Forty-four students had a successful showing at the SkillsUSA Region 1 Skills Olympics in SUNY Alfred recently. Students competed against students from Allegany, Steuben, Monroe, Erie, Cattaraugus & Ontario Counties for the top three spots. First Place winners were:

Alexander Burns (NW), Nicholas Hawkins (Starpoint) and Daniel Nugent (Wilson) in Automated Manufacturing Technology Team, Kiera Ann Smith (Starpoint) in Criminal Justice, Kimberly Ortiz (NF) in Culinary Arts, Joshua Baptiste (NW) in Job Demo, Tiffany Clark (Wilson) in Food Prep Assistant, Candace Orton (Lockport) in Cosmetology, Cassidy Rohde (Lockport) in Prepared Speech, Seth Heath (Barker) in Electronics Technology and Luke Brauer (RH), Arielle Flowers (RH), Arsalan Mustafa (Medina) and Zachary Roseler (Medina) in the Health Knowledge Bowl.

(Complete list of winners on page 2)
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SKILLSUSA WINNERS

Second Place Winners:
Victoria Dudkowski (Lockport) in Extemporaneous Speaking, Brittany Manicki (RH) in Job Interview, Kevin DeMaison (Lockport) in Diesel Mechanics, Jacob Farmer (Wilson), Ryan Daul (NF) & Robert Schimschack (NW) in Automated Manufacturing Team, Roman Baranov (NT) in Carpentry, Alan Coughlin (NW) in CPR/First Aid, Rebecca Volmy (Lockport) in Job Demo, Justin Desabrais (NF), Patrick Conte (NF), Kaitlyn Kilmor (Lockport), Tyler Harrington (RH) and Eric Hens (Lockport) in Health Knowledge Bowl, Wyatt Wolf (Lew-Port) in Related Technical Math, Felicia Gane (NT) in Restaurant Services and Michael Robins (NW) in Welding.

Third Place Winners:
Alex Volchow (Newfane), Benjamin Walker (Lockport) & Nicholas Zagmester (Medina) in Automated Manufacturing Team Competition, Alissa Connolly (RH) in Early Childhood Ed, Morgan Valentine (Lockport) in Related Technical Math, Zachary Wodo (Newfane) in Carpentry, Garrett VanLieshout (Albion) in Diesel Mechanics, Renee Leggett (Wilson) in Commercial Baking, Zachary Parlier (Newfane) in Conservation and Angela Guerra (Wilson), Sarah Lewis (NW) and Miranda Manning (Starpoint) in Crime Scene Investigation.

The New York State SkillsUSA Championship will be held in Syracuse at April 24 to the 26th.

Police K-9 Gets Bulletproof Vest Thanks to OLC

Medina Police Officer Sergeant Todd Draper and his K-9 partner Kye hold a special place in the hearts of the Orleans Learning Center students. When they learned that Kye did not have a bulletproof vest to protect him when he is on duty, the students made it their mission to raise money to give him one.

The class along with Mrs. Clause and aides Sharon Librera and Kathy Scarborough made and sold chocolate and in three months made $500, but it wasn’t enough for the vest which range from $1,200 to $2,800. After appealing to the community through the newspapers and the WGRZ TV website the outpouring of support for the students’ quest was remarkable. “We actually had a few people contact us and say they would cover whatever the students’ could not come up with,” says Mrs. Clause.

A local company, Empire Emergency Apparatus decided to do something too. “We had an employee who saw it on WGRZ and called me and said can’t we do anything to help,” explained Operations Manager Kathleen Holler. “I have a sister-in-law who worked for BOCES and I know how heartfelt this gesture was for the students and it really touched me. We supply law enforcement and fire personnel with equipment so I went to my boss and said can we do anything. He said “Let’s give them a vest” I almost started crying.” She called Ryan Leffler, who works for Survival Armor, a ballistic protection company in Florida and asked if he would come and measure Kye for his vest. He didn’t hesitate. “I thought it was fantastic. These dogs put their lives at risk every day and they deserve to be protected.”

