The Madison-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services works in cooperation with member school districts Camden, Canastota, Hamilton, Madison, Morrisville-Eaton, Oneida, New York State School for the Deaf (Rome campus), Rome, Stockbridge Valley and Vernon Verona Sherrill.
On behalf of the Madison-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services, we are pleased to present our 2021-22 Annual Report. Despite the challenges schools face post-pandemic, MOBOCES continues to create, develop and grow new opportunities for students, educators and school districts. Over the last year, we have:

◆ Expanded programming for students in every age range, with increased attention to career readiness skills for secondary and adult education learners.

◆ Enhanced our operational, administrative and instructional support systems to ensure continued high-quality service delivery to our region’s schools.

◆ Engaged educators to ensure our work aligns with the priorities of our time, including diversity, equity, inclusion and social-emotional health and wellness initiatives.

The achievements we highlight here are rooted in the Board’s core values and priorities, which recognize the leadership and expertise of our staff in supporting your students, educators and school districts. Our successes are the direct result of our collaborative work with our component school districts and partner agencies, who continue to champion the MOBOCES mission – to cooperatively and responsibility provide educationally focused programs and services which enable learners to excel.
The Madison-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services

DOUGLAS GUSTIN, Board President
Canastota

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Madison

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Rome

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Stockbridge Valley

PATRICK BARON
Vernon Verona Sherrill

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 relieve some of the financial burdens increasingly placed on local taxpayers. Madison-Oneida BOCES is one of 37 BOCES across the state.
Our 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 collaboration 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.

Our 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 across three counties.
- Aids family and community literacy efforts through participation in Literacy Zones and Literacy Coalitions.
- Employs about 750 full-time and part-time faculty and staff.

Our 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.
Component School Districts

CAMDEN
Katherine Stone, President
Ravo Root, Ed.D., Superintendent
(315) 245-2500

CANASTOTA
Wesley Hood, President
Shawn Bissetta, Superintendent
(315) 697-2025

HAMILTON
Michelle Jacobsen, President
William Dowsland, Superintendent
(315) 824-6310

MADISON
Jennifer Lavoie, President
Jason Mitchell, Superintendent
(315) 893-1878

MORRISVILLE-EATON
Brian Koehl, President
Gregory Molloy, Superintendent
(315) 684-9300

ONEIDA
James Maio, President
Matthew Carpenter, Superintendent
(315) 363-2550

ROME
Joseph Mellace, President
Peter Blake, Superintendent
(315) 338-6521

STOCKBRIDGE VALLEY
Doug Reed, President
Corey Graves, Superintendent
(315) 495-4400

VERNON VERONA SHERRILL
Thomas Moats, President
Martha Group, Superintendent
(315) 829-2520

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
Kara Shore, Interim Superintendent
(315) 337-8400
By The Numbers: 2021-22 School Year

704,968
Meals served in 5 participating districts through School Lunch Service

200,000+
COVID-19 tests distributed to schools in the region by Facilities Department

48
Bus drivers completing 30-hour training course through Central Bus Maintenance

417
Buses and school-owned vehicles maintained by Central Bus Maintenance

5,704
Tax-related forms produced by Central Business Office for 12 participating districts

28 & 41
Districts, BOCES & municipalities receiving Labor Relations services & Policy services, respectively

39
Workshops offered to regional educators through Staff & Curriculum Development

89
Professional Learning Community meetings hosted through Staff & Curriculum Development

389
Graduating seniors who completed instructional programs with us in 2021-22

89.9%
CTE students who earned a state-recognized technical endorsement on their Class of 2022 high school diplomas

25
Adult learners who earned their NYS high school diplomas at our centers

123
Pre-kindergarten students who completed their first year of school in our classes

Annual Report 2021-22
Career and Technical Education’s leadership team strengthened its long-standing focus on career readiness by creating new work-based learning opportunities for students during the 2021-22 school year.

Students from the across the region enrolled in six new CTE programs, including several that are co-located at a community partner site. This growth in embedded programs helps provide students with a richer experience with both their academics and career exploration.

“Students have the ability to work side-by-side with a professional, to really understand the industry and what it takes to succeed on a day-to-day to basis,” CTE Principal Erin Noto said. “For teachers, they are more easily able to keep up with ever-changing industry standards so they can bring that knowledge back to their junior-level classes and raise the level of the entire program.”

Most prominently, the senior year Auto Collision Repair classes moved to the Davidson’s Auto Group in Rome, completing their classroom studies at the dealership and their hands-on lab work alongside industry professionals. It was the fourth CTE program to embed at a local business or agency and, like its predecessors, saw tremendous success. Two students from the program’s first year were hired into positions at Davidson’s before they even graduated.

Similarly, the Propel program launched in 2021 as a partnership between MOBOCES and Mohawk Valley Community College. Students from Camden, Rome and VVS took classes on the MVCC campus in Business Administration, Cybersecurity & Computer Science and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, earning college credits in the process.

The two-year Equine and Animal Science program also moved off campus, to neighboring VVS High School to foster collaboration with that school’s agriculture program. The curriculum itself expanded as well and now devotes 50% of each year to small and companion animals, including cats, dogs, rabbits and hamsters. Students complete similar work to the Equine Science section of the program, including animal anatomy and physiology, care and breeding, training, and various career paths in the animal care field, such as veterinary technician and farm/stable management. During the Equine sections of the class, students still visit a local barn for hands-on work with horses.

On campus, three new programs opened:

- Advanced Culinary Experience, for seniors who excelled in Culinary Arts as juniors and intend to pursue a career in the culinary field.
New Visions Advanced Health Science, for seniors looking for more in-depth training in nursing and health fields. This class is the fifth program MOBOCES offers under the rigorous New Visions heading, designed for college-bound seniors to explore majors and careers through a year-long formal internship.

Foundations of CTE 9, a one-year course for high school freshman who need more hands-on learning than can be found in a traditional classroom. The class included preparation for the Living Environment Regents exam.

