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Erie 1 BOCES
JOURNAL

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Message from the District Superintendent

Cooperation leads to celebration



Real examples of students attaining success continuously build our sense of school community. By working together, we strengthen our commitment to achieve. We feel supported and plan for the future with confidence.

This year, many of our year-end gatherings were smaller, but the feeling of joy and celebration remained. I'm equally proud of our youth as I am my colleagues, who continuously provide multiple pathways to graduation for young people. Their efforts, especially during the pandemic, have made this commemoration possible.

Normally, the transition from one year to the next is just that - we leave one year behind, turn the page and put all of our focus on what lies ahead. While that is true again, many uncertainties still exist due to COVID-19 variants. But we are not alone. Our community is strong, and our mission remains resolute: Erie 1 BOCES commits to those we serve - students, staff and communities - by understanding, anticipating and responding to their needs.

As you turn the pages of this publication, you'll see evidence of those words in action. From direct instruction to all the facets supporting our fine institutions of learning, we forge ahead together. Despite the pandemic's uncertainties, our cooperative is bursting with promise.

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Fusco, Ph.D.
District Superintendent/CEO

CTE capital project

The capital projects at our three career and technical education centers have begun. Drive by and you'll see parking lot restoration taking place and roofing materials being delivered. Inside, demolition of various classrooms has begun as well as HVAC and boiler room work; electrical, plumbing and building control relocations underway in the auto shop. We are off to a great start and look forward to sharing more with you!



A smart start

Honors student foregoes college following graduation

Graduating in the top five of her class from West Seneca East High School, Kelly Holdsworth can't wait to start the next chapter in her life. However, Kelly has bravely chosen to take a different path from her honors-level peers. This summer, she will join the full-time workforce and her parents couldn't be prouder.

"My mom actually helped me discover this path," Kelly said.

Her parents, Kathlyn and Peter Holdsworth, encouraged their daughter to ask her high school counselor about classes available at Erie 1 BOCES after seeing Kelly's robust enthusiasm for assisting young children at a dance recital.

Fast-forward two years later and Kelly is on track to graduate fifth in her class from high school, top of her cosmetology class at Erie 1 BOCES' Potter Career & Technical Center, eligible to take her state license exam, and has already secured a position at Tonic Hair Salon in Williamsville.

"She's taken a lot of AP classes; she's smart and has really thought this out," Kathlyn Holdsworth said. "I had some reservations until I attended BOCES' open house; people don't realize the income potential of skilled trades."

There are four children in the Holdsworth family. Two of Kelly's older siblings are currently in college pursuing degrees. The eldest, Allison, attends University at Buffalo's School of Pharmacy and her brother, Sam, is majoring in hospitality at Buffalo State. Kelly's younger sibling, Melanie, is in middle school and appreciated Kelly's budding cosmetology skills during the COVID-19 shutdown.

"I'd like to own a salon one day," Kelly shared. "There are college-level business classes I can take, but I would like to hone my skills and fully experience the industry first. I'll be able to get more value out of the classes that way."

"More than 60% of Erie 1 BOCES graduates attend college directly following graduation," said Lisa Vater, cosmetology instructor at

Erie 1 BOCES Potter Career & Technical Center. "However, there are exceptional students in my class, including Kelly, who have already secured employment."

With more than 20 years of experience teaching cosmetology students, Vater is impressed by Kelly's commitment and natural talent. She then explained that because



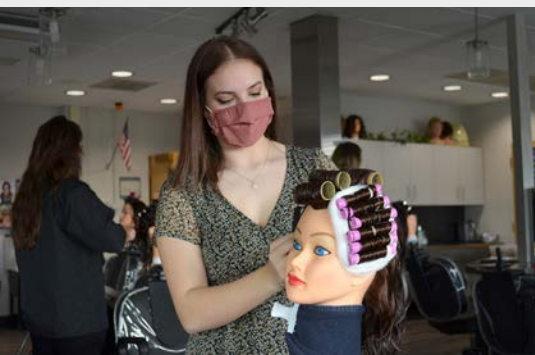
Kathlyn Holdsworth, parent of a top-five graduating senior, supports her daughter's choice to enter the workforce and forego college. The pair are photographed outside Tonic Hair Salon, Kelly's employer.

of COVID-19, it was especially challenging for students to obtain the 1,000 hours of clinical experience needed to take their licensing exam.

