

# Inside Story

## Common Grounds

### Visit from Commissioner Elia

New York State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia visited Western New York on March 30. As part of her tour, which included schools in West Seneca, Lancaster and Depew, she stopped in at Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus. While in WNY, she met with school district administrators, teachers and parents to explain the changes to state assessments. Below is a brief overview.



#### Current changes:

- Reduced the number of test questions
- Alleviated time pressure for test takers
- Improved test questions by involving teachers
- Hired a new company to help develop future assessments



#### Changes in motion:

- Enhancing resources for teachers
- Proposing new processes and timelines for development and implementation of new ELA and Math standards, curriculum, and assessments
- Creation of two review committees, one for ELA and one for math, to help develop new standards. The committees will be made up of teachers, parents, administrators, and other stakeholders.

To read her full overview of these changes, [see this letter](#).



### Teeing Up for Three Golf Tournaments Summer 2016

Three favorite summer events are returning for another year. As a reminder: if any of these events occur on a day that you are normally scheduled to work, you must first process a personal day or a vacation day request to attend.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual BOCES Open will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2016 at Holland Hills Country Club. Proceeds will benefit the Neurofibromatosis Northeast. Registration is due by June 24 and is \$85 per golfer or \$340 per team. Registration includes lunch, dinner, beer and pop at the turn and 19th hole, green fee and cart. Registration forms can be found on the [employee bulletin](#) board under "Events in WNY."

The "Friends of the NY44" will host its seventh annual charity golf tournament benefitting the Hospice Foundation of WNY on Thursday, July 21. The tournament will be held 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.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual WNYRIC Open will be held at Byrnclyff Resort and Conference Center on Thursday, July 28, 2016. All proceeds from the tournament are donated to The Ronald McDonald House of Buffalo. Last year's tournament raised \$3,500 for The Ronald McDonald House. Registration is \$100 per golfer or \$400 per team and includes golf, cart, lunch and dinner. See Sean Christopher [schristopher@e1b.org](mailto:schristopher@e1b.org) for details.

## Register in TEACH

New registration and continuing teacher and leader education (CTLE) requirements for classroom teachers, school leaders holding a permanent or professional certificate, and Teaching Assistant Level III certificate holders has changed. See more details [here](#).



## Encouraging Results in Cleveland Hill

A districtwide initiative in Cleveland Hill that centers on collaboration and student achievement is increasing student test scores, supporting teacher growth and encouraging everyone in the district to focus on the same goals. The initiative, aptly named [Project Achieve](#), is being implemented in partnership with Erie 1 BOCES, including substitute teachers, materials, assessment development and technology. During the first two years of Project Achieve, the district has acquired new mobile devices through Erie 1 BOCES. Read more [here](#).



## Employee Bulletin Board

### *Buying, Selling & Donations Reminder*

As an employer, Erie 1 BOCES wants to provide opportunities for employees to share information that better connects them to each other and their community. However, as a public entity we must also adhere to the law. As a public entity, by law, we are not able to use public resources for private gain. Here are some reminders for use of the physical and electronic employee bulletin boards:

### *Fund-Raising/Donations – Approval Needed for Print and Electronic*

Any funds, materials or solicitation of any kind (including charitable) conducted during work hours and/or with the use Erie 1 BOCES resources such as e-mail, desk/wall space or phone numbers MUST have prior approval. The "solicitation for charitable donations" form is located on the employee bulletin board and on MyErie1. This form must be completed and approved prior to posting here. Consideration will only be given to benefiting 501c3 organizations, not individuals.

### *For Sale – Electronic Bulletin Board Only*

You may post materials here that are available for purchase outside of work hours. You must provide outside contact details such as a home phone number and home e-mail addresses. Postings found here should not involve any solicitation, communications or resources (such as employee time, phone or e-mail) found within Erie 1 BOCES' buildings.

