



May 2017

Regional Demonstration Classrooms Provide Embedded Training Opportunities



TST BOCES has been working with educators throughout the region to provide in-house, job-embedded professional development to help teachers master their craft.

These Regional Demonstration Classrooms take place during the normal school day, allowing visiting teachers to observe promising practices as they unfold in a live teaching environment with students engaged in learning.

"I felt the idea of a demonstration classroom in our area was innovative and fresh," said Melody Wilder, a fourth grade math teacher at Dryden. "Workshops can be beneficial in so many ways; However, the opportunity to visit classrooms in our region and observe exceptional teaching practices and then meet with colleagues to collaborate about those practices is such a unique and valuable way to learn and grow as an educator for all parties involved."

The initiative works to network teachers throughout area districts to think regionally in developing the best possible learning environment for all students. This regional collaboration helps all teachers involved to maximize their own improvement while also helping to share useful practices to improve student learning and achievement.

TST Turning Point program ELA teacher Laura Havill said, "by opening yourself and your practice to analysis, even when that is a little daunting, you can grow and develop even after 20 years in the classroom."

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Native American Dancer and Hip Hop Performer Performs at Local Schools

A number of schools in the TST BOCES region recently had the pleasure of hosting renowned Native American dancer and hip hop performer Supaman.

Christian Parish Takes the Gun, a member of the Apsaalooke or the "Crow" Nation, has been performing as "Supaman" to spread a message of inclusivity and hope through culture and music for over a decade.

By combining hip hop with the traditional music and dance styles of his nation, Supaman puts on a truly unique and engaging show.

"As a long-time lover of hip hop, I am an avid supporter of #HipHopEd," said Sunshine Miller, the coordinator of Cooperative



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Teacher Research Fellows Inquiry Group Focuses on Teachers to Gather Insight

A number of teachers across the TST BOCES region have come together to form the Teacher Research Fellows Inquiry Group to conduct analysis based directly on the classroom experience.

This year-long initiative, a collaboration of TST BOCES and the Ithaca College Education Department, emphasizes the role of the teacher in generating data and classroom-based knowledge. The program is a job-embedded professional development opportunity that foregrounds teacher expertise.

Each teacher began by selecting a research question to guide their inquiry and data collection. The Teacher Research Fellows Inquiry Group then provides time, space, community and methodological support for teachers to conduct their research. Some of the questions being explored this year include: "What best motivates my students to write?" and "What can I do to impact students' perception of their own creativity?"

"Being part of the Teacher Inquiry Fellowship has given me an opportunity to explore in-depth a topic of my choice that resulted in rich and meaningful conversations and feedback from my students and other teacher research fellows," Kara FrostClapp said (Trumansburg eighth grade social studies).

Research findings are then shared and discussed collaboratively with the group. The collaboration

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April Career and Tech Student of the Month Awards

Student	Program	Home District
Mark Bullock	Food Service	S.Seneca
Reilley Meeks	Outdoor Power Equipment	S.Seneca
Mark Montesano	Welding	Dryden
Katelynn McBean	Early Childhood	Ithaca
Zoe Klimaszewski	CEP	Groton
Keri Lawson	Digital Media	Dryden
Alex Hulbert	Computer Technology	Groton
Blaine Parker	Culinary Arts	Dryden
Adam Phoenix	Criminal Justice	Ithaca
Tessa Hilker	Animal Science	Dryden
Abdallah Hassan	Auto Tech	Ithaca
Donovan Lehto	Outdoor Power Equipment	Tburg
Damien Glass	CEP	Dryden
Adam Huff	Welding	Dryden
Lila Spencer	Digital Media	Ithaca
Dom Raburn	Computer Technology	S.Seneca
Aidan Allison	Culinary Arts	Lansing
Brian Shelley	Food Service	Tburg
Katlyn Wheeler	Animal Science	S.Seneca
Lynn Maybee	Early Childhood	Dryden
Brittany Burgos-Post	Criminal Justice	S.Seneca
Skylar Schwan	Auto Tech	Dryden
Isaac Powers	Heavy Equipment	Dryden



ESL Students Learn Woodworking Skills While Practicing English



Seven female students from the BOCES ESL program took part in the Hammerstone Carpentry School for Women's one-day class for immigrants and refugees. The group of women from Burma, Mexico, Peru and China were able to practice English and learn new words while also learning new skills as they built their own windowsill flowerboxes.

Regional Demonstration Classrooms

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Two specific areas of pedagogy are highlighted in the Regional Demonstration Classroom: use of "learning targets"-- instructional outcomes -- and quality questioning techniques.

"Thinking more carefully about the questions I ask my students or the specific language I incorporate into my learning targets has helped me to elevate engagement and participation for all my students," Boynton sixth grade humanities teacher Cara Salibrici said.

This classroom-based coaching model is facilitated by TST Instructional Specialists Allison Peet (Mathematics) and Jennifer Gondek (Inclusive Education), as well as the Regional Coordinator of Curriculum and PD, Beth Dryer. The instructional coaches work with the demonstration teachers throughout the school year to gather data, support reflective practice and provide feedback to improve student learning. The instructional coach also facilitates classroom visits, helping to guide the pre-observation and post-observation discussions between the host teacher and visiting educators.

Each Regional Demonstration classroom teacher will receive a \$500 stipend at the end of his/her/their annual appointment. The stipend is provided through the Teacher Professional Development Network, a NYSED funded grant project housed in the School of Education at SUNY Cortland.

