Senator Ortt Delivers $50,000 to Orleans/Niagara BOCES

Senator Rob Ortt (R,C,I – North Tonawanda) presented a ceremonial check to Orleans/Niagara BOCES in the amount of $50,000 at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center recently. Senator Ortt secured the funding as part of the 2015-16 State Budget. The career and tech centers will be using the state funds for new computers, state-of-the art equipment, and to upgrade the technology for the career and technical education programs and the Adult Education Workforce Training programs.

Senator Ortt visited several of the classrooms where he talked with students and got a tour of their classrooms. In the Security and Law Enforcement Program Jayson Parker, Kaylee O’Donnell and Angela Micale gave a short presentation to the Senator. Angela said it really motivated her about what Senator Ortt said about staying focused. “He said we could go far in life if we put our minds to it and that there is a need for good law enforcement officers.” Jayson said the Senator was right on when talking about the media. “Senator Ortt said something about how our generation is so use to being around the media that when we enter the law enforcement field, that things like videotaping by civilians will not bother us that much. It will be the norm.”

Director of Career and Technical Education and Adult Education, Joseph Steinmetz, says, “In this competitive environment it is very important for us to maintain and improve the technology we have at our centers to prepare our students for careers and college. We are very grateful to Senator Ortt for delivering this check to us.”

Giving Thanks!

Many of our centers spent a day with students, staff and invited guests to give thanks this holiday season. The Newfane Learning Center classes were hard at work making sides for their Thanksgiving feast, while Coordinator Krista Macomber and several staff members made the delicious turkeys.

Seated: Riley Chew (Niagara Wheatfield), Ben Porter (Niagara Falls), Teacher Aide Kathryn Verwohlt, Steven Sattelberg (Lockport), Teacher Judi Gewand, Zada Cole (Niagara Falls) and David Desso (Niagara Falls). Standing: Teacher Aide Dawn James, Aleksy Graczyk (Starpoint), Coordinator Krista Macomber, Teacher Aide Sally Smist, Director of Special Education Bob Cluckey and Teacher Aide Sue Kowalski.
Paying Tribute to Our Vets

Teacher Kristina Miles decided to take the Veteran’s Day holiday and use it for a big part of her lesson plan for her students located at the Niagara Wheatfield High School. “I spent some time teaching my students what it means to be a veteran and why it’s so important to honor them, not only on November 11th, but all year long.”

Mrs. Miles taught her students about the five branches of the Armed Forces and what their duties entail. “We read stories, watched videos and talked about Veteran’s Day that entire week,” she says. “To thank the veterans for what they have done for our country, we made an American flag and took it to the Veteran’s Hospital on Bailey Avenue in Buffalo. As we headed up to the 3rd floor, all of the veterans that we passed said how much they loved our flag and said thank you to the students for thinking of them. Our flag will now be displayed in the Freedom Hall at the hospital.”

Auto Body Students Help Out Niagara Falls Police Department

Students in Paul Magyar’s Auto Body program at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center are getting a chance to try out their skills. The class has offered to makeover one of the Niagara Falls Police Department’s squad cars and bring it back to its formal glory. “It is a great experience for my students to get to work with a client on a job,” says Mr. Magyar. “Not only will they get a chance to try out all the techniques they have learned in class, it saves the taxpayers of Niagara Falls money. We only charge the department for the parts and paints we need to make the repairs, so it is a win-win for everyone.”

Cosmetology Students Help To Make Sugar Plum Dreams Come True

Cosmetology students at the Orleans Career and Technical Center lent their skills to the Classic Ballet of Western New York’s performance of “The Nutcracker.” Teacher Sue Lindke volunteered her students’ services to the Friday performance at Lockport High School to the performers who needed help with their hair and makeup.

Niagara Academy Students Use Artistic Abilities for Veteran’s Holiday Greetings

Students in Rose Lewkowitz’s art class at the Niagara Academy have been busy making 200 homemade cards for area veterans at the VA Hospital in Buffalo. “The students have used stamp cutouts that we made in class to put designs on the front of the cards and then embellishing them,” says Ms. Lewkowitz. “We spent two days on the cards and then inserted a greeting wishing them a happy holiday.”