"Kelly was one of the few students who took advantage of every extracurricular experience possible to gain more hours. She's on track to take her state exam in July," Vater said.

"She'll be successful, I have no doubt," Holdsworth continued. "BOCES is a great program, there are so many more options than when I was a teen. I would encourage more parents to check it out."

As part of public education, Erie 1 BOCES offers a variety of career and technical programs during the normal school day to high school students in Erie County. High school students interested in learning more about how they can participate in various hands-on programs should visit www.e1b.org/cte or speak with their high school counselor.



Kelly Holdsworth took advantage of every extra-curricular experience possible to gain more clinical hours at E1B Potter Career & Technical Center.

A FAMILIAR

Highlighting CTE alumni employed

*E*rie 1 BOCES is proud to employ a number of graduates from its own Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs. Some of these “alumni-employees” have been featured by the organization in the following brief writeups:



CONNIE KICK

Connie Kick has spent the past 35 years working at Erie 1 BOCES after going through the doors of the Harkness Career & Technical Center as a student. Kick is a senior systems analyst, providing technical expertise for school districts' student management systems. In 1985, she graduated from Clarence High School and the Data Processing program at Harkness. When she graduated, she was hired as summer help in the Erie 1 BOCES Data Entry Department. Kick was later asked if she wanted to try her hand at programming. After a week of working in the Programming Department, she was asked to stay on as a programmer trainee.



SCOTT PRZYWARA

For the past 27 years, Scott Przywara has spent his professional life working for the same organization that educated him during high school. Przywara is the chief data protection, security and compliance officer at Erie 1 BOCES, supporting the technological capabilities of districts. While enrolled at St. Mary's High School in Lancaster, he completed the two-year Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD) program at Erie 1 BOCES Harkness Career & Technical Center in 1994. He started working at BOCES the summer after he graduated, utilizing the CAD system as a microcomputer support assistant. He worked his way up the ranks, helping implement new services along the way.

SETTING

by Erie 1 BOCES



WARREN RISTINE

Warren Ristine credits his Erie 1 BOCES education with motivating him to become the organization's director of facilities. Ristine graduated from Frontier High School and the Trade Electricity program at the Potter Road Occupational Center in 1976. He went on to work in his father's electrical contracting business for 25 years, becoming a journeyman electrician and a licensed master electrician. In 2002, Ristine was hired by Erie 1 BOCES as a principal stores clerk for Technology Services. In 2015, he was promoted to manager of security, facilities operations and material logistics, supervising Buildings and Grounds staff. Ristine became director of facilities in 2020.



PAMELA SANTILLO

Pamela Santillo has come full circle in her career, working in the same building she studied in. Santillo became a work-based learning teacher at the Harkness Career & Technical Center 15 years ago. She graduated from Kenmore East High School and the Harkness Dental Laboratory program and got her first job at her internship site, Voss Dental Lab. She eventually became a manager responsible for quality control and working with dentists on patient procedures. After 19 years, Santillo left Voss to teach the Harkness Dental Lab program for 10 years. She also started her own lab and still works in the business.



LORI SMITH

Lori Smith loves working for the same organization that gave her a head start in her career path in high school. Smith is a CTE supervisor, graduating from Grand Island High School and the Cosmetology program at the Kenton Career & Technical Center in 1997. She furthered her education by completing the Cosmetology program in the Workforce Development division. After stints working as a licensed cosmetologist and cosmetology teacher – and attending college locally for business administration and CTE education – Smith was hired at Erie 1 BOCES as a CTE specialist. She later became a CTE supervisor after completing various leadership certifications.

