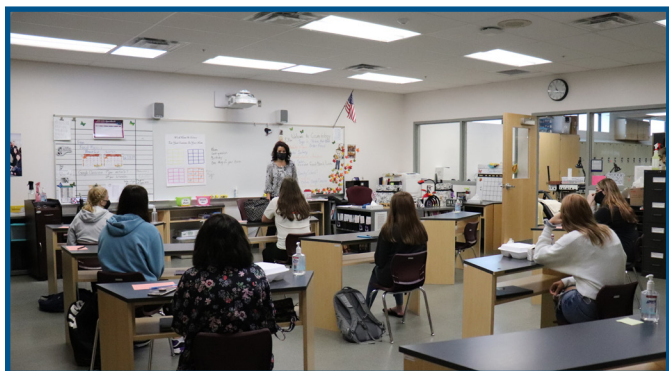


The SP TLIGHT

Thanks to our amazing staff, the first day of school went as smoothly as possible.
We are so grateful to everyone for their patience as we work through new challenges to keep our CiTi family safe.



September 2020

New Vision Programs Registration Event Held at CiTi Main Campus in Mexico

The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation recently hosted a New Vision programs registration event on its main campus, which signified the first group of students who had returned to CiTi grounds since buildings had been closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Following state safety guidelines and social distancing practices, the students were able to check-in with their New Vision instructors and register for their programs, get measured for scrubs if necessary and receive pertinent information.

The participating high school seniors interested in pursuing careers in healthcare, law, public safety, government, engineering and a host of other options, will receive 12 SUNY Oswego college credits. Students who hadn't taken a class through SUNY Oswego in their home district prior to their New Vision enrollment were able to virtually connect with Daniela Mosko, High School Programs Coordinator for SUNY Oswego, through a Zoom video chat connection to help them through the registration process.

Anna Bigelow, a student from the Mexico Academy & Central School District, said she is ecstatic about the New Vision Allied Health program.

"Since I was little, I always wanted to be a doctor; I look forward to getting to know the different parts of the medical field," she said.

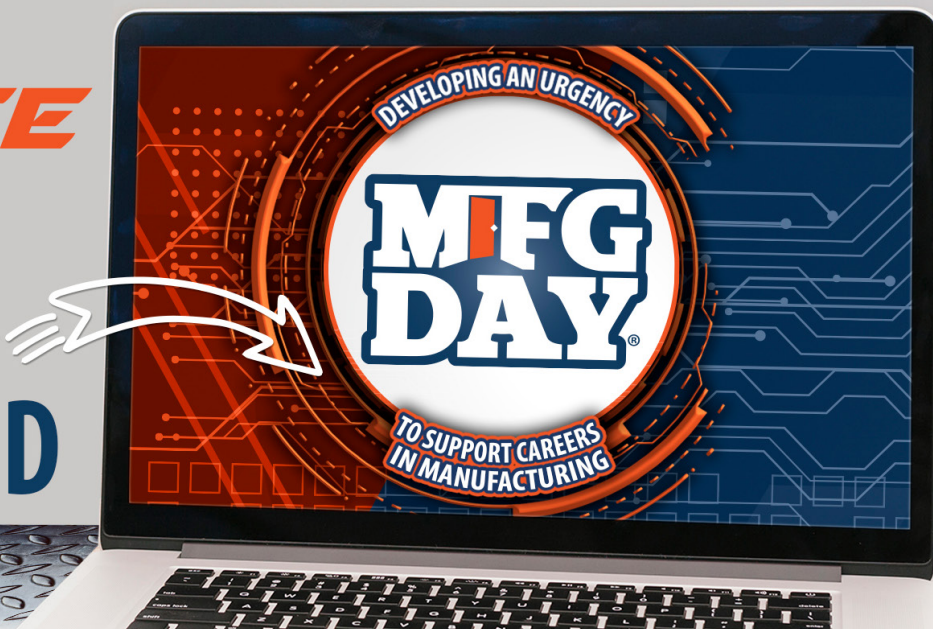
Sarah Jones echoed that sentiment, as the Oswego City School District student prepared for her journey through the New Vision Specialized Careers program. With a passion for psychology, Jones said she is excited to learn more about the counseling field because she finds joy in helping others. A personal goal, she said, is to specifically learn more about art therapy.

