

Inside Story

Common Grounds



Enroll in Health Benefits

Open enrollment for your 2019-20 employee benefits will occur in May. 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. The open enrollment sessions are *Thurs., May 2* from noon to 5 p.m. and on *Tues., May 21* from 2 to 5 p.m. Both sessions are in B1. There will be representatives present from E1B's Human Resources office, Independent Health, Dental Pay Plus, Benefit Resource, Aflac and various financial services institutions. Registration is not required, just show up. For all other enrollment

assistance, please contact Sharon Brzoskowski at sbrzoskowski@e1b.org or 821-7078.



Prepare Now for Your Urgent Care Needs

When you are worried about your health, or the health of another, the last thing you can do is initiate computer research. Get prepared now, please take a moment in healthy times to educate yourself on your options.

When considering finances, please note that a visit to your doctor, urgent care center, 247 Online Care or Independent Health's 24-hr medical help line are all available at a \$0 co-pay. Beginning in July 2019, the co-pay for a hospital's emergency room (unless you are admitted) will be \$300.

What about access to appropriate care? The NY44 Health Trust's website provides [some helpful facility guidelines](#) on when a trip to the emergency room is recommended. That page also contains a link to Independent Health's [directory of urgent care centers](#). Did you know that you can also chat with an urgent care provider from the comfort of your mobile device? If you haven't done it yet, set up your [247 Online Care](#) account and download the app now. Still in doubt, you can also call Independent Health's [24-hr medical help line](#) (the number is listed on the back of your insurance card).



Send Malicious Emails to Service Desk

Starting today, should an employee receive a malicious or phishing email we request that you forward it to the service desk, servicedesk@e1b.org. The service desk will provide the email to a trained technician who will look at the email, then run a script to purge it from everyone else's email inbox. Thank you for your help with this matter.



Outlook Refresher & Tips Trainings

Still have questions after your Outlook training? Register for the Outlook Refresher and Q&A training this month. Feel like there is so much more in Outlook for you to learn? Outlook Tips and Tricks trainings begin in April. Participants are asked to bring their laptops. Register for either class now in the [EMR](#), search "outlook" to bring up sessions.

Changes to Note



Retirements

The Board of Education approved the following retirements at the March 13th meeting. Congratulations to these three individuals from Technology Services!

- Karen Markham 3/29/2019, 18 years of service
- Patricia Michael 4/19/2019, 32 years of service
- Margaret Nowak 3/15/2019, 32 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 [March's Board Brief](#).

News Zone – Education Campus



Digital Pathways Conference

Erie 1 BOCES' Education Campus hosted the New York State Association for Computers and Technology in Education (NYSCATE) Digital Pathways Conference, formerly known as Digital Wave. This year focused on Science, Technology Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) as well as highlighting presentations from students and their teachers, a STEAM Playground and a student keynote by Rose Scordo of [Rosie's Robots](#).



Library Resource Vendor Fair

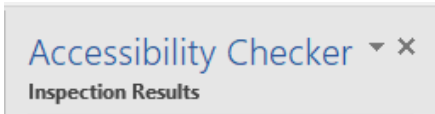
Erie 1, O/N and Erie 2 CC BOCES' School Library Systems held a Library Resource Vendor Fair at Erie 1 BOCES. More than 100 attendees and 30 vendors participated in the demonstrations. School and public librarians from across the region attended the event. Dozens of national and local database providers, book merchants, MakerSpace resources, and library design companies were among the vendors that attended.



Tour of Homes

If you've never been inside Potter, Harkness, Kenton, WNYRIC or the Workforce Development Center, you've got a chance for an hour-long tour during the upcoming Erie 1 BOCES Tour of Homes this spring. Developed as a way for E1B employees to learn about other locations and divisions, each session will include a tour of the building and

information about programs offered at the location. Transportation is not provided, and supervisor approval is required. [See the schedule.](#) [Register online.](#)



Training: Accessibility Tools in Word

In today's world of electronic information, the accessibility of documents for people with disabilities is a civil right. School districts and Erie 1 BOCES are committed to creating and sharing documents for people of all abilities. All staff members are required to attend

accessibility training for Microsoft Word; a prerequisite for access to future trainings being provided in other Microsoft Office products, Adobe products and Online/Website platforms. Our goal is to have all Erie 1 BOCES staff trained to recognize the elements of an accessible document and to be able to only construct accessible documents going forward. For all non-instructional staff, please [use this link](#) to register for a half-day training session through EMR. Search for "Accessibility Tools in Word" to bring up available dates.

News Zone – Career & Technical Education



Up for Auction: Refreshment Stand

High school students enrolled in Erie 1 BOCE'S Building Trades program at the Kenton Career & Technical Center have created another impressive structure for the Buffalo Home Show. The 1,500-pound, cedar-lined backyard refreshment stand is approximately 10-ft long by 7-ft wide. With a Corian countertop, a metal roof and electrical connections this building is perfect for entertaining pool-side or under the stars. On April 13, the backyard refreshment stand will be sold to the highest bidder during a public auction at [Cash Realty & Auctions](#). All proceeds raised will fund next year's senior class project.