Student Svetlena Laubacker says the project was a lot of fun. “I am enjoying making these cards because I believe that veterans should get thought of for all their hard work and bravery in protecting our country.” Chris Dickinson echoed her sentiment. “They gave the United States a lot. A lot more than most of us and they deserve to be recognized.” Ms. Lewkowitz says the holidays are an ideal time to think of the veterans. “From a personal standpoint, it is the time of year where people give and who is more deserving than the people who fought for our freedom. It is a small token of appreciation.”

The cards will be delivered with other goodies by teacher aide Christine LaVigne and a group of students from the Academy. Ms. LaVigne is very involved with the American Legion Auxiliary and does activities throughout the year to honor vets.

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SkillsUSA Conference Helps Officers Hone Their Leadership Skills

Six senior SkillsUSA officers from the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center had a great experience at the Fall Leadership Conference in Liverpool, New York. Wynter Dumont, Noelle Fay, Russell Larsen, Damian Norrish, Michael Stubbs and Savannah Tackley along with their SkillsUSA advisors, Kara Kirk and Anne Carnahan, interacted with students from all over the state for the three day conference.

Noelle said it was a great experience. “We learned a lot about how to be a leader and how to be a team player.” Russell says they learned a lot of good communication skills. “We were broken up into groups and for the most part we were all strangers to each other. We did a lot of get to know you exercises and we had an amazing guest speaker. He talked about our generation and how others perceive us and how we perceive ourselves.” Wynter says the training exercises gave them the skills to go and teach the junior officers at their center how to be leaders. “We played a lot of fun games designed to help us with leadership skills. It will definitely give us ideas on how to train other SkillsUSA officers.” Asked why she got involved in SkillsUSA, an organization of students, teachers and industry to ensure America has a skilled workforce, she said, “I heard a lot of great things about SkillsUSA. I saw photos of people winning medals for competitions and I wanted to be part of that. I was able to compete last year for my Early Childhood Education Program and I had a great time.”

“This trip is very worthwhile for our senior officers,” says Mrs. Kirk. ”I see a huge difference in their confidence, leadership, and enthusiasm about SkillsUSA over the three day training. The students come back excited about our chapter and ready to lead the way. I am proud of each one of them!”

SkillsUSA Officers Russell Larsen (Barker), Michael Stubbs (Lockport), Noelle Fay (Newfane), Wynter Dumont (Albion), Savannah Tackley (Lyndonville), Damian Norrish (Medina).

Congratulations to our Employees of the Year

District Superintendent Dr. Clark Godshall kicked off the school year by announcing the Employees of the Year. He congratulated them on being nominated by their peers for the honor in front of staff at opening day ceremonies. Staff members wrote submissions for the categories of administrator, clerical, maintenance, staff specialist, substitute, teacher aide and teacher for doing an outstanding job the previous school year.

The Administrator of the Year was Krista Macomber, a special education coordinator. She has been with BOCES for eleven years and says her favorite part of her job is working with the children and watching them grow and develop. “I was very honored to receive this award,” she says.

In the Clerical category Carol Kopp works for the Continuing Education Department and has been with BOCES for 28 years. “My favorite part of my job is working with Sue Diemert in the Continuing Education department. There is never a dull moment and I mean that in a good way. I think of BOCES as my second family and I have met and worked with many wonderful people along the way and made lifelong friends. It was an honor to receive this award.”

In the Maintenance category James Jamieson just started his 22nd year with the organization. “My favorite part of the job is the people I work with and meet. Plus, right now, it is nice doing many different kinds of jobs. I like the variety. It is nice to be recognized by my fellow employees.”

Staff Specialist Sue Barrett has been with BOCES for over 29 years. “I love the people that I work with, I help people in the organization with their data needs and I enjoy talking and working with all of them. It is very rewarding when you help someone and they are so appreciative. The best part of my job is that I have made lifelong friends.”

