

FALL 2021

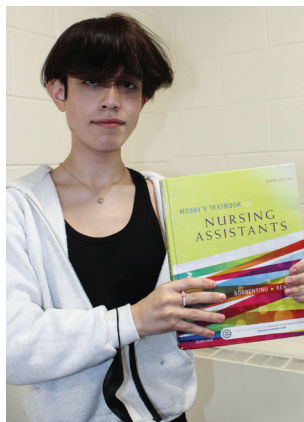
Tools of the Trade

A Publication of the Southern Westchester BOCES Center for Career Services

Students defy roles with passion and grace



Auto Collision Student, Alyssa Mosso from White Plains HS



Nursing Student, Diego Ayala from New Rochelle HS



Construction and Plumbing Student, Elizabeth Gonzalez from Port Chester HS



Three students at the Center for Career Services have been able to pursue their passions for fields not stereotypically associated with their gender, and they've been met with nothing but support.

Diego Ayala, a junior at New Rochelle High School, always knew he wanted to help people by entering the medical field. That led him to enroll in SWBOCES' Nursing Assistant program.

Growing up, Diego said, he had a cousin who was ill and had a tracheotomy. He would help his aunt care for her.

"That's what made me want to help people," he said. "I am so happy; I want to go to college for this."

Diego has the full support of his family, especially an older cousin who was also

a Nursing Assistant student at BOCES.

His class is currently learning about pressure ulcers. As far as his classmates are concerned, Diego said he is just another student, not a male student studying in a predominantly female field.

"I am friends with all of them," he said.

Diego said that he feels that no one in the general population is all that interested in the gender of their caretaker.

"Now everyone is more accepting," Diego said.

Nursing Assistant teacher Karen McDonald confirmed this.

"Nursing has changed tremendously," she said. "When I was teaching LPNs at the BOCES Harrison location, we admitted and graduated quite a few male nurses. Male

PASSION, continues on page 2

A Message from the Director



It was so exciting to have our students return to campus in what can be called a more typical fashion following a chaotic term due to COVID-19. This year students came to school in person, wearing masks, following all safety protocols and as ready to learn as they have ever been.

We have some new faces, Chef Omar Laaraj who is teaching Culinary Arts and Geri Healy, our new Transition Coordinator. We welcome them both and wish them all the best as they become fully invested in CTE.

We are so appreciative of the work by Principal Evangelo Michas, whose commitment to helping students in crisis was on full display. This year he joined several school districts in promoting the "Got 5 Challenge" a collaborative project between the New York State Office of Mental Health and the Suicide Prevention Center of New York State. They created a Crisis Text Line, a free, anonymous, 24/7 resource that provides counseling for teens via text. Those in crisis can text "GoT5" to 741-741 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. This is an amazing resource for our students who may benefit from the extra support.

With just a few months under our belts, our students have already made their mark. Their work has been selected for a new sign on one of our sister campuses. A student-restored tractor was put on display during the Town of Greenburgh's fall festival. And several guests visited with our Cosmetology students to share tricks of the trade.

We are all looking forward to the upcoming months and can't wait to see what our amazing staff and students do next!

Dahlia A. Jackson

Director, Southern Westchester BOCES Center for Career Services



IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 Commerical Art Student Focus | 6 Tractor Restoration Project |
| 3 Totally Hott Salon Visit | 7 Beauty Business Discussion |
| 3 CIA Stops by Culinary Arts | 7 Halloween Fun |
| 4 Staff Spotlights | 8 California Closets Shares Openings |

Students defy roles with passion and grace

PASSION, continued from page 1

nurses are generally well accepted into this historically female profession."

As for Diego, "I don't care what other people have to say. I like what I do, and I do what I want," he said.

All her life Alyssa Mosso, a junior at White Plains High School, has been surrounded by cars, a strong interest of her older brothers. So, it didn't seem to be much of a stretch for her when she decided to join the Auto Collision program.

Initially Alyssa enrolled in the SWBOCES Cosmetology program and quickly realized that is not where she wanted to be, as much as she has fun doing hair and make-up.

"You know what? I'm not going to sit here and do something I don't want to do," Alyssa said of her thought process to change programs. "I am going to BOCES, and I have an opportunity to do anything I want. Why not do this?"

