



CHAMPLAIN VALLEY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

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OUR MISSION

Champlain Valley Educational Services empowers students, schools and communities by providing exemplary education, training, support and shared services.

OUR VISION

We aspire to be a nationally recognized, premier provider of dynamic and innovative programs and services, serving as a catalyst for personal and regional economic growth.

OUR CORE BELIEFS

- Students are our first priority.
- We value open and honest communication.
- We embrace collaboration and shared decision-making.
- We promote creativity and innovation.
- All students can learn and be successful.
- We all lead by example.
- We act with integrity, fostering respect for all.
- Students, family and community are valued partners for success.
- We ensure a safe, supportive learning and work environment.
- We all impact the educational process and are dedicated to perform at the highest possible levels.

Public Non-Discrimination Notice:

Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington BOCES a/k/a/ Champlain Valley Educational Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or any other legally protected status in its programs, activities, employment and admissions; and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding this nondiscrimination policy may be directed to:

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The 2021-22 school year has come to an end, and we have so much to be proud of as an organization, serving our schools, component districts, and community throughout our CEWW/CVES BOCES region.

We navigated through yet another year of the COVID-19 Pandemic and combated the challenges presented to us. Our Core Beliefs continued to guide our work and efforts we consistently put forth for our students. They are always our top priority.

Thank you to our CVES Board members, administration, faculty, and staff for your efforts throughout the academic calendar. When you combine the remarkable individuals we have working together at CVES, our Family of Professionals has every component necessary to generate success.

As you will see throughout this publication, CVES continued to evolve and help offer cutting-edge educational opportunities in the North Country. These efforts reach individuals throughout our own BOCES as well as the component districts we support. The abundant connections we proudly hold within our community leave us with all the motivation to continue our mission to provide exemplary education, training, support, and shared services.

Even though the year brought many challenges, the importance of in-person instruction and strong relationships with our students and families enhanced our work, and at the end of the year, we were so proud to celebrate our students' successes. Traditional in-person graduations were held for the first time since 2019, our students created pathways to new opportunities for their futures, and our entire staff contributed to educational excellence.

Our CV-TEC, Special Education, Instructional Services, and Management Services divisions all have fantastic stories to showcase. As we reflect on accomplishments, successes, and celebrations of this year, we also look toward the future and can't wait to see what our next achievements will be.



Mark C. Davey, Ed.D.
District Superintendent/CEO

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

What a year it has been. I want to thank everyone at CVES for their leadership and dedication to education in the North Country. It really is a pleasure to know how many outstanding people we have within our organization.

As CVES Board President, I take great pride in the leadership we provide. More importantly, our entire board takes pride in our students' achievements and the educators who help them reach their goals.

The 2021-22 school year saw all divisions of CVES excel in their own ways, but what resonates the most is how everyone was united with the same goal in mind — putting our students first and making sure we do everything in our power to allow them to make their dreams a reality.

Our CV-TEC and Special Education graduations this year were beautiful endings to what was an extremely challenging year in so many ways. During my graduation speeches, I mentioned why we as Board members fulfill the roles we do. We are not paid for the work we do in the typical sense, but we still have a "Pay Day" when our students graduate and move on to the next chapters of their lives.

The CVES Board fully supports the continued growth of our organization and all the programs that it offers. We are excited to see what the future has in store and confident that the coming year will be one filled with positivity, collaboration, and success.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael St. Pierre".

Michael St. Pierre
CVES Board President



**Amara
Corrigan**

Two CV-TEC Students Place First at SkillsUSA Championships

CV-TEC Division

SYRACUSE — Multiple CV-TEC students made memories of a lifetime recently at the annual New York State SkillsUSA Championships held in Syracuse.

Peru Central School's Amara Corrigan (Early Childhood Education) and Schroon Lake Central School's Shelbie Rice (Allied Health) took home first-place awards at this year's SkillsUSA competition, and they went on to represent New York State at the SkillsUSA National Conference in Atlanta Georgia, from June 20 to June 24.

SkillsUSA is a student leadership organization for students training in

trade, industrial and health occupations with over 300,000 members nationwide, and the 2022 New York event showcased 3,500 participants.

"We have extraordinarily talented students who are making a name for themselves, CV-TEC and the North Country," Director of Career and Technical Education at CV-TEC Michele Friedman said. "We are so excited for both Amara and Shelbie and all of our students that competed this year. I am not surprised about their success in the least because the talent here is so rich."

For the two students headed to Nationals, they were not satisfied just to



**Shelbie
Rice**



be going. They had high expectations that they wanted to meet.

"I am going there to win," Corrigan said after taking the gold in the New York competition. "I am not satisfied just being there. I figure if I make the trip, I might as well make the most out of it and try and win it all. I am not taking this opportunity lightly."

Rice shared the same sentiment ahead of the national competition.

"I can't wait to get down there," Rice said. "I know I will be competing against the best of the best, and I have been studying each day to get ready. It's getting closer and closer each day, and I am extremely motivated."

NEW YORK COMPETITION

Corrigan's winning simulation featured an infant CPR demonstration, which is one of the first things Early Childhood Education students learn in their program.

"I explained what infant CPR was and detailed all the steps," Corrigan said. "I did two full cycles of infant CPR and then wrapped it up with my conclusion."

Corrigan first showcased her skills in front of two judges followed by a second round with six judges before she received a callback saying she was one of six finalists in the state.

Rice followed the same winning path as Corrigan, but with her own simulation in nurse assisting.

Her demonstration included transferring a patient from bed to wheelchair, emptying urinary drainage, and

identifying anatomy and physiology.

"This was my first time getting to go compete in person, so being able to travel and getting to compete against people instead of doing it virtually was amazing," Rice said.

THE WINNING NOTICE

Both Rice and Corrigan were absolutely thrilled when they found out they won first place.