CTE’s growth hasn’t stopped. For the 2022-23 school year, the Vocational-Technical Preparation program, aimed at special education students, will enhance its curriculum by dividing into two distinct programs focused on Hospitality and Human Services fields and Trade and Technical fields. In addition, the Early Childhood Education classes will embed in local school districts for more hands-on experience in classrooms; Propel will add a Mechanical Engineering track; and a new two-year Sports Marketing and Entertainment Management program will be co-located at Canastota High School and partner with the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

“We want to expose students to all of the industries that exist in this region,” Noto said. “And we want to create more direct connections with industry and employers to hopefully keep more students gainfully employed in this area.”

Praise for Career Readiness

The New York State School Boards Association recognized MOBOCES twice during the 2021-22 school year for the work-based learning experiences created through its embedded programs and its partnerships with local businesses and community organizations. In particular, the New Visions Government, Law and Public Administration program, embedded at the Madison County Office Building in Wampsville, was recognized for having students run a vaccine call center to support the county’s efforts to encourage COVID-19 vaccinations among local residents. In June, the Automotive Technology program, embedded at Nye Auto Group in Oneida, was recognized for its unique learning format and strong partnership with a local business.

In addition, local media recognized eight members of the Class of 2022 who secured employment immediately after high school as a direct result of their CTE internships in the local community, through both embedded programs and more traditional work-based learning internships.
The Adult Education division revamped its Health Occupations programs over the past year to better align the workforce trainings it offers with the post-pandemic needs of the healthcare industry.

Utilizing nearly $750,000 in federal funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the division was able to update their on-campus lab spaces in both Verona and Utica to ensure nursing students could complete the clinical hours required to qualify for their licensing exams. It also offered students opportunities for hands-on practice with health conditions they might not see in rural settings and smaller clinical facilities.

“There was a long time when our students couldn’t get into hospitals and nursing homes for their clinical hours because of COVID restrictions,” Adult Education Director Brenda Wolak said. “By updating our own lab and adding newer equipment and resources, we were able to provide that clinical experience here and replicate what they would do in another facility.”

CARES Act funding also provided improved classroom technology and staff trainings, and it provided nursing and other healthcare students with financial support to continue their coursework.

Beyond classroom investments, Health Occupations Coordinator Kelly Woodcock spent much of the year enhancing the Practical Nursing curriculum and creating test banks to help students with exam preparations. She also led the effort to have all nursing students trained as COVID-19 testers in order to test each other before clinical visits, and to include CPR training in all of the skilled trades courses.

**NEW LAB EQUIPMENT**

- Simulation-capable manikins with patient monitors
- Electronic medical carts
- CPR manikins
- EKG trainer
- Nasal swab trainer
The BOCES Consortium of Continuing Education (BCCE), an adult education partnership between MOBOCES and Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES, has been accepted as a candidate for national accreditation through the Council on Occupational Education. Accreditation will allow students in several of BCCE’s career training programs to qualify for financial aid to cover tuition.

Currently, the Practical Nursing program is accredited through the State Education Department, allowing those students to seek financial assistance and education loans. For other programs, students currently pay their own tuition.

BCCE Director Brenda Wolak said she anticipates completing the rigorous accreditation process in 2023. After that, any program that runs for 600 hours or longer – including Cosmetology and HVAC – would qualify for student financial aid.

The accreditation process takes about two years and includes a number of site visits by a review team from the Council as well as a formal application process and a year-long self-study. Wolak said the arduous process is well-worth the effort.

“Having that is something that will help make our programs an option for more students, and many of those students are going into the local workforce,” she said.

Prepared for the Workforce

During the 2021-22 school year, hundreds of adult learners in the region completed workforce training programs through the BOCES Consortium of Continuing Education.

121 Students who completed Health Occupations programs

256 Students who completed Skilled Trades and Vocational courses
Utilizing New York State’s expanded funding specifically earmarked for full-day pre-k programs, Canastota added two new teachers and aides to lead the additional classes, allowing 65 students to participate in full-day pre-k during the initial school year.

Teachers used the additional time to expose students to more of the activities their elementary school offers, including dedicated time in the gym, visits to the library, and eating both breakfast and lunch at school. The students are also eligible to take the bus to school.

Nearly all Canastota families surveyed last summer heavily favored a full-day pre-k option. Longtime Canastota pre-k teachers Robin Pierce and Teresa Williams said the longer days allow them to repeatedly reinforce concepts like routines, communication and gross and fine motor skills. It also provides an opportunity to focus more on developing social emotional skills.

“When we have morning meeting, everyone has a turn to talk and share and we can do daily reflections,” Pierce said. “Social emotional is always a big part of learning at this age but now we can take the time to really work on those skills.”

The pre-k team capitalized on some of the shifts they made during pandemic teaching in order to support the transition to longer days, creating shared online database of model lessons and meeting virtually as a team to discuss learning standards, student behavior issues and professional development.

The program continues to emphasize play-based learning – through singing, dancing, art projects, building, and a lot of pretend play – to teach content and social skills to ensure students are ready for kindergarten.

Expansion Increases Full-Day Pre-K Access

The Canastota school district expanded its partnership with MOBOCES to double the size of its pre-kindergarten program, opening four new full-day classrooms for 4-year-olds during the 2021-22 school year. That shift means 75 percent of the pre-k classrooms MOBOCES operates across four districts in the region now follow a full-day model.

**Fun Fact:** Stockbridge Valley has partnered with MOBOCES to offer full-day pre-k classes for 22 years!
The Oneida Indian Nation released the fourth in a series of children’s books created through an ongoing partnership with the Staff and Curriculum Development team to support the Nation’s initiative to expand knowledge of the Oneida language.

The newest book, The Tale of Two Teams, was released in December. Like the previous three books, it is based on a well-known Haudenosaunee legend that has been passed down orally for generations, providing a cultural connection to the literary work. The first book, The Legend of How the Bear Lost His Tail, was published in August 2020.

“If you go to a library, you can’t pick up many books written in Oneida. Our goal was to create some books that children can pick up and enjoy,” Oneida Language Instructor Mary Blau said.

MOBOCES’s creative partnership with the Oneida Indian Nation is now in its seventh year, during which time both the Staff Development and Early Childhood teams have worked closely with the Nation’s Language Department to also develop posters, flashcards and annual calendars featuring new words and phrases each year to infuse language acquisition tools and resources into everyday activities. They have also provided Oneida instructors with instructional best practices and resources to use with students.