Alyssa is the third female student who has participated in the program, according to teacher Paul Casagrande. She said her classmates treat her no differently, and often she finds them encouraging her to try something new.

Looking to the future, Alyssa said she would

like to work with exotic cars and motorcycles but is not exactly sure what that might look like.

"It's fun to feel like I am trying new things," she said. "My gender has not stopped me from doing anything in this class."

**"Know that anyone
can do a job if they
really want it."**

—Elizabeth Gonzalez

Across campus, Elizabeth Gonzalez, a senior at Port Chester High School, fired up a saw and cut an angle into a piece of wood just like a pro.

While some female family members have said she is pursuing an interesting choice in her studies, Elizabeth is determined. She told those family members that there are male hairstylists so there is no reason there cannot be a female in construction. She has an uncle who works in construction and has taught

her some of the skills she also uses in her Construction and Plumbing class.

"I grew up with three brothers, and my Dad is always working on things," Elizabeth said. "It made me interested in doing things with my hands."

Last year when she first came to BOCES she admitted she thought she would have a more difficult time being accepted by her peers.

"But I figured, if I worked hard, I could make them see I could do the job," she said.

In her studies she has made tables and chairs and worked on a community garden shed. These are among her favorite projects.

She hopes to work in the construction industry after graduation, either with building or as a construction manager.

"Don't be intimidated," Elizabeth would tell young women interested in this field.

"Know that anyone can do a job if they really want it."

Teacher Kurt Boysen said that, although it's not common, more women are coming into construction, and he would encourage them. He said the industry needs people. As for Elizabeth, he said she knows her stuff and referred to her work as "brilliant."

Sign says Sandra Oseguera is very talented

COMMERCIAL ART



When Sandra Oseguera saw a photo of her work, she said, "Wow, that's mine?"

The answer is yes.

Sandra, a New Rochelle High School senior in the Commercial Art program, worked on a project last spring assigned by her teacher Damian Powers.

Students were instructed to design a new exterior sign for the Southern Westchester BOCES Center for Special Services Rye Lake campus in White Plains.

It was not until the start of the new school year that Sandra learned her design had been selected and the sign had been installed outside the center's campus.

"We always look for opportunities to partner, across centers when possible, so this seemed like a potential partnership where the work of SWBOCES students could be showcased," said Director of the Center for Special Services Andrea Byrne. She was aware of other partnerships that the Center of Special Services St. Matthew's location had done with Mr. Powers' students and this seemed like another opportunity to work together.

"We had plans to replace the older signage on the Rye Lake Campus to create a more welcoming entry to the campus, which

houses two of our programs and our business and central offices," she said. The Center initially reached out to a vendor to price the project. This vendor would later create and install the sign.

After providing information to students about what they had in mind, students worked individually on designs and presented the Center for Special Services with three options to choose from.

Sandra recalled working on the project last spring, saying that she first began to play with the background color before moving on to the style and color of the font. In the end, she chose a blue background with white lettering. The sign contains the SWBOCES logo and what services are offered at the site.

"I wondered what color scheme would stand out," Sandra said. "Then I played with the words and the SWBOCES logo."

She worked through several versions and took some advice from her teacher to heart when she rearranged the lettering so no part of the message would distract from other details.

"I am actually surprised," Sandra said.



Sandra Oseguera, Commercial Art Student

"I didn't think mine would get chosen."

When Sandra began the Commercial Art class, she was not aware of the many areas which incorporated graphic design work. It really opened her eyes to the possibilities, she said. One such area was logos, something new for her. She said she hopes to go into animation.

"It has helped me with my creativity and confidence," she said of the Commercial Art class. "It allows me to learn new things on a different level."

"This collaboration took place exclusively through online communication and was an excellent example of how we have all adapted to our current collaboration methods," said Ms. Byrne. "We were impressed with the class and the teacher as they were responsive and provided three designs from which to choose. We hope that there are additional opportunities for collaboration as we all value having students see the products of their learning and production come to fruition in a practical way."

COSMETOLOGY

Totally Hott Salon offers students introduction into the industry

Bianca Torello walked out of Building D and right on over to C Building as if she had been here before. The truth is, she had been here before, and was now visiting campus as an alum, Class of '21, ready to help with a presentation to Cosmetology students.