"I don't think it set in right away," Rice said. "It took me about three days to really enjoy the fact that I won as funny as that might sound. To get that acknowledgement from New York SkillsUSA was an honor."

Corrigan enjoyed that same feeling, and back at the Plattsburgh Campus, the timing could not have been better in terms of everyone finding out she won.

"They were livestreaming the event from the award ceremony, so we all had our livestream feeds on," Friedman said.

"We were just listening and going about our business. While there was an announcement being made on the Plattsburgh Campus, that was when Amara's name was called. We all just erupted with screaming and yelling over the loudspeaker as someone else was making an announcement."

There was pure pandemonium shared across the Plattsburgh and Mineville CV-TEC campuses when the winners were announced, and it was not just Rice and Corrigan that made everyone proud.

CV-TEC sent 38 students to compete at

this year's SkillsUSA competition, and seven additional students received second-place honors.

Moriah's Zoe Olcott (New Visions Medical), Keene's Lacey Lawrence (Culinary Arts Management) and Keene's Nevin Dockery (Cosmetology) all captured second-place finishes.

Four more Cosmetology students including Zainab Gondel (Crown Point), Isabella Phillips (Crown Point), Miranda Tompkins (Crown Point) and Corey Valentin (Boquet Valley) also took home second place in the Cosmetology Knowledge Bowl.

SUPPORT FROM CVES FAMILY

Supporting these students is the Champlain Valley Educational Services' Board and Administration Team as well as the CV-TEC SkillsUSA Advisor Team comprised of Co-Lead Advisors Nicole Santaniello and Jackie Dashnaw as well as Donna Wyant, Bevan Gertsch-Cochran, Jen Parker, Shawn Ryan, Kimberly Lincoln, Todd Menia and Maria Spadafora.

The Advisor Team and the entire CV-TEC staff who prepared these students for SkillsUSA are proud and look forward to continuing to support Rice and Corrigan in their futures.

"These opportunities are outstanding for our students," Friedman said. "What this demonstrates is your zip code does not equal your skills. The students of the North Country are extraordinarily talented and can showcase their abilities and stand up to that talent from different tech centers in New York and across the country."



CV-TEC Students Back in Action at New York State Conservation Competition

CV-TEC Division

PAUL SMITHS — Since this school year started, Jen Parker has wanted her students to feel like they are having as normal of an educational experience as possible.

As everyone knows, the pandemic changed the way schools operate and took away certain opportunities and events. But Parker, Co-Teacher in the CV-TEC Environmental Conservation & Forestry program, along with others, helped break down previously existing obstacles.

A perfect example of these efforts was seen at the New York State Conservation Competition held this May at Paul Smith's College.

"As a teacher, you want to have as many opportunities available to students," Parker said. "You want them to embrace the opportunities put in front of them and run with it. Our students did just that at the competition and took away valuable experiences."

The New York State Conservation competition started in 1985 and

provides conservation students the opportunity to visit educational institutions and earn future scholarships as they continue their education.

More than 200 high school students across New York from 15 technical centers participated in 28 different events at Paul Smith's College.

These events covered a wide variety of skills from hands-on equipment operations, chainsaw operations, surveying, forestry, hand tools and more. Several events test their knowledge in areas such as tree and wildlife identification.

This was the first year the competition was held since the pandemic began, so there was certainly plenty of renewed energy and excitement.

MOTIVATED PLANNERS

In collaboration with Paul Smith's, CV-TEC hosted this year's event and began the planning process in January.

CV-TEC Event Winners

First Place

Tyler Driscoll (Fire Build, AuSable Valley), Lucas James (Fire Build, Beekmantown), Alaina Denton (Pulp Throw-Distance, Boquet Valley), Evan Manor (J & J Crosscut, Northeastern Clinton), Kalan Chase (J & J Crosscut, Northern Adirondack), Travis Hunsdon (Bulldozer Backfill, CV-TEC Mineville), Jack Ives (Compass & Pace, CV-TEC Mineville).

Second Place

Ty Spoor (J & J Crosscut, Northern Adirondack), Alaina Denton (J & J Crosscut, Boquet Valley), Alaina Denton (Tree ID, Bouquet Valley), Ryan LaFountain (Bulldozer Trenching, CV-TEC Mineville), Kade Gilbo (Tree Falling, CV-TEC Mineville), Dava Marcil (Compass & Pace, CV-TEC Mineville), Alec Young (Land Judging, CV-TEC Mineville), Dava Marcil (Land Judging, CV-TEC Mineville).

Third Place

Ty Spoor (Crosscut, Northern Adirondack), Evan Manor (Crosscut, Northeastern Clinton), Thomas Richard (J & J Peavey Log Roll, Northeastern Clinton), Alaina Denton (J & J Peavey Log Roll, Boquet Valley), Alivia Meech (Differential Leveling, Peru), Kalan Chase (Differential Leveling, Northern Adirondack), Alivia Meech (Compass & Pace, Peru), Ryan LaFountain (Pulp Throw-Distance, CV-TEC Mineville), Joe Maye (Fire Build, CV-TEC Mineville), Carter Hart (Fire Build, CV-TEC Mineville).

Fourth Place

Will Sprague (Team Pulp Throw, AuSable Valley), Jon King (Team Pulp Throw, Northern Adirondack), Thomas Richard (Team Pulp Throw, Northeastern Clinton), Tyler Ero (Team Pulp Throw, Plattsburgh), Tyler Driscoll (Axe Throw, AuSable Valley), Tyler Driscoll (Land Judging, AuSable Valley), Andrew Lapier (Compass & Pace, Northeastern Clinton), Jon King (Log Skidder, Northern Adirondack), Joe Maye (Crosscut, CV-TEC Mineville), Jordan Sprague (Crosscut, CV-TEC Mineville), Jordan Sprague (Bow Saw, CV-TEC Mineville).

