2020-21 Annual Report

In cooperation with member schools: Camden, Canastota, Hamilton, Madison, Morrisville-Eaton, New York State School for the Deaf, Oneida, Rome, Stockbridge Valley and Vernon-Verona-Sherrill
On behalf of the Madison-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services, I am pleased to present the 2020-21 Annual Report. Like so many organizations that kept their doors open during the pandemic, MOBOCES has had to change and adapt over the past school year to ensure we continued providing a first-rate education to all of our students, regardless of their location and mode of learning. You will see many of those successes highlighted in this publication.

With change all around us, our board and administration believed that this was the right time to revisit our overarching institutional goals and more clearly align them with our organization’s beliefs and the work our team does to meet the needs of the region. Those revised goal statements are reflected on page 4 and used to highlight some of the ways in which we have led and supported students, educators, administrators and districts in the region during the past school year.

As we move through the next school year, we know things will change, and not just because of the pandemic. One thing we will not change is our commitment to providing the best programs, services, staff and workplace that we can and continue to strengthen the community and educational opportunities in the Mohawk Valley.

Donna Isbell
Board of Education President
Madison-Oneida BOCES
ABOUT BOCES

Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) exist in New York State to help school districts better serve their students. School districts throughout the state depend on BOCES to meet their educational and financial goals through shared programs and services. By focusing on collaboration and creating efficiencies, BOCES agencies help to relieve some of the financial burdens increasingly placed on local taxpayers.

THE MADISON-ONEIDA BOCES

◆ Serves about 4,000 learners across the region with programs that include pre-kindergarten, Career and Technical Education, Special Education, literacy program for adults and out-of-school youth, and a variety of vocational and avocational offerings.

◆ Offers academic and enrichment summer programs for students in grades Pre-K-12.

◆ Houses the Mohawk Regional Information Center (MORIC), one of 12 statewide information centers, which provides participating districts in five counties access to state-of-the-art technology services, training and support for teachers, students, and administrators.

◆ Partners with a neighboring BOCES to host a Continuing Education Consortium, which offers vocational and avocational programs at multiple sites across three counties.

◆ Operates 3 of the state’s Literacy Zones, a grant-funded family and community literacy initiative, and participates in the Madison County and Oneida County Literacy Coalitions.

◆ Employs about 750 full-time and part-time faculty and staff.

STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

COLLABORATION

Madison-Oneida BOCES programs and services are planned, delivered, and evaluated in collaboration with participants.

OUTCOMES

Madison-Oneida BOCES programs and services supply participants with the means, knowledge or opportunity to achieve their educational goals.

RESOURCES

Madison-Oneida BOCES programs and services use all resources efficiently and effectively.

ANTICIPATION

Madison-Oneida BOCES anticipates emerging educational service needs and develops programs and services to address those needs.
FROM THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
Scott A. Budelmann

As educators, we must prepare our students for the evolving conditions of life - and we do so well when we instill in them a sense of self-reliance, confidence, resilience and readiness for change. We know this especially after 2020-21, when many of our basic assumptions about the world were challenged. For who among us could have predicted the specific circumstances of our situation today? And more importantly, what skill sets must we cultivate in our children right here and right now so that they are best prepared to meet the challenges of tomorrow?

At MOBOCES, we have long believed real world lessons are best delivered in the real world. And that is why our instructional programs, from pre-k on up through adult programs, offer students a wide range of hands-on learning opportunities that are steeped in real world environments. Moreover, MOBOCES students gain early access to career and college pathways, sometimes years before their peers. This is the formula that has worked for us in the past and it is the formula that will continue to work for us in the future, because we know student engagement is key to student success in school and in the world beyond.

I am proud to share our 2020-21 Annual Report highlighting the outstanding programs we have developed and grown for students for more than fifty years. These are programs that could not exist, but for your continued support and the talent, tenacity and drive of our highly skilled staff.

And for that I thank you!

Scott A. Budelmann
District Superintendent
Madison-Oneida BOCES
MISSION STATEMENT
Madison-Oneida BOCES cooperatively and responsibly provides educationally focused programs and services which enable learners to excel.

MADISON-ONEIDA BOCES
CORE VALUES & PRIORITIES

Regional Leadership
BOCES communication strategies will be designed to reach and encourage the involvement of affected students, parents / guardians and regional partners.

Career Ready
BOCES programs and services will foster a unique confluence of the region’s economic and collegiate strengths to allow students the opportunity to prepare for and successfully transition to their career pursuits.

Stewardship
BOCES programs and services will be designed to develop, maximize, and protect human capital through effective use of resources.

Human Flourishing
BOCES programs and services will incorporate social emotional wellness strategies that are informed by current research, reflect best practices and align with NYS Social Emotional Learning Benchmarks.

Equity & Access
BOCES programs, services and opportunities will be provided equitably and in a manner that recognizes diversity and the unique backgrounds and life experiences of its students, staff and community members.

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High school seniors in the one-year CTE New Visions Law, Government and Public Administration program staffed a vaccine call center for Madison County for several months in the spring to assist local residents with questions on vaccines, testing, travel guidelines, quarantine and exposure concerns, providing students with hands-on learning experiences in the public service sector.
CTE Holds Inaugural Signing Day

MOBOCES hosted its first-ever Signing Day ceremony in June to celebrate 15 Career and Technical Education students who were offered immediate employment from the businesses where they completed their senior year internships. The students represented eight school districts and eight CTE programs, and they will be working at 13 local businesses.