English and Oneida have vastly different characters and sentence structures, and not all Oneida words have an English equivalent, since the Oneida language was not always a written one, Blau said. After the initial draft of each book, Blau and Staff Development Specialists modify the story to infuse English grammar and punctuation, select the key words in each story, and consult with outside language experts to ensure translation accuracy.

The books, produced by the MOBOCES Print Shop, feature both the Oneida text and the full English translation, as well as phonetics and pictures that allow readers to learn Oneida vocabulary.

The books have been used in the Nation’s early learning programs and at cultural events. Some of them have been provided to local public libraries so non-Oneida children and residents can explore them. A reading of the first book has been posted to the Nation’s YouTube channel for public viewing, and additional books are in early development stages.

“The response to these books has been overwhelming. Everyone just reads them and loves them,” Blau said. “I don’t see this partnership ending. Any time we have another idea, we just run with it and the team at BOCES does their magic.”

Staff and Curriculum Development Director Ed Rinaldo said the partnership has been mutually rewarding for both parties, and it provides a valuable resource to both the Oneida Indian Nation and the community at large.

“Staff and Curriculum Development Director Ed Rinaldo said the partnership has been mutually rewarding for both parties, and it provides a valuable resource to both the Oneida Indian Nation and the community at large. It’s been a pleasure collaborating and developing a wonderful relationship with the Oneida Indian Nation to produce this book that will assist in the preservation of the Oneida language,” Rinaldo said. “These books offer an important introduction to Oneida culture that inspires learning through storytelling.”
Staff Development Specialist Becky Copp worked with teachers and administrators from the region this past spring on developing more inclusive and accessible teaching practices and learning spaces. The work was part of the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) service that MOBOCES launched in response to the state Board of Regents prioritizing DEI work in schools.

In addition to leading regional meetings on DEI and the Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education (CRSE) framework, Copp worked closely with teams from Camden, Madison and Stockbridge Valley to provide professional development to help identify and address areas for improvement. She said she starts out her work with each group by introducing them to the basic ideas of CRSE, such as building relationships, contextualizing learning and making all students feel welcome.

“This can be difficult to talk about for some people, so I really try to start by finding common ground. Teachers are here because they want what’s best for kids, so that’s a great starting point to build off of,” Copp said.

In Madison, the administrative team dove into DEI first, before introducing it to their teaching staff. Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education Brian Latella said he, the superintendent and two principals worked as a group, meeting monthly with Copp to discuss and reflect on biases, goals around equity and inclusion, successes and challenges in the district, and how to best introduce the CRSE framework in their schools and communities. He said working as a team and developing a shared vision for the district helped them understand and communicate why this work is important to Madison.

“Diversity is a broad term. We work with students with different disabilities, economically disadvantaged, age, gender - there is diversity even if it’s not race,” he said. “Our goal is to make sure students can see themselves in the work they’re doing and that they have a connection to school, that they have a voice and choice in what they’re doing, and that they want to and love to come to school.”

In addition to working with individual districts requesting specialized support, the division hosted several regional conferences and workshops with districts.

“Our goal is to make sure students can see themselves in the work they’re doing.”

-Brian Latella, Madison Central School
a DEI focus, Director Ed Rinaldo said. These included multiple events with Ithaca City School District Superintendent Luvelle Brown, a nationally-recognized expert in building and leading culturally-responsive learning environments. Brown worked with regional principals during a Summer 2021 retreat, addressed MOBOCES faculty in September, and presented to teachers and administrators during a regional Superintendent’s Conference Day event.

The Staff Development team has also increasingly incorporated more DEI strategies into existing regional trainings for teachers, teaching assistants, principals and other administrators, Rinaldo said. During the next school year, the division plans to launch a nine-part series of one-hour workshops to introduce key vocabulary and DEI concepts to teachers.

Copp said she has seen awareness of equity issues growing around the region over the past year and hopes to see that continue.

“I’ve been impressed by the conversations that have been taking place around this work,” she said.
The 2021-22 school year marked the launch of two new Alternative Education programs at MOBOCES – the Career Development Academy for high schoolers and Bright Futures Academy for middle schoolers. These sister programs took in students who struggled in traditional school settings – due to behavior, attendance, or personal circumstances – and helped them advance to the next grade level and take major steps toward an on-time high school graduation.

About 60 students from seven districts were enrolled across both programs during the 2021-22 school year.

“We’re up against whatever hand these kids have been dealt in life. They have all had some type of trauma,” Rickard said. “Our first goal is to build relationships with them, show them we are here to support them, that this is a place of stability, this is a place where they will succeed.”

The programs’ focus on relationship development, credit recovery, flexible learning styles and collaboration with community agencies has helped many of this year’s seniors earn two or more years of high school credits in a single year, allowing them to graduate on time. Teachers use project-based learning strategies they learned through the MOBOCES Staff and Curriculum Development team.

“Everything we teach is Common Core, Next Generation Learning Standards, Regents level. But our teachers have a lot of freedom in how they teach that curriculum, and they can be creative to reach these students,” Rickard said.

In addition to in-person classes, CDA provides access to multiple online platforms that teach Regents-level courses, and all teachers are required to create and maintain Google Classrooms with updated assignments so students can keep up with their classmates even if they are not in the building.

Students in both programs take art, music, physical education, Spanish, technology and health class in addition to their core academic subjects. Middle schoolers work on career exploration and job skills to get them thinking about future possibilities. Community-building activities, like creating a Spooky Trail for elementary students at Halloween and Fun Fridays featuring healthy snacks, help increase student engagement.

The programs employs full-time behavior specialists, student support staff and a social worker to address attendance and behavior issues and to work with families and outside agencies on other obstacles. Community partners this year have included the Center for Family Life and Recovery, the Neighborhood Center, ICAN, Home Health
Network, and various offices in the legal and justice systems. The mental health team works continually to follow up on student absences, and uses a Refocus Room that allows students who are disruptive to work on social emotional activities until they can rejoin their class.

CDA and BFA have implemented the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Restorative Justice systems to address school climate and safety issues. Staff encourage positive behavior and consistent attendance — both prerequisites to academic success — through a reward system utilizing “BOCES Bucks,” vouchers for items in the school store. Rickard said students’ top choice is food and she keeps a variety of snacks in stock.