Fifth Place

Will Sprague (Peavey Log Roll, AuSable Valley), Jon King (Peavey Log Roll, Northern Adirondack), Alaina Denton (Log Skidder, Boquet Valley), Ty Spoor (Mini-Excavator, Northern Adirondack), Leon Crowningshield (Backhoe, AuSable Valley), Lucas James (Bulldozer Backfill, Beekmantown), Caleb Ross-Tierney (Bulldozer Log Roll, CV-TEC Mineville).

Honorable Mention

Alesia Martineau (Peru), Caleb Burdo (Beekmantown), Donovan Garrow (Northeastern Clinton).



“Our main goal was to get these kids back into it,” Parker said. “Not only was it good for them, it was good for us as well as teachers.”

The organizers wanted to make sure the event was improved and offered students cutting-edge opportunities to showcase their skills, which in some cases were quite literal depending on the event one may be referencing.

“Every year we start the planning process, and we have always been so supported by the school administration,” Parker said. “We are grateful for that. It just exemplifies that students are our first priority.”

SUCCESSFUL EVENT

There were plenty of winners from both

the CV-TEC Plattsburgh Campus class taught by Parker and Josh Pierce and the CV-TEC Mineville Campus class taught by Chris Huchro and Erik Manning. The teachers were proud of their students, and several CV-TEC CTE and academic teachers were involved in the planning and implementation of these successful events.

“Our students walked away feeling like they were very successful,” Parker said. “It just shows in the results. I don’t think they realized the importance of it until it was done. The only knowledge they had was what we could simulate beforehand. Going in and not knowing, they had to take a risk and step out of their comfort zone. That was pretty rewarding for them on its own.”

To make the event even better, Paul Smith’s College handed out over \$54,000 in scholarships to event winners.

Laying the foundation for future educational success is what the contest centers itself on, and there is sure to be continued success at next year’s event that will be held at SUNY Cobleskill.

“We are so happy that we got to get back to some normalcy,” Parker said. “What is the most rewarding aspect of all this is the success and learning experiences our students had. At the end of the day, that’s what matters the most. We want to provide the chances for them that open pathways and allow for endless opportunities.”



CV-TEC Top 5

CORRECTIONS PROGRAM GIVING SECOND CHANCES

OneWorkSource continues to add new programs, and one of its latest helps provide a second chance. The Corrections Education Program (CEP) operates in the Clinton and Essex County jails with the goal of lowering recidivism rates. It is emerging as a model for implementation across the state. The robust services provided within the program are resulting in reduced sentences and a more streamlined and comprehensive transition back into society. The program prepares students for community re-entry through education, work-readiness instruction and pre-release preparation. The services, which are grant funded at no cost to the community, improve inmates' quality of life in jail, while also extending well beyond their eventual release back into the community.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES BACK IN FULL FORCE

For the first time since 2019, CV-TEC's Plattsburgh and Mineville campuses as well as its OneWorkSource Adult Literacy Program held graduations with no COVID-19 restrictions, and there was a record-high graduating class. The end-of-year ceremonies allowed students to cap off the year in the proper fashion with their families and loved ones in attendance to support them as they celebrate their educational accomplishments. For Plattsburgh students, ceremonies returned to the SUNY Plattsburgh Field House, while Mineville students celebrated in Moriah's auditorium. This was a welcome change from the virtual celebrations of the past two years. For the High School Equivalency Diploma graduates, OneWorkSource was able to hold an in-person celebration at the CVES Conference Center for the first time since 2019.

COMMUNITY RELATION TOOLS BROUGHT BACK

There was a sense of normalcy within CV-TEC buildings this year. Regular events such as the annual plant sale and the cosmetology clinic returned in addition to the Early Childhood Education program's pre-school. CV-TEC takes pride in immersing itself within the community and helping showcase learning pathways. The "Seed to Sale" event was hosted by the Environmental Conservation & Forestry program, which engaged with community members that came right to the school and helped notch record sales. The Cosmetology program greatly benefited from its live-client clinic that gave students practical experience, and the pre-school program did much of the same providing real-world experience for the Early Childhood Education students.

AUTHENTIC STEM PROJECT THRIVES

After being tasked with a real-life engineering problem for Schluter-Systems LP, CV-TEC students from the New Visions: Applied Engineering program, and students from the University of Seigen in Germany, spent 4 months collaborating to find a solution. The Authentic STEM project was a success, as four Mineville Campus students and seven more from Plattsburgh collaborated with their German counterparts to develop a prototype Schluter-Systems LP will most likely build and implement into its manufacturing processes. This alone was a huge success, but even greater news now has developed as CV-TEC students in the program are moving on to incredible schools. If anyone wonders what schools those might be, just some include Cornell, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Clarkson, and Barnard College of Columbia.

Body of Work: Tedford honored before retirement

CV-TEC Division

PLATTSBURGH — CV-TEC Automotive Collision Repair Teacher, Mr. Thomas Tedford has been selected as the 2022 CTE Teacher Recipient of the Special Recognition Award from the New York State Association of Career & Technical Education Administrators (ACTEA).

The award is designed to recognize special contributions to Career & Technical Education by its members and professionals who have furthered the aims and objectives for youth and adults in New York State.

In nominating Tedford, Adam Facticeau, CV-TEC Main Campus Principal had plenty to say about the longtime CV-TEC teacher, noting how he is a well-organized and self-motivated teacher who grasps every opportunity to learn and widen his scope of CTE knowledge.

"In addition to going above and beyond in his duties as a teacher, Mr. Tedford is a regional faculty leader providing valuable insight and trainings at the Statewide-BOCES-Assessment for Auto Collision Repair and as a SkillsUSA advisor, judge, and proud teacher of many regional award winners," Facticeau said.

TIME TO REFLECT

When asked if this well-deserved award represented a "Lifetime Achievement Award" in honor of his 30-plus years as a teacher, the soon-to-be-retired Tedford said it encompasses all his time at CV-TEC.

