



## TST BOCES Recognized at Town-Gown Award Ceremony



TST BOCES was recognized for its partnerships with Cornell University, Ithaca College and Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) at the seventh annual Town-Gown (TOGO) Awards ceremony December 2, 2017.

The TOGO Awards are hosted by Cornell to highlight the important relationships between the community of Ithaca and the institutions of higher learning found in the region. TST BOCES was awarded for collaborations with each institution. Cornell's Public Service Center partners with TST BOCES to offer a Career Exploration Program for BOCES students; the Teacher Research Fellows Inquiry Group is the product of a collaboration between Ithaca College and TST BOCES to form a community of teachers across the region engaged in on-the-job research and data collection; and TC3's CollegeNow program partners with the Career and Tech Center at TST BOCES to help students transition from high school to college.

"We, at TST BOCES, are grateful for the recognition by Cornell University, but we are more grateful for the ongoing partnerships with our higher education partners that were recognized along with us," said Dr. Jeffrey Matteson, District Superintendent at TST BOCES. "The collective efforts of the personnel inside these institutions and that of our employees are making a real difference for students of all ages in our region. We anticipate even more opportunities for collaboration in the future."

The event was held at Ithaca High School and was attended by over 100 community members and faculty from all three higher learning institutions.

## CiTi BOCES "EAR-V" visits TST BOCES region

The TST BOCES region is currently the temporary home of the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi) BOCES' Educational Audiology Mobile Unit, affectionately named the "EAR-V."

In an effort to reach more families – especially those in secluded, rural areas – the CiTi BOCES EAR-V provides easier access to hearing evaluations, central auditory process evaluations, hearing aid and hearing assistance technology verification and FM/DM verification services. The mobility provided by the unit means families aren't required to travel great distances to attend scheduled appointments at other locations.

As families wait for the audiologists or audiometric technicians to complete their examinations, a small waiting area is available equipped with a viewing station and educational videos. The EAR-V also is equipped with a wheelchair ramp, staff work area, ample storage space, a sound booth, a variety of related equipment and a bathroom.



## Career and Tech Classes Collaborate on Project for Tompkins County Sheriff Office

Welding and Auto Body classes at TST BOCES worked together to complete a project for the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office.



The Tompkins County Sheriff's Office contacted TST BOCES Career and Technical Education (CTE) to see if they would be able to help fix a set of steel steps attached to a van used to transport incarcerated individuals. The steps fold down when in use and fold up to remain out of the way while driving. Over time the steps required maintenance and were no longer safe to use.

With the assistance of Welding instructor Randy Jackson,

three welding students assessed the project to determine what would be needed to make the necessary repairs and devised a plan to make the steps usable again. Then the students were able to use skills they had learned in class to implement their plan and fix the steps.

Then the project was turned over to the CTE Auto Body program for completion. Three Auto Body students polished the steps and pivot joints before applying truck bed liner as a finish. The truck bed liner provides durability as well as traction for improved safety.

"We at the Sheriff's Office like to reach out to our community partners to see if there's an opportunity we can share services," said Captain Ray Bunce from the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office. "We got it all together and got it done, and the Sheriff appreciates every bit of it. They did a fantastic job."

The students from Welding who worked on the project were: Mason Arnold, Garrett Rushlow and Darren Wojtanik. The students from Auto Body who worked on the project were: Avery Ellis, Anthony Hatch and Cheyenne Ponton.



## Regional Alternative School Continues Thanksgiving Yearly Tradition



Students and staff from the TST BOCES Regional Alternative School (RAS) gathered together Tuesday, November 21, for a community Thanksgiving celebration.

The Thanksgiving celebration has been a tradition every year since RAS was known as the "TST Community School" and was located in downtown Ithaca instead of on campus on Warren Road. It helps those present feel a sense of community and encourages all to remember what they have to be grateful for.

RAS advisories, called "Home Bases," divided up the responsibilities of cooking the food, setting and decorating the tables and cleaning up. Students and staff shared the work and all contributed to the festivities.

"This event continues to strengthen our community and students' sense of belonging," said RAS teacher Doug Keating. "We hope to maintain the tradition for many years to come."

The celebration took place in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program's Culinary Arts classroom, and much of the cooking was done in the kitchen thanks to the generosity of CTE and Culinary Arts instructor Vicki Fitzgerald.



## College Initiative Upstate Celebrates Fall Session Graduation

TST BOCES helped celebrate as the College Initiative Upstate (CIU) program's College Prep Alternative to Incarceration (ATI) class held a graduation celebration November 17 to recognize students completing the Fall 2017 Session.

The CIU College Prep ATI program is a collaboration between Opportunities, Alternatives, And Resources (OAR) of Tompkins County, the Ithaca City Court, Tompkins County Probation and Community Justice, the Tompkins County Jail, Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) and TST BOCES Adult Education. The court-involved students participating in the class are given a valuable opportunity to jumpstart a new chapter in their lives by entering higher education, and the program is designed to provide a foundation of knowledge to help encourage success.