Jaime Lubs is a former employee from Orleans/Niagara BOCES and enjoys substituting at the various sites at BOCES. “I started at BOCES in 2001 and my favorite part of my job is the diverse population of students. Teaching students who are excited to learn is truly rewarding. Not to mention the bonds that are created with the students; it makes coming to work an immense pleasure. Being named Substitute of the Year was quite an honor; it’s great to be recognized. I am who I am today thanks to all the amazing people I have worked with at BOCES over the last 13 years.”

Bob Glaser has worked at BOCES for eight years and is the teacher aide in the Building Trades Program. “It has been a very rewarding experience for me to be here at Niagara Career and Technical Education Center. What I like most is helping the students with various projects, and seeing them develop their skills from day one to graduation. The development of their maturity and skill levels are just amazing to watch. I would like to thank all of the staff who has helped me along the way. It is an honor to have been nominated for this award.”

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) teacher Cassandra Goldman was named the Teacher of the Year. She is a NYS Master Teacher and has been teaching at the Niagara Academy for 14 years. “My favorite part of my job is growing as a teacher every day from my experiences with my colleagues and students. I was very surprised to be named Teacher of the Year because if it wasn’t for the team of people I work with, I wouldn’t be who I am today. My administration and colleagues, current and retired, have taught me a lot about what it means to be a professional and teacher.”
NYS Education Commissioner Comes to Orleans/Niagara BOCES

After visiting schools in Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Sweet Home school districts, New York State Education Commissioner, MaryEllen Elia made her final stop at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center.

Dr. Clark Godshall, District Superintendent, invited Commissioner Elia and representatives from the component districts in Orleans and Niagara Counties to visit the center to give the Commissioner a chance to address the issues that are facing administrators and teachers in education. She talked to the audience about teacher evaluations, the Common Core, state standardized testing and then answered questions from the audience members.

She also had a chance to tour the center and talk to teachers and students about the benefits of career and technical education. One Building Trades student shared that even though she was planning on going to college, she wanted the skills so that she could work construction in the summer months to make money to help her pay for tuition. Commissioner Elia told her it was a wise choice to learn a skill and shared with the teachers her own experiences as an educator.

Dr. Godshall said that the Commissioner shared with him how impressed she was with the programs and the success rate of the students. “She was invigorated with her discussions with the staff, students and the component districts and enjoyed her interaction with them. We appreciate the time she spent with us.”

Newfane Learning Center Gives Treats to Newfane Rehabilitation Residents

Students from the Newfane Learning Center did a little trick or treating at the Newfane Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, with an emphasis on treating. The classes made fall crafts to give to the residents and paraded down the halls of the Newfane Rehabilitation Center to show off their Halloween costumes.

“The residents really enjoyed seeing the kids,” says teacher Sarah Koithan. “They are so grateful for the company and it is a great way to teach our students about giving back to the community. We will also be doing some Christmas caroling and making Valentines for the patients in the near future.”
NCTEC SkillsUSA Student Attends Leadership Training in Washington, D.C.

Logan Krieger, a Computer Technology student at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center, was chosen to attend the SkillsUSA National Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C. For five days, the Lockport senior trained with other SkillsUSA students from all over the country.

Logan was able to attend the leadership institute thanks to a SkillsUSA Area 1 scholarship that is supported by 13 BOCES career and technical education centers from all over Western New York. SkillsUSA is a United States career and technical student organization which serves more than 320,000 high school and college students and professional members enrolled in training programs in technical, skilled, and service occupations, including health occupations.

“The scholarship was a great honor for Logan to receive and he was the first student from our center to get this award,” says Orleans/Niagara BOCES’ SkillsUSA advisor Robert Ihle. “While in D.C., Logan and I were able to attend workshops that taught skills in leadership, communication, getting the job done, and some ideas in how to make a difference with our government officials. Logan also went up to Capitol Hill and met with representatives from Congressman Brian Higgins’ office where he lobbied for the Carl D. Perkins Act and for our SkillsUSA organization and students.”