"I would say that it would be mainly for my whole 30 years here by far," Tedford said. "Kind of like the culmination of all of that body of work. There are many other deserving teachers within this organization, within the state that do some amazing work with kids."

Tedford's time at CV-TEC created plenty of memories for himself as well as all the students

he impacted along the way.

“The past 30 years have been incredibly good to me here — no doubt about it,” Tedford said. “I would never change a thing, but it’s time to move on.”

FUTURE PLANS

Tedford may be retiring from his busy job, but he certainly already has plans for his upcoming free time.

“I’d like to do some travelling,” Tedford said. “I’ve just purchased a sawmill, and I’ll cut some of my own lumber. I have had a small business on the side doing construction work, and I’ll get back into that. I’m pretty active and I like to stay busy, and I have many other talents than just in the automotive field.”

There have been just two Auto Collision teachers since the program began. The first was Carl Schweigert, who retired in 1992. The second is Tedford, and a search is on for his replacement.

A LEGACY TO REMEMBER

Michele Friedman, CVES Director of Career and Technical Education said Tedford has left quite a legacy with CV-TEC and big shoes to fill.

“Mr. Tedford has been a pillar of the CV-TEC Division for 30 years,” Friedman said. “His

CDL-B OPPORTUNITIES INCREASING

CDL-B opportunities continue to expand for CV-TEC’s Adult Education program. For decades, CV-TEC has been the leading provider of exemplary CDL Tractor Trailing Driver Education in the North Country. CDL-A training has been a staple within the organization, and CDL-B training opportunities is helping meet the increasing demands for North Country businesses to address the nationwide shortage of drivers. Casella Waste Management and Upstone Materials graciously donated two trucks each to CV-TEC to help CDL training, and Assemblyman Billy Jones helped facilitate funds in the amount of \$125,000 for another tractor trailer to be purchased to boost training opportunities. With enrollment already booming, CV-TEC’s CDL training is expected to continue growing and serving the North Country.

expertise in the field and as an educator has had an extraordinary impact on his students, his colleagues, and his industry affiliates. We are so proud to have the opportunity to celebrate Mr. Tedford’s commitment and dedication to CTE Education with such a prestigious award.”

Reflecting on his CV-TEC experiences, Tedford said spending time with student organizations like SkillsUSA and the National Technical Honor Society stick out.

“I was fortunate over the years to have students place or win at the state level, competing against 45 other students,” Tedford said. “Four or five years ago, one of my students won the NYS skills competition, and Mr. Mark Brown and I went with him to Louisville, Kentucky, where he competed in the Nationals. That was an enormously proud moment.”

THERE FOR ALL STUDENTS

Students have come to Tedford’s Automotive Collision Repair program with widely varying levels of technical skills, and his top goal has always been to bring all his students to the level where they can move on to employment or further specialized training.

“Mr. Tedford and I have known each other for a long time,” CVES District Superintendent Dr. Mark Davey said. “On a personal note, I want to share with you that Mr. Tedford and I went to high school together. Now to tell you how old we are, I believe it was about 45 years ago.

“His commitment to his students and genuine passion for the educational process is one that is admirable and inspiring for us all at CVES.”

Always one to change it up and keep his students working with the latest equipment and techniques, Tedford has seen an incredible amount of change over his 30 years at CV-TEC. When he began, students were expected to become a jack-of-all-trades, learning every aspect of auto body repair.

Today, both the students and potential employers are looking for specialization.

“Employers are coming in here offering over \$20 an hour to start,” Tedford said. “I mean, I worked 25 years before I made \$20 an hour. Everything that they learn here goes along with the manufacturing jobs that we have in the area with Bombardier, Nova Bus, and others. These skills are transferable. I usually tell these kids that you don’t have to go work in a dealership or a body shop, you have skills that you will be able to take to many different places.”





Food for Thought: Cafeteria Management Co-Ser Saving Money While Increasing Nutritional Value

Management Services Division

PLATTSBURGH — Prioritizing nutrition and nourishment while saving money sounds like a pretty tasty concept, right?

Well, that’s exactly what the Cafeteria Management Co-Ser (642) provides at CVES.

Led by the Management Services Division, the Co-Ser brings high-quality, nutritional meals made from scratch to students daily and consistently meets the nutritional needs of students in the hopes of maximizing potential for children’s health, wellness and learning.

“The skills and talents in these kitchens are very impressive and something I am very proud of,” Assistant Superintendent of Management Services Eric Bell said. “At the end of the day, it’s a program that every school district should have to meet the nutritional needs of our students.”

SPREADING THE NEWS

The Cafeteria Management team of Julie Holbrook, Jocelyn Lopez, Sadie Kaltenbach and K’Cee Leavine, along

with Bell, recently presented about the program at the 2022 Rural Schools Association Conference, and there was plenty to showcase.

Component districts currently enrolled in the Co-Ser include Boquet Valley, Keene, Moriah, Plattsburgh, Schroon Lake and Willsboro. In addition, both the CVES Plattsburgh and Mineville campuses are offering the services.

In all, there are currently 13 campuses with over 3,700 students reaping the benefits of these healthy foods.

“With this system, we are not serving processed food or warming food up,” Bell said. “We are actually cooking in the kitchens, and we are making incredible strides to enhance our services every day.”

SAVING MONEY

There’s a common misconception that meals made from scratch are pricy, but that narrative has worn out its welcome.

“I have to say one of the favorites of

our students is the pizza,” said Angela Provost, CVES Cook Manager at the Plattsburgh Special Education Campus.

With it being a favorite, some might wonder what the costs of the pizza may be.

The numbers are eye-opening when you compare homemade pizza versus frozen pizza for 2,000 students given out 40 times a year.

Frozen premade pepperoni pizzas for that number of students would cost \$99,200 according to CVES data, while homemade pepperoni pizzas at the same number cost \$17,856, which means cost savings for homemade pizzas are \$81,344 per year.