Each of the 68 New Vision students completed a multi-step process to get into the program, which included an application, an interview and a virtual orientation prior to their acceptance. Robyn Proud, Principal of Student Programs at SUNY Oswego, said she was glad to see so many smiling faces in person, excited for the year.



Holly McCarty, a Pulaski Academy & Central School District student, awaits direction on a virtual registration process during the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's New Vision registration event, held recently on the CiTi BOCES Mexico campus. McCarty said she is excited for her venture in the New Vision Law and Government program.

**SAVE
THE DATE**
**MFG
DAY**
NOW VIRTUAL!
OCTOBER 2ND



Linda Meredith Welcomed as New CiTi COVID Coordinator



Linda Meredith's organizational skills, thoroughness and attention to detail made her a perfect fit as CiTi's Covid Coordinator.

The recent retiree with a long career in education jumped

back into the workforce to assist CiTi in keeping good records around Covid contact tracing, screening information and to communicate with CiTi staff about the process. Meredith said she has enjoyed diving into the role and organizing the data.

"Certainly, this is something new for all of us," she said. "We are keeping those records in case we have a flare-up or issue so we can go back, check our records...and so we can provide the information to the health department."

Outside of her duties as CiTi's Covid Coordinator, Meredith enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband. She has two daughters and one grandson.



WELCOMES

Ryan Cooper, Alt. Ed. Teacher

Heather Mautz, Ex. Ed. Teacher

Tina Cosentino, CTE Teacher

Cynthia Farella, CTE Teacher

Christopher Lower, CTE Teacher

Patrick Widell, CTE Teacher

Amy Liang, Graphic Design Specialist

Timothy Scee, Public Relations Specialist

Mary Roddy, Custodial Worker

Linda Meredith, COVID Coordinator

Marissa Paquin, Student Programs Teacher

CiTi Alumni Spotlight

CiTi alumna Tracie Murphy is a 2015 graduate from G. Ray Bodley High School and the Public Safety Program. She currently is working for the city of Fulton as a police officer. She said the Public Safety Program showed her multiple aspects of what a career in law enforcement would look like, while also helping her take the necessary steps to get into the public safety field. Do you know CiTi alumni who should be recognized for their success? Share their story with the CiTi Public Relations team at pr@CiTiboces.org.



Weston T. Hyde: *Foundation for a Legacy*



It all started with a spark. When a young and enthusiastic gentleman started his career as an educator in 1973, he saw a need. As an elementary teacher, he experienced it first-hand, and the spark ignited. As he advanced through the ranks within Oswego County to assistant principal, principal and then district superintendent, the spark grew bright. When Weston T. Hyde became the superintendent for Oswego County BOCES, he realized this need wasn't just in one or two school districts. The spark ignited into a blazing fire of determination, one that would fuel a vision, a mission and a legacy.

Spending 30 years in the local education system gave Hyde both a personal and comprehensive view of a gap that existed within the education system and the community.

Recognizing that our teachers and students need and deserve more than what federal and state budgets can provide, Mr. Hyde worked with various volunteers and local agencies to advocate for the development of a nonprofit organization that could open doors to new funding sources for the learning community. On Nov. 7, 2002, that little spark officially grew into the Weston T. Hyde Oswego County Educational Foundation.

Through its mission, "to create new and enhance existing educational opportunities for Oswego County residents; to secure funding sources not currently available to BOCES and School Districts; and to build partnerships through incentives," the organization has worked to provide educational success stories throughout Oswego County and beyond. By creating

new funding sources, the foundation was able cultivate innovative teaching practices, get the community more in touch with the educational enterprise in the county and promote lifelong learning.

The Weston T. Hyde Oswego County Educational Foundation continues to thrive and provides local support for programs and activities such as scholarships, migrant education outreach, a strong partnership with the Literacy Coalition of Oswego County, grant writing assistance/administration and a partnership with the Oswego County Bar Association to provide a county-wide high school mock trial program.

Being entirely volunteer and donation driven, the success of the foundation remains a testament to the resilient dedication our community holds for the educational success of past, present and future generations.