Some other highlights of Logan's trip included the opportunity to see the Pentagon Memorial, the laying of the wreath and changing of the guard at Arlington Cemetery and a few of the Smithsonian Buildings. As the city prepared itself for a visit from the Pope, Logan was able to take a tour of the Capitol and see firsthand how our great nation was preparing for his visit. “It truly was a great trip to meet so many students from across the country and to go up on Capitol Hill to see how our government works,” he said.

Graduates Give Back to HVAC Program

Many of the advisors on Tom Destino’s Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC) Craft Advisory Committee are familiar faces. At one time almost all of them were his students. Steve Chotkowski, David Cloy, Ken Dominguez, Sam Parise, Vince Piaskowski and Rod Siegmann are now successful in the field that Mr. Destino prepared them for and are giving back to the next generation of HVAC/R specialists. Their role on the Craft Advisory Committee is to help Mr. Destino with interning his students and donating money to use towards equipment and scholarships.

Ken Dominguez graduated in 2000 and is now the owner of KJ Mechanical. “I loved this class. If you are looking for a solid future this is a great career to get into. Everyone needs heat, especially in Western New York.” Sam Parise has owned his own business, Parise Mechanical, for 16 years and employs 27 people. He has made millions of dollars in the industry. “This is an excellent career opportunity. There is such a need for people in the trades. Almost everyone who walks out of this class can get a job immediately. It is a very secure future for technicians.”

Steve Chotkowski works at DWC Mechanical, Inc. and was in the first class in the program at Niagara Career and Technical Education Center at Orleans/Niagara BOCES. “I started capstoning and got a job immediately and I have been working ever since. This is who I am, I am a mechanic. There are a lot of technical challenges and it is a career that incorporates all the trades, but allowing the students to come in and work with us helps them get into their comfort zone and gets them ready for their careers.”

Rodney Siegmann owns Greater Niagara Mechanical, Inc. and is a 1988 graduate from the class. “It feels good to give back, to give the students direction, whether it is to go on to college or go right into the field.”

Vince Piaskowski has gone from working in the field and owning his own company to now teaching at Orleans/Niagara BOCES. “I like teaching and helping to develop the future industry leaders in heating and air conditioning.”

Mr. Destino is very proud of the career path his graduates have carved out for themselves. “As an educator, it is very rewarding to see these guys become successful. Each of them gives back to our community in their own way. Vince will be training the next generation of HVAC/R technicians in the same classroom he sat in 20 years ago. He brings with him knowledge of today’s technology. The rest of our former grads, combined, employ more than 100 people today. They also are sitting members of our HVAC craft advisory committee. They provide our current students with shadowing and capstoning opportunities, as well as money for tools and scholarships. They are also the first to come in and hire our students.”
SkillsUSA Community Service Project is for the Dogs

SkillsUSA students, from both of the Career and Technical Education Centers, recently completed their Fall Leadership Training in Syracuse, New York. All the chapters across New York State were asked to make donations to Wanderers’ Rest Humane Association, which is a shelter dedicated to providing care and compassion for animals in Canastota, New York.

The Niagara Career and Technical Education Center’s chapter decided to make dog toys from fleece. Conservation student Victor Bugenhagen, who is a senior officer in SkillsUSA, taught students the art of boondoggle, which is a basic knot used to create the toys. Math Instructor and SkillsUSA advisor, Julie Roloff, worked with him with some of the classes. “Victor was kind enough to share his expertise with the students in the Diesel, Heavy Equipment program. The students had a lot of fun with the activity and enjoyed the fact that they were making something for dogs.”

The shelter serves more than 1,000 cats and dogs each year.

Retired Medical Examiner Talks with Students

Neal Hodgson, a retired medical examiner, recently paid some visits to the Orleans and Niagara Career and Technical Education Centers. He spoke to students in the Security and Law Enforcement, Health Occupations Technician and EMS programs about his career and various cases he worked on. He also showed the students an autopsy film and photographs and talked about evidence gathering. Security and Law Enforcement student Cameron Cooper said that attracted his attention. “It was very interesting to see how an autopsy is performed and what steps are taken to determine death.”