And while that’s just an example of a cost-saving measure for a meal, here’s some recorded numbers CVES holds for how a local district with 1,800 students was impacted.

This school district transitioned meal programs in July 2021. During the first year, there were 111,575 breakfasts and 164,997 lunches served, which was a combined 118,565 more than the year prior.

The overall federal and state reimbursement grew by \$518,995, and the net income financial growth in one year of over \$300,000.

“The transition to the program is hard work and very challenging because it’s hard to break the mindset of, ‘Well this is the way we have always done it,’” Bell said. “Once you get past that, however, there’s unlimited possibility, which is one of the biggest incentives of them all.”

FOOD CONNECTION

Beyond the dollars and cents, one key component to the program centers on creating an environmentally friendly cafeteria that welcomes all students.

"I really enjoy being in the kitchen and making sure these kids are receiving nutritional meals," Provost said. "I used to work in a classroom, so to be able to have the connection with the students this way now is something I value."

Provost said she enjoys the nutritional value of the program, as it strives to provide all the nutrients students need to be sound in body, mind and emotions in two meals.

As the Cafeteria Management initiative continues to grow and evolve, the foundation and principles of how it operates remains constant.

"Participation goes through the roof because the food smells good and tastes good," Bell said.

"The talent we have in our kitchens may be one of our most untold successes in our organization. It's time everyone knows about what's happening in these kitchens and the leadership CVES provides."



Management Services Top 5

NEW PURCHASES ARRIVING TO CVES

During the 2021-2022 school year, CVES successfully processed 2,053 purchase orders. As the organization continues to grow, purchasing proves to be an essential component to operations. Purchasing Agent Stephanie Trombley along with Accounts Payable Specialists Jessica Lagree and Dee Akin are always hard at work making sure all divisions' purchases are processed, and their incredible efforts are valued.

WELLNESS CHALLENGE

The CEWW 2021-2022 Wellness Challenge was a fantastic success. The consortium teamed up with Empire to provide employees and their families with a wide range of activities as a platform to boost health. There were 917 participants who took part in this school year's challenges, which included Elbow Planking (November), Healthy Meals Month (December), Step Count (January), Biggest Loser Weigh-In (January-June), Yoga (February), Free Throws (March), Push-ups (April), 5K Run/Walk (May), Pick Your Favorite Challenge (June). Various prizes for the Wellness Challenge included fit bits, gym memberships, yoga certificates, Sonicare Toothbrushes, meal service subscriptions, ski packages, Water Pic Ultras, snowshoes, cruiser bikes, hiking packages, farmer's market vouchers, mountain bikes and a Nordic Trac Studio Cycle exercise bike.

HUMAN RESOURCES GROWTH AND IMPROVEMENT

During the 2021-2022 school year, Human Resources successfully recruited and hired 110 employees to join CVES. As the organization evolves, more and more high-quality employees are needed at CVES. Human Resources Specialists Laura Sterling and Erin Keefe led the way with new-hire initiatives, and the recruitment processes have improved through a digitization of operations and filings, revamped application processes, digitization of new-hire paperwork, and development of an exit-interview written survey option.

CAPITAL PROJECT ON TIME AND UNDER BUDGET

CVES successfully concluded Phase I of its \$29.85 million Capital Project during the 2021-2022 school year. The entire organization and all three of its campuses were impacted by the project that was executed on time and under budget. Being under budget has allowed CVES to advance with Phase II of the project in the amount of \$8.2 million.

LABOR RELATIONS SERVICE BACK IN BUSINESS

CVES was proud to welcome Joseph Coakley to the organization as its Director of Labor Relations in the summer of 2021. Coakley brings a wealth of experience as an administrator in the area, and rather than having his skillsets impact one district, he now serves CVES and component districts. The Labor Relations Department currently supports six districts, and Coakley has proved to be a tremendous resource to the entire area.

Drive-Up COVID Testing Site Supports Region

Management Services Division

PLATTSBURGH — In the heart of a frigid winter, Champlain Valley Educational Services opened a drive-up PCR testing site for COVID-19.

It was January 14, 2022, to be exact when CVES began offering K-12 staff and students in Clinton County the opportunity to take a self-administered Quadrant oral swab test right in the parking lot for the recently renovated Conference Center.

Funded through Clinton County's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) School Funding Grant, 1,032 tests were administered at the site at no cost to participants.

"The core leadership group at CVES of District Superintendent Dr. Mark Davey, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Amy Campbell and Assistant Superintendent of Management Services Eric Bell were instrumental in forming and implementing the drive-up testing site," CVES Covid Testing Coordinator Randy Lozier said. "Their guidance through this process was immeasurable."

WHAT IT WAS FOR

The drive-up COVID-19 testing site's purpose was to help take the pressure off other local testing sites in the area. The organization and its officials aimed for this service to make it possible for students and staff throughout Clinton County school districts to receive quick results that allow them to continue going to school and work.

The site had six lanes, and anyone eligible was able to schedule an appointment by accessing an online portal designed and implemented by the CVES Communications team.

"The Clinton County Department of Health was always emphasizing how important our drive-up testing was due to the fact that the local testing sites were overwhelmed," Lozier said. "I am confident that we eased the burden of testing sites in the area."

THE TEAM

The site operated for roughly three months and an additional week in April to continue providing much-needed testing in the area.

Connor Coty and Kiley Regan assisted in running the testing site as part of Lozier's COVID response team.

"Connor and Kiley were instrumental in making the site a success," Lozier said. "Despite the frigid temperatures and harsh elements on certain days, we never closed the site due to weather or extreme temperatures, which shows the veracity of our staff and

their willingness to ensure the plan was executed to its fullest potential.

"Along with our school nurses, this would not have been nearly as successful as it would have concluded to be."

In addition to those individuals, Lozier said former CVES Health, Risk and Safety Management Director Jeff Sisson, who became Clinton County Health Department Director in May, played

a paramount role as his knowledge and experience on both sides enabled all involved to fulfill the intent of drive-up testing seamlessly.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Including the CVES site, the COVID testing team successfully administered 10,815 tests during the 2021-2022 academic calendar in various school buildings to accommodate New York State testing mandates.