Tae Roland, of Rome, was one of the first to enroll in Bright Futures in September 2021 as a sixth grader. She faced a variety of struggles throughout elementary school and had been suspended multiples times.

“I was always trying to fight. I was really disrespectful to my teachers,” Tae said. “But I started to think, ‘Why am I wasting my time doing all that instead of focusing on my education?’ Once I started being more respectful to my teachers, my mom, I liked how that felt. I wanted to keep doing it.”

It hasn’t been an easy road, she said, but the BFA staff helped her improve her academics and her behavior. Her teachers now call her a “student ambassador” for her program, noting she often helps classmates who are struggling.

“I’m a good listener if someone just needs to talk,” she said. “I like helping others. I know what it’s like to be where they are.”

Homeschool Families Work With New Coordinator

After several local districts saw the number of homeschooling students increase significantly through two years of pandemic learning, the Staff and Curriculum Development team launched a new Home School Coordination service to provide a liaison between districts and families.

When it launched in February, both Rome and Camden joined the Home School Coordination service. Since 2020, those districts saw their homeschooling numbers jump drastically. All homeschooled students are required to have an annual learning plan approved by the state and to file quarterly progress reports with the State Education Department. Those requirements quickly outgrew the capacity of district staff.

“It was cumbersome on our staff to pay adequate attention to this area that was growing in addition to everything else,” Camden’s Assistant Superintendent Jason Evangelist said. “It’s a nice option to have a third-party looking at the requirements and keeping communication flowing with families.”

Staff Development Specialist Becky Copp serves as the Home School Coordinator, connecting with each student’s family to ensure their Individual Home Instruction Plans and quarterly reports comply with state requirements and are filed on time. She also sends regular updates to district leadership to ensure they are up to date.

In July, Morrisville-Eaton joined the service, bringing the number of homeschooled students Copp serves to more than 300 across three participating districts.
The Early Childhood and Community Services division launched a new Community Schools service in Fall 2021 that helped several component districts establish local partnerships to help secure additional resources aimed at supporting students and families.

During the 2021-22 school year, the Connected Community Schools (CCS) organization held ribbon-cutting ceremonies to formally launch school partnerships in several districts around the region. CCS is a Rome-based agency that contracts with more than a dozen school districts in Madison and Oneida counties to work directly with students and families on removing obstacles to school success. These obstacles can include food and housing insecurity, poverty, mental and physical health needs, family issues, hygiene needs and language barriers. The CCS team in each district helps connect students and families to community resources, such as local food pantries, social services agencies, translators, counselors, civic organizations and businesses.

“Being a partner with Connected Community Schools means we now have the opportunity to give our students and our families a sense of hope that some of the challenges they’re facing are not insurmountable,” Canastota Superintendent Shawn Bissetta said.

The signature aspect of the program is The Hub, a dedicated space within the school for students to access CCS staff, snacks, clothing, information or even a quiet place to do homework. MOBOCES Early Childhood Director Colleen Wuest, now retired, said The Hub is one of the most overt differences between the initiative under the new service model and past efforts to create community schools. Previously, the community schools center in each district was often a small, hidden space with second-hand furniture.

“These Hubs are really inviting spaces that are meant for all students,” Wuest said. “This is trying to take away the stigma of poverty and just make sure all students have what they need and have a place to go.”

The MOBOCES team supporting the Community Schools service largely serves in an advisory capacity, providing information on school-specific issues, state regulations, regional programming, professional development, existing resources and other areas that help CCS effectively reach their target audiences.

“We want to make sure the good work they do works in an educational setting,” she said. “As a BOCES, our work is about bridging the gaps and serving as that connector.”

New Service Supports CCS Partnerships

Camden’s ribbon-cutting ceremony with Connected Community Schools.
MOBOCES celebrated its unique workforce training efforts at its first in-person Annual Meeting since the start of the pandemic.

School board members and administrators from all nine component districts joined in the event, connecting with colleagues and hearing more about the growing number of embedded Career and Technical Education programs and work-based learning experiences that help prepare students in the region for college and the workforce.

The highlight of the evening was the food! Seniors from the new one-year Advanced Culinary Experience (ACE) program prepared six different desserts – two served at the tables and four packed in to-go boxes – totaling 600 pieces of sweets. Juniors and seniors from the two-year Culinary Arts program plated and served the food, created beautiful place settings, and cleaned up afterward. Culinary instructor Mona Chandler created a small ice sculpture for one of the tables.

During dessert, participants enjoyed recorded musical entertainment from student groups in Rome and Camden.

In addition to program and budget information, board members and administrators heard from MOBOCES board candidates. Sally Sherwood (Camden), Dr. John Costello (Oneida) and Sue Carvelli (Rome) were re-elected to three-year terms, and Michelle Jacobsen (Hamilton) was elected to fill an unexpired two-year term.
Our Management Services experts work behind-the-scenes all year on administrative, operational and infrastructure initiatives in collaboration with component district administrators and staff.

**CENTRAL BUSINESS OFFICE**
- Collaborated with instructional teams to create affordable programs that addressed learning loss and kept schools open for in-person instruction
- Updated and improved the inventory control process

**CENTRAL BUS MAINTENANCE**
- Facilitated discussions with business officials on zero-emission buses, in order to start planning for vehicle and infrastructure investments to meet legislative requirement

**FACILITIES**
- Oversaw installation of HVAC units to improve air flow, heating and cooling
- Collaborated with instructional programs to provide students internships with the Building Services team

**GRANT WRITING**
- Assisted school districts in identifying state, federal and private funding opportunities to support both in-district and regional programming

**HUMAN RESOURCES**
- Supported BOCES divisions with recruitment efforts in a difficult labor market
- Provided expertise on certification pathways and recruiting strategies for component districts seeking to hire new staff
These vital functions contribute to school health and safety, positive community engagement and support, and educational success for both teachers and students.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**
- Anticipated supply chain challenges and implemented a proactive planning strategy with clients to address upcoming needs
- Collaborated with the RIC to record staff trainings to provide on-demand access to information and reach a larger audience in a shorter period of time
- Assisted BOCES and districts to maximize human capital in a post-pandemic environment, including navigating state and federal regulations related to leave time and COVID testing requirements

**PRINTING & GRAPHICS**
- Promoted BOCES through multiple digital and print channels to raise awareness regionally and statewide of programs, services and achievements
- Expanded the service to include two new clients
- Restructured management team to meet the needs of the clients
- Met all student meal demands despite staff shortages and supply issue challenges

**LABOR RELATIONS & POLICY**
- Assisted BOCES and districts to maximize human capital in a post-pandemic environment, including navigating state and federal regulations related to leave time and COVID testing requirements

**SCHOOL COMMUNICATION**
- Promoted BOCES through multiple digital and print channels to raise awareness regionally and statewide of programs, services and achievements
- Expanded the service to include two new clients

**SCHOOL LUNCH MANAGEMENT**
The Mohawk Regional Information Center (MORIC) provides districts with access to state-of-the-art technology services, training, and support for teachers, students and administrators. One of 12 RICs across the state, MORIC is housed at MOBOCES and serves 4 BOCES regions.