Joining her was Ebony Harris, Totally Hott Salon education director. The two work together at the Rye location and were on campus to demonstrate blow-out techniques.

Ms. Torello was fortunate to get a job right after graduation having met Ms. Harris while a student during an earlier visit. Ms. Torello said she is grateful for the assistance BOCES mentors provided in helping her get her resume together and offering tips for interviews, which landed her in a job she loves.

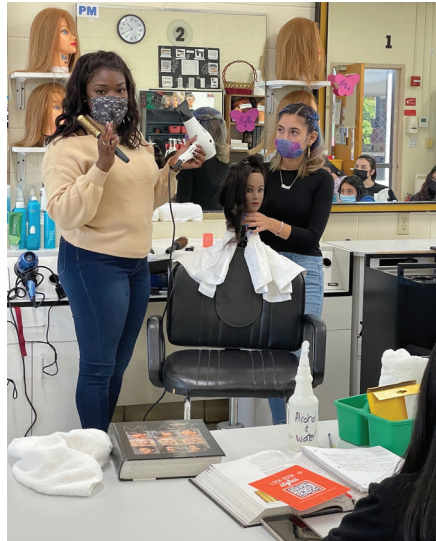
"It's a great salon to start off with," Ms. Torello said. "I'm planning to stay forever. They really care about your education and it's a great team atmosphere."

"I love BOCES," Ms. Torello continued, adding that for students like her, it was instrumental in setting her on a professional path in a preferred industry and is a wonderful alternative for those who may not be college bound.

The two colleagues set up their tools in one of the Cosmetology classrooms and were soon showing current students how to use a hair dryer to produce different types of curls. While working in a salon is a dream come true for Ms. Torello, being in front of a class of students elicits the same emotion from Ms. Harris.

"I teach because I like to help students," Ms. Harris said. "It's always great to teach someone what you know. I don't need to hold all the secrets."

Ms. Harris has worked for Totally Hott Salon for seven years, in all four of their locations throughout Westchester County. She is a blow-out specialist; however, teaching is one of her favorite things to do. Doing demonstrations like the one at the Center for Career Services



is one of her roles, as is teaching her colleagues new techniques as part of a regular education program offered by the salon.

Ms. Harris had a special offer for the students, she invited two students to attend one of the two upcoming seminars she will be hosting, a cutting class and a balayage class. She left it up to the teacher to determine which lucky students would attend.

On this day, with Ms. Torello's assistance, Ms. Harris was demonstrating blow-out techniques while also offering tips on working with clients.

For the techniques, Ms. Harris suggested pre-drying the hair, learning everything about the products you use, practicing on a person, how to section the hair for more efficiency, always keep the hairdryer on and to learn the brush curl, because with that, "you can do anything."

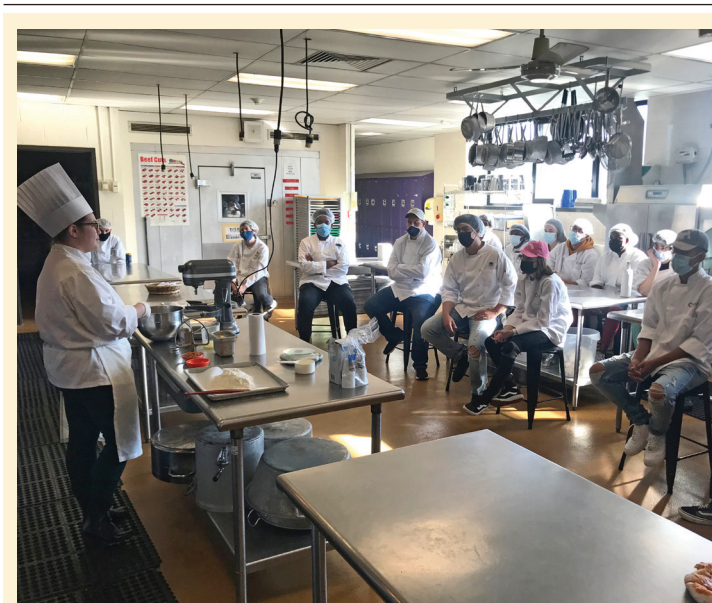
Ms. Harris' demonstrated the brush curl, along with a brush wave, a straight blow out and how to add volume to the top of the head—all with a hairdryer.