"We knew our job was to keep our students and staff as safe as possible to ensure in-person learning could continue, and we always wanted to make sure we fulfilled our responsibility," Lozier said.

Testing mandates entering the 2022-2023 school year are different than a year prior, but CVES's determination to provide the best services possible to its community remains the same.

"Even though our drive-up testing has concluded and current state mandates don't require unvaccinated employees to be tested, CVES is ready, willing and able to assist if the Clinton County Health Department requests our services in the continuance of the ELC grant."





A Graduation Ceremony Together

Special Education Division

PLATTSBURGH — There are few moments that top graduation here at CVES.

The Special Education division's ceremony this year was unique and made life-long memories.

For the first time, the Plattsburgh and Mineville campuses came together to have one big graduation at E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium at SUNY Plattsburgh.

Unique circumstances led to the joint ceremony since there was just one graduate from the Yandon-Dillon Center. Even if this ends up being the only time a graduation of this kind takes place, everyone will cherish the experience.

"These young adults were so excited and just beside themselves," Yandon-Dillon Special Education Principal Dr. Grace Stay said. "They were so excited and really taking in that special day. The formality and beauty of the setting really spoke to them. The ceremony was gorgeous and perfect."

THE NEXT CHAPTER

During his closing remarks, District Superintendent of Champlain Valley Educational Services Dr. Mark Davey asked our graduates to remember their successes and always know they will have a home at CVES.

He continued by saying everyone is excited to see where the graduates'

journeys take them next. Then came the most exciting moment of them all — moving their tassels from the right side of their caps to the left making their graduation official.

This marked the moment all the graduates as well as their families and teachers had been waiting for.

"The real amazing part about our graduation day is it's really personalized based on the challenges our students have to overcome and the successes they have taken in during their journeys," Director of Special Education Matt Slattery said.

"I loved every part about the day. The fact we were able to bring our campuses together this year was even better. The ceremony was sign of achievement and a chance to dream about bright futures."

A RETURN TO NORMALCY

For the first time since 2019, this year's graduation was held with no COVID-19 restrictions. All family members could be present, and students received full support from their component districts with many school superintendents, principals and CSE chairs attending the event.

For Samuel Anderson (Boquet Valley), the lone graduate from Yandon-Dillon in Mineville, joining what is traditionally the ceremony for the William A. Fritz

Center in Plattsburgh was a perfect fit.

"During his time with CVES, he actually spent time in Plattsburgh as well as Mineville, so he knew all these students he was graduating with," Dr. Stay said. "I am very glad it worked out the way it did. His family was extremely happy with the unique circumstances, and we were so happy for Sam."

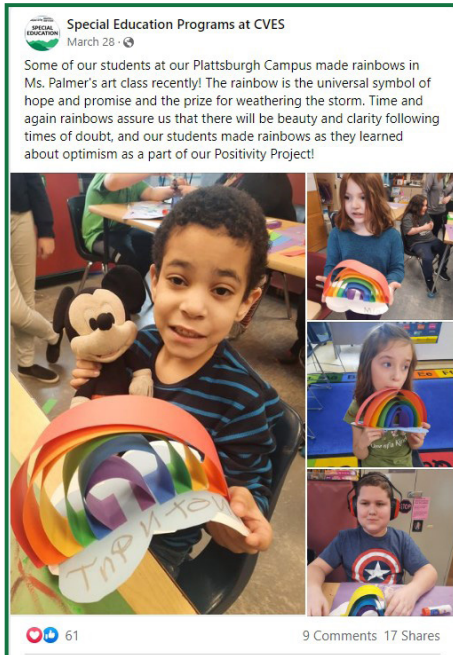
Anderson was joined by many other graduates from the Plattsburgh campus on stage including Elizabeth Boyle (Boquet Valley), Daniel Desourdy (Saranac), Tyler Houghtaling (Northern Adirondack), Wyatt King (Northern Adirondack), Jesse Maloney (Saranac), Karen McKee (Peru), Dustin Mesek (Beekmantown), Nicholas Miller (Beekmantown), Keisha Niles (Willsboro), and Izabella Savage (Northeastern Clinton).

"The most amazing part of our graduation day is how it is personalized to each of our graduates and the challenges they have overcome in their educational journey with us at CVES," Slattery said.

"I loved every part about the day. The fact we were able to bring our campuses together this year was even better. The ceremony was a sign of achievement and a chance to dream about bright futures."

Special Education Increases Social Media Presence

Special Education Division



PLATTSBURGH — Showcasing the great events happening within the CVES Special Education Division is not challenging.

Why, might you wonder?

Well, it's simply because students' lives are being positively impacted every day.

In the beginning of December, Director of Special Education Matt Slattery and Communications and Publications Manager Joey LaFranca started to talk about increasing the division's social media presence.

What was originally casual conversation became much more.

"When I joined CVES in late November, one of my first conversations with Matt involved how to boost social media presence," LaFranca said. "I quickly saw how many amazing things were happening in these schools and wanted to showcase the great work of our staff, students and everyone involved in Special Education."

PLANS BECOME REALITY

It was not long before posts started to roll out on Facebook, and the social

media response was fantastic.

The main goal focused on showcasing the wide range of services offered within Special Education and reaching students' families.

"We have loved the response we have seen from posting content on our Facebook page," Slattery said. "While posting on Facebook certainly is not a new idea, this type of social media strategy was a new adventure for us and something we certainly look forward to continuing."

Posts started as a once-a-week campaign beginning in February and eventually increased to two posts a week as the academic calendar moved toward June.

Slattery did not want to rush the process and opted to take small steps and observe the social media response.

One interesting component of the campaign was establishing target audiences.