### *WNY Events – Electronic Bulletin Board Only*

At times, there are events that are occurring in WNY that better connect us to the community. Here you may list concerts, art shows, public forums, benefits, etc. of community interest. But if you are an active member wanting to sell tickets, they can only be available for purchase outside of work hours. You must provide outside contact details such as a home phone number and home email addresses. Postings found here should not involve any solicitation, communications or resources (such as desk/wall space, employee time, phone or e-mail) found within Erie 1 BOCES' buildings. As noted above, requests to use Erie 1 BOCES resources (such as desk/wall space, employee time or e-mail), you must complete the "solicitation for charitable donations" form and post your details ONLY in the "Fund-raising/Donation" area of the message board.

## Changes to Note



## Congratulations to the Two Retires

Susan Brady, the coordinator for technology services, retired on March 16, 2016. Susan started at Erie 1 BOCES in 1995. Deborah Saul, microcomputer technical support specialist, will be retiring on April 22, 2016. Deborah began working for Erie 1 BOCES in 1991.



### Management Services

Nancy Bojanowski is currently the main contact for general questions relating to the Management Services division. JoAnn Balazs, who was previously director of Management Services, accepted a position with the Sweet Home School District.

## News Zone – Education Campus



### New Generation Initiative (NGI) Educators Conference

On Monday, March 7, Erie 1 BOCES, in conjunction with Erie 2 BOCES and The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, was pleased to [present an opportunity](#) for ELA, social studies, and library media specialists to expand their knowledge, skills, and understanding of the connections between propaganda and genocide. Teachers were exposed to ways to integrate media and curriculum with CCLS at the forefront of the instruction. Presenters shared real world examples from their own classrooms.



### WNY Seniors Recognized in Albany

In March, five high school seniors from Western New York (WNY) were recognized for their outstanding academic and leadership performance at the 26th Annual Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute in Albany. This three-day institute and mock assembly gave students the opportunity to develop extensive knowledge of the state legislative process, along with expanding leadership, partnership and networking skills with positive Puerto Rican/Hispanic role models. The institute involved several agencies including the New York State Assembly, Senate and Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBE-WL) and Erie 1 BOCES, through Regional Bilingual Education-Resource Network (RBE-RN) West – which is part of OBE-WL, which sponsored the WNY student delegates. [Read more here...](#)



### Thanks from Hospice Buffalo

On behalf of the Hospice Foundation, thank you for supporting the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hospice Spring Bouquet Sale. This major fundraising event for Hospice was a huge success! A total of 24,000 standard bouquets and 6,200 tribute bouquets were sold, raising more than \$365,000. The number one corporate pre-sale site was West Herr Automotive Group, selling 485 bouquets and raising \$9,323. The highest selling school was Casey Middle School with 100 bouquets, raising \$1,834. All money raised benefits Hospice Buffalo, our community's only Hospice program.



### Denim Day

The Education Campus Employee Special Events Committee, on Friday, April 15, will hold a jeans day. Please see your regular ticket seller for your \$2 pass for that day.



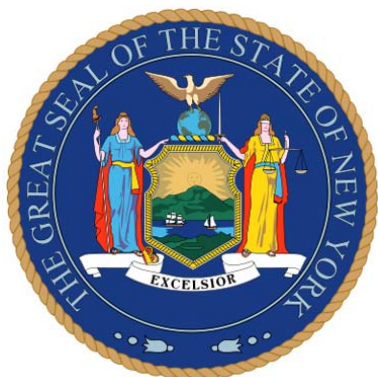
### Festival of Arts

Lisa Garvey, art teacher, along with special education student artists participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of the Arts. This event was Saturday, April 2 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the HUB Youth Center in Hamburg. It was a great success, and featured student artwork, performances, and hands-on workshops.



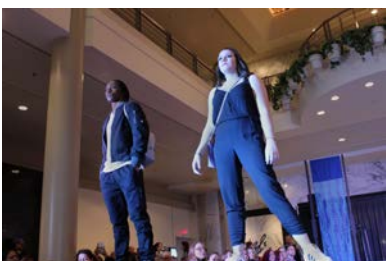
### Storey Addresses Counselors

Fifty-two members, representing more than 25 high schools, attended the High School Counselors' Association of WNY on Feb. 26 at Erie Community College. Among the presenters was Katie Storey, principal of Erie 1 BOCES Twilight Academic Program. Storey spoke to attendees about the effectiveness of the program. Patrick Mandia, school counselor for Erie 1 BOCES, provided the welcome address.