Three CTE Programs Get State Recognition

Three Career & Tech Ed programs were recognized as top CTE programs in the state – Automotive Technology and Collision Repair for their pre-apprenticeship model; Electrical Systems for its strong Advisory Council partnership and student shadowing/internship model; and Zoo Wildlife & Conservation Careers for being a New Visions exemplar.

This recognition stems from a survey conducted by the New York State Education Department, which requested BOCES and district schools identify strong, high-quality CTE programs. Information from the survey is being used in a study by the National Research Center for CTE at the Southern Regional Education Board. The study focuses on strategies that enhance the capacity of CTE programs to improve the engagement, achievement and transition of secondary and postsecondary CTE students. All three of Erie 1 BOCES' submissions were selected for the study.



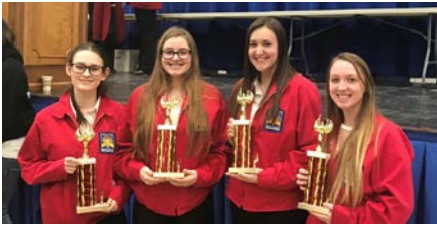
New Video Provides Overview of Middle School Initiatives

Erie 1 BOCES offers several different programs for middle school students to engaged them in career and technical education at a young age. A new video provides an overview of these initiatives: Middle School Mods, Girls Rising Interest in Technology (GRIT), Minecraft Madness, Summer at the Center and Taste of Tech. You can view the video at the bottom of the [Middle School Initiatives page](#) on the E1B website.



Legal Academy Team Places in Top 4 of Mock Trial Competition

The New Visions Legal Academy students finished strong in the Erie County Bar Association's Mock Trial Competition, advancing to the final four on March 2. The team defeated Nichols School in the morning as the petitioner, then Orchard Park High School in the afternoon as the respondent. On March 16, they lost their match against City Honors at Buffalo City Court. A total of 32 teams were represented in the competition. Congratulations goes out to all of the team members for making it far in the competition!



CTE Students Earn 10 Trophies at SkillsUSA Competition

Dozens of students in E1B Career & Tech Ed programs got the chance to attend the [Regional SkillsUSA competition](#), resulting in nine individual students and one team of four students earning trophies in their designated contests. Congratulations goes out to all the winners and everyone who competed! You can find the list of students who earned trophies on the [E1B website](#).



Taste of Culinary

Over 30 restaurants, culinary schools and purveyors will be showcasing their products and food designs during the Taste of Culinary presented by The American Culinary Federation of Greater Buffalo. Culinary students from Potter and Harkness will be present with their instructors Lauren Sikora and Tina Fago. The event takes place on April 7 from noon to 3 p.m. in the Spring Student Center at ECC North in Williamsville. Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased at www.tasteofculinary.com.



National Technical Honor Society

A total of 172 students from 28 area high schools were inducted into Erie 1 BOCES' chapter of the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) during a ceremony on March 14 at Amherst High School. Lisa Schmidt, vice president and chief operating officer of Buffalo General Medical Center, provided an inspirational keynote address. Read the [induction ceremony article...](#)

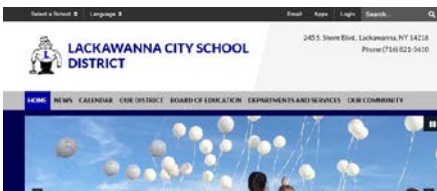
News Zone – Exceptional Education



Pancake Breakfast

Mary Tomczak and Lindsay Simmens organized a pancake breakfast with the full support of the Special Education and Middle Tech employees at the Learning Center. Thanks to the overwhelming response, students and their families enjoyed the breakfast during two seating times. In total, 196 people were served pancakes. Families who attended also met the teachers and staff who support their children every day.

Kudos



Kudos Mindy Gigantelli & Greg Fox

In an email from Bruce Axelson, Lackawanna City Schools, "Going to a new website was a big step up for the district... I would like to thank Mindy Gigantelli and Greg Fox for all their hard work in getting the district website up and running. I have received a lot of compliments..."

Workforce Development



Open House

The Workforce Development Center held its Open House March 12 to provide information to prospective students on training programs that could be completed in a year or less. If you missed it or know someone interested in training for Administrative Assistant, Auto Collision/ Auto Technician, Barbering, Certified Nursing Assistant, Certified Personal Trainer, Certified Production Technician, CNC Machining, Cosmetology, Electrical (Residential and Commercial), Electro Mechanical Maintenance, HVAC, Licensed Practical Nursing, Medical Billing Clerk, Medical Office Assistant, Phlebotomy, Welding and more, have them call 716-821-7500 or email, wfd@e1b.org. The center is located at

1526 Walden Avenue in Cheektowaga at the corner of Walden and Harlem.

Special Features



Spring Giggles

Q. What season is it when you are on a trampoline?

A. Spring-time!

Q. What flowers grow on faces?

A. Tulips (two-lips)!

Q. What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

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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