"Some might say the obvious answer is students, but our main target audiences are actually the students' families and loved ones as well as our staff and community," LaFranca said.

"We want to give our students' families a chance to see what their children are up to throughout the day. At the same time, it's fantastic for our teachers and staff to see different aspects of their jobs shared so they can take pride in what they do."

CONTENT CREATION

As great as the new social media plans were at the start, there needed to be content to make any strategies come to fruition.

That has turned out to be one of the plan's most enjoyable aspects.

"Since we started this, there have been a number of times where I have reached out to Joey and said, 'Hey! We have some great Facebook content from our staff here to post,'" Slattery said.

"There have been other times where we have coordinated with Joey for him to go to our Plattsburgh or Mineville campuses to take photos of different events happening."

Whether it's sharing photos of students in classrooms, on the playground or working in the North Country community, there are so many excellent scenes to be captured and shared.

Anytime LaFranca works with the division, he shares his photos with Assistant to the Director of Special Education Angie Lecuyer who clarifies what students have photo clearances.

"Once Angie tells me which students have photo clearances, those photos are getting posted right away," LaFranca said. "Angie and I make a great team making sure the students are cleared, and honestly, this has become one of the favorite parts of my job. I love capturing the smiles of the students and everything happening in Special Education."

In addition to photos, social media has also



been used to share school newsletters, infographics and other pertinent information pertaining to the division.

So as the new school year approaches, be on the lookout for more posts on Facebook and stay tuned to see what could be next.

"We are excited to continue this project in the 2022-23 school year because we know we have a foundation of success we can build from," Slattery said.

"I am thankful for the team that we have to make this happen, and even more importantly, I am thankful we have amazing students and staff who make it easy to share the successes of Special Education."



Special Education Top 5

SUNY PLATTSBURGH PARTNERSHIP CREATED WITH EDUCATION STUDENTS

This spring, the Special Education Division developed a partnership with SUNY Plattsburgh to be implemented this fall. The partnership will bring an estimated 60 sophomores in the college's education program to our campus for two half-day sessions. These sessions will allow students to learn about BOCES, tour buildings, observe in classrooms and much more. The goal will be to retain a certain number of students for the following year, expand upon their experiences with CVES and bolster potential candidates to join the staff.

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM CONTINUES SUCCESS

The Extended School Year Program continues to provide regional students opportunities to maintain skills learned during the school year in a fun, engaging, and community-based experience. Planning for the 2022 summer program started in May and continues through July 4, when the program begins. This year's program features a weekly STEAM project, exposure to goat therapy, and various summer-themed activities organized by the outstanding PBIS Committee.

A NEW POST-GRADUATE OPPORTUNITY

During the 2021-22 school year, preparations began to create an exciting post-graduate program that is anticipated to be offered to students as soon as the fall. For the first time in 10 years, we expect to run a BOCES program in a component district. Plattsburgh City School District and its Duken Building will play host to students working to attain their CDOS credential, while simultaneously building independence and working within our community.

END OF YEAR FIELD DAY CELEBRATIONS

After having end-of-school-year festivities affected the last few years by the pandemic, there were no restrictions for field days at the Plattsburgh and Mineville campuses in 2022. The pure joy and happiness of students and staff are what these days are all about. Whether it was the food, games, face painting, bouncy houses or other fun activities, everyone had a blast.

NEW PRINCIPAL AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN PLATTSBURGH

The Special Education division is pleased to welcome Diane Thompson to CVES where she will serve as the building principal for the William A. Fritz Center. She joins with 26 years of experience within Special Education in South Carolina, along with previous teaching and leadership experiences in the North Country. Additionally, the division is proud to announce the addition of Crystal Rhino as an assistant building principal. She has spent 14 years at the Plattsburgh campus as a teacher.

A Team of Livestreamers Together on Graduation Day

Instructional Services Division

PLATTSBURGH — Graduation day is exciting for so many reasons, but what happens behind the scenes can also be fascinating.

On Friday, June 24, our Communications Department was right in the heart of graduation season and pulled off an exciting feat — livestreaming five component district graduation ceremonies happening all at once at five separate locations.

“The planning, teamwork and ability to adjust to situations on the fly was remarkable as we prepared for all these graduations and then produced the livestreams,” CVES Communications and Publications Manager Joey LaFranca said.

“This was one of those times where our team really came together, and I could not be prouder of how we served our school districts.”

GRADUATION

The graduation night featured ceremonies at AuSable Valley, Peru, Plattsburgh, Saranac and Willsboro.

Communications and Publications Coordinator Matt Smith was stationed at Saranac, while Publications Specialists Megan Manson and Eddie Vega were at AuSable Valley and Peru, respectively.

LaFranca was stationed in Willsboro, and the Communications Department even



received assistance from CVES Computer Specialist Ted Santaniello who attended the Plattsburgh ceremony.

“To receive the help we did from Ted shows what is special about CVES,” LaFranca said. “We only have four full-time members in our department, so we were looking for some assistance. Ted stepped up and was happy to help us. That allowed the night to be a huge success.”

PREPARATION

Leading up to the district graduations, the Communications Department also livestreamed graduation ceremonies for both the Plattsburgh and Mineville CV-TEC campuses as well as OneWorkSource Adult Literacy.

Throughout the month of June, Manson did an excellent job making sure all livestream links were set up correctly, and Vega created excellent graphics for all the ceremonies.

Vega even made sure to hold a livestream refresher course for Open Broadcaster Software (OBS) with the communications team and Santaniello, which was great practice before the big night.

“I was so impressed with everyone and their determination to be prepared as possible for these ceremonies,” LaFranca said. “At the end of the day, this is all about our students, their families and our component districts. We want to always provide a great service to them.”

A FANTASTIC NIGHT

After a great night of hard work, it was extremely satisfying for the entire Communications Department to know all the graduations were successfully recorded.

One by one, each member of the team signed off for the night and told each other their streams were over and ceremonies had concluded.