### Pathway to Graduation

At the March Board of Regents meeting, the Board [voted to approve a new graduation pathway](#). Under revised regulations, beginning in June 2016 and thereafter, a student may graduate with a high school diploma if the student completes the credit requirements; meets the requirements to earn the Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential; and passes four Regents assessments, one in each of the four discipline areas of math, English, science, and social studies. In addition, the regulations were revised to expand the opportunity to all students to earn the CDOS commencement credential. Additional guidance is in development.



### Harkness “Limitless” Fashion Show Stuns the Crowd

On Thursday, March 10, teens showed their creative talents at the Harkness Career & Technical Center's seventh annual fashion show. This year's show exhibited the handmade creations of Fashion Design and Merchandising program students, representing a total of eight different school districts. The two shows drew over five hundred people in total. Stunning the crowd with this year's show, we are very excited to see the designs next year's students will bring. [Watch the video](#).



### Middle School “Minecraft” Competition

Potter Career & Technical Center held a Minecraft Competition for students in grades six through eight on March 17. 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 then awarded for each completed course. Students had a great deal of fun at the event! [Watch the video](#).



## Cupcake Wars a Tremendous Success

Harkness Career & Technical Center held their fifth annual "Cupcake Wars" event. The event, a collaboration between Erie 1 BOCES and Lancaster Central Schools, is part of an initiative to increase middle school students' participation in career and technical education. The event occurred on Friday, March 18, and was a tremendous success, with about 90 students involved.



## Culinary Competition

Bryson Davis, who attends Cleveland Hill High School and Owen Jones, who attends Clarence High School, recently competed in a culinary competition at Paul Smiths College. Bryson and Owen are both enrolled at the Harkness Career & Technical Center in Mr. Scozzaro's Culinary Arts II class. The competition, titled, "Cooking and Baking for Scholarships" consisted of 20 people between the bakers and chefs from around the state. It was an intense contest to observe the talents of the new freshmen coming into Paul Smiths.

[Read more...](#)



## Goin' Bald for Bucks

Erie 1 BOCES Potter Career & Technical Center will host a Goin' Bald For Bucks event on April 21, 2016. Proceeds will benefit Roswell Park Alliance Foundation. If you would like to participate there are two sessions to choose from, one in the morning and another the afternoon. For time options and more details [click here](#).



## Skills USA

These students won at the regional competition and are moving on to states in Syracuse.

### Kenton:

David Gorgush – 1<sup>st</sup> place, automotive collision

### Potter:

Culin Wambsgans – 2<sup>nd</sup> place, electrical construction

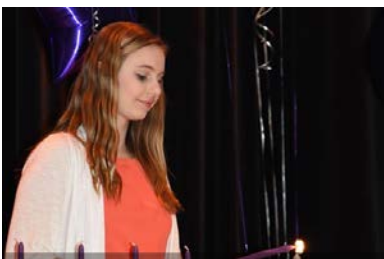
Hannah Howie – 3<sup>rd</sup> place, prepared speech

### Harkness:

Erik Regan – 2<sup>nd</sup> place, technical related math

Owen Jones – 3<sup>rd</sup> place, culinary arts

Curtis Miller – 3<sup>rd</sup> place, electrical construction



## NTHS

A total of 152 students representing 19 local school districts were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS). Students from Erie 1 BOCES' three technical centers – Harkness, Kenton and Potter – were recognized for their academic performance and commitment to learning on March 17, 2016. The student candidates were inducted into Erie 1 BOCES chapter of the NTHS at 7 p.m. on March 17 at Maryvale High School's auditorium.

[Read more...](#)

### Kudos James Szelest

"James Szelest was a teacher in my past and I would like to thank him!" said Bob Geddes in a Facebook message. "He was very understanding and influential in my life. I attended ALP 7 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Niagara Falls."