Today, Hyde is enjoying his retirement years in sunny Florida with family, but still takes an active role in the foundation he worked so hard to create. Through his hard work and determination to giving back to the community he loves so much, he continues to carry on a legacy that shines for generations to come.

More information on the Weston T. Hyde Oswego County Educational Foundation can be found their website at www.westonthydefoundation.org.

CiTi BOCES Extended School Year Students Virtually Travel the Country

Students from the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation have traveled the country, virtually, over the summer as part of their Extended School Year.

Weekly online field trip opportunities for students enrolled in the CiTi BOCES Exceptional Education program was made possible thanks to CiTi's expansive Distance Learning connections. Students in Lisa Carney's classroom participated in a Zoom videochat with a Rocky Mountain National Park ranger and a representative from the Pro Football Hall of Fame, among others.

Kristen Edwards, CiTi distance learning specialist, said the virtual connections helped supplement the students' summer learning. Since the ESY program operated virtually in 2020, students had already become familiar with an online structure, so the addition of online field trips was a bonus educational experience, she said. The academic connections also blended with social-emotional learning cues, such as character and leadership.

Edwards said while Distance Learning connections have always been available to CiTi classroom teachers, the remote-learning structure due to health and safety precautions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic have afforded additional measures for teachers and students to explore even more video connection events.



Students and teachers with CiTi BOCES Extended School Year program enjoy a virtual field trip with a Rocky Mountain National Park ranger during a distance learning connection.

"A lot of times people think virtual field trips are a pause of learning; they are designed to enhance what they are doing in the classroom," Edwards said.

Educators interested in learning more about CiTi's Distance Learning opportunities may contact Edwards at kedwards@CiTiboces.org or visit CiTiboces.org.

CiTi Welcomes New Career and Technical Education Specialist Christina Rode



Christina Rode's industry and educational experience make her the perfect fit as a Career and Technical Education (CTE) specialist at CiTi.

She began her professional career working in the food and beverage industry after she obtained a culinary degree. Rode also taught high school culinary electives

before she earned a Certificate of Advanced Study in educational leadership from SUNY Oswego and became an administrative intern in the Hannibal Central School District, where she gained experience as assistant principal in the middle and elementary schools and as the workforce development administrator.

As a CTE specialist, Rode will work on curriculum development with CTE teachers and teams, as well as learn the process of New York state program approvals for each CTE program. Being a specialized CTE instructional coach will help Rode support CTE educators and therefore help provide CTE students with an even better educational experience.

"Building up those teachers and being a bridge is very exciting," she said. "Our business is a people business, and I'm excited to be back (this school year)."

Outside of work, Rode said she enjoys cooking, spending time with her husband, being outdoors and loving her 10-year-old yellow lab named Remmi.

Operations & Maintenance Welcomes New Director of Facilities James Cerio



James Cerio has joined the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation as its Director of Facilities.

Cerio's appointment follows the retirement of Director of Facilities Wayne Wideman. He came to CiTi with more than 32 years of experience in the field and supervisory experience since he was 19. The lifelong learner said he thrives on new experiences and challenges and working at CiTi perfectly met those

CiTi welcomes new Director of Facilities Jim Cerio.

goals. Cerio said he has been adapting to the language of education since his work experience has included courts, crime labs, maintenance of high-rise buildings and work in industrial plants.

"I worked with all these different types of functions, but you have to still learn how to be an effective manager," he said. "Coming here, it's the building things I know, but there's a whole new set of ideas and things to learn."

Operations and maintenance, he said, goes beyond hammers and cleaning. Handling logistics, requests for work orders,

cleaning and sanitizing, setting up for events and planning for future seasons and situations are some of the many functions Cerio will supervise. He said taking good care of CiTi's assets, having the O&M staff embody customer service and maintain a presence in CiTi buildings will help create a better environment for CiTi students and staff.

"My job as director is to tie it all together," Cerio said. "We also have to be on top of the trends and look around. We have been planning snow removal for a month now and looking at any type of forecast; we have to stay a step ahead."