"There's nothing like having someone from the industry come in and talk about the industry and the salon and give guidance and instruction," teacher Laura Mirabel said.

Ms. Harris is also a recruiter for the salon and is always looking to introduce others to the business. She encouraged students to consider applying for a job at the end of the school year or even considering an internship. She assured students that even if they do not have their state licenses yet, there is still plenty of work they can do at the salon that does not involve working directly with clients.

Additionally, employees have an option to learn everything the salons offer, if they want to expand beyond haircuts and colors, they can be trained to attend to eyebrows and lashes, waxing and more.

"I've always been creative," Ms. Torello said. "I've been given an opportunity to be creative with hair and have a lifestyle I like."



CULINARY ARTS

Culinary Institute of America representative visits students

Already three Culinary Arts students have been accepted to the prestigious Culinary Institute of America and more are applying.

On Oct. 8 all students got a "taste" of what it's like to be trained by an expert in the field, when CIA's Payton Spear visited campus. While here she did a baking demonstration and shared samples with students. She also discussed a number of topics related to the CIA, from culinary vs. baking concentrations, degree options, the day in a life of a chef, student life, job placement, financial assistance and much more.

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS



Phil Donohue, CCS Assistant Principal



Omar Laaraj, Culinary Arts



Geri Healy, Transition Specialist

NEW FACES ON CAMPUS

Phil Donohue, Assistant Principal

The halls were quiet, the campus was less crowded, and it was the perfect time to settle in, learn more about the facility and get ready for another school year.

That is exactly what Phil Donohue had been doing this summer, in addition to reviewing all the programs offered at the Center for Career Services. He is the new assistant principal and was excited for the new year to begin.

Career and Technical Education has always been a part of his career path. He previously taught in CTE programs with the New York City Department of Education, focusing on computer science. Most recently, he taught video game design and also ran the department, overseeing staff hiring, conducting observations in classrooms and approving programs. He also ran city-wide professional development programs.

Two years ago, he and his family moved from Brooklyn and settled in Mamaroneck while he studied to earn his administrative license.

"To me it's really important students get both hard and soft skills that are pragmatic," Mr. Donohue said from his new office in Building D. "That they've learned something through internships and work-based learning experiences, like how to be a professional. I feel these skills are missing from high schools."

"I think students learn best by doing," he continued. "That's been the center of my educational practice. Kids can't sit for an hour and be talked at for 45 minutes at time. They need to use higher level thinking to solve problems. If that can be accomplished, other things will fall in line. They ask questions and learn organically through conversations and practice."

A CTE program, he said, enables students to

learn — and use — skills, get a professional license and be in a better position to "be on a path to a career."

One of the many things he appreciates about CTE is that students arrive on campus on an even playing field.

"For many, that is invigorating," he said. "It can also help academically lift a kid that has a focus. All of a sudden, they start to take themselves more seriously, which can transform into higher academics."

In the New York City program where he worked previously, there were three programs available to students. He is excited that the Southern Westchester BOCES center offers 20.

Omar Laaraj, Culinary Arts

Chef Omar Laaraj has one philosophy when it comes to food.

"If you make it yourself, you will love it even more."

It's an attitude the new Culinary Arts teacher hopes to instill in his students.

For the past five years he has been working as a cook manager with Southern Westchester BOCES Special Services. He has close to 30 years of culinary experience, including owning and operating his own restaurants and serving as an executive chef in others.

"It allowed me the time I needed after school, weekends and holidays," to spend time with his family rather than working around the clock in the restaurant industry, he said, of joining BOCES.

Chef Laaraj said being a cook manager was wonderful, but he felt he had more to offer and wanted to share with aspiring chefs his own passion for cooking.

"This was a great opportunity," coming to the Careers Center and teaching Culinary Arts, following the retirement of Chef

Peter Tomaskovic, he said.

"All the knowledge I had accumulated in the last 30 years, it was an opportunity to share that with young, talented chefs," he continued.

Among the many things he loved about his work is putting together a dish, serving it and getting an immediate reaction from the person eating it.

"You learn in this business to be criticized, it's not always a bad thing," he said.