Student Luke Burdette says he was happy to know Kye will have his vest in a few weeks. “When I heard about the K-9 that got killed in Herkimer it made me sad, but I know now that Kye will be safe and that is awesome.”


Rebecca Volmy - 2nd Place Job Demo
Getting Ready For The Big Fashion Show

Students in the Fashion Design/Interior Design Program are working on designs to enter in the Villa Maria Fashion Show in April. The competition is open to all high school students and teacher Dr. Donna Bryant says her students are excited about showing off their designs. “Not only do the students get to design a garment, they will be modeling it too and they could win a cash prize or scholarship. It is a fantastic opportunity.”

Photo Caption: Patti Whalen (Lockport) starts her design for the show.

Dignity For All At NLC

New York State’s Dignity for All Students Act was signed into law to provide a safe and supportive environment for all students and to protect them from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment and bullying on school property.

The teachers at the Newfane Learning Center have been incorporating the law into their Common Core Literacy lessons. “The teachers have been doing a phenomenal job of incorporating social emotional learning with English Language Arts (ELA) and Social Studies for our 7th and 8th grade students,” says administrator Krista Macomber. She says students and teachers have been engaging in many lively discussions and turning in impressive writing assignments to their teachers Tonia Cobb, Barbara Kloch and Becki Tharp.

Photo Caption: (LtoR) Aaron Crosby (Lockport), Luke Plandowski (Lockport) and Joshua Barber (North Tonawanda) show off their writings that are on display at the Newfane Learning Center.
Going Green

Thanks to an effort to become more energy efficient, Orleans/Niagara BOCES received a rebate check from National Grid for $20,214. Our maintenance staff has been hard at work switching light fixtures to LED lights or more efficient fluorescent lights. The project started at the Orleans Career and Tech Ed Center with all the shops and common areas switched over and also having occupancy sensor controls that turn off the lights if the room is vacant for a period of time. Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, Mike Johannes says BOCES wanted to be more energy efficient and help the environment. “It was a pleasant surprise getting this rebate check. We will be using the money to switch out more lights at our other centers.”

Photo Caption: Chris Gerhard, Mike Johannes and Danny Flatt.

Nursing Inspires Many To Go Into LPN Program

The Licensed Practical Nursing Program is the ideal fit for someone looking to be a nurse, but has limited time because of work of family commitments, says teacher Marilyn Fleischman. “This program is geared to offer an education that allows our students to support their families and honor their job commitments while getting their education.”

The program is comprised of 710 hours of theory and 510 hours of clinical, totaling 1,220 hours of instruction. At the end of the program students take the NCLEX-PN licensure examination so that they can become an LPN. The reasons differ of why people sign up for the Continuing Ed program, but for the most part is either to achieve a lifelong dream or to have more job security.

Todd Harris says he has always been interested in the medical field. “The LPN program was just the easiest place to start. I really like the class and teacher and it very in-depth. I am definitely going on to become a registered nurse.” For classmates Diane Woodall and Nicole Szatkowski, they have already been working in the medical field and were looking for the next step. “This was definitely the next logical move for me. I find it so stimulating and interesting. I can take this education and move anywhere and get a job,” says Diane. Nicole says that she is currently working as a home health aide and looking for better pay. “The facility I work for has really encouraged me for years to do this. They are very supportive of me getting more knowledge and be able to progress there. I love this class.”

For more information about the LPN program you can contact Terry Josker at 1-800-836-7510, ext: 4445 or at tjosker@onboces.org.

Photo Caption: Todd Harris, Diane Woodall and Nicole Szatkowski.
HEALTH COVERAGE INFORMATION
This reminder applies to those of you who carry, or are eligible for enrollment in, health coverage through the Orleans/Niagara BOCES. It is important to promptly report to the Labor Relations office any change in information that may affect the health insurance enrollment of family members. Examples may include adding a spouse or child due to marriage, birth or adoption, terminating a spouse due to divorce, terminating a child or stepchild due to reaching age 26. Such information should be reported as soon as possible and no later than 30 days after the occurrence. If the Labor Relations office is not timely notified of such changes, then claim(s) denials or processing delays may result.