Bill to fund community schools

Advocacy brings Sen. Gillibrand to Harkness

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand paid a visit to the Erie 1 BOCES Harkness Career & Technical Center in Cheektowaga to advocate for additional funding of community schools.



Sen. Gillibrand speaks at a news conference in front of the Harkness Career & Technical Center, flanked by Erie 1 BOCES officials.

The proposed Senate bill co-sponsored by Gillibrand, titled the Full-Service Community School Expansion Act, would invest \$3.65 billion over the next five years to plan, implement, expand and support full-service community schools serving low-income students. It would also assist schools and districts by providing integrated student supports – including medical, mental and nutrition health services, mentoring and youth development programs, technical assistance, and continuing education courses – to serve students, families and communities.

“The pandemic has left students and their families with the traumas of economic and food insecurity, social isolation, illness and even death. That’s especially true with our low-income communities and our communities of color, who have been hit hardest by the pandemic and the long-standing inequities COVID has magnified,” Gillibrand said. “We know that what happens outside the classroom affects how children do inside the classroom. That’s why the work of community schools has never been more important.”

Community schools rethink public education by reimagining how schools and the organizations they partner with can serve the larger

community and effectively bridge academic and non-academic equity gaps. The goal of a community school is to support the holistic needs of its students, families and communities.

Gillibrand explained investing in community schools, and the infrastructure to support these schools, will help students thrive.

“We know that children get so much more than an education from their schools,” she noted. “Making these investments in community schools will help us build a brighter future for our students and our state.”

“As a service organization, Erie 1 BOCES is proud to support our partner school districts with the common mission of providing an outstanding education to all students to help build a brighter tomorrow,” Erie 1 BOCES CEO and District Superintendent Dr. Lynn Fusco added. “The proposed Full-Service Community School Expansion Act represents an incredible opportunity for our schools and community-based organizations to continue partnering in order to provide the integral connections, supports and services our students and families need now more than ever.”



GROOMING PRACTICE

Animal Science students Summer Schurr of Frontier and Taylor Dak of West Seneca use a blow-dryer on Jaxon during class at Potter.



NEW VINYL PRINTER

A new vinyl printer was installed in the P-TECH RACE classroom at Potter. Pictured is Lauris Kerruish from West Seneca using the printer. Students have already made T-shirts, signs for a dog grooming shop and P-TECH logo stickers.



FEMALES IN AUTO TECH

Riley Branning from Hamburg Central School District enrolled in the Auto Tech Training program because she has always been interested in fixing cars, growing up around it. She hopes to see more females in the field, as well.



VIRTUAL PIANO

Seventh-grader Michael Peluso from West Seneca Central School District practices playing "Happy Birthday" on a virtual piano during music class at Northtowns Academy.



ANIMATIC: STORYBOARD SECTIONS

Karina Verost of Grand Island (left) and Zoe Martek of Tonawanda work on an animatic during a Digital Media class at Kenton Career & Technical Center.