Program leaders noted what a tremendous accomplishment it is for students to go right from high school to skilled employment in their chosen field. They also thanked business and industry partners that continue to provide valuable learning opportunities for students, a critical piece of the CTE experience.

The idea for Signing Day was put forth two years ago, when 42 students were offered employment directly resulting from their internships.

Students Work in Local Businesses

Students from the Work Study program have continued developing their employment skills through ongoing connections with local businesses.

The Work Study program, which is more than 30 years old, provides an opportunity for high school students with disabilities to gain hands-on experiences in a variety of career fields, including food service, agriculture, heavy equipment, building and mechanical trades, automotive, retail and clerical. Five local businesses offered student placements this year.

Students learn academic and technical industry skills during their placements and establish connections with local employers. They also develop essential workplace skills needed to succeed in any field, such as time management, organization, communication and meeting employer expectations.
Enhancing the Trades

The Welding and Heavy Equipment Operation programs for both high school and adult learners enhanced their classrooms this year to provide students with more industry-standard equipment. The welding lab has added multimatic welders and a new state-of-the-art Mig welder. Heavy Equipment students now have access to two new Kubota KX mini excavators, which replaced excavators that were 16 years and 20+ years old. The program also acquired a new CM Labs VORTEX Construction Equipment Simulator, which allows students to practice using four different pieces of heavy machinery while indoors.

Utilizing Drones

The Mid-State Teacher Resource Center and the regional Drone Technologies Professional Learning Community held a Drone Expo for teachers in June to cap off a year of building, programming, testing and repairing drones for use in the classroom. At the Expo, teachers flew drones they had built and gave students an opportunity to try their hand at flying.

Manufacturing Products

Manufacturing Technology students learned about the production design process, including computer programming, robotics, drone usage and prototyping. They put their skills to use on campus by teaming up with other CTE classes on real-world projects. In the fall, they worked with Early Childhood students to refurbish an old rolling toddler-level chalkboard/felt board used in the nursery school lab. In the spring, they partnered with Conservation and Culinary Arts to create handmade wooden chopsticks. Manufacturing honed the wood, Conservation supplied beeswax from their hives, and Culinary consulted on the design and food safety guidelines.

Supporting Public Health

Seniors in the Health Related Careers, Allied Health and Criminal Justice programs participated in a virtual training this spring on opioid overdose rescue, led by the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, so they will be prepared to address narcotics issues in the field.
Developing Business Skills

Adult students at the Utica ACCESS Site launched a Friday Coffee Cart as a hands-on way to practice their classroom and business skills. The students are part of the Integrated English Language and Civics Education (IELCE) program, which helps English language learners prepare for careers in the hospitality, food service and hotel industries. The Coffee Cart allows them to plan and run an operation similar to what happens in the hospitality industry and earn industry certifications.

Delivering Orders

Instead of running a storefront, the Vocational Technical Preparation program shifted its popular Snack Shack to a phone-ahead delivery format, providing pre-packaged items and mimicking changes the food service industry made during the pandemic.

Exploring Career Paths

CTE conducted its spring Career Fair in an online format amid pandemic restrictions, a move that helped expand the event’s reach to students from all programs and grade levels instead of only high school seniors. Work Based Learning Coordinator Paula Orr met individually with nearly two dozen local businesses and recorded brief interviews with them. Those interviews were added to a Google Classroom along with activities and resources that students could use to learn more about various companies and industries. Teachers used the videos and materials in the classroom to help students explore career pathways and post-secondary options.

READY TO WORK

The BOCES Consortium of Continuing Education (BCCE) worked throughout the pandemic to prepare adult learners in the region for new careers, career advancement, college and trade schools. During the 2020-21 school year:

- 72 Adults learners earned their High School Equivalency diplomas
- 41 Adult learners completed Adult Practical Nursing programs
- 271 Adult learners completed 100+ hour training courses in vocational and skilled trades fields
- 1,339 Adults gained new skills and experiences through avocational and hobby classes
The Staff and Curriculum Development team led virtual, hybrid and in-person trainings and workshops for teachers, teaching assistants, administrators, counselors, librarians and other staff members. A significant topic this year was Blended Learning models to offer support and strategies for teaching remote learners. Blended Learning sessions were held asynchronously, with staff holding live meetings on the first and last day of the session and participants working on their own in between.
SLS Forms Regional Coalition

The MOBOCES School Library System formed a collaborative partnership with sister SLS from seven other BOCES centers this year to host a series of multi-region virtual professional development opportunities for educators.

The Greater CNY Collaborative Event Series also hosted a variety of instructionally-focused webinars with well-known experts in their fields. Among the most popular was an Ask A Lawyer webinar, allowing more than 100 participants to ask questions about copyrighted music, book read-alouds, data privacy on web-based learning platforms, and other issues arising from remote instruction. Other topics in the series included Engaging Online Asynchronous Lessons, Best New Young Adult Books, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Young Adult Books.

“Working with this group allows us to continue to offer great presenters in a virtual format while sharing the cost and making it very affordable,” SLS Director Sue LeBlanc said.

