single-use plastic bags on wildlife. The student's solution: Bring Your Own Bag (BYOBag), #ErieBYObag. The event is free to the public on Wednesday, April 5, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center on Delaware. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



### Minecraft Competition

Potter Career & Technical Center held their second annual Minecraft Competition for students in grades six through eight on March 10. The free event was comprised of teams of four students with one teacher. Each team had one hour to construct an obstacle course, and points were awarded for each completed course. Students had a great deal of fun at the event! View the [winners list...](#)



### Fusion Fashion Show

The Fusion Fashion Show impressed a crowd at Buffalo State College on Thursday, March 16. During the event, teens exhibited their handmade creations from the Fashion Design and Merchandising program at Harkness. A number of other CTE programs assisted with the event, providing additional hands-on learning opportunities for their students. Read more [here...](#)



### Taste of Culinary

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual [Taste of Culinary](#), held on Sunday, April 2, provided students from Erie 1 BOCES' three career centers with a unique opportunity to interact with the community. Teens in the Culinary, Baking and Pastry Arts programs joined their instructors in preparing food for an event organized by the Buffalo Chapter of the American Culinary Federation. More than 30 restaurants, culinary schools and vendors convened at Niagara Falls Culinary Institute to display their products. To encourage the continued fight against childhood obesity and to educate children about nutrition, a portion of the proceeds were donated to the Chef and Child Foundation.



### Pizza & Cupcakes

Family and consumer sciences teachers from Hamburg Middle School collaborated with culinary instructors from Erie 1 BOCES Potter Career & Technical Center to help students turn academic concepts into a physical reality. A one-week, "bite-sized" module was created to provide a hands-on lesson to eighth-grade students. At the end of the lesson, students made dough, spooned sauce and washed dishes in Erie 1 BOCES' professional kitchen before enjoying their personally crafted pizzas. A similar lesson occurred between Lancaster and Harkness during their sixth annual "Cupcake Wars" event. Both events are part of an initiative to increase middle school students' participation in career and technical education.



### NTHS 2017

A total of 172 students representing 29 local high schools were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) on March 23. Students from Erie 1 BOCES' three career and technical centers – Harkness, Kenton and Potter – were recognized for their distinguished academic performance and commitment to learning. Fahim Mojawalla, owner of the Island Ship Center and director of social media for the Association of Mail and Business Centers, was the evening's keynote speaker. [More here....](#)



### Regional SkillsUSA

More than 15 Erie 1 BOCES CTE students placed at the regional SkillsUSA competition. Now, these teens are moving on to the state competition in Syracuse. Read a full [list here](#).

## Exceptional Education



### Go Red for Women

Mrs. Prichard's Health classes at Northtowns Academy (NTA) sponsored the "GO RED FOR WOMEN" campaign for the fifth year. This year, NTA collected \$175 for The American Heart and Stroke Association. In addition, the Physical Education and Health classes had all students trained in hands-only CPR. Students also displayed hearts and made posters to support the campaign.



### Teen Starts Client Portfolio

Bryanna Karn, a teenager from Hamburg who is enrolled in the Alternative Learning Program at Erie 1 BOCES Northtowns Academy, began her client-commissioned portfolio. With encouragement from her teacher, Nancy Amico, Bryanna created three paintings that are on display at the Education Campus. [Read more here...](#)

## Education Campus



### SPCA Opening April 10

Next Monday, April 10, 2017 the SPCA will open its new location across from the Education Campus. Please take great care entering and exiting our campus as traffic patterns have

changed. Also, anyone interested in volunteering on their own time must follow the SPCA's current [volunteer protocols as posted on their website](#). (Note: the FAQ section is very helpful.) Leadership has already initiated conversations about partnership opportunities with the SPCA, thus you are reminded to check with your executive director before approaching any business for further opportunities.



### Wellness Day 2017

Wellness Day will be held on Thursday, April 27th this year within the E1B Education Campus. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this annual event. We're very excited about a new format for this year's event, and once all of the final details are worked out the information will be shared with staff via the electronic employee bulletin board and MyErie1.



### Lunch & Learn

The Wellness Committee, in collaboration with Kids Escaping Drugs, is offering "Face to Face," an educational program about substance abuse and how those addictions impact our students. The event is scheduled for next Wednesday, April 12, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please [register by using this link](#) and feel free to bring your lunch. As always, before registering please consult with your immediate supervisor so that we can ensure continuity of service.



### Denim Days

The month of April will contain two "wear denim" fundraisers for the Education Campus Employee Special Events Committee. Donate \$2 on April 13 and again on April 27 (Wellness Day) to wear clean and un-tattered denim pants to the office on those dates.



### Harnessing the Wiggles in GI

Enter the combined first-grade classrooms at Grand Island's Charlotte Sidway Elementary School for the first time, and you'll likely be struck by the students jiggling atop giant stability balls, wiggling on balance boards, or giggling while sunken into a comfy bean bag chair. This environment was made possible, in part, with the support of Erie 1 BOCES professional developers. Read [more at this link...](#)



### Thanks from Hospice Buffalo

On behalf of the Hospice Foundation, thank you for supporting the 31st Anniversary Hospice Spring Bouquet Sale. This major fundraising event for Hospice was a huge success! At the education campus a total of 22 standard bouquets and 21 tribute bouquets were sold. All money raised benefits Hospice Buffalo, our community's only Hospice program.



### Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute

During the 2017 Angelo Del Toro Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (PR/HYLI) student delegates from Western New York (WNY) were awarded three scholarships and one student achievement award. This annual student leadership institute in Albany features a mock session of the New York State Assembly. Students, who are sponsored by the RBE-RN West at Erie 1 BOCES, meet locally for five training sessions prior to the event in Albany. Ruth Casillas, RBE-RN delegation leader, recently announced that the WNY delegation has three scholarship winners and one achievement award winner. [Winners listed here...](#)



**Kudos Michelle Rozanski, Communication Services**

Alice B. Riley, Fiscal Manager, NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust sent the following words in an email, "Michelle did a fantastic job on the fillable applications and she was a delight to work with on the project."

**Kudos Patricia Ferrito (TC), Policy Services**

Words of appreciation from Cynthia Tretter, Akron Central School District, "TC, I want to sincerely thank you for the amazing work you did on the job description handbooks for Akron. They are perfect! I appreciate everything you have done and just wanted to let you know that your hard work is appreciated."

**Kudos Jeff Murphy, Technology Services**

Jeff Murphy of Technology Services was inducted into the Maryvale Athletic Wall of Fame. An excerpt from the Cheektowaga Chronicle reads, "While at Maryvale, Jeff proved to be an outstanding three-sport athlete. He earned six varsity letters, two each in football, basketball and track and field. His career in both basketball and track and field were successful but it was on the gridiron that Jeff really excelled!"

Special Features



**Golf: Friends of the NY44**

The "Friends of the NY44" will host its eighth annual charity golf tournament benefitting the Hospice Foundation of WNY on Thursday, July 20, 2017. The tournament is at Chestnut Hill Country Club. The shotgun scramble event begins at 10 a.m. Registration is \$100 per golfer and includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch at the turn, happy hour and dinner. Click here for more information, <http://www.ny44.e1b.org/Page/417>.



**Jokes of the Month**

**Q: When should you buy a bird?**

A: When it's going cheep!

**Q: What do you give a sick bird?**

A: Tweetment.

**Q: What do you call a rabbit with beetles all over it?**

A: Bugs Bunny.



**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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