### Technology Expertise

**Technology Leadership**
- Maintained a regional network uptime of 99.993% for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Supported NYSED, the 37 BOCES, and 12 RICs in amending the regulations and guidance related to required Regional 793 Technology Plans.

**Instructional Leadership**
- Adapted structures in response to a 37% increase in instructional software purchases to support procurement, implementation, training, and ongoing support needs.
- Supported students from 12 agencies enrolled in MORIC K-12 online learning courses.

**Data Leadership**
- Developed and deployed new data dashboards and toolkits aligned with state and regional priorities.
- Developed plans to migrate SchoolTool environments to Mindex AWS environment.

**Data Security & Privacy**
- Implemented e-mail security and replacement firewalls in 49 districts and 4 BOCES.
- Served as field representatives on the NYSED Chief Privacy Officer’s Data Privacy Advisory Committee.

**Organizational Excellence**
- Increased use of standardized distributed workforce technologies to support accessibility, connectivity, efficiency, effectiveness, and engagement.
- Deployed a new client service management solution, built in a Salesforce environment.
- Developed new organization-wide resources and systems to support employees.
MOBOCES works continually to secure outside funding to support programs, equipment, professional development and new opportunities, both for MOBOCES and for our component districts. Following are the federal, state, regional and private grants we received during the 2021-22 school year.

» A $50,000 Farm to School grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund a Turnkey Edible Garden Project for MOBOCES and all nine component districts.

» A $75,714 grant from Madison County Employment and Training to support the 2022 Summer Youth Employment Program.

» An award from the Edwin J. Wadas Foundation to purchase equipment for the MOBOCES weight room and fitness center.

» An $8,550 grant from the New York State Library to purchase additional resources for the regional library collection related to diversity, equity and inclusion topics.

» A $2,591 grant from the Central New York Library Resources Council to develop a local history website for local K-12 educators.

» A $27,000 grant from QualityStarsNY for the Early Childhood division to implement a new pre-k curriculum and help pilot it for possible approval as a statewide curriculum option.

» A $300,000 NYSED Learning Technology Grant for the Oneida school district to support its Road to Code Project through additional student learning opportunities, digital literacy curriculum development, and professional development for staff.

» A $20,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties to assist four Oneida County school districts (Remsen, Waterville, West Canada Valley and Vernon Verona Sherrill) in purchasing shared virtual welding hardware and software for their Agriculture Education programs.

» Six different grants through the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to support adult and community education programming:
  - Adult Basic Education and Literacy - $236,000
  - Integrated English Language/Civics Education Program - $255,000
  - Corrections Education Program - $85,000
  - Three Literacy Zone grants (East Utica, West Utica and Rome) totaling $450,000
State & Regional Contests

SKILLSUSA REGIONAL WINNERS

Oliver Miller (Oneida), Advanced Culinary - Commercial Baking, 2nd Place
Alexis Pedersen (Rome), Criminal Justice - Criminal Justice, 3rd Place
Gianni Liberatore (Camden), Electrical/HVAC - Electrical Construction Wiring, 2nd Place
James Richardson (Morrisville-Eaton), Vocational Technical Prep - Employment Application Process Basic, 2nd Place
Troy-Lee Thorn (Camden), IT Systems - IT Services, 2nd Place
Kayla Manna (Rome), Cosmetology & Jenna Traverso (Rome), Cosmetology - Job Demo A (Cosmetology with Model), 1st Place
Brian Sitts (Madison), Heavy Equipment Operation - Precision Heavy Equipment, 2nd Place
Quiz Bowl Team: Raelynn Briggs (VVS), Advanced Culinary; Alexis Collins (Chittenango), New Visions Gov’t & Law; Daniel Cummings (Canastota), New Visions Gov’t & Law; Peyton LeRoy (Oneida), Advanced Culinary; & Quinn VanLone (Canastota), New Visions Gov’t & Law - 3rd Place

SKILLSUSA STATE WINNERS

Quiz Bowl Team: Raelynn Briggs (VVS), Advanced Culinary; Alexis Collins (Chittenango), New Visions Gov’t & Law; Daniel Cummings (Canastota), New Visions Gov’t & Law; Peyton LeRoy (Oneida), Advanced Culinary; & Quinn VanLone (Canastota), New Visions Gov’t & Law - 3rd Place

NYS CONSERVATION CONTEST

Joseph VanDusen (Camden), Conservation - Axe Throw, 2nd Place
Colin Boyd (Camden), Conservation & Aiden Proper (VVS), Conservation - 2-Person Crosscut Saw, 5th Place
Griffen Johnson (Rome), Conservation & Eden LaClair (Madison), Conservation - Jack & Jill Crosscut Saw, 5th Place
Griffen Johnson (Rome), Conservation - Tree Climbing, 2nd Place
Tyler Nellis (Oneida), Conservation - Tree Climbing, 1st Place

ROME AIR FORCE RESEARCH LAB STUDENT STEM CHALLENGE

Dylan Snow (Camden), Manufacturing Technology & Caulin Young-Oster (Oneida), Engineering - Honorable Mention

ALLIED HEALTH JOINS SUNY UPSTATE CASE COMPETITION

Allied Health Partnership students participated in the annual Case Competition through SUNY Upstate Medical University’s Rural Medicine Program. Throughout the year, AHP students worked with medical students from the Rural Medical Scholars Program, and demonstrated their knowledge and understanding in the spring through a virtual Case Competition.
Scholarships

Thirty-two seniors earned scholarships and awards through CTE for their outstanding academics, technical skills and potential for industry success. The students represented 10 high schools and 20 CTE programs.