The collaborative effort grew out of the annual Leatherstocking Conference in the fall. Typically, it is jointly sponsored by the MOBOCES, Oneida/Herkimer and Jefferson-Lewis SLS and features well-keynote authors and breakout sessions led by both prominent youth authors and local librarians and educators.

This year, the conference moved to a virtual format and SLS leaders representing five other BOCES joined the group. They opted to partner on single, multi-region events rather than each host their own in order to maximize their resources while still providing high-quality events.

“Given the challenges we’re all facing, the need for PD is so important,” LeBlanc said. “We’ve had a really good response to what we’ve been doing.”

DID YOU KNOW? SLS Director Sue LeBlanc was invited to offer testimony in two statewide hearings in November. She spoke before the NYS Assembly about the impact of COVID-19 on school libraries, and she addressed the NYS Board of Regents Advisory Council on Libraries about the role of school librarians in remote and hybrid learning.
MORIC Leads State Grant Trainings

The Mohawk Regional Information Center partnered with BOCES statewide to develop trainings to provide educators with tools and resources to improve virtual instruction.

MORIC was one of 12 statewide RICs to receive a contract to develop resources and lead turnkey trainings under a NYSED Teaching in Remote/Hybrid Learning Environments (TRLE) grant. The three-year $20 million grant supports professional development aimed at building the capacity of educators in six key areas: online learning, family engagement, students with disabilities, English language learners, culturally responsive education and social emotional learning.

As one of the lead agencies carrying out the grant’s goals, MORIC leaders spent about six months developing resources and best practices in the Families As Partners strand. Those resources helped Instructional Team Leader Eric Feola and Regional Data Leader Amy Konz lead a series of statewide turnkey trainings focused on improving communication between schools, teachers, students and family members. Model Schools Coordinator Laurie Yager was a local turnkey trainer, leading virtual sessions on family engagement for educators in the region.

“Early on in the pandemic, we recognized the need to enhance the resources and structures in place to support families. This was an area we wanted to explore in greater depth. We wanted to document and develop best practices to share with communities and districts,” MORIC Executive Director Heather Mahoney said. “The work from this will help some of our other work related to virtual learning and instructional technology as well.”

Statewide, 10 RICs representing 30 BOCES decided to pool their individual contracts to share resource development and staff expertise. RIC and BOCES experts are working together to develop local resources and trainings across all six of the strands.

Locally, the MOBOCES Staff and Curriculum Development team supported the students with disabilities strand. They participated in the turnkey trainings led by Broome-Tioga BOCES and brought back material for educators in the MOBOCES and MORIC regions.

The grant has two additional phases that will occur over the next two school years, building on strategies and resources developed and deployed this year.

“We wanted to document and develop best practices to share with communities and districts.”
Students Join Virtual Literacy Celebration

Elementary students from across the region had an opportunity to join a live videoconference this spring with nationally-known teacher, librarian and presenter John Schu. Utilizing both a live Zoom call and a simultaneous YouTube livestream, the School Library System was able to deliver “A Virtual Reading Celebration” to several hundred students and staff in the region.

Schu talked with participants about the value of libraries, his work as an author and developing a lifelong love for reading. He also shared some of his favorite books for grades 3-6 and gave away many of those titles to teachers and librarians participating in the event. He then invited his colleague, author Lauren Castillo, to read a few pages from her book, “Our Friend Hedgehog.” She then led a short demonstration of how to draw her hedgehog character.

The Virtual Reading Celebration was one of two regional events held with Schu in April for National School Library Month. The School Library System also hosted a virtual professional development workshop for school librarians during which Schu shared book recommendations for elementary students and talked about the power of libraries.

LEADING THE WAY

- District Superintendent Scott Budelmann participated in a regional panel discussion with The Genesis Group on changes to education during the pandemic.
- Early Childhood Director Colleen Wuest joined the board of Connected Community Schools, which supports Rome area families in need.
- Planning and Grant Writing Specialist Lisa Seitz led a grant writing workshop for school librarians from the Broome-Tioga BOCES region.
- Model Schools Coordinator Heather Shaffer led a virtual book study for educators on technology integration in the classroom during hybrid learning.
- Staff Development Specialist Maria Papa created a web video series called Literacy Minute to support educators at all levels with strategies and best practices to improve literacy instruction.
- The Central Bus Maintenance Service partnered with the City of Utica to provide repairs and maintenance work on the municipality’s snow plows.
- Public Relations Coordinator Sapna Kollali was elected to the executive board of the New York School Public Relations Association (NYSPRA).
- MOBOCES led superintendent searches for two school districts looking for new leaders.
MOBOCES is a member of the Ready 4 Kindergarten regional early learning coalition, which received a $9,000 grant to provide workshops, events and information to families in three counties. The grant initiative is designed to support children’s transition into school and families’ access to services and high-quality early learning resources. R4K members kicked off their work by filling 300 backpacks with information, resources and goodies for elementary principals to distribute to their families.
Students, Staff Celebrate Pride Month

The Tri Academy program held its first month-long Pride Celebration in June, holding a number of activities and events designed to promote inclusion for all and raise awareness of LGBTQ+ issues.

