

SPOTLIGHT ON

BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS IN THE FINGER LAKES

“Here in Rochester, less than 10 percent of our kids are graduating high school ready for college and career. We need to raise our standards and our expectations; Common Core does just that.

...

Common Core promises to hold our schools and our kids — all of our kids, not just the lucky ones — to higher standards, standards that will provide them with a deeper, more durable understanding of science and math, analytical and reasoning skills in the humanities, creative problem solving across the curriculum. Skills they need to succeed as students and to compete in the global economy.

Common Core means change, difficult and messy as that can be. But it’s change that’s essential for New York.”

Ursula M. Burns, Chairman and CEO of Xerox

Excerpt from guest essay published October 23, 2013 in the Democrat & Chronicle

The **Western NY Tech Academy** is a partnership between the **Genesee Valley Educational Partnership, Byron-Bergen Central School District, Genesee County Economic Development Center,** and **Genesee Community College.** Upon graduation from the grade 9-14 school, students will earn both a high school diploma and an associate degree to help prepare them for high-growth jobs.



The **P-TECH Rochester** partnership includes the **Rochester City School