Some of the cases that Mr. Hodgson talked about really affected the students. “One story in particular really touched my heart,” said Security and Law Enforcement student Ashley Edwards. “It was about a young child that was a victim of child abuse. As I looked around to all the students I could tell it had an effect on them as well.”

The presentation was over two and a half hours long and the students were mesmerized, said Security and Law Enforcement teachers Amber Chunco and John Marotta. “We are very appreciative of Mr. Hodgson talking the time out of his schedule to talk to the students,” said Mr. Marotta. “His experiences and background were an invaluable teaching tool and gave our students an idea of how to handle a crime scene.”
Niagara County Strategic Response Unit Pays Visit to Security and Law Enforcement Classes

The Niagara County Strategic Response Unit (SRU) Team recently visited the Security and Law Enforcement Program at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center. The SRU team gave a short PowerPoint presentation about their duties and then followed that by what the students called “an amazing presentation and experience.”

The students in Amber Chunco’s and Jess Traver’s classes not only got to interact with members of the team, Deputy James Lucas and Lieutenant Gary May, they got a chance to touch their police gear. “We got to see a ram, their tactical vehicle and robots that they use for scouting out locations,” says student Angela Micale. “The team told us that they regularly use the robots on callouts so that the officers are not the first to enter the building. My teacher Ms. Chunco regularly talks about officer safety and I think using the robot is a great officer safety tool.”

Ms. Chunco and Mr. Traver received a lot of positive feedback from the students about the experience. Jayson Parker said, “The only complaint that I had about the whole presentation, is that it didn’t last longer. I feel like they could’ve stayed for a whole week giving valuable information and material”. “It was very interesting to get some hands-on experience dealing with a specialized unit within a police department,” Erin Schmidt said. Classmate Kaylynn Buck added, “This was a once in a lifetime experience for all of us.” The teachers expressed their gratitude for the time that the team spent with the classes sharing their experiences and giving students insights into this career.

Building Trades Students’ Dream Cabin Finds New Home

A year and a half project designed, constructed and wired by students in the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center’s Building Trades and Electricity programs has found a new home. “I had two senior classes build this 12’x30’ cabin,” says Building Trades teacher Matt Anastasi. “I am especially proud of my former student Josh Bedford, who designed the project using AutoCAD and was instrumental in tweaking walls, windows and doors, so that we would not have any problems fitting in the shower or kitchen cabinets.”

The two classes built the engineered floor system and with the help of Mr. Anastasi, made the cabin as energy efficient as possible. “The students’ curriculum includes learning about analyzing and testing a home’s energy performance,” says Mr. Anastasi. “This cabin actually turned into an energy lab for us. The students learned about air sealing, insulation, high performance windows and doors and even an Energy Star metal roof was installed. We have nearly half the R-value at almost an R-30 which is almost unheard of in most homes.” R-value is a way of measuring an insulated material’s resistance to conductive heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulating effectiveness. “We used rigid insulation on the entire exterior and then used our insulation dense packing machine to fill the 6” wall cavities with cellulose insulation. There will be very little heat escaping and very little cold air coming in.”

The students also made the cabin as maintenance-free as possible with vinyl siding, fiberglass exterior doors and LED lighting throughout. They also made all the kitchen cabinets and did all the plumbing inside, including a high efficiency electric hot water heater and a PEX piping manifold system. Mr. Bill Leggett’s Electricity and Electronic students also used their skills to help with its completion. “We were very fortunate that Mr. Leggett and his students did all the electrical work, including the service entrance panel circuit breakers, the outlets, switches and the electric baseboard heating.”

“When we had put it out for bid, the cabin was about 70% complete and we were selling it as-is,” explains Mr. Anastasi. “The gentleman who bought it asked if he paid for the materials if we would complete the interior. We gladly did and the students installed tongue and groove 1”x6” knotty pine walls and ceilings and Pergo floor throughout the whole cabin. “He was thrilled with it when he saw it. He is going to use it for a hunting and golfing getaway cabin and plans on putting it on some property he is purchasing. I am very proud of the work that the students did and look forward to our next project.”
Culinary Arts Student’s Win at Festival is Peachy

Bronte Mantel, a senior from Niagara Wheatfield, impressed the judges at the Lewiston Kiwanis Peach Festival’s baking competition. Bronte, a second year Culinary Arts student in Bob Ihle’s program at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center, created a recipe for peach crumble cupcakes. “Bronte is such a dedicated student,” said Mr. Ihle. “She always wants to do her best and came into school a week before school started to perfect her recipe and get herself organized for the competition.”