The month included informational sessions on gender pronouns, the meaning of the rainbow flag, being an ally, creating safe spaces, and tie-dying shirts. Staff created a timeline to hang in the Media Center with key events in the LGBTQ+ Equality Movement, and students voted to hang a Pride Flag in the main office to welcome everyone to the school.

The celebration built on an inclusion project being completed by an interdivisional team of MOBOCES program leaders, social workers and school counselors. The team participated in a year-long national certificate program through Georgetown University’s Center for Juvenile Justice Reform on “Supporting the Well-Being of System-Involved LGBTQ Youth.” The NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services funded the team’s participation in the program, which focused on how to best advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth and model inclusive school climate strategies.

Much of that work, as well as an annual Pride Celebration, are expected to continue during the 2021-22 school year.

Cafeteria Team Supports Schools

The School Lunch Management service helped five area districts provide free school meals to all students during the 2020-21 school year. This includes food purchases and preparation, menu planning, budgeting, inventory and completing state and federal reports. At MOBOCES, the cafeteria team delivered meals to students in their classrooms all year to reduce cafeteria crowding and assist with pandemic safety measures.
DIGITAL DIVIDE

The pandemic and virtual learning greatly increased technology needs in the region, a particular challenge in rural areas like the MOBOCES region. The Mohawk Regional Information Center (RIC) worked with 50 school districts and four BOCES to support thousands of students, families, educators and administrators in the region with greater access to technology during the 2020-21 school year.

8,500
Mobile devices purchased by the RIC for students to learn remotely

2,195
Wireless hotspots purchased by the RIC to provide students with home Internet access

43
Districts & BOCES moved to a new email security solution to protect student & staff data

Books Promote Oneida Language, Culture

The Staff and Curriculum Development team partnered with the Oneida Indian Nation on a new children’s book initiative to help expose readers to the Oneida language and culture. The first two books in the series, “The Legend of How the Bear Lost His Tail” and “The Robin Legend,” were released in Summer 2020 and Winter 2021, respectively. The books include a retelling of traditional oral stories using both Oneida and English words as well as a unique rebus format developed by MOBOCES and illustrations by an Oneida Nation member.

“It’s important to expose students to different cultures, backgrounds and histories as often as possible,” MOBOCES Staff and Curriculum Development Director Ed Rinaldo said. “These stories are just an introduction to Oneida culture, but bringing these stories to print extends an invitation to the entire community to build longer-lasting relationships with our neighbors.”

The books are part of a larger language development partnership between MOBOCES and the Oneida Nation, now entering its seventh year. Staff Development and Early Childhood leaders have worked closely with the Nation’s Language Department on utilizing effective educational strategies to support language acquisition in young children. Other projects have included posters, flashcards and annual calendars that feature new words and phrases each year.
Pre-K Creates Video Lessons

MOBOCES Pre-K teachers in Canastota, Morrisville-Eaton, Stockbridge Valley and Chittenango created weekly web-based video lessons to improve access to instruction for remote students and working families. Each week, teachers recorded themselves delivering a fun, engaging lesson related to what they would be teaching during the following week. It was posted on the MOBOCES website for families to access anytime during the week and keep current on the curriculum. Authentic play-based materials and developmentally-appropriate home enhancement ideas supplemented the weekly lessons.

Libraries Expand Ebooks Collections

The School Library System’s ebook service grew exponentially as students and teachers used more digital media due to virtual and asynchronous learning. The SORA digital media collection helped open the virtual doors of school libraries in the region to hybrid and remote students at all levels, providing access to high-quality fiction and nonfiction reading material and digital media.

“In some cases, this was the only way to access books, and we want to do what we can to keep books in kids’ hands and continue developing independent, engaged readers,” SLS Director Sue LeBlanc said.

School librarians said there are many benefits to an expanded digital media collection: automatic returns and bookmarking, greater privacy when browsing, no lost or damaged titles, and a broader range of materials than a single school could afford to provide on its own.

“Even if we were not in COVID, having a robust digital library collection can fill a lot of niches for users,” said Mary Laverty, an MOBOCES shared librarian serving Rome and Canastota.

SLS used state funding to purchase the core collection of materials to be shared regionally, LeBlanc said. Each district also contributed $1 per student to allow SLS to purchase additional content to be shared across the region.
Special Programs classes celebrated Earth Day by cleaning up their school grounds and learning about the environment.

As part of their curriculum, both elementary and secondary students learned about the importance of recycling and reducing waste and the impact of litter on the environment, including plants and animals.
STARRS Offers Enrichment Program

The STARRS elementary special education program launched a weekly in-school enrichment initiative to increase student engagement and expand hands-on learning for both in-person and remote students. Due to pandemic restrictions, students moved around the building less frequently. The enrichment program provided an opportunity for students to meet in small, socially-distanced groups in the Media Center for hands-on teacher-guided activities in art, music, literacy and technology, with academic and social skills embedded into the lessons. Teachers worked to modify lessons for students as needed and ensured that remote students also participated.

Enrichment Wednesdays built upon a technology exploration workshop series that STARRS launched two years ago, with support from the MORIC. Once a month, a technology integration specialist would bring in a piece of technology, introduce it to students and then allow them to experiment while working with staff on ways to incorporate it into their classroom lessons. Students learned about things like robotics, coding and virtual reality as well as tools to make ELA and math more exciting.