### Kudos Michelle Colucci and Bill Gerken

Darlene Meek, teacher with Career & Technical Education, sent the following words of thanks to Communication Services via Candace Reimer regarding the shared work of Michelle Colucci and Bill Gerken.

"Thank you for creating a great promotion piece on the fashion show! The video is perfect... You are very talented at your profession and I am grateful to have your assistance with promoting our event."

### Kudos Michael Partridge, Joann Mirabella and Justin DeMartin

Renee Filip, parent of an Exceptional Education program attendee, called and congratulated Michael, Joann and Justin.

Regarding Michael: "Boy, does he get it. They've [Marshall and Mr. Partridge] established a relationship built on trust and respect. As busy as Mr. Partridge is, he always has time to write a quick line to me and keep me in the loop."

Regarding Joann: "Joanne Mirabella is probably the best speech therapist on this earth. And again, it's not just about teaching Marshall to articulate correctly, it's about helping him grow as an appropriate young man should be developing. We joke that we're co-parenting together."

Regarding Justin: "It just feels that any time I talk to an administrator, like Justin, we feel like we're the only student in the system. That level of investment that the individuals have personally and professionally – because they do have a program to run – is exceptional and reassuring. It feels like my child is being more than just educated."



### Kudos Michelle Montaldi

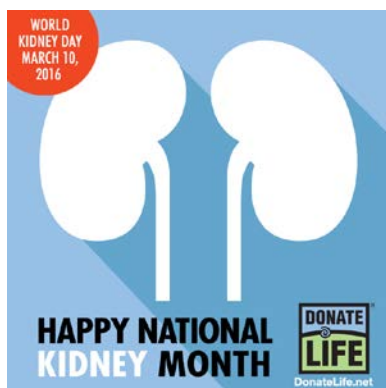
Michelle Montaldi, a health careers instructor at Potter Career and Technical Center, has been nominated by a student to receive the Most Influential Educator award from West Seneca West High School. West Seneca West High School senior Jenna Kasic wrote, "Mrs. Montaldi has been such an influential person in my life as my nursing teacher. She's an amazing role model and has inspired me to be the best person I can be. She has only made me want to become a nurse even more, and inspires me to go further."



### Kudos Carol Bulera

Alexandra Morlock, graduate of the adult education Medical Office Assistant program, said the following about her instructor, Carol Bulera.

"Carol showed me a lot, and the stuff she taught me at the BOCES program, I use it every day. Carol's instructions were able to better direct me and instruct me in things that I wouldn't have known otherwise, so that's a huge help as well. After going to BOCES, it goes through my mind once in a while, 'Well, look at what I've done, what I didn't think I could achieve.'"



### Living Organ Donation – National Kidney Month

The National Kidney Foundation made March, “National Kidney Month,” hoping to raise awareness for the need of more living donors. According to [US Department of Health and Human Services](#), as a result of the growing need for organs for transplantation, about 6,000 living donations take place each year. In Western New York alone, there are 800 people waiting for a kidney from one of the only 50 living donations that occur in the region per year.

One Erie 1 BOCES employee recently made the news in March for his decision. Click [this link](#) to watch how Bill Gerken, of E1B's Communication Services division, provided a life-saving gift to his friend.

With many advances in modern science, more organs and tissues can be donated while the donor is alive. Living individuals can donate one of the two kidneys, one of two lobes of their liver, donate a lung or part of a lung, part of the pancreas and part of the intestines. Tissues donated by living donors are amnion, skin, and bone as well as blood, marrow, blood stem cells, and umbilical cord blood.

Each potential living donor is evaluated to determine suitability to donate. The decision to be a living donor is a very personal one and the potential donor must consider the possibility of adverse health effects that could follow donation. If you are interested in learning more about living organ or tissue donation please see [this site](#).



### Jokes of the Month

**Q. What did one toilet say to the other?**

**A. You look a bit flushed.**

**Q. What did the paper say to the pencil?**

**A. Write on!**

**Q. Why was the broom late?**

**A. It swept in.**



### 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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