Chef Laaraj is originally from Morocco and naturally he began his culinary career cooking Mediterranean dishes. He soon added Asian cuisine to his repertoire as a head chef at an Asian fusion restaurant in Greenwich, CT. He continued his culinary travels, if you will, by learning Irish techniques and dishes and eventually returned to his Mediterranean roots but not before learning Greek styles of cooking and cuisine.

In 1990 he bought a café in Mamaroneck, The Good Life Café, which he described as "a little Mediterranean place," which received a great review from Gannette.

"From being in the restaurant and opening a few places as a head chef or executive chef, you are a teacher in a different way, especially if you are doing a new cuisine," Chef Laaraj explained how his experience will assist with his new role as teacher.

Geri Healy, Transition Specialist

For her entire professional career Geri Healy has been helping special needs individuals and their families navigate the transition from young adult into adulthood and guiding them toward services that would serve them best. She is now at Southern Westchester BOCES helping special needs students as they make a similar transition.

"My background was really thoroughly knowing the agencies and what makes

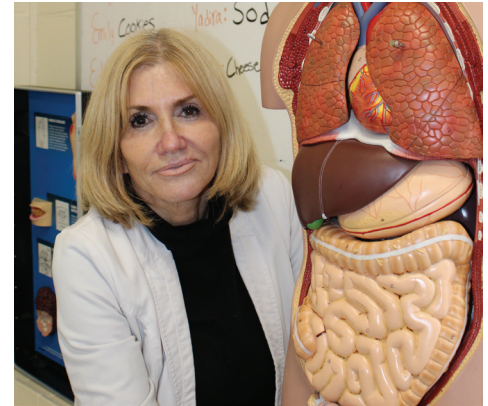
STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

"It was not something I expected to make a career out of, because who gets to do what they love every day? Apparently, I do!"

—Rob Del Greco, EMS



Rob Del Greco, Emergency Medical Services



Karen McDonald, Nurse Assistant

students eligible for those services," she said. "Now it's more vocationally driven."

Most recently Ms. Healy, who has a Master's in school counseling from Fordham University, worked at Green Chimneys in Brewster in the organization's day program. The organization served youth with special needs through animal-assisted therapy and educational activities.

"I've been doing this for 20 years and always worked for non-profits, state and local agencies," she continued. "It's always been based on helping families and students. It seems to be something I feel comfortable doing. I enjoy helping students and their families feel empowered."

A large part of her assistance consists of helping individuals and their families advocate for themselves, something she hopes to do with the students at BOCES.

"I am here to share the information, empower them and help them move forward," she said.

Often families can feel overwhelmed and not know where or how to begin the process to help their loved one.

"A little guidance and support are definitely needed to help show them the right direction," she said.

HEALTHCARE INSTRUCTORS

Rob Del Greco and Karen McDonald are just beginning their second year teaching at Southern Westchester BOCES' Center for Career Services. Both oversee the health-related classes offered here: Mr. Del Greco teaches the EMS class and Ms. McDonald the Nurses Assistant course.

Rob Del Greco, EMS

Teaching was not something Rob Del Greco intended for a career.

"I did it because it was fun and because I

enjoyed doing it," he said of being asked to help with orientation of new members of the Valhalla Volunteer Ambulance Corps. He has been a volunteer there since 1999. Later, a friend asked if he would teach CPR to a high school health class. Soon he was in front of the classroom at Westchester Community College teaching skills to an EMT class.

"It was not something I expected to make a career out of, because who gets to do what they love every day?" he said. "Apparently, I do!"

Mr. Del Greco joined the staff last year and like his students had to adjust to remote instruction via Zoom.

"The pandemic really forced me to look at how I manage my digital classroom," he said. "For many years it was really just a grade-book and place where I'd post the occasional announcement. It's more interactive now and contains a lot more resources for students."

He continued, "I am still learning Google Classroom, since we use a different ecosystem at the college, but I've learned a lot about how to present information digitally. I'd love to go back in time and impart the experience I gained through trial and error, but there is value in going through that process."

Mr. Del Greco is a graduate of Siena College and Pace University with a Master of Science for Teachers. He has been an EMT since 2002, and also serves as a volunteer firefighter with the Valhalla Fire Department.

One of the things he highlights with his students is how being an EMT is the fastest way for them to begin working directly with patients.