Club Promotes Service Learning

The Community Outreach Club completed several service learning projects this year to support local community agencies. In the fall, they hosted a Socktober collection of new socks to benefit the Rome Rescue Mission. In the winter, they continued their annual Greenlight A Vet fundraiser to support the Veterans Outreach Center in Utica. And in the spring, they collected food, toys and supplies for Wanderer’s Rest animal shelter in Canastota. During the projects, students worked on planning and leadership skills as well as real-world literacy, math and civics lessons.
Bike Giveaway Aids Residents

MOBOCES partnered with Community Bikes, a Hamilton-based nonprofit, to host a bike giveaway at the Costello Transportation Center in Oneida. The event helped provide bikes to 200 individuals and families from all over Madison County. The organization collects and reconditions donated bicycles and places them with those who would love to have a bike, but for whom buying one would be a hardship.

Staff Support Shelter

STARRS program staff members worked with community partner Integrated Community Alternatives Network (ICAN) to make sandwiches for the Oxford Street Inn men’s shelter in Syracuse. The team-building service project served as the closing activity to the spring Superintendent’s Conference Day. The team donated more than 200 sandwiches.

Families Build At Home

Pre-k classes around the region turned their traditional family gingerbread house event into a voluntary at-home activity for parents and children to complete on their own. The Early Childhood division purchased supplies for families that needed help, and families sent teachers photos and videos of their finished creations.

Incentives Turn Virtual

Tri Academy students earn BOCES Bucks for meeting school-wide behavior expectations of safety, respect and responsibility and can use their earnings at the school store. For fully-remote students this year, staff developed a virtual incentive program that allowed them to earn incentives they could use from home, like introducing a family pet to the class or having virtual lunch with a staff member.
Mental Health Issues Take Center Stage

MOBOCES continued its focus on mental health and social emotional wellness for students and staff, a critical effort throughout the pandemic.

Health Related Careers classes hosted a #StickItToStigma event on campus in recognition of May as Mental Health Awareness Month. The event helped raise awareness of mental health issues and raised funds for two local agencies that offer mental health support services. Students set up indoor and outdoor stations on substance abuse, eating disorders and different mental illnesses and provided information on community resources.

HRC also continued their kindness initiative all year, adding in a virtual element for remote teachers and learners to participate, and launched two online efforts to promote the value of kindness and community support.

The Tri Academy also spent much of the year addressing social emotional issues, like bullying, suicide prevention, kindness and gratitude. In October, the social work team spearheaded a Unity Day celebration focused on individuality, acceptance and inclusion of others, and creating a positive school climate.

To support the mental wellness of employees, Early Childhood Director Colleen Wuest launched a campus-wide social emotional learning committee made up of staff members from across the organization. They developed strategies to encourage more team-building and self-care among adults and are working to embed those ideas into the organizational culture of MOBOCES. The initiative expanded on Adult SEL workshops Wuest offered during Summer 2020 to teachers and administrators looking for additional support.

Holiday Collection Helps Students

The Central Office clerical staff spearheaded their annual holiday collection to support MOBOCES students and their families in need. In all, staff were able to provide more than 30 students with gifts, food, clothing and personal hygiene items. Building Services helped deliver the items to instructional program offices for distribution to students.
Virtual Open House Promotes CTE Programs

This year’s fall and spring CTE Open House events moved to a weeklong virtual format as a way to safely introduce area middle and high school students to program options at MOBOCES.

The virtual event included videos of teachers from all 25 one-year and two-year programs providing an overview of their courses, college and industry articulation agreements and career pathways as well as compilation videos of student projects and activities. There were also sections on the outreach and recruitment process and work-based learning opportunities.

The videos were posted to a newly created website and YouTube, and the event was promoted on social media. Interested students and parents could contact CTE leaders via email to discuss enrollment and program options in greater detail.

Reading Month Event Celebrates Dr. Seuss

Tri Academy students celebrated National Reading Month with a Dr. Seuss-themed party in March. Classes visited the media center at pre-determined times to try their hand at various cup-stacking activities and Seuss crafts. Students left with individually packaged Seuss-themed snacks to eat on their own.

Students Complete Service Learning Project

Special Programs students and staff at VVS program held a canned food drive in December as part of a social skills and character education lesson on giving.

To help tie the project into their academics, students built colorful boxes, cut food examples from magazines, labeled and created boxes, delivered flyers to other classrooms and offices at VVS High School, and collected donations around the building. All items collected were donated to the Verona Food Pantry.
SBI Recognizes Four From MOBOCES

Three students and a staff member from MOBOCES received awards from the Oneida-Madison-Herkimer School Boards Institute (SBI) during the 2020-21 school year.

In the 2021 round of awards, presented in the spring, Cosmetology junior Shirley Coe from Stockbridge Valley and Community Based Occupational Education student Kalani Willis-Alverez from Rome earned Student Achievement Awards for their dedication and perseverance. In addition, now-retired District Superintendent’s Secretary and Board Clerk Cathy Quinn received a Distinguished Service Award for her 33 years of service!

SBI delayed presentation of the 2020 awards until the fall. In that group, Cosmetology senior Heather Doroshenko of Morrisville-Eaton received a Student Achievement Awards. She was nominated by teacher Casie Kolenda for her commitment to her goals and her positive attitude.