“My graduation finished up last at Willsboro, but throughout the night, I got to see communication from our entire team in our group chat saying their graduations were over and everything was a success,” LaFranca said.

“That was awesome to see and truly a great end to the week. The night certainly showed us what we are capable of, and we look forward to expanding upon our communications services in the future.”



Instructional Services

Top 5

TECH CO-SER KEEPS EVOLVING

The Instructional Technology Co-Ser continues to expand. With Network and Systems Coordinator Alex St. Pierre providing fantastic leadership, he now has a staff totaling 15 professionals. Four new component districts have enrolled in the Co-Ser's services. The service supports 12 total districts with the integration of technology into curriculum by providing technology planning, technical support, regional curriculum and staff development coordination, software and hardware professional development, and optimum technology and tool purchasing.

SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEMS INCREASING OFFERINGS

For the 2021-22 school year, School Library Systems led by Susanne Ford-Croghan and Sue Lefebvre received grant funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in the amount of \$9,500. This was used to purchase new e-books to increase the diversity of reading selections offered to students and staff in component districts. Diversity audits were performed before and after the funding was utilized, and the audits showed a significant increase in diversity, which marked a success for the implementation from CVES.

CONFERENCE CENTER SHOWCASED

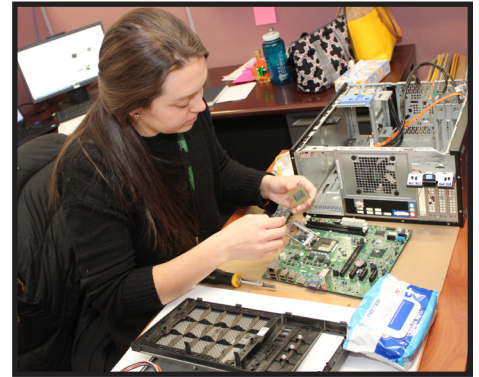
CVES had its new Conference Center area on display this year, and the Clinton, Essex, Warren and Washington rooms were put to excellent use. A total of 81 sessions were held with a combined 737 participants making the most of the new facilities. ISC is always prepared to organize professional development opportunities and excited to host future gatherings in the North Country.

SECTION VII HOLDS FULL YEAR OF CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the first time since the 2018-19 school year, Section VII successfully held all its championship events. Due to the pandemic, championships were either entirely canceled or held in limited capacity. While COVID-19 guidelines still existed during 2021-22, sectional crowns were handed out for every sport. The year saw many teams and athletes making runs to the state playoffs. The AuSable Valley girls soccer team's Class C state championship highlighted the local successes.

NEW HEALTH, SAFETY, AND RISK MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

CVES is excited to welcome Tom Smith as the new Health, Safety, and Risk Management Specialist filling the position vacated by Jeff Sisson. Smith comes to CVES most recently from the Clinton County Health Department, where he served as a Health Educator. Before his work with CCHD, he was a social studies teacher in the Westport School District and the merged Boquet Valley School District. Smith has an extensive background in supporting multiple sites with health and safety training while working for Mountain Lake Services as a Staff Education and Development Coordinator.



CVES Grants Team Provides Support to Schools

Instructional Services Division

PLATTSBURGH — The Grants

Management Services Co-Ser has seen incredible growth over the past few years, and with the addition of Amanda Buskey and Brianna Burnham this year, the sky is the limit.

Burnham said the two refer to themselves as the “Grants Girls” or “Emotional Support Coworkers”.

“It’s nice knowing that you have somebody you’re able to lean on while navigating a new position, because this role is new to both of us,” Burnham said.

“I think we both felt that it was just kind of like a natural, easy connection working together because we’re very similar,” Buskey said. “You don’t find that kind of easy compatibility in the workplace that often. We are fortunate to have a really strong and supportive working relationship from the very beginning.”

Their robust partnership stems from a shared interest and experience in the social-emotional-mental health needs of students. Buskey has a background in writing for the medical field and Burnham’s Master’s degree program in Social Work focused on grant writing and program development/evaluation.

Currently, the Grants Management Services team works with six participating school districts, sharing the workload though each one serves as the main point of contact for three districts. They offer several levels of shared services, and a district can participate at the level that they feel best fits their district’s needs. The office provides technical assistance and regulatory guidance, consortium inclusion for smaller districts that may need to team up to apply for funding.

Currently, there is funding available to alleviate gaps in educational achievement due to the COVID-related school closures and the move to remote learning mode.



The schools did an amazing job in crafting programs and services to cope with the unexpected disruption to the usual methods of instruction.

Three specific grants that they procured during their first year at CVES for their participating districts are: Individual with Disabilities Act - American Rescue Plan (IDEA-ARP), American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) and American Rescue Plan: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief - State Reserves (ARP ESSER: State Reserves).

“There have been many grant opportunities specifically geared to support social emotional, mental health, and learning gaps due to lost instructional time in the classroom,” Buskey said. “The ARP ESSER State Reserves is providing some of our component districts additional funding for after-school enrichment and addressing learning loss.”

The “Grants Girls” are working on a newly released grant through the Purchase American Rescue Plan that is solely based on homeless children

and youth, a situation that has been amplified due to COVID. Other specific funding opportunities that they have identified in the realm of social work: mental health grant, after-school and summer enrichment, learning loss, and college readiness.

This Dynamic Duo had the benefit of a three-month overlap with the outgoing grant writer Shelley Manchester.

“The ball is in our court,” Burnham said. “Our shared motivation is knowing the difference we’re making in the lives of students. Even though we’re not in schools or working directly with students, we are still making a huge impact behind the scenes.”

There are only two other BOCES in New York State that offer a grant procurement Co-Ser, so the component districts of CVES are indeed fortunate to have the Grants Management Services team available to provide their expertise and dedication to developing funding streams to enhance the educational experiences of students.

Scenes from CVES





CHAMPLAIN VALLEY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT

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