"People who work as EMTs usually use it as a stepping-stone job into other careers in healthcare such as paramedics, nursing, physicians' assistants, and doctors," he said. "Many of the people who become EMTs don't work for paid agencies, instead using

their knowledge and skills to give back to their community."

"I want my students to learn that these volunteer opportunities can lead to valuable experience and networking that will shape the course of their life," he added.

Karen McDonald, Nurse Assistant

Karen McDonald earned her nursing license in 1974 and said she has never stopped working since.

She began her career studying at Saint Luke's Hospital School of Nursing and later earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Columbia University. She worked 14 years in a trauma center and loved it. When the physically demanding work began to take a toll, she segued to other areas in the health field before becoming an LPN instructor for Southern Westchester BOCES' adult education division.

When her predecessor retired, she took over the program at the Center for Career Services.

"Here with the high school students, many of them are interested in using this as a foundation for a nursing career," she said. "Those who have a certification in nursing assistance do better in a nursing program. They advance more quickly. They are more comfortable and have more confidence in a clinical setting."

"It's wonderful to see students embrace it at this level," she said of the enthusiasm her students have. "The energy is so good."

The students are learning how being a nurse assistant means they take on the responsibilities of performing activities of daily living that patients are unable to do for themselves, such as getting dressed, using a toilet or feeding themselves.

She has heard from several of her students who graduated last year and have found

SPOTLIGHTS, continues on page 6

Help is just a text away



For all the hands-on learning that is done at the Southern Westchester BOCES Center for Career Service, Principal Evangelo Michas knows just how equally important a students' social and emotional well-being is in order to achieve success.

For the past year and a half, students have had to contend with the impact a global pandemic had on their education — from switching back-and-forth between in-person classes and remote learning. There were other stressors as well that were equally, if not more distracting.

The loss of a family member, the loss of housing, and loss of household income were possible challenges that may have confronted students during this time, Mr. Michas said. It all can be overwhelming and impact a students' learning.

When the principal had an opportunity to help students who may be struggling, he opted in by participating in the "GoT 5 Challenge."

The New York State Office of Mental Health and the Suicide Prevention Center of New

York State collaborated to create a campaign to help schools raise awareness about a Crisis Text Line. The line is free, anonymous, available 24/7 and provides counseling for teens via text. Those in crisis can text "GoT5" to 741-741 and they will connect with a trained crisis counselor.

Schools who participated in the challenge were directed to email students and faculty informing them the Text Crisis Line was available and how to use it, post SPCNY's video on their school's website and social media accounts, and promote the information in their schools through posters or on digital message boards.

Mr. Michas reached out to Southern Westchester BOCES Director of Communications, Brian Howard, who he said was instrumental in adding the video and further details to his school's website.

Additionally, as students arrive at school and get off their busses and walk into Building D each day they will see a poster with details about the text line.

For Mr. Michas the message is personal, his own family having once been affected by an



TEXT "Got5" to 741-741

FREE, 24/7 ANONYMOUS TEXT LINE

CRISIS TEXT LINE |

attempted suicide. He is determined to prevent his students and their families from ever having to experience anything like that.

"It is important to let families at BOCES know there is help," he said. "We're trying to be mindful of our students' social and emotional needs, the state of our students."

According to information provided by the GoT5 Challenge, the text line had 37,200 text conversations with teens 17 and younger and 745 suicidal de-escalations. Among the teens who texted, 90 percent said they had a helpful conversation and 40 percent said school was the number one reason for texting.

"Even if it's only 2-3 kids who text, I did my job," Mr. Michas said.



Tractor Restoration

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY



If you happened by the Spooktoberfest in the Town of Greenburgh in October, you may have noticed an orange tractor that was a centerpiece of the decor.

This vehicle, a 1937 Allis-Chalmers model B, was restored by Peter Schwartzott's automotive class and Paul Casagrande's autobody class at the Southern Westchester BOCES Center for Career Services.

The tractor belonged to Henry Gaisman, founder of Gillette Safety Razor Company, who purchased farmland in the Town of Greenburgh that is now Hart's Brook Park and Preserve. The tractor was just one of several restoration projects on which our students have partnered with the Town of Greenburgh.