Employees who wish to either enroll in health coverage or change their current enrollment from one health plan to another generally must do so effective July 1st. The completed application/enrollment form must be received in the Labor Relations office during the month of June. To have a blank application/enrollment form sent to you or if you have any questions relative to this topic, then please contact Lori Bernabei at (800) 836-7510, extension 2224.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT (FSA) INFORMATION
By participating in the flexible spending plan, an eligible employee may have deducted from his or her salary a specified amount of tax-free dollars to pay for eligible medical care or dependent care expenses. The flexible spending account plan year runs from September 1st through August 31st. In order to enroll for a plan year beginning September 1st, an eligible employee should send a completed enrollment form to the Labor Relations office generally during the month of June to participate in the plan year beginning the following September 1st. The absolute deadline for the completed enrollment form to be received in the Labor Relations office is August 31st, prior to the start of the new plan year. To ascertain whether you are eligible for participation, to receive additional information, or to have an enrollment form sent to you, please contact Nicole Bensley at the Orleans Career and Technical Center at (800) 836-7510, extension 2203. Enrollment forms may also be obtained at the Benefit Resource web site. An enrollment form does not need to be completed to receive the BOCES contribution to the health reimbursement account.

Benefit Resource link: www.benefitresource.com
You may log on to the Benefit Resource web site using the company code of onboces, your username (four zeros followed by your five digit employee number (employee number is on your paystub and also on your Wincap Web paycheck self service) and password (zip code). You will be prompted to change your password after your initial sign in. Follow the online instructions to change the password.

The web site will enable you to:
• Review your account summary (includes BOCES contribution (if applicable) and employee contributions (if applicable)
• Download forms (claim form, enrollment/change form, medical expense/dependent care worksheets, etc.)
• Link to eligible health care expenses
• Link to plan documents (plan highlights and summary plan description)
• Submit claims online

Saving a Life

The Allied Health Programs at the Newfane, Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda sites and the Emergency Medical Services Program at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center spent a day getting their CPR certification. The certification training takes six hours and lasts for one year.

Photo Caption: EMS student Patrick Conte (Niagara Falls), with Newfane Allied Health students Tom Rush (Lockport) and Leah Platt (Newfane).
Getting a Helping Hand

Kyle Jung and Dan Ruble from the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center Automotive Technology Program recently took first place at the Niagara Frontier Automobile Dealers’ (NFADA) Auto Tech Competition. To help them prepare for the national competition in New York City Northtown Subaru stepped up to the plate to give the students an advantage. Since the car they will have to troubleshoot at the competition is a Subaru they not only sent a car, but a technician to help the students prepare. Teacher Jasper Adams says it is an incredibly generous thing for them to do. “We are very appreciative of the support they are showing this class and Kyle and Dan.”

Mac McCarthy is one of Northtown’s master technicians and a graduate from the Orleans/Niagara BOCES program himself. He has been at the disposal of the students not only to help them to learn about the car, but also to bug it so that the students get plenty of practice on how to repair it. “I am really glad to be able to help the students,” says Mr. McCarthy. “I have a passion for teaching so it is nice to be able to share my 25 years of experience with Subaru with them. Things are very different now than when I graduated. For one thing there weren’t competitions like this and there were certainly no colleges and tech schools you could go to after graduation. This is a very exciting opportunity for Kyle and Dan and Northtown Subaru is glad to be able to play a part in their education and hopefully their win.”

Coin Drive Scores Books for Everyone

The North Tonawanda Learning Center recently enjoyed the fruits of their labor. Staff and students had a four week coin drive that netted them $1117. The money all went to a book fair so that each student could get some books from Scholastic Books who set up shop at the school. “Our students were so excited and learned how to identify books that interested them, make their choices and utilize the funds they were given,” says Ms. Logel. “What was really nice is that Scholastic matched what we spent and gave books to a school in need. It was a fantastic experience for everyone.”