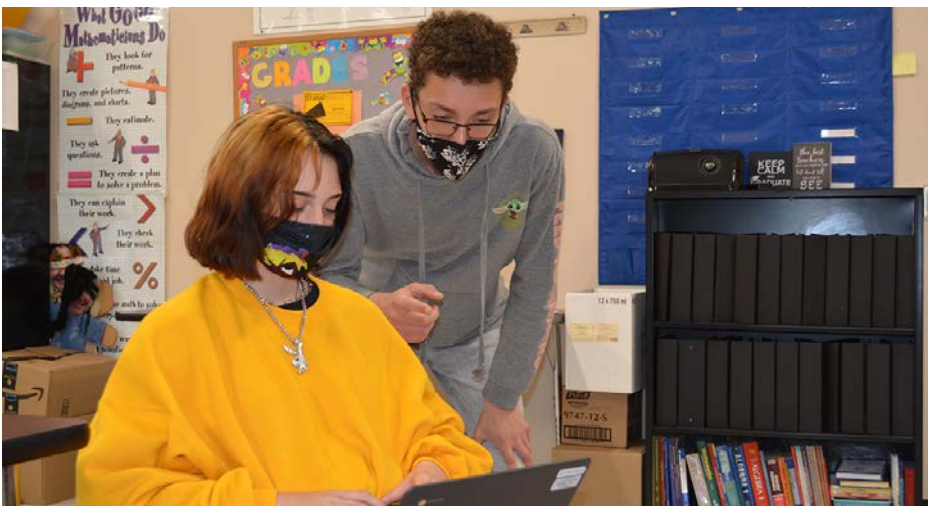
STRUT REMOVAL

Kenny Benden from Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda and Matthew Powell from Grand Island work on removing struts from a vehicle during their Auto Technician class at Kenton.



CASTLE ENTRYWAY

Lucas Mazella from Cheektowaga-Sloan, Andrew McHenry from Williamsville and Lisa Harris from Maryvale show off the castle entrance to their classroom and their paper mache helmets at Northtowns Academy. The fun theme went along with the students reading "Robin Hood."



TEAMWORK DURING MATH

Sophomore Lindsay Rodriguez works with junior Luis Diaz on math problems during class at the College & Career Readiness Academy at EDGE. Both students are from Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District.



CULINARY DEMO

Culinary and Baking students got quite the show from the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute. Hospitality Management Coordinator and chef Benjamin Loomis did live demonstrations on how to make Bananas Foster and freeze-dried ice cream drops.



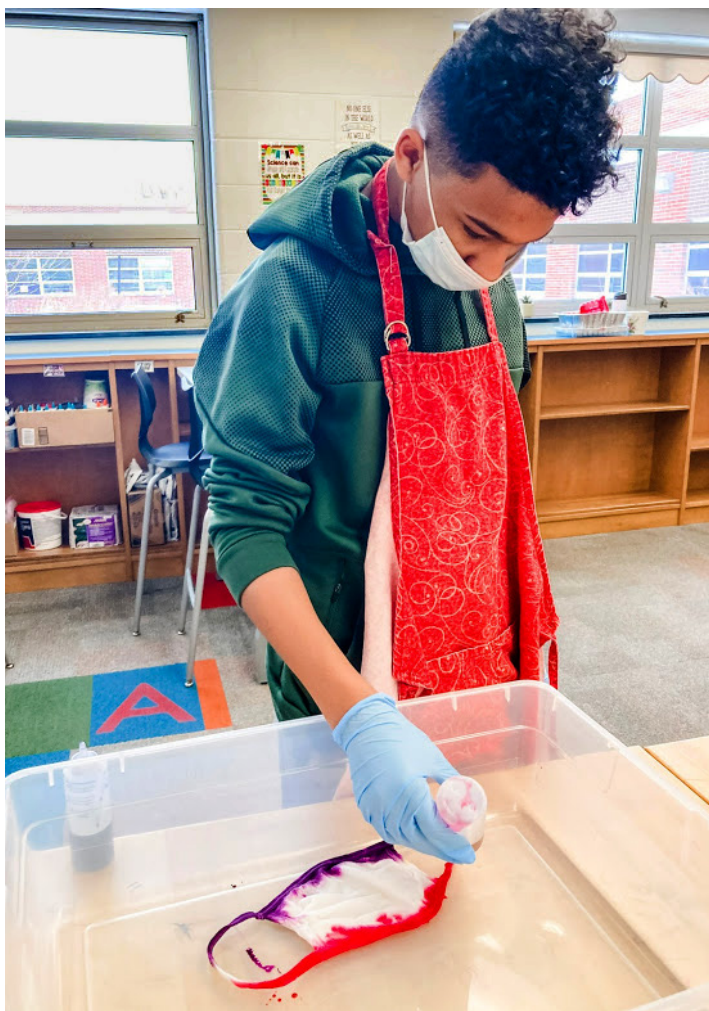
VOLUME OF PRISMS

Fifth-grader Andrew MacMillon from Cheektowaga-Sloan learns about the volume of prisms with the assistance of Ms. Timmel during class at West Seneca West Elementary.