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

SPOTLIGHTS, continued from page 5

jobs in the field.

"The environment is ripe for that new energy," Ms. McDonald said. "I like being a part of it, it's exciting for me," she said, adding that she knows those currently working in healthcare will eventually have to "turn the keys over" to those coming into the field now.

"That's a huge responsibility. You see the ones who are hungry and embrace it. You think, 'We are going to be OK,'" she said.

Last spring her students completed their

clinical work at the Bethel Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Croton-on-Hudson. Ms. McDonald brought two groups of five students to the facility. She said the staff were "delirious," when the students arrived and appreciated the extra set of hands.

As a matter of fact, the facility was so impressed with the students' work, they were invited to fill out job applications. The facility was willing to hire them on the stipulation that they be certified within a certain period of time.

"They were tremendous, very welcoming," Ms. McDonald said.

She is developing an additional component to her seniors' final project. Traditionally students keep a binder of their work and write a final essay. She is working out the details to incorporate a community service component.

"Healthcare is for those who are compassionate and socially conscious," she said.

"We should be attempting to meet the psycho-social needs of patients. I want to develop a senior project that makes them more socially conscious, do something that shows compassion for those they interact with."

COSMETOLOGY

BEAUTY BUSINESS

Cosmetology students learn more about salon ownership from an expert



Southern Westchester BOCES cosmetology student Kyra Smith, from Ardsley High School, knows something about being in the beauty business. She started her own hair braiding business after practicing on her family members.

Lisa DeMaria, owner of Salon Topaz in Dobbs Ferry, was impressed with Kyra's entrepreneurial spirit. She too began her career as a stylist, practicing on her mother, who was initially reluctant to volunteer. Today, Ms. DeMaria owns two salons – one in Dobbs Ferry and another in Savannah, Georgia. She has operated her business for 15 years and has five stylists working for her at the New York location.

Ms. DeMaria visited with students in the cosmetology program at the Center for Career Services to talk about her experience, the beauty business and to demonstrate a unique technique that students may want to add to their repertoire.

Ms. DeMaria began her career working in a small beauty salon before going to cosmetology school. She worked at the Frederic Fekkai salon in New York City and trained at companies such as Vidal Sassoon and Bumble and Bumble. Salon Topaz was named "Best Salon in Westchester" by Westchester Magazine and has received honors for being an eco-friendly business.

When Ms. DeMaria decided to open her own salon, she first worked as a stylist in a spa. When she began there she did not have an established client base until one day she offered to do a spa's guest hair for free. When the client expressed how pleased she was with the cut, she told her friends. Ever since, Ms. DeMaria has had a strong clientele, crediting her hard work and love for the industry.



"The beauty industry is a multi-million-dollar industry," she said. "You have to have the commitment and motivation. It's amazing to have a career you love. We can come in and work with our hands and be creative."

While Ms. DeMaria's focus throughout her career has been cutting and styling hair, she encouraged the cosmetology students to try a little bit of everything that the industry offers, including coloring, nails and skincare.

"There are so many amazing directions you can go with it," she said.

She also encouraged students to visit her salon and shadow her stylists to observe firsthand how the business operates. The most important thing they can do to help themselves, she said, is to keep an open mind.

Ms. DeMaria said that in addition to possessing talent, she looks for stylists who have good communication skills, dress professionally, are reliable and are willing to learn.

"Right now, my goal is educating and training the next generation of stylists," she said.

Ms. DeMaria demonstrated how to do a razor cut on model Jenny Reilly, who is a stylist at Salon Topaz.

The two role-played one of the most important things a stylist ever does: a consultation with their client. Ms. Reilly was looking to have a "modern mullet," in which her hair would frame her face and provide soft layers in the back.

"The consultation is the most important part of working with a client," Ms. Reilly said, adding that it helps the stylist know specifically what the client is looking for and how much time or energy they have to style their hair each day. It also helps to create a relationship and build rapport.

"I ask new clients what they do for a living and what their daily routine is for taking care of their hair," Ms. DeMaria said. "Fifty percent is your skills and 50% is the connection you are making with people. You want them to like you."

Ms. DeMaria and Ms. Reilly answered several questions from curious students. When asked how they handle a criticism of their work, Ms. Reilly said that they should be gentle with themselves when first starting out. Each unhappy client is an opportunity to learn and to do better the next time.