(LtoR) Teacher Aide Georgina Meisenberg and student Louis Mantell enjoy their time at the book fair.
Kiwanis Club Helps Students Dress For Success

Our Continuing Ed programs pride themselves on preparing their students to enter the workforce. The Niagara Falls Literacy Zone students in the Job Readiness Program get all the skills and training that their teachers can give them to get a job, but sometimes what holds them back is not having the right attire to wear to interviews or work in an office. Dr. Frank Filicetti, a retired O/N BOCES administrator, who is also a member of the Lewiston Kiwanis Club, knew the Kiwanis First Lady Jenny Wang’s project for the year was collecting clothing for the unemployed for job interviews. He immediately thought of his former colleagues at BOCES and their program participants. He contacted Margaret Topor, who is the Community Liaison with the Literacy Zone Program and asked if they could donate some clothes. Ms. Topor accepted. “We really have a hard time getting appropriate clothing for our students, especially the men. We really need suits and ties so we were appreciative of the 200 pounds of career clothes that they donated to us. Our students look fantastic and you cannot believe what a difference the clothing makes. What a transformation!”

It was so much of a transformation that when one of the teachers showed some photos of the students wearing the suits she thought that she was sent the wrong photos. “I really thought the gentlemen in the photos were politicians from last year’s Literacy Zone Statewide Conference. They completely fooled me. When I shared the photos with the Lewiston Kiwanis President Dr. Jerry Mosey he said he had tears in his eyes when he saw how great the students looked. The club was so excited that they are going to send more. I cannot express my gratitude to the Lewiston Kiwanis Club for their generosity and helping our students gain jobs and self-confidence with their new clothes.”

PBIS Help

To help his classmates at the Roy Hart Learning Center Brandon Pelczynski decided to tap into his creative ability to better explain PBIS to them. Teacher Michelle Drennan was impressed with the initiative that Brandon showed on creating his own stoplight pattern to simplify what each of the colors represented. “I was thinking of school when I did this at home,” he explained. “I thought the faces would make it easier to understand.”

Barker Honors

The Barker Board of Education recently honored four of their students who were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at Orleans/Niagara BOCES. Brian Alt (Conservation), Brandon Alt (EMS), Allison Herian (Cosmetology) and Joanna Larsen (Security and Law Enforcement) had recently achieved excellence in their career and technical education programs. Students must have a grade point average of 3.0 and have completed a certain amount of credit hours.

(LtoR) Ronell Bradley (NF) and Rocky Tebbs (NF) show off their new suits.
Hair Wars

The NCTEC Cosmetology students recently inspired awe from their audience at their annual hair show at the center. Teachers Cathy Bonaccorso, Pauline Carney and Lori Smith classes competed in the evening, braids or fantasy categories and had several local hair stylists judge the best of the best.

Evening Category
1st-Brianna Lagamba (Starpoint)
2nd-Alyssa Myers (NT)
3rd-Steph LaBell (Starpoint)
4th-Diamond Hamilton (NF)

Braiding Category
1st-DaVonte Bowen (NF)

Fantasy Category
1st - Nina Calandrelli (NW)
2nd- Lacey Soro (NW)
3rd-Kali-Jo Lacey (NF)
4th-Jordan Barr (NF)
5th-Selina Hurd (NW)

Welding Champs

Welding students NCTEC’s Mike Robins (NW) and OCTEC’s Alex Wall (Lockport) took home honors and cash prizes at the American Welding Society Section 6 Weld Off. Their teachers Steve Frey and Eric Farrell could not have been prouder of their students. Robins took first place in the Senior category and Wall took second place in the Junior Category.

(LtoR) Steve Frey, Mike Robins and Principal Anedda Trautman.
(LtoR) Alex Wall and Eric Farrell.