SENIOR AWARDS

A drive-thru awards ceremony allowed Career & Technical Education administrators to celebrate each graduating senior's success individually, with students and their families stopping in to receive their awards. All three career centers participated.



TIE-DYE MASKS

Students at the Learning Center designed their own tie-dye masks while learning about the chemistry of color. They were able to choose their color palette for the masks, then they personalized them by adding their own vinyl decals.



PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Seven March graduates in the 200-hour adult Electrical program earned perfect attendance awards despite the pandemic. Pictured are Aaron Heywood, Edward Zacher, Matthew Dolgos, Shane O'Neill, Parker Tackley, Zachary Boyd and Dominic Parsons.



MODULAR HOME BUILT

Despite pandemic-related constraints, the Harkness Building Trades class still completed and auctioned off a modular home. The house was auctioned off online. Pictured are Building Trades instructor Chris Burgio, Evan Solazzo from Amherst and Zachery Zelaski from Depew.



WOMEN IN TRADES

WKBW reporter Taylor Epps visited Harkness to interview officials for a story on the opportunities available to women in the trades.



VIDEO LESSON

Sixth-grader Vickder Ball from Lackawanna City Schools watches a lesson on his laptop during class at Northtowns Academy.



ROUND BRUSH BLOWOUT

Cosmetology student Cassie Carden works on a round brush blowout hairstyle for Sadia Albanna during class at Potter. Both students are from West Seneca.



AVANTI RINGS

Aaron Carney from Lancaster works with Avanti rings during class at the Maryvale Work Readiness program. The rings not only help hone fine motor skills, but they also teach how to follow a routine, follow directions and stay on task.



EMS PATIENT CARE

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) instructor Mr. Turner teaches Madison Martinez of Grand Island HS how to load a patient onto a stretcher with a backboard during class at Kenton.



WALK-THROUGH GRADUATION

The Maryvale Work Readiness program held a walk-through graduation ceremony, with students and their families entering the cafetorium one at a time to be celebrated. Pictured is graduate Claire Syracuse from Williamsville.



BACON CHEESEBURGER POCKETS

Eighth-grader and MiddleTech Academy student Natalie Gillman from Hamburg rolls dough for her homemade bacon cheeseburger pockets in the Potter Career & Technical Center's Culinary Arts kitchen.



Kindergarteners Azariel Antongiorgi from Sweet Home CSD and Cooper Guido from Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD listen to Ms. Palmer during a group reading of “I Love Bugs” by Emma Dodd at West Seneca West Elementary.



During Field Day, Learning Center students played team sports such as tug-of-war.



First-grader Sara Baker from Cheektowaga CSD works on a color-coordinating activity with teacher aide Ms. Felger at West Seneca West Elementary.



Students at the Learning Center enjoyed a pancake treat.

Relocating to

Winchester Academy

In September 2021, working in tandem with the West Seneca Central School District, Erie 1 BOCES’ programs located at the Learning Center and West Elementary will merge into one school building in West Seneca. The new site will be located at 650 Harlem Road, previously known as Winchester Elementary School.

“Supporting students with autism spectrum disorders in grades K-12 has been a long-term vision for Exceptional Education,” said Patrick Canfield, director of Exceptional Education division. “The additional centralized, space at our new Winchester Academy site will provide us with an opportunity to continue that growth. Moreover, Winchester is a central location that offers all Erie County school districts access without excess strain on transportation time and resources.”

Michelle Mailhot will transition to the principalship at Winchester Academy along with two assistant principals, Lisa Blesy and Jacob Backe. Erik Vohwinkel will continue on as the principal of Erie 1 BOCES eAcademy and will oversee various satellite classrooms for Special Education.

In June, both the Learning Center and West Elementary held student activities to close out the year.