"The College Prep collaboration with BOCES has served as a catalyst for College Initiative Upstate's work," said Benay Rubenstein, Director of CIU. "To the best of my knowledge, there is no other Bridge to College Program in New York, or perhaps the nation, for court-involved and formerly incarcerated citizens focusing primarily on post-secondary education that also serves as an Alternative to Incarceration program for students actively engaged in a local court case. We are seeing a miracle in action! The growth, exposure and opportunities now available to our students are life-changing."

TST BOCES' contribution comes in the form of math instruction and career exploration. Eight students completed the Fall 2017 Session and there are an anticipated 15 students planned for the Spring 2018 Session. Upon completion of the program students receive a Chromebook to help them continue their academic journey.



## The Career and Tech Center Outstanding Students of the Month are:

### AM NOVEMBER 2017 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

- Dominick Bevier**, Auto Body, Groton
- Courtney Parr**, Cosmetology, Groton
- Skylar Schwenn**, Auto Tech, Dryden
- Destiny Little**, Early Childhood, Lansing
- Chaya Wilson**, Digital Media, Ithaca
- Joshua Dennis**, Computer Technology, Ithaca
- Alicia Bailie**, Culinary Arts, Dryden
- Jada Williams**, Career Exploration Program, Groton
- Dylen Tripp**, Heavy Equipment, Dryden/RAS
- Brandon Drake**, Criminal Justice, Lansing
- Rendell Lovelace**, Food Service, Ithaca/Smith School
- Paige Carson**, Welding, Trumansburg

### PM NOVEMBER 2017 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

- Jordan Force**, Early Childhood, Trumansburg
- Kalena Yearwood**, Cosmetology, Ithaca
- Sam Trotti**, Career Exploration Program, Ithaca
- Joshua Ketter**, Heavy Equipment, Newfield
- Nick Schloupt**, Auto Body, Trumansburg
- Isaac Marianni**, Auto Tech, Ithaca
- Merritt Eggleston**, Digital Media, Dryden
- Carson Gage**, Computer Technology, Lansing
- Wallace Alpern**, Culinary Arts, LACS
- Samson McKinley**, Criminal Justice, Ithaca
- Zach Tull**, Food Service, Lansing/Smith School
- Darren Wojtanik**, Welding, Newfield

## TST BOCES Smith School Head Cook Retiring

After working for over 17 years as the head cook in the Smith School cafeteria at TST BOCES, Pam Kelly will be retiring on December 22, 2017.

Pam had previously worked at the Cayuga Medical Center as Food Production Manager for 23 years, but sought new work when the schedule was no longer conducive for her family after adopting a school-aged child.



"Pam has been critical to the success of our cafeteria," said Director of Exceptional Education David Barr. "She was instrumental in securing our Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

status. Pam has been a stellar employee; I can always count on Pam and she will be missed."

Thanks to Pam's diligence and hard work on TST BOCES' CEP status, the Smith School cafeteria has been able to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students in need.

"I came here looking to cook but ended up finding so much more," Pam said of her time here.

# TST BOCES

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**Dr. Jeffrey Matteson**  
District Superintendent

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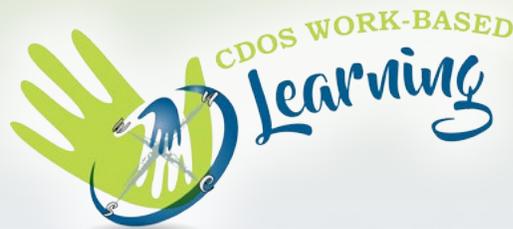
## Career Development and Occupational Studies: CDOS Corner

The Program Development Grant to Prepare Students with Disabilities to Exit School with Work Readiness Skills (CDOS Grant) coordinated another successful Navigating Post-Secondary Possibilities Day for students with disabilities on November 2, 2017. Highlights of the day included panel speakers Dean Tzivanis, Recruitment Specialist from Onondaga Community College, who spoke about accessing academic support services in college and Frances Mulberry, Employment Specialist from Challenge Workforce Solutions, who spoke about supports available for job seekers. Gadabout, a voluntary service for older and disabled Tompkins County residents, talked about transportation services and brought along a bus for students to tour.



ACCES-VR, The Learning Web, Finger Lakes Independence Center, Mental Health Association, TST BOCES Adult Education, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and Work Force NY provided valuable networking experiences as students gathered information about the many supports available to them when they finish their high school programs. 76% of students who attended Navigating Post-Secondary Possibilities Day reported an increased knowledge about these community agencies.

On another note, we would like to offer congratulations to Michelle Pronti, who recently left the CDOS Work-Based Learning Coordinator position to become the new Special Education Student Improvement Specialist (SESIS) Coordinator for TST BOCES. While we will certainly miss her dedication, positive attitude and energy, we are thrilled that she is still a member of our TST BOCES team and wish her the best in her new position! Deb Demers will continue to provide grant-funded CDOS work-based learning program services and support.



*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.*