**BOCES Education Foundation Scholarship for CTE:** Jordan Baker (Oneida), Electrical/HVAC; Jackson Horodnick (VVS), Carpentry

**Camden Chamber of Commerce Award:** Clara Congden (Camden), Cosmetology

**Conservation Club Award Scholarship:** Keegan Bauer (VVS), Conservation; Griffen Johnson (Rome), Conservation

**Conservation Club Award Scholarship:** Keegan Bauer (VVS), Conservation; Griffen Johnson (Rome), Conservation

**Conservation Club Award Scholarship:** Keegan Bauer (VVS), Conservation; Griffen Johnson (Rome), Conservation

**Cosmetology Professional Development Award:** Skyler Davis (Rome), Cosmetology; Kaili Rossman (Camden), Cosmetology

**Culinary Industry Excellence Award:** Evan Hawkins (NYS School for the Deaf), Culinary Arts; Angel Lamb (Oneida), Advanced Culinary Experience; Briahna Packer (Hamilton), Culinary Arts

**Dave Hagadorn Memorial Award:** Joseph Bielby (Camden), Automotive Technology

**David Phelps Memorial Award:** Troy-Lee Thorn (Camden), IT Systems/CISCO Networking

**Early Childhood Success Award:** Anna Gilbert (Camden), Early Childhood Education; Jovanca Guzman (Rome), Early Childhood Education

**Jon H. Poteat NTHS Scholarship:** Alexis Collins (Chittenango), New Visions Government, Law & Public Administration

**Lake Delta Kiwanis Club CTE Student of the Year:** Destiny Copeland (Rome), Criminal Justice; Caylee Crossman (Rome), Criminal Justice

**Local Advisory Council Award:** Mikah Albro (Oneida), New Visions Engineering

**Mary Maitland Memorial Scholarship:** Emma Haas (VVS), Equine & Animal Science

**MOBTA President’s Award of Excellence:** Hannah Myatt (Oneida), Allied Health Partnership

**Nola Vroooman Nursing Recognition Award:** Tristan Wood (VVS), New Visions Advanced Health Science

**NYS Woodsman Scholarship:** Griffen Johnson (Rome), Conservation

**Richard Engelbrecht Entrepreneurial Award:** Renae Henry (Camden), Cosmetology

**Richard Riedel Award for CTE:** Chelsea Westcott (Rome), Automotive Collision Repair

**Rome Teachers Federal Credit Union Award:** Sophia Bolton (Canastota), New Visions Professions; Derek Holmes (Camden), New Visions Professions; Brandon Johnson (Rome), Graphic Design; Brian Sitts (Madison), Heavy Equipment Operation; Jenna Traverso (Rome), Cosmetology

**Spirit of Cosmetology Award:** Emilee Burgdoff (Camden), Cosmetology; Joan Lundrigan (Camden), Cosmetology

**Sue & Lyle Pelton Memorial Award:** Halee Kelly (Rome), Health Related Careers

**Tappet Twirlers Automotive Club Scholarship:** Dylan Coon (New Life Christian School), Automotive Technology
National Technical Honor Society

Ninety-nine members of the Class of 2022 joined the MOBOCES chapter of the National Technical Honor Society, which recognizes excellence in Career and Technical Education (CTE). The students represented 11 school districts and 17 CTE programs. Inductees receive honor cords, tassels and pins to wear during their high school graduation and a special seal on their diplomas.

Camden: Travis Edgerton & Morgan Zike-Allied Health Partnership; Joseph Bielby-Automotive Technology; Clara Congden, Joan Lundrigan, & Kaili Rossman-Cosmetology; Alexander Conway, Elizabeth Dow, & Edward Sherman, Jr.-Criminal Justice; Gabriela Castelluzzo-Early Childhood Education; Maryssa Parker-Health Related Careers; Robert Kieffer, Troy-Lee Thorn-IT Systems/CISCO; Dylan Snow-Manufacturing Technology; Korryn Alberico, Nevaeh Christmas, Derek Holmes, Brianna O’Drain, Maggie Plumley, Benjamin Scholl-New Visions Professions; Nathan Austin-Outdoor Power Equipment

Canastota: Alasondra Campanaro-Allied Health Partnership; Arwen Relyea-Criminal Justice; Lucas Piatkowski & Maya Tucci-New Visions Engineering; Payton Alpaugh, Ryan Aumell, Daniel Cummings, Chance Jaquin, Mackenzie Snyder, & Quinn VanLone-New Visions Government, Law, & Public Administration; Evan Austerman, Kalista Betz, & Sophia Bolton-New Visions Professions

Chittenango: Melody Carolla-Criminal Justice, Alexis Collins-New Visions Government, Law, & Public Administration


Madison: Luke Smyrski-Automotive Technology; Stephanie Dodge-Early Childhood Education; Brian Sitts-Heavy Equipment Operation

Morrisville-Eaton: Ryan Walker-Allied Health Partnership; Hailey Hoffman & Grace Smith-Early Childhood Education; Carissa Bennett & Jason Schlotzhauer, Jr.-New Visions Professions

New Life Christian School: Dylan Coon-Automotive Technology

Oneida: Kyra Brown, Madeline Harris, Amicie Molinari, Hannah Myatt, Emily Scranton, Elizabeth Tooker-Allied Health Partnership; Elizabeth Griffiths-Automotive Technology; Allison Schuck-Early Childhood Education; Savannah Batey & Logan Kinney-IT Systems/CISCO; Mikah Albro-New Visions Engineering; Jorgia Belewich, Alyssa Fuller, Matison Vecchiano-New Visions Professions

Rome: Chelsea Westcott & Brian Saxe-Automotive Collision Repair; Destiny Copeland, Caylee Crossman, Jakob Kippen, Tyler Lighthall, & Kaitlyn Pease-Criminal Justice; Griffen Johnson-Conservation; Jenna Traverso-Cosmetology; Jeremy Ankin, Brandon Johnson, & Ava Petkers-Graphic Design; Jenna Fanfarillo & Halee Kelly-Health Related Careers; Connor Laribee, Hanna Riegler, & James Rogers-IT Systems/CISCO