Another student asked about how to find a position. Ms. Reilly suggested they look for a salon that shares their values. For her, being in an eco-friendly atmosphere was important – Salon Topaz produces no toxic fumes and is a member of GreenCircle recycling.

Ms. Reilly encouraged the budding cosmetologists to demonstrate reliability, trustworthiness, a willingness to learn, and to not taking things personally. These are qualities that all salons want in their staff members.



HALLOWEEN

A group of teachers at our Center for Career Services got into the Halloween spirit dressing up as some classic and scary characters!



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SWBOCES NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services, its officers and employees, does not discriminate against any individuals, including but not limited to students, employees or applicants on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, creed, sex, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, citizenship status, marital status, partner status, genetic information, predisposing genetic characteristics, weight, military status or service, political affiliation, or domestic violence victim status.

This policy of nondiscrimination includes access by students to educational programs; counseling services for students; course offerings and student activities; recruitment, appointment and promotion of employees; and employment pay and benefits. This policy also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Inquiries regarding this policy should be directed to the Compliance Officers at Southern Westchester BOCES, 17 Berkley Drive, Rye Brook, NY 10573. (914) 937-3820.

Civil Rights Compliance Officers

Suzanne Doherty
Director of Human Resources

17 Berkley Drive
Rye Brook, NY 10573
Ph: (914) 937-3820
complianceofficer@swboces.org

Stephen Tibbetts
Assistant Superintendent for
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SWBOCES IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Section 504 Coordinator

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"The job of BOCES is to support the work being done in schools by providing services and supports they are not able to provide for themselves."



CONSTRUCTION

JOIN THE TEAM! California Closets shares information on job opportunities



Construction students recently enjoyed a presentation from California Closets, located in Hawthorne, whose representatives shared details about the company and the job opportunities that exist there.

Chief Operations Manager Josh Rayburn was joined by recruiter Guadalupe Calderon and Human Resources Director Kathleen McMaster when they met with students.

"We have a great shop," Mr. Rayburn said. "We are the largest manufacturer of wood products. We manufacture everything we install."

The shop is similar to the one students use on a daily basis while at Careers. California Closets, Mr. Rayburn explained, provides all the materials and tools workers need in a 44,000-square-foot space.

"If you embrace woodworking as a career, there are opportunities for you," he said.

Ms. McMaster informed students that the company is looking for woodworkers and offers benefits, including dental, medical,

vision, paid time off and a 401(k), which the company will match after an employee has been there for a certain amount of time. The location, Mr. Rayburn noted, has employees that have been working there for 25 years and more.

Mr. Rayburn used a conversational style as he asked students questions about what they are learning at BOCES and encouraged them to ask him questions too.

Students were interested in learning more about what a typical workday entails and what kind of employee they look for when hiring.

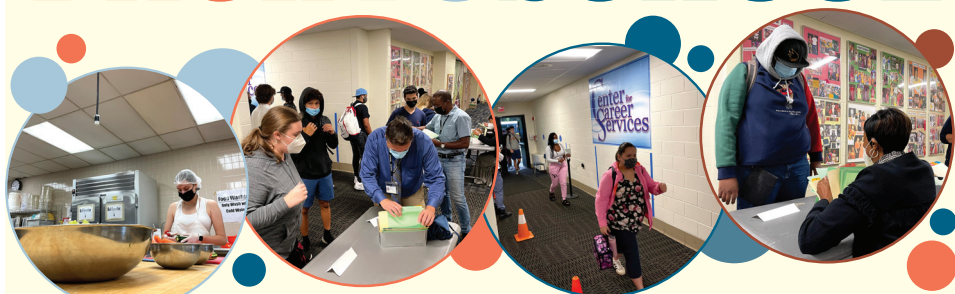
Mr. Rayburn said he is interested in candidates whom he feels want to work and are willing to learn.

"We are here because we want to talk to those who are young and get them on board," he said.

"We definitely have some students who have the ability to move into the arena," teacher Kurt Boysen said.

Students received an application and were encouraged to apply, if interested.

BACK TO SCHOOL



Welcome Back! Here are some scenes of what the morning looked like at CCS the day that students and staff officially kicked off the 2021-2022 school year!