Champions of Change for Kids

The NYS School Boards Association (NYSSBA) presented Erie 1 BOCES Board of Education with a Champions of Change for Kids Award. This recognition celebrates unique learning opportunities that are cutting-edge and future oriented. The Board of Education received this honor for supporting the creation of the eAcademy, which coincidentally was in place and poised to assist when COVID-19 disrupted traditional learning. Patrick Longo, head of member relations for NYSSBA, presented the award during the June 9 board meeting.



Pictured, from left, are Patrick Longo with John Sherman, president of Erie 1 BOCES Board of Education and Patrick Canfield, director of Exceptional Education division.

Preserving remote/hybrid best practices

Grant supports learning from pandemic

The Western New York Regional Information Center (WNYRIC) was named one of 14 organizations identified as a Level 1 Center for the Teaching in Remote/Hybrid Learning Environments (TRLE) grant through the New York State Department of Education (NYSED).

The 2020-2021 school year was an unprecedented time in education. The TRLE efforts, which began at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, are expected to pave the way for future generations of educators. This will be accomplished by producing much-needed data on how best to instruct all students in an online environment, while also providing a successful professional learning framework that other states may replicate.

“When the pandemic came about, education was forced to take something on that had never been done before,” Joseph Roaldi, CSLO/Model Schools Supervisor at WNYRIC said. “The basis of the grant is to provide best practices that have come from the shift to remote and hybrid learning. No matter what the future of instruction looks like, we don’t want educators to lose the best that came out of this terrible situation.”

To address COVID-19’s impact on learning in New York State, the initial goal of the TRLE program was to rapidly infuse professional learning resources to the field. The grant also continues to support teachers and administrators across the region in six focus areas:

- Social emotional learning
- Culturally responsive teaching
- Remote and hybrid teaching
- Families as partners
- Students with disabilities
- English language learners

In addition to gathering data from teachers and educational leaders, the TRLE grant program has begun offering professional development opportunities in the six focus areas led by local experts and guest speakers.

For more than two years, the Western Joint Management Team (JMT) has focused on working more collaboratively through local and statewide professional learning opportunities. This made the Western JMT, consisting of Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES, Erie 1 BOCES, Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, and Orleans/Niagara BOCES, a valuable partner in executing this program. WNYRIC will also work with Buffalo Public Schools to meet the needs of public, private, parochial, and charter districts across the region.

For more information on the TRLE, check out the website at <https://sites.google.com/e1b.org/rethinkwny/> or follow #rethinkwny on Twitter.

Hilary McAndrew, K-3 art teacher at Mullen and Riverview elementary schools in Tonawanda, teaches to remote students.

Fine-tuned cad

EMM graduate finds success on new path

Akron resident Bill Williams may have decided to take classes at the Erie 1 BOCES Workforce Development Center after a negative event, but it turned out to be one of his most positive experiences in his life.

Williams enrolled at the Cheektowaga-based adult training center in 2016 after losing his job at an automotive company in Niagara County. Now, he works as a level 3 machine repair technician/numeric control specialist at Moog Inc. in East Aurora, and he could not be happier.

“When my job as a service technician got cut, I felt defeated not only because I enjoyed what I

did repairing machinery, but also I have a small family to provide for and I didn’t have a job to be able to do that,” Williams explained.

Having manufacturing experience under his belt already, Williams decided to enroll in the Erie 1 BOCES Electro-Mechanical Maintenance (EMM) program at age 27. His wife Megan came across the program in an online advertisement, and she encouraged him to investigate it further.

“The course description spelled out to me that I didn’t need a conventional apprenticeship to reach my goals, since that was something I was having trouble securing at my previous job,” Williams said. “The options for funding were also so accommodating that it was easy to decide that this was what I was going to do, and enrolling helped propel me toward realizing my ambitions.”

The 600-hour EMM program covers all aspects of working in an industrial setting. Students learn how to troubleshoot, repair and maintain equipment in a wide array of areas, including hydraulics, pneumatics, pipefitting, sheet metal, welding, basic electricity and machining.