Exhibit Celebrates Teacher, Student Artwork

The MOBOCES Art Professional Learning Community (PLC) hosted its 6th annual “Art: The Common Thread” teacher-student art exhibit in a new online format.

The Common Thread features artworks by PLC member teachers and selected student artists from their schools. Canastota art teacher and PLC facilitator Kristie Boisen organizes the show each year as a way to celebrate art teachers’ dual roles as artists and educators and to help highlight some of their students’ work at a regional level. She holds it in March to celebrate Youth Art Month.

This year’s show featured the works of 19 pairs of art teachers and students from 10 area school districts. Two of those pieces are pictured at left.

Unlike in previous years, there was no physical exhibit or opening reception at a local gallery. Instead, all the works were posted to a website created by Oneida High School Art Teacher Heather Cigeroglu. In some communities, libraries, schools and municipal buildings created public displays of pieces from their school district.
Art Teachers Recognize Staff Development Director

The NYS Art Teachers Association honored Staff and Curriculum Development Director Ed Rinaldo for his support of arts education and his leadership with the regional Art PLC during a virtual conference in November.

Canastota art teacher Kristie Boisen facilitates the Art PLC and serves on the NYSATA Region 3 Board. She nominated Ed for going above and beyond in his support of NYSATA’s work and mission.

Risk Management Service Earns Safety Award

Utica National Insurance Group recognized MOBOCES and its Risk Management Service with a 2021 School Safety Excellence Award, Titanium with Honors level. This is the highest level of recognition in Utica National’s annual safety awards program and MOBOCES has been recognized consecutively at this level for 12 years. Risk Management Specialist Jack Angrisano manages the service.

The school safety program helps participating schools and BOCES enhance their overall safety through measurable assessments in 14 categories ranging from bullying prevention to playground safety. MOBOCES completes this work on its own campus and provides service in these areas to its nine component districts.

National Publication Features Adult Program

The National External Diploma Program (NEDP) monthly newsletter included a feature in February on Rome ACCESS Site instructor Susan Takacs and one of her NEDP students. Sue is a longtime adult education instructor in the NEDP program, which helps students earn their high school diplomas through task-based competencies rather than the TASC exams. Her student, Brittany, completed the program in 2020, and both she and Sue were interviewed about their experiences with the program during the pandemic.

Communication Service Receives Two State Awards

The New York School Public Relations Association (NYSPTA) recognized the MOBOCES School Communication Service with two awards in its 2020 Communications Awards program, a statewide contest to honor schools and BOCES for outstanding print, visual and digital communication. An Excellence in Writing Award was given for an article written for the Madison Central School District, and a Social Media Award was given for the Rome district’s Twitter account, which MOBOCES helps to manage.
Pre-K Studies Life Cycles

MOBOCES pre-kindergarten students in Canastota learned about the life cycle of a caterpillar during a play-based lesson in the spring.

Students created pretend caterpillars out of cardboard and craft materials, then took them outside to “fatten” them up by munching on leaves around the school grounds. The children then put their caterpillars to sleep wrapped in play cocoons and hung them up in their classroom for about a week. Teachers secretly swapped out the cocoons for play butterflies, and children excitedly discovered them one morning when they arrived at school. Teachers said using play helps children understand complex concepts and helps them make curriculum connections as they move into older grades.

Student Decorates Ceiling Tile

Tri Academy sophomore Caidance Crandall began a new tradition this year to help celebrate the program’s graduating class. The Morrisville-Eaton student decorated a ceiling tile in the program’s main hallway with the names of the senior class and used the original artwork she created for the 2021 yearbook cover.

MORIC, VVS Partner on Technology Camp

The MORIC Instructional Team partnered with the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill district on a Tech Camp for district teachers over April break. More than 100 teachers participated in the event, which provided them with opportunities to learn new ways to integrate technology into their classrooms and instruction. Teachers left with ideas and resources for both grade-level and content area instruction using both in-person and virtual learning formats.
Annual Meeting Highlights COVID Response

The 53rd Annual Meeting in April took on a hybrid format, with both in-person and remote participation among school administrators and board members from the region.

The meeting featured a video highlighting the amazing work the entire MOBOCES team has done since March 2020 to continue providing essential educational and support services to students and districts through the pandemic.

In addition, MOBOCES Board members Douglas Gustin of Canastota, Harold Jarcho of Hamilton, and Joseph Monfiletto of Stockbridge Valley addressed their colleagues in their reelection bids. All three were successful.

Allied Health Adopts Symposium Format

The Allied Health Partnership program used pandemic-related restrictions on their program to revamp their signature year-end medical presentation projects into a Healthcare Symposium.

Seniors in the one-year program chose a different chronic medical condition or illness and spent months thoroughly researching it for a final presentation. Typically, that presentation is delivered at Oneida Healthcare to hospital staff and administration in addition to district administrators, MOBOCES faculty and family members. This year, the event shifted to a symposium format, with students condensing their research into a professional poster and fielding questions on their research from classmates, teachers and administrators. The shift provided students with the experience of presenting in a college research symposium format, where they shared their work with people outside of their discipline and underwent both faculty and peer evaluations.