The rain over that weekend certainly didn’t daunt Bronte’s competitive spirit and she brought home second place and baking equipment as prizes. “She really likes to enter contests and I am looking forward to seeing how she succeeds in her senior year,” says Mr. Ihle.

Bronte’s Recipe for Peach Crumble Cupcakes

Yield: 12 cupcakes

**Ingredients**
- 1 1/2 C flour
- 1 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 C unsalted butter, room temperature
- 3/4 C brown sugar
- 1/4 C sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 C sour cream
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 1/4 C peaches, roughly chopped
  (about 2 medium-sized peaches)

**Topping:**
½ c. sugar, ½ c. flour, ⅓ t. cinnamon, ¼ c. margarine

**Instructions:**
With a fork, whisk flour, baking powder, and baking soda in a bowl. Beat butter and sugars in a large bowl for 1 minute until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, sour cream, and vanilla extract until blended. Mix in flour mixture. Fold in peaches. Fill cupcake liners 2/3 full.

Combine topping ingredients in bowl. Cut in margarine. Should resemble small pea size. Sprinkle crumbs on top of each cupcake. Bake at 350 F for about 25 minutes or until a toothpick comes out of the cupcake clean.

*OPTIONAL - You can top cooled cupcakes with a white sugar glaze. Confectioner’s sugar and milk to make a pourable sauce to place on top of cupcakes!

LPN Students Promote Cardiac Health to Outlet Shoppers

Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) students spent one of their clinical days at the Niagara Falls Fashion Outlets. Their mission was to promote cardiac health to the shoppers and walkers by offering blood pressure readings and giving out information on the dangers of elevated blood pressure.

Nursing Coordinator, Karen Kwandrans, says the students enjoyed spending a day working with the community. “The people who stopped to interact with our students were very impressed with the professionalism and knowledge of our soon-to-be graduates. I know the Mall Marketing Manager, Meghan Ayers, said she was very happy to have our students there.”

For anyone interested in knowing more about enrolling in the Orleans/Niagara BOCES LPN program, you can contact the BOCES’ office at (716) 731-6800, ext: 4445. A new class begins in January.
Forty-Nine Inducted into the National Technical Honor Society

Congratulations go out to 49 students from the Orleans and Niagara Career and Technical Education Centers who were recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. The students were honored at the Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers in front of their teachers, families and district representatives for maintaining 89.5 average in their career and technical education (CTE) programs and 84.5 average at the high school.

This year’s inductees are:

**Orleans Career and Technical Education Center:**

- Chelsie Cloutier (Newfane/Electricity Program)
- Katelyn DiBenedetto (Royalton Hartland/Allied Health)
- Wynter Dumont (Albion/Early Childhood Ed)
- Ceara Elter (Barker/Computer Technology)
- Elizabeth Falls (Lockport/Early Childhood Ed)
- Noelle Fay (Newfane/Cosmetology)
- April Godfrey (Royalton Hartland/Early Childhood Ed)
- Connor Heiser (Royalton Hartland/Precision Machine Technology)
- Dale Hopkins (Lyndonville/Allied Health)
- Dylan Lewis (Medina/Electronics)
- Carlos Mandujano-Ortiz (Lockport/Electronics)
- Julia Mangino (Royalton Hartland/Early Childhood Ed)
- Benjamin Maynard (Royalton Hartland/Electronics)

**Niagara Career and Technical Education Center:**

- Megan Mikits (Royalton Hartland/Early Childhood Ed)
- Jacob Miles (Royalton Hartland/Welding)
- Haley Moore (Royalton Hartland/Cosmetology)
- Joseph Nolan (Royalton Hartland/Electricity)
- Damian Norrish (Medina/Cosmetology)
- Rachel Rausch (Royalton Hartland/Electricity)
- Tyler Sattelberg (Royalton Hartland/Electronics)
- Alyssa Shortridge (Medina/Computer Technology)
- Marissa Sprowl (Royalton Hartland/Cosmetology)
- Cameron Swick (Royalton Hartland/Allied Health)
- Savannah Tackley (Lyndonville/Security and Law Enforcement)
- Amber Villella (Royalton Hartland/Allied Health)
- Jordan Woltz (Albion/Security and Law Enforcement).

