

SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER BOCES SUPERINTENDENT'S HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 2018



ADULT LEARNING CENTER: Supervisor: Maria Guerrero

One Student's Success Story: Maria L. Aguirre

Country of Origin: Mexico

Maria is a mother of three children. She sells food to workers on the street so she can bring some money home for her family. This hard working mother wanted to be an example for her children, so in February 2016, she registered for ESL classes with SWBOCES at the White Plains Education and Training Center with teacher Elisa Montano. Once she achieved the advanced ESL level, she felt more confident about her English skills so she was eager to continue with her education. Maria registered at SWBOCES for the High School Equivalency preparation program at El Centro Hispano with teacher Jose Bohorquez. Maria obtained her High School Equivalency diploma in October 2017. Her inspiration does not stop there, her goal is to become a teacher assistant, at the moment she is taking classes with SW BOCES at 450 with teacher Shannon Palmer.

While she is studying to become a teacher assistant she is also working towards her citizenship. Maria is taking citizenship classes with SWBOCES at El Centro Hispano with teacher Fatima Braga. Her future plans include getting a job in a school and continue being a good role model for her children. Maria is an example who inspires others to continue with education. SW BOCES is very proud of Maria's accomplishments and successes!



ADULT LEARNING CENTER (continued):

1. A total of **18** L teachers attended to BEST Literacy/ Technology training offered on October 20, at 450. This training was approved by the RAEN (Regional Adult Education Network).
2. Students: Guadalupe Soto, Bellarina Rojas , Johnattan Rojas Socorro and Gladys Salcedo became new American Citizens. These students attended the Citizenship program. Teacher: Beatriz La Serna.
3. Student: Diana Lee from St Gabriel's school passed her TASC and obtained her High School Equivalency diploma. Teacher: Andres Botero.
4. Student: Yesenia Lara from Port Chester HS passed the TASC and obtained her High school equivalency Diploma. Teacher: Deborah Hobson.

PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM: Supervisor: Will Guterman

The Practical Nursing Program continues to broaden its collaborations in its commitment to strive for excellence. The SWBOCES Library Services, Technology, Public Relations and the Center for Special Services are some of our colleagues who contribute to our program in meaningful ways.

Pam Berger, Director of School Library Systems, and her assistant Melissa Iamónico, have been instrumental in launching a brand new Digital Library customized for the specific medical research needs of our PN students. Students have been trained in research techniques and how to access the library to help them succeed in the nursing program and in their nursing careers.

Director of Technology, Victor Pineiro and the LHRIC have assisted us in setting up Google accounts used in communication with nursing students, emails, class assignments and teacher evaluation of students through Google Docs. Brian Howard, Director of Public Relations, has also been deeply involved in the development of our growing presence on the website and social media to help us advertise the Practical Nursing Program.

Nursing students continue to look forward to their pediatric clinical rotation with students from the Center for Special Services at Tappan Hill Elementary School. It provides a uniquely rewarding clinical rotation opportunity for SWBOCES students ...both children and adults!

This is engaging work and we appreciate the many opportunities of exceptional skilled people collaborating with us who make valuable contributions to the success of our PN students.

Alumni of our program continue to call us with exciting news of their successful career pathways. Our most recent pass rate on the NCLEX licensing boards is: **90%**.

DECORATING GINGERBREAD HOUSES, A FUN ACTIVITY FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

It's become quite the tradition at the Center for Career Services as students from five special education classes, all housed on campus, spent the morning of Dec. 18th decorating pre-baked and assembled gingerbread houses in the Center's cafeteria.

The fun activity is in its third year and is organized by Culinary Arts instructor Lisa Rudner.

Several tables in the cafeteria were already set up when the students arrived. Ms. Rudner and two of her students, Kyle Fitzpatrick of New Rochelle High School and Megan Brown of White Plains High School, as well as the cafeteria's head chef, Jack Palevic, did all of the legwork ahead of the activity.

Several gingerbread houses were placed on the tables along with a variety of candies, including M&Ms, gumdrops, marshmallows, candy canes and more. The students were given ample amount of white icing to decorate their houses.

Teachers Lisa Kelly, Christine Milano, Kim Gaines-Chastaine, Lulinda Lloyd and Jim Walsh were on hand to help, as were several classroom aides.

Halfway through the event, Santa made an appearance. The students cheered as they reached out to receive a candy cane from him.



Students from a special education class at the Center for Career Services campus enjoying the gingerbread house decorating activity Dec. 18.