Stockbridge Valley: Lisa Powless-Allied Health Partnership; Shirley Coe-Cosmetology; Alyssa Enslow-Manufacturing Technology; Nevaeh Randel-New Visions Government, Law, & Public Administration; Rachel Mennig-New Visions Professions

Vernon-Verona-Sherrill: Brianna Burnett, Morgan Clute, Kiersten Condes, Sierra Kinne, Justin Prentice, Kylie Wright-Allied Health Partnership; Keegan Bauer-Conservation; Joshua Lennon-Criminal Justice; Noah Baker-Graphic Design; Tristan Wood-New Visions Advanced Health Science; Caleb Decker, Matthew Hicks, Breanne Millson, Ellie Rose-New Visions Professions
MOBOCES held a Signing Day ceremony in June to recognize eight graduating seniors who received employment offers at local businesses and agencies where they completed their senior year internships. Those students represented five high schools and eight CTE programs.

- Olivia Taylor (Rome), Equine & Animal Science, hired by Runnings
- Kerrynn Lohr (VVS), Outdoor Power Equipment, hired by Runnings
- Ryan Aumell (Canastota), New Visions Government, Law & Public Administration – hired by Madison County Highway Department
- Morgan Zike (Camden), Allied Health Partnership – hired by Oneida Healthcare
- Caleb Decker (VVS), New Visions Professions – hired by Decker Land Surveying
- Keegan Bauer (VVS), Conservation – hired by Decker Land Surveying
- Alyssa Enslow (Stockbridge Valley), Manufacturing Technology – hired by Hartman Enterprises, Inc.
- Tyler Fisher (Stockbridge Valley), Electrical/HVAC – hired by Urtz Service Company

Twelve graduating seniors from Alternative and Special Education programs earned special recognition awards celebrating their academics, attendance, citizenship, growth and future potential. The students represented four districts.

High Academic Achievement Award: Synjanna Armstrong-Navarro (Rome) and Messiah Robinson (Rome)

Attendance Award: Thomas Hutchings (Sherburne-Earlville) and Chance Mowry (Rome)

Most Improved Award: Gabriel Lacey (Camden) and Chance Mowry (Rome)

Career Ready Award: Dylan Robbins (Rome) and Maricelys Rivera (Rome)

Student Leadership Award: Duncan Anderson (Canastota) and Anthony Ciccotti (Rome)

MOBOCES Teachers Association Award of Excellence: Aydon Hoyt (Rome) and Desyre Drake (Rome)

Citizenship Award: Desyre Drake (Rome) and Jacob Johnson (Camden)

Student of the Year Award: Gabriel Lacey (Camden) and Maricelys Rivera (Rome)

Dream Big Award: Aydon Hoyt (Rome) and Messiah Robinson (Rome)

The Andrew D. Rossetti Scholarship Fund Committee awarded $2,500 scholarships in June to graduating seniors from Oneida and Stockbridge Valley who plan to pursue a teaching careers.

Seth O’Connell, from Oneida, plans to study Math and Adolescent Education LeMoyne College.

Rachel Mennig, from Stockbridge Valley, plans to study Early Childhood/Childhood Education at SUNY Oneonta. She is also a student in the MOBOCES CTE program.

The Rossetti Scholarships were created in 1988 to honor Andrew D. Rossetti, a former MOBOCES District Superintendent who had a lifelong passion for teaching.
Employee Recognition

Our annual Employee Recognition ceremony returned to its traditional in-person format in May and gave staff an opportunity to congratulate our 2022 retirees and their colleagues who have reached milestone years of employment with MOBOCES.

RETIREES
Lori Anderson
Cheryl Benishek
Jean Brzuszkiewicz
Kathy Caraher
Jean Curro
Lorie Fox
Leetah Green
Susan Guido Scata
David Hale
Aida Kabil-Cvijanovi
Laura Kent
Michael Kimball
Anna LaBella
Andrew LaLonde
George Mead
Marilyn Morris
Stephen Mottley
Susan Newman
David Pellow
Christine Regner
Dennis Schonewetter
Rick Szmurlo
Carola Zavalidroga

10 YEARS OF SERVICE
Aaron Bell
Jean Brzuszkiewicz
Stacy Butcher
Kathy Carney
Bernadette Chapman
Tina Dixon
Allan Farrell
Tiffany Hollingshead
Ruth Sexton
Pasqualina Testa
Donald VanSlyke
Nicole White
Brenda Wolak
Naomi Loomis
Heather Mahoney
Elizabeth Miller
Kathleen Parker
Judy Pawlikowski
David Pellow
Naomi Phillips
Michele Reid
William Simons
Rebecca Smith
Laura Wickman

15 YEARS OF SERVICE
Wendy Ahles
Stephanie Bickom
Susan Combs
Tim Dibble
Bettina DiMaggio
Heather Drummond
Deborah Greene
Chad Hatch
Stacey Kapala
Tricia Kegebein Colmey
Aquilino Kolasz
John-Henry Lane
20 YEARS OF SERVICE
Scott Budelmann
Kay Fortenbery
Patricia McCorduck
Amanda Palmer
Don Philhower
Walter Sickles

30 YEARS OF SERVICE
Christine Curtacci
Cheryl Fleming
Rita Kenyon
Robin Pierce
Christina Urich

25 YEARS OF SERVICE
Ralph Archer
Ronald Tarry

35 YEARS OF SERVICE
Lee Farrell

40 YEARS OF SERVICE
Sandy Foley
Accolades

MOBOCES programs, services and staff are routinely recognized for excellence by outside agencies. During the 2021-22 school year, awards included:

» Risk Management Specialist Jack Angrisano earned his 13th consecutive School Safety Excellence Award from the Utica National Insurance Group for his work improving campus safety at MOBOCES and component districts.

» School Library System Director Sue Leblanc addressed state legislators in March in support of a bill that would require a school librarian in every building. Sue invited VVS High School librarian Tina Laramie and three VVS High School students to share their perspectives on the value of school librarians.

» The School Communications Service earned four state awards and four national awards for outstanding publications and media work on behalf of MOBOCES and component districts.

» Retired Early Childhood Director Colleen Wuest was invited to present at the Early Learning Statewide Conference in March on utilizing special areas, related services and paraprofessionals to teach the whole child.