The students were eligible for membership based on their ability to emulate the seven NTHS member attributes – skill, scholarship, honesty, responsibility, service, leadership and citizenship. NTHS honors the achievements of top CTE students, provides scholarships to encourage the pursuit of higher education, and cultivates excellence in today's highly competitive, skilled workforce.
ESY Students Reach New Heights by Helping in Fight Against Lymphoma

Students in Judy Wagner’s Extended School Year Program turned helping out the Hodgkin’s Lymphoma Society into a lesson in more ways than one. The class’s teacher aide, Elizabeth Clapsadle, shared with the students her daughter Nicole’s story about battling the disease and how she has been in remission for five years. The students decided to collect change to donate to Nicole when she walked in the Night Walk in Delaware Park to fundraise for the charity.

“The theme for the class over the summer was Reaching New Heights,” said Mrs. Wagner. “The students were reading biographies on inspiring people and wrote a book report which they read in front of the class. We also talked about what traits are inspirational and what it means to be an inspiring person. Nicole is certainly that for us.”

The students collected the coins as homework, sorted and counted them with their parents and brought them in daily to class where they sorted, rolled and totaled them up. They were very proud to give Nicole $150.43 for the walk.

Marilyn Fleischman Selected as Item Writer for the Nursing Licensure

Marilyn Fleischman, Lead Nursing Instructor at Orleans/Niagara BOCES, was approved by the New York Board of Nursing and selected by National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure (NCSBN) to participate on the NCLEX® item development panel of subject matter experts that was held in Chicago, Illinois on August 31 – September 3, 2015. NCSBN, headquartered in Chicago, is responsible for developing and administering the NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® licensing exams.

All nurses in the United States and its four U.S. territories must take the NCLEX®. The licensing exam identifies those candidates who demonstrate minimal competence to practice nursing at the entry level. Passing the NCLEX® exam is one of the requirements necessary for obtaining a nursing license.

Mrs. Fleischman was one of only 10 nurses from across the nation to be selected for this assignment and was nominated on the basis of clinical specialty and nursing expertise. “It was a great experience and such an honor,” she said. “The other instructors that formed the panel were fantastic to work with.” Karen Kwandrans, Health Occupations Coordinator at ONBOCES, says, “We are lucky to have Marilyn. She has extensive knowledge in nursing practice and education. Students in the LPN program at Orleans/Niagara BOCES benefit from her wisdom and experience.”

If you are interested in learning more about the LPN program at Orleans/Niagara BOCES, call 716-731-1336 ext. 4445. A new class will be starting at the Sanborn site in January.

Fashion Design Student Creates Creepy Costumes

Fashion/Interior Design teacher Dr. Donna Bryant assigned her students the task of creating some Halloween looks for the upcoming holiday. The class had a great time coming up with some cool and spooky looks.

Trick or Treat

The staff and students at the Orleans Learning Center had fun showing off their creative looks for Halloween!
Roy Hart Learning Center Gives Thanks to Those Who Assist Students All Year Long

The staff at the Roy Hart Learning Center shows gratitude to all of those who help them and the students out throughout the school year by inviting them for breakfast. Coordinator Paulette Hamilton-Koehler and her staff offer everything from doughnuts, fruit, granola bars and casseroles to the school bus drivers, law enforcement and emergency services personnel and the school maintenance staff for the support they give them all year round.

“They make our jobs a lot easier, knowing we can count on them to work with us and look out for our students,” says Mrs. Hamilton-Koehler. “Our teacher aides come in early to watch the school buses so that the drivers can come in and grab something to go before they head off to their next stop. Our other staff decorates, sets up tables, brings in food and makes beverages for all our guests to enjoy. It is a great way to start off the holiday season for all of us to say thank you.”