Williams enjoyed the educational format of the course, noting every lesson was immersive and hands-on. The individualized setting also helped him master relevant skills, with the instructor spending time assisting every student and having them implement what they just learned. They would even have to troubleshoot situations that were intentionally done incorrectly.

“This was the best instruction method I’ve ever encountered, so much so that I’ve transitioned to taking part in training and developing newer members of my team,” Williams stated. “I use the same methods on a weekly basis, and I still keep my notes from class on my work bench to this day to either reference them or share them to carry out tasks.”

Being able to handle anything is exactly what Moog requires of Williams, and he feels he can deliver thanks to the EMM program. Williams landed a job at the motion control



Bill Williams works to install a mill spindle on a machine.

Two programs, two careers

Aide turned LPN thanks to alma mater



Bill Williams stands in front of the Moog water tower.

manufacturer after revamping his resume and interview skills during the career-seeking segment of the program. An apprenticeship opportunity in Moog's Machine Repair department popped up for Williams, and he immediately applied.

After several interviews, an aptitude test and a skills demonstration, Williams was offered the apprenticeship and began working for Moog the same year he graduated from BOCES. Three years of subsequent on-the-job training led to Williams becoming a tried-and-true machine repair technician, helping maintain the uptime for manufacturing equipment.

"I love being challenged by my work and having the opportunity for constant growth," he said. "Five years into working there, I'm still constantly impressed when our team is always able to find a solution and deliver."

A desire to further her education in the same organization she works for helped fuel Buffalo resident Kelly Klepp's move from aide to licensed practical nurse (LPN) at Erie 1 BOCES.

Klepp is an LPN at Erie 1 BOCES Work Readiness program at Maryvale. She began her career at BOCES as an aide in 2007, having graduated from BOCES Early Childhood Education program at the Harkness Career & Technical Center and Williamsville South High School in 2003.

"While I was an aide, my brother passed away. The compassion the nurses had for him – as well as the compassion I saw in nurses I worked with – motivated me to look into becoming a nurse myself," Klepp explained.

In 2011, while still working as an aide for BOCES, Klepp enrolled in night classes with Erie 1 BOCES Workforce Development division's one-year adult LPN program. She took classes at the Potter Career & Technical Center for the first half of the program, then at Harkness for her second half.

"I liked that it was accelerated, and I liked the hands-on clinicals I had," Klepp stated. "Being in the field was where much of my learning happened."

Klepp spent time for her clinicals at GreenField Health & Rehabilitation Center in Lancaster, the Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) and Catholic Health's St. Joseph Campus in Cheektowaga.

Shortly after receiving her license, Klepp was hired as a combined personal nurse and aide for a classroom at Hamburg High School, where BOCES has a small footprint. Klepp spent some time at the Learning Center for a bit as well before being transferred to her current role at the Work Readiness program four years ago.

"I love the people and the kids I encounter in my job," Klepp noted. "It's rewarding seeing the positive impact on the students, plus you get to see the fruits of your labor."

Klepp had a son in November. She is the leader of her church's grief sharing support group and she enjoys watching Buffalo Bills games.





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Success in EMS

All students in the newly established Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program passed their New York State Certified First Responder (CFR) practical skills exam this past year. For the exam, students were evaluated in five separate skill stations, such as patient assessment, airway management and bleeding control. The seven students in the program all passed on their first attempt for each skill, despite having limited practice time in the classroom due to COVID-19 restrictions.



Students passing their exam include Morgan Brown (Kenmore West), Matthew Kemp (Amherst), Brandon Lysenko (Grand Island), Madison Martinez (Grand Island), Raphaella Palmeri (Kenmore West), Hannah Schroeder (Sweet Home) and Emily Steinberg (Sweet Home).

Join the Alumni Association

If you have graduated from an Erie 1 BOCES instructional program, please sign up to be a free member of our alumni association. By joining, you'll gain access to networking and mentorship opportunities.

www.e1b.org/alumni