To assist in the effort and gain experience on a real-world project, Carpentry seniors designed and built custom stands to display student posters, which were brought to life by the Print Shop.
Tappet Twirlers Bring Car Show To Campus

Twelve local groups, agencies and funds provided scholarships to seniors who completed CTE programs in 2021. (See the full list of awards on page 31.) Although the typical Senior Awards Ceremony was not held, some of the funders still visited campus to present their awards to individual students. One of those groups was the Tappet Twirlers Automobile Club of Rome, which has presented a scholarship to an Auto student since 2018. As it has done in years past, the group brought along several classic cars and held a small car show in the campus parking lot for students and staff.

County Commends Case Manager

Melissa Hale, Adult Education Case Manager at the Madison County Jail, received a Distinguished Service Medal from Sheriff Todd Hood for her work coordinating inmate programs during the pandemic.

Beginning in April 2020 and continuing through the 2020-21 school year, Melissa led the county’s efforts to reimagine and expand programming in the Correctional Facility, when no other activities were available due to the pandemic. She transitioned the Law Library to inmate tablets, and she developed and expanded virtual inmate programming, such as high school equivalency preparation, AA and Bible Study. All of those new virtual programs operated nearly at capacity.

Students Enjoy Field Day

The annual Field Day helps students at the J.D. George site celebrate the end of the year while engaging in fun, healthy activities that help them practice social, behavioral and academic skills. This year’s events included scooter rides, water balloons, hula hoops, kickball and a coloring sheet contest.
Employee Recognition
Congratulations to our 22 retirees and all of our service award recipients!

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<th>RETIREES</th>
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<td>Cynthia Ackerman</td>
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<th>35 YEARS</th>
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<td>Victoria Eastman</td>
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<td>Geraldine Meeker</td>
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<td>Mary Mennig</td>
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<td>Cynthia Ricketts</td>
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<td>Lisa Cunningham</td>
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<td>Richard Froschauer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tammie Crumb</td>
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<td>Gerald Day</td>
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<td>Lisa Decker</td>
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<td>Paul Mancarella</td>
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<td>Paula Orr</td>
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<td>Sean Dewan</td>
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<td>Cornelius Faber</td>
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<td>Patricia Van Slyke</td>
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<td>Carola Zvalidroga</td>
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<td>Linda Bills</td>
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<td>Kristin Capotosto</td>
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<td>Valerie Anguilli</td>
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<td>David Bales</td>
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<td>Maria Rocker</td>
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<td>Lillie Savage</td>
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Congratulations, Class of 2021!

Five students from the Tri Academy program received completion certificates and graduated from their respective high schools. Program leaders held an in-person ceremony for seniors and their families, but the event was also livestreamed so underclassmen and staff could participate in the celebration.

Five students completed the Community Based Occupational Education program. Students and their families attended an in-person ceremony that was livestreamed to underclassmen and staff. Program leaders set up photo stations for graduates to take pictures in their caps and gowns with their families.

Nearly 450 students completed Career and Technical Education programs and received their completion certificates in individual class recognition ceremonies. Those ceremonies were recorded and shared on a public website, along with speeches and photos so families could participate virtually.

Pre-kindergarten classes around the region held end-of-year celebrations with picnics and slideshows to help students close out their first year of formal school.

“This year has taught us that life can shift without notice. It’s that spirit of resilience that is perhaps most admirable about the students and staff of this organization and the families of this region.”

-District Superintendent Scott Budelmann’s message to graduates
National Technical Honor Society Inductees

MOBOCES inducted 85 seniors into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) in recognition of their excellence in career and technical education. This year’s class represented 10 area high schools and 14 CTE programs.

**Allied Health Partnership**: Haylee Anthony, Madison; Carly Becker, Canastota; Kylie Bell, Oneida; Ryleigh Bickom, Oneida; Brooke Durfee, VVS; Aidan Hicks, Oneida; Ajay Hicks, Oneida; Natalie Hoffman, Oneida; Ariella Holbert, Camden; Kylee Loosman, Oneida; Haley Michels, Canastota; Jesslyn Niles, Canastota; Julia Orzechowski, Oneida; Katelyn Palmer; Madison Shlotzhauer, Oneida; Taylor Stevens, Canastota; Arieanna Stevens, Oneida; Jackson Urtz, Oneida; Samantha Ward, VVS

**Automotive Technology**: Landon Balcom, Camden; Daniel Bartley, Oneida; Gabriel Dotson, Oneida; Matthew Retrosi, Canastota; Andrew Vedder, Morrisville-Eaton

**Conservation**: Tanner Dager, Stockbridge Valley

**Cosmetology**: Gianna Castelluzzo, Camden; Heather Doroshenko, Morrisville-Eaton; Sage Parker, Camden; Allison Sternburg, Morrisville-Eaton; Allana Turner, Rome

**Criminal Justice**: Jacob Austin, Morrisville-Eaton; Leanna Boss, Hamilton; Haleigh Chenel, Oneida; Dauson Compoli, Morrisville-Eaton; Allyssa Coonrod, VVS; Emily DeLong, Rome; Emily Koniewicz, Hamilton; Dylan McClelland, Oneida; Logan Pratt, Rome; Simara Ramos Correa, Rome; Erika Solberg, Chittenango