Heavy Equipment, Diesel Mechanics Program Thanks Local Companies for Loan

Niagara Career and Technical Education Center teacher Wes Blydy is very grateful to two local companies and their generosity. “We recently had an open house night at our center and my Heavy Equipment, Diesel and Agriculture Mechanics students wanted to impress their families and the community that came into our class. Kenworth of Buffalo and Hartway's Motors of Medina each lent us a truck for the event. The students were very excited and our visitors loved seeing the trucks up close.”

Cody Wick, a former student of Mr. Blydy’s, is currently working at Hartway’s and volunteered his time to come and talk to the students and visitors that evening. “It was great having Cody here and talk to everyone. We appreciate him being here. Kenworth was very generous allowing us to keep the truck for a week, so my students could also have some engine training as well. I definitely want to thank Wally and Al at Kenworth for giving my students that opportunity and Lisa Hartway for her support of my program. It is because of businesses like them that help my students.”

(LtoR) Heavy Equipment, Diesel and Agriculture Mechanic students with the loan from Kenworth of Buffalo: Nathan Carpenter (Niagara Academy), Josh McIntyre (Starpoint), Brandi Breeze (Niagara Wheatfield), Isaac Stacy (Niagara Falls), Alex Lindke (Starpoint), Nick Kumro (Niagara Academy), Bob Hoover (Starpoint), Jacob Kiff (Starpoint), Bill Proctor (Niagara Falls), Josh Shumate (Niagara Wheatfield), Mel Emery (Wilson), Noah Fuller-Delmont (Lockport), Mike Sosnowski (Lew-Port), Chris Kazmierczak (Starpoint) and John Mahon (Wilson).

School Bus drivers: Lisa Jacobs (Lew-Port), Bill Codick (Niagara Falls), Dan Johnson (Niagara Falls), Roy Hart Learning Center Coordinator Paulette Hamilton-Koehler and Patt Roberts (Lew-Port).
Welder Shows Off Some Scary Skills

Andrew DeLine, a second year welding student in Steven Frey’s and Lynn Wahler’s program at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center, put his skills to a very creative use. Every year the Welding Program at Orleans/Niagara BOCES has made a contribution to the Lewiston Area Chamber of Commerce’s annual Scarecrow Contest.

Andrew’s contribution was Mr. Hal O’Ween. “I liked working on it,” says Andrew. “My classmates gave me some input and a hand creating it. I liked using my imagination and I thought it was a lot of fun to make it.”

One of his teachers, Mr. Frey, says Andrew is a good student. “He is very creative and talented and the scarecrow was awesome. The Chamber was very impressed.”

Andrew says he gets a lot more out of the program than flexing his creativity. “I am learning a lot of skills here. It is helping me get my foot in the door for the career I want.”

Photojournalist Shares Experiences with Graphic Communications Students

Photojournalist, Alex Chionetti, visited the students at Niagara Career and Technical Center’s Graphic Communications class recently. He made a special appearance to talk about his 30 plus years of photojournalism and media experience with Karen Krull’s class.

He shared with the students his experience from his early beginnings of being a photojournalist and a co-publisher of the magazine Herald, which was the first bilingual Spanish/English publication for the entertainment industry. “The description of his younger self aspiring to become a photojournalist and focusing on capturing wildlife was and still is a true marvel. He is now one of my heroes,” says student Lucas Kates. Classmate Keira Fletcher said, “It was nice that he spent a little bit of time with each student, to look over some of our individual work and find out what our interests are. It’s always good to have feedback from people who are in the graphics work field.”

He is currently co-director of the Buffalo Niagara Film Festival (BNFF). He has been developing and collaborating in eclectic shows such as the History Channel's series Ancient Aliens, which is based on his own explorations and research. Mr. Chionetti also shared his personal beliefs on photojournalism in this digital age with the class. “We hide behind the art of photojournalism and use it for instant communication, which devalues the concept of photography.”