Always happy to be a cheerleader for his department, he said he truly has enjoyed working alongside "the best group of people I have worked with." With his staff's support, Cerio said all challenges, especially though the temporary building closures, have been interesting, yet eye-opening. As state guidance continues to change, CiTi's O&M staff stand ready to adapt to those changes with Cerio.

"My team has exceeded every single expectation I have ever had," he said.

Throughout the next several months, Cerio said he will be busy further adapting to, and learning about, state education rules for running schools.

Outside of work, he enjoys playing guitar and flipping houses. He has three grown children.

CiTi BOE Member Named Oswego County Board Member of the Year



Darlene Upcraft has been recognized as the Oswego County Board Member of the Year.

Since 1996, she has served on the Mexico Academy & Central School

District Board of Education, where she has served as vice president for the last seven years and has offered her time on the policy, facilities, website, capital projects, technology and school-based health center committees. MACS Board of Education President Jim Emery said he considers Upcraft the heart and soul of the MACS BOE, as well as its historian and queen of policy.

Additionally, Upcraft has served on the Board of Education entities through: the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation, Oswego County School Boards Association and Central New York School Boards Association. Upcraft retired from the CNYSBA last year. She was a frequent attendee of New York State School Boards Association events, in which she earned a Board Lifetime Achievement Award.

She has beamed with Tiger Pride, having graduated from MACS in 1974. She earned an associate's degree from SUNY Morrisville and a bachelor of science degree from SUNY Oswego. Upcraft retired from Anheuser-Busch Brewery and remains a proud mother of her son, Kevin.

Throughout the years, Upcraft has said that students are "our greatest customers" and that she has tried to give them her best possible service.

SRO Support Extends Beyond School Building



Support from the school resource officers at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation has gone beyond the walls of its main campus in Mexico.

When school buildings were temporarily closed this spring due to the coronavirus pandemic, CiTi SROs Jeffrey Margrey and Steven Stonecypher's connection with students reached far beyond a typical school setting. The pair would often ride together throughout Oswego County to visit students who needed extra guidance and connections to ensure they were safe and had the support and encouragement to complete the work assigned.

Margrey and Stonecypher checked on a handful of students through the tail end of the 2019-2020 school year and summer to make sure they were on task and motivated. In some cases, the SROs ate lunch with the students, assisted them with getting on their Chromebooks to complete homework, encouraged them to participate in their virtual meetings, delivered food and offered additional measures of help as needed.

"We are really good about reaching out to these kids as much as we can," Stonecypher said. "We know part of this is counseling, not just policing. It's always good to do nice things for people."

Extra support for students also meant extra support for the family units. One success story, Margrey said, was a parent's shift from frustration to joy after their student finally joined the virtual learning environment after conversations with the SROs. Seeing that shifting attitude and accountability from all "was enjoyable to see," Margrey said.

Both Stonecypher and Margrey said they are excited for the 2020-2021 school year and remain ready and willing to assist more students and families and do what they can to ensure everyone's comfortability and safety.

Check out the ISS Communicator!

Check out the weekly ISS Communicator for professional development offerings, support, resources, information, connections and best practices to foster adult learning and student achievement! You will find offerings from Instructional Support Services, Distance Learning and Model Schools teams. These offerings are available to all educators in NYS unless stated otherwise in the description.



The SPOTLIGHT

*A publication of the
Public Relations service at
the Center for Instruction,
Technology & Innovation*

Christopher J. Todd
District Superintendent

Board of Education

John Shelmidine,

President

Donna Blake,

Vice President

Brian Haessig

Darlene Upcraft

David Cordone

Kevin Dix

Nicole Nadeau

Ted Williams

Vanessa Haskins

179 County Route 64,

Mexico, NY 13114

315.963.4251

CiTiboces.org

Career and Technical Education Programs of the Month: Auto Technology and Auto Body



Auto Body Repair and Auto Technology are September's Career and Technical Education programs of the month.

Students in Auto Body straighten frames, remove dents and replace parts as they practice procedures that will develop perceptual capabilities and skills to produce high quality auto body repairs.

Auto Technology students perform vehicle diagnosis, repair and maintenance, and cover everything from engine repair to electrical to tires and wheels.

Follow Us