» CTE teacher Jay Day was recognized by Townsquare Media with a $500 Boosting with Pride award from the Bank of Utica for his work maintaining an on-campus food pantry for students in need.

» The senior-level CTE Engineering class earned a 1st place runner up prize for their entry into the statewide Rural Schools Association Student Video Contest, a video that highlighted the value of a CTE education at MOBOCES. In addition, the junior-level Cosmetology class earned a 2nd place finalist commendation for a video about the welcoming atmosphere and community spirit at MOBOCES.

» MOBOCES juniors Abbriana Albro (VVS) and Jerome Schwendeman (Rome) received student recognition awards from the Oneida-Madison-Herkimer School Boards Institute for their academic and character excellence and for successfully overcoming challenges. In addition, Richard Engelbrecht (Madison) was honored for 50 years of service on the MOBOCES board.

» The Genesis Group of the Mohawk Valley recognized the Adult and Continuing Education division for its career training programs and the Propel program, which allows high school students to earn Mohawk Valley Community College credits through hands-on technical instruction. In addition, Camden earned an award for its summer enrichment program, which is run in partnership with MOBOCES.

» The Rural Schools Association invited MOBOCES teams from CTE, Adult Education and Special Education to present at its annual statewide summer conference in July. Those teams presented on embedded CTE programs, adult literacy program, and creating an inclusive community for all students.
Students and staff joined in the Stop the Bleed national public health advocacy campaign, which works to train everyday citizens on how to help during a bleeding emergency before first responders arrive on the scene. CTE students in Heavy Equipment, Criminal Justice and Advanced Health Science classes participated in classroom lessons and hands-on simulations this spring to learn basic CPR, tourniquet application, critical wound care and compression and abdominal thrusts. In addition, CTE staff, school nurses and adult nursing students also participated in a training led by Midstate EMS and Mohawk Valley Health System, which donated 15 Stop the Bleed kits to the MOBOCES campus.

### MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Instructional programs made mental health a focus of their discussions with students throughout the year. In September, Health Related Careers classes created bulletin boards to display messages of kindness in recognition of National Suicide Awareness Month and National Self-Care Awareness Month. Students ended the month with a Suicide Prevention Walk around campus to help raise awareness of the mental health resources available locally.

In May, mental health professionals from the Tri Academy held a week-long series of events for students during Mental Health Awareness Month. During the week, students practiced mindfulness, left positive messages for each other, and worked with staff from the Center for Family Life and Recovery about topics like mental wellness, bullying and teen depression.

### DIVERSITY IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

The School Library System (SLS) hosted a series of events on diversity, equity and inclusion in school libraries, in alignment with the state’s efforts to incorporate Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education practices into schools. Events included a workshop on best practices in library collection development; cultural awareness in the children’s and young adult literature; social-emotional and mental health education.
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SLS also hosted virtual author presentations for school librarians including Traci Sorell, a Cherokee Nation citizen and former federal Indigenous attorney who now writes fiction, nonfiction and poetry for children; and Shaun David Hutchinson, a young adult writer who has addressed teen depression and LGBTQ issues in his works. The 2021 Leatherstocking Conference featured keynote speaker I. W. Gregorio, a young adult author originally from the Mohawk Valley, who spoke about diversity and representation in school libraries.
SPIRIT OF SERVICE

Across campus, MOBOCES celebrated the holiday season with community service efforts to help local residents in need. These efforts included:

- Health Related Careers and Advanced Health Science students teamed up with Big Frog 104 radio station and the Oneida County Office for the Aging to collect gifts for local senior citizens without family to celebrate the holidays.

- Community Based Occupational Education held a coat drive to benefit the Salvation Army, collecting 40 new coats for local children. The CTE Conservation Club donated 9 of those 40 coats.

- Cosmetology and Graphic Design mailed out hundreds of holiday cards to military service members. Graphic Design created and printed the cards, and Cosmetology solicited donations for postage and held a card signing session.

- MOBOCES pre-k students in Canastota joined a schoolwide loose change drive, collectively raising $1,265 to help restock the shelves at a local food pantry and thrift shop.

- The senior administration support staff led a holiday collection to provide gifts, winter gear and baby essentials to 14 MOBOCES students and their families, as well as food boxes for six families to use over the holiday break.

Outside the holiday season, support for our community partners continued:

- CTE Early Childhood Education and Advanced Health Science students worked jointly on an interdisciplinary Child Abuse Awareness project and raised $132 for the Madison County Children’s Advocacy Center.

- CTE staff and students joined the inaugural Husky Hustle 5K at Verona Beach State Park to benefit North Broad Elementary School in Oneida. Criminal Justice students provided traffic and crowd control, the Allied Health Partnership class cheered on participants, New Visions Professions instructor Patricia Calcara helped to organize the event, and Community Outreach staff had an informational table.
COMMON THREAD

The MOBOCES Art Professional Learning Community (PLC) held its annual “Art: The Common Thread” teacher-student exhibit in the spring at the Cinema Capitol Gallery in Rome, providing an opportunity for educators and students from 15 districts to publicly display their work. Since its inception, the Common Thread exhibit has focused on celebrating art teachers’ dual roles as artists and educators and help highlight some of their students’ work.

PRIDE CELEBRATION

Tri Academy elementary programs celebrated Pride Month in June with a variety of activities about kindness and acceptance. Students had an opportunity to “chalk the walk” by filling campus sidewalks with rainbows and positive messages.

BIKE GIVEAWAY EVENT

The Central Bus Maintenance service donated space in the Costello Transportation Center in May for the Hamilton-based Community Bikes nonprofit to host one of its bike giveaway events. The volunteer organization distributed refurbished bikes and helmets to 233 Madison County residents in need. It’s the second year Community Bikes and MOBOCES have partnered on the bike giveaway.

DISABILITY AWARENESS

Special Education staff and administrators worked with The Fingerless Kitchen for an interactive professional development session on living with a disability. Participants engaged in a “no thumbs experience” that challenged them to perform common kitchen tasks without using their thumbs. The group then discussed disability inclusion, empathy, problem-solving and stepping outside their comfort zones. MOBOCES instructional and non-instructional administrators completed similar exercises at a summer retreat.
Graduation Scenes