

SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER BOCES SUPERINTENDENT'S HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER 2016



CENTER FOR CAREER SERVICES

1. The Commercial Art Program has had a strong start with students that are impressed with the hardware and software updates in the classroom. The students have already begun their photo shop introduction and are creating their first project. The first project involves many basic Photoshop skills as well as providing the class with an introduction to themselves. Stop by the commercial art room to view the first project that will be on display within a few weeks.
2. The Baking Food and Retail services class is off to a great start learning many applied skills. The students are stocking supplies, putting away orders, learning about inventory and how to count change.
3. The Architecture/Interior Design, 3D Art and Pre-Engineering classes will be taking a tour of the New York Design Center on October 20th. The New York Design Center is located on 200 Lexington Avenue and our tour guide has chosen showrooms for us to tour, which focus on our specific curriculums.
4. On Saturday, September 17, on a beautiful sunny day, our Cosmetology teachers and students, as well as our Culinary teachers and students with James Matera, one of our Principals, attended the White Plains Wellness Day in downtown White Plains. The Cosmetology Program did face painting, as well as promoting natural skin and body rubs in a book that the students prepared. Our Culinary Program prepared and served over 200 Summer Harvest Tostadas. The reception from the crowd was very positive feedback with them all loving this dish.

5. There is a collaboration between our Automotive Technology Program and our Collision Technology Program. The Auto Technology Program is continuing to rebuild a 1947 Allis Chalmers Tractor from Harts Brook Park in the Town of Greenburgh. After they finish rebuilding the motor and fixing anything mechanical, the Collision Technology Program will begin working on the body,

6. On Wednesday, September 14th, Richard Thomas, Teacher, General Maintenance Assistant Program, and Dahlia Jackson, Director, went to a Town of Greenburgh, Town Hall Meeting. They were presented with a Town Hall Proclamation to assess and repair the 911 Wall located on Central Park Avenue in Hartsdale. This will include assessing damages for making the necessary repairs to help preserve and insure the integrity of the wall. This will only be the first step. We will keep you all posted as this will be an on-going project.

CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

An Inspiring Message at Port Chester High School

Speech/Q&A Session by Meg Moore, Port Chester High School 2016

Submitted by: David Luhman, SESIS for RSE-TASC



One of the grant funded programs sponsored by SWBOCES is the Lower Hudson Valley Regional Special Education

Technical Assistance and Support Center. The goal of RSE-TASC is to promote the independence of students with disabilities through the development of strong academic, social-emotional and self-determination skills. It provides a coordinated system of high quality regional technical assistance, professional development and on-site support to district and school communities throughout our region.

David Luhman is a Special Education School Improvement Specialist for the RSE-TASC. He supports individual schools and districts throughout the Southern Westchester region. One of the schools that he presently serves is Port Chester High School. As he began his second year of professional development on-site in that school, he worked closely with the principal, Dr. Mitchell Combs, to develop an opening day professional development experience that would further inspire the staff's commitment to enhance their instructional practices and systems for their students with disabilities. To this end, Mr. Luhman invited a former student of his and her mother, Meg and Anne Moore, respectively, to join him in offering a presentation to the entire faculty.

Mr. Luhman thought that the staff would greatly benefit from hearing the inspirational stories and information about Ms. Moore's struggles to live a fulfilling life both inside and outside of school despite her being born with Cerebral Palsy. She and her mother spoke poignantly about the power that educators have to help students with disabilities meet high expectations and feel fully included in the school community with their non-disabled peers. Ms. Moore attributes much of her success in life to the dedication and skill of her teachers, support staff and school administrators. She presently attends Fairfield University where she is studying creative writing. Ms. Moore's presentation and the Q&A that followed were very well received. She was given a standing ovation by the educators at Port Chester High School.

*For additional information on Meg Moore and her presentation, please see the attached:

- Copy of the speech
- Power Point slides from the presentation
- Link to Connecticut new channel video about Meg Moore also used in presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHCCv5n37JM>

CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY

- We launched Google Apps for education with all students at Career Services, LPN Students at Adult and Community and students of the RLC Middle and High School.
- All employees of BOCES have also been provided with Google Apps for Education accounts to use in every division.
- BOCES-wide we are working on our website initiative. All divisions are working to change over to their new sites in anticipation of the December 31st cutover date.

CENTER FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

The office of School Safety and Facilities has been very busy these past two months. The new regulations require every district to have a Chief Emergency Officer responsible for all mandates related to school safety, Building Level Emergency Response Plans and staff training in the areas of Violence Prevention and Mental Health/Suicide Prevention. Recently, Governor Cuomo signed legislation requiring Lead Testing in all schools, which impacts our 644 CoSer and the coordination required between our vendors, participating districts, and our team. The opportunities for increased partnerships are very strong during these days. This past month we visited multiple schools in White Plains to meet with school administrators and school safety teams to discuss new mandates, requirements of the new Building Level Emergency Planning, evacuations, and fire drills. Our goal is to be a source of information and a supportive presence for all participating districts.