**Early Childhood Education**: Saylon Batey, Oneida; Hannah Caruso, Morrisville-Eaton; Nikolina De Souza, Rome; Trinity McShane, Oneida; Tanner Muscarella, Morrisville-Eaton; Ellie Pomales, Rome

**Electrical/HVAC**: Eric Warner, Morrisville-Eaton

**Equine and Animal Science**: Virginia Dionne, Hamilton

**Graphic Design**: Dylan Dionne, Hamilton; Alexandra Gifford, Morrisville-Eaton; Alexis O’Neal, Rome

**Health Related Careers**: Emily Carey, Stockbridge Valley; Dominique Delaney, Canastota; Emily Delaney, Hamilton; Julianna DePerno, Oneida; Erin Marshall, Stockbridge Valley; Cassidy Richmond, Camden

**IT Systems**: Jacob Simmons, Camden; Carter Wiley, Morrisville-Eaton

**New Visions Engineering**: William Snow, Canastota; Carley Wood, Canastota

**New Visions Law, Government and Public Administration**: Arayla Garcia, VVS; Ella Ryan, Oneida

**New Visions Professions**: Sydney Bell, Camden; Andrew Brown, Oneida; Madison Cullen, VVS; Bailey Doxtater, Canastota; Zoey Fox, Oneida; Hannah Greene, Stockbridge Valley; Holland Hawkes, Camden; Chloe Hite, Camden; Daniel Hynes, Morrisville-Eaton; Autumn Kahler, Camden; Katelyn Kirk, Camden; Shawna Manwarren, Morrisville-Eaton; Thomas Meeker, Stockbridge Valley; Ashton Morris, Canastota; Aileen Schermerhorn, Canastota; Alaina Sprole, Camden; William Vedder, Morrisville-Eaton
CTE Senior Awards

Automotive Collision Repair Senior Appreciation Award: Toby Bonvicino, Automotive Collision Repair, Stockbridge Valley

BOCES Education Foundation Scholarship for CTE: Julianna DePerno, Health Related Careers, Oneida; Tanner Muscarella, Early Childhood Education, Morrisville-Eaton

Camden Chamber of Commerce Award: Alaina Sprole, New Visions Professions, Camden

Dave Hagadorn Memorial Award: Daniel Bartley, Automotive Technology, Oneida

Lake Delta Kiwanis Club Education Scholarship: Glen Harrington, Carpentry, Rome; Kyle Williamson, Carpentry, Rome

Local Advisory Council Award: Autumn Kahler, New Visions Professions, Camden

MOBOCES Teachers Association President’s Award of Excellence: Naomie Pawlikowski, Allied Health Partnership, Oneida

Nola Vrooman Nursing Recognition Award: Emily Carey, Health Related Careers, Stockbridge Valley

Richard Engelbrecht Entrepreneur Award: Heather Doroshenko, Cosmetology, Morrisville-Eaton

Richard Riedel Award for CTE: Lanija Campbell, Automotive Collision Repair, Rome

Rome Teachers Federal Credit Union Award: Troy Brayman, Electrical/HVAC, Madison; Richelle Brown, New Visions Law, Government and Public Administration, Canastota; Makayla DiPasqua, Conservation, Rome; Haylee Smith, Health Related Careers, Camden; Allana Turner, Cosmetology, Rome

Tappet Twirlers Automotive Club Scholarship: Matthew Retrosi, Automotive Technology, Canastota

Tri Academy Awards

High Academic Achievement: Eric Euson, 9th, Rome; Duncan Anderson, 10th, Canastota; Devyn Wooden, 11th, Stockbridge Valley; Breanna Ulinski, 12th, Holland Patent

Attendance Award: Ethan Maurer, VVS

Most Improved Award: Alex Rocker, Camden

Most Likely to Succeed Award: Jayson Foster, Oneida

Student Leadership Award: Jacob Dean, Sherburne-Earlville

MOBOCES Teachers Association Award of Excellence: Jayson Foster, Oneida

Citizenship Award: Joshua Hewitt, Oneida

Student of the Year Award: Hunter Croniser, Rome

The Lake Delta Kiwanis Club Education Scholarship joined the list of CTE senior awards in 2021. Kiwanis representatives visited campus in June to present awards to two Carpentry students from Rome.
We Are Learning All Year!

Through the Summer LEAP elementary enrichment program, hundreds of students from Camden, Canastota, Madison, Morrisville-Eaton, Oneida, Rome and VVS participated in hands-on, play-based and project-based learning activities to help strengthen their academic skills before the new school year begins.

Nearly 120 students from 17 districts participated in our 2021 Extended School Year, a six-week program for students with disabilities that combines academic learning, hands-on enrichment activities, and physical and social skills development.

MOBOCES also offered a Regional Academic Summer School at VVS and Morrisville-Eaton to support 188 students working toward academic credit recovery. An additional 160 students enrolled in virtual Driver Education.

MOBOCES coordinated NYSED Summer Meals programs in Camden, Oneida and VVS to provide breakfasts and lunches at no charge to children age 18 and younger.

The MOBOCES School Library System awarded mini-grants to school librarians in Madison and VVS to support summer literacy activities for students.

Staff Development revamped its annual summer CNY Education Conference in 2021, splitting it into two distinct sections. The literacy portion was held in person over two days, and the math portion was held virtually over two days.