The teachers who participated this year were: Liz Kozlowski (Newfield - ninth grade ELA), Gina Amici (ICSD, Boynton sixth grade humanities), Lisa Sahasrabudhe (ICSD, Belle Sherman fifth grade ELA), Melody Wilder (Dryden Elementary fourth grade math), Ashley Rogers (Dryden Elementary 4th grade math), Bill Begeal (Trumansburg sixth grade science), Cara Salibrici (Boynton sixth grade humanities), Tara Caiza (ICSD, Belle Sherman fourth grade ELA), Kimberly Batzer (Groton Kindergarten ELA), Laura Havill (TST Turning Point Multi-Age ELA), Kathleen Cole (ICSD, Boynton eighth grade math), Chris Barley (ICSD, BJM fourth grade science), Kathy DeLucia (ICSD, Cayuga Heights fifth grade math).

Regional Demonstration Classrooms will continue throughout the 2017-2018 school year; application materials will be distributed in September of 2017. Anyone who would like more information about the initiative is encouraged to contact Beth Dryer, Regional Coordinator of Curriculum and PD at bdryer@tstboces.org or (607)257-1551, ext.1040.

Teacher Research Fellows Inquiry Group

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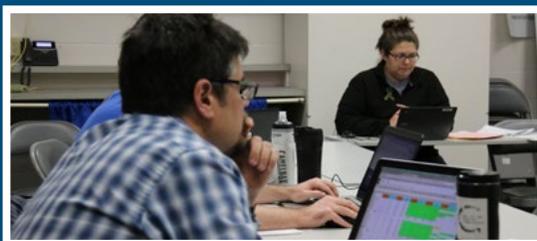
allows the questions to evolve along with the discussion to maximize on the knowledge learned throughout the process.

"Being a part of this group has encouraged me to get out of my comfort zone and challenge myself to do some purposeful research in my own classroom," Patricia Parsons said (South Seneca seventh-eighth grade ELA). "I think that when we don't have a group with common goals and experiences to support us that we might not push through when the experience starts to get a little tough. Being part of this group has pushed me to keep analyzing my question and trying new things with my classes to try to get results."

An example of a career pathway opportunity that both encourages effective teachers to continue working in the classroom while also honoring their time and expertise, Teacher Research Fellows earn a nominal stipend through TST BOCES. The participants will share the findings of their inquiries at a professional conference to be held at Ithaca College in June.

More than anything, perhaps, the program has provided the teachers a way to stay energized about their profession and engage more deeply with the development of their craft.

"There is an explicit time and place to work on refining my craft as an educator, answer my questions, listen to others' successes and struggles, and most importantly, help create a community which fosters uncovering deeper questions," Mary Balfour said (Dryden K/UPK). "More than ever, this year, I feel I'm learning along with the kids, rediscovering what it means to be an intrepid explorer of the world. The project has been one of the best parts of my post-academic years."



Native American Hip Hop Artist Supaman Performs for Students

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Enrichment at TST BOCES. “#HipHopEd, the brain child of Chris Emdin, is an initiative that brings Hip Hop into the classroom. Supaman ties in beautifully with this initiative bringing relevance and interest to his performance which engages our young students on a whole new level and supports our goals to make enrichment accessible to all students while focusing on excellence and equity.”

More information about Supaman can be found on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/Supamanhiphop](https://www.facebook.com/Supamanhiphop)

TST BOCES

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Career Development and Occupational Studies: CDOS Corner

As the end of the 2017-2018 school year nears, we have been actively recruiting educators to participate in summer Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) curriculum writing.

Projects can be developed to improve, update and/or expand existing lessons and units in general education, special education and CTE classes by:

- Infusing/ integrating CDOS standard(s) with existing curriculum
- Cross walking CDOS standards with specific activities to complete “Evidence of Attainment” charts for awarding CDOS Credential
- Developing standalone lessons/units addressing CDOS standards 1,2,3a and/or 3b in content area, special education and/or CTE classes
- Developing standalone CDOS course (½ credit, or full) topics could include; Career Planning, Pre-employment skills, Job success skills, Customer Service skills, Orientation to work, work placement
- Creating a CDOS standards curriculum proposal not listed above

Educators are encouraged to sign up through MyLearningPlan by June 15, 2017.

CDOS Work-based Learning Coordinators, Michelle Pronti and Debbie Demers continue to work with key staff members of each component school district to individualize plans to utilize grant resources based on district needs. Next month, they will highlight a couple of key programs we have developed with Groton Central School District and the Work Force Readiness representative from the Society for Human Resource Management of Tompkins County (SHRMTC).



ESL Students Learn Woodworking Skills While Practicing English

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It was the first time many of the students had ever used power tools like circular saws, drills and impact drivers as well as the first time measuring in feet and inches. Each was able to master the task at hand and every student ended with a beautifully assembled flowerbox.

Tompkins Seneca Tioga BOCES shall continue its policy of providing educational opportunities for all students who wish to enroll in any course without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, political affiliation, sex, age, marital or veteran status, disability, religious practice, ethnic group, gender expression and identity, weight, or genetic predisposition. TST BOCES provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

For information regarding the nondiscrimination policy, contact David J. Parsons, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, 555 Warren Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. He may also be reached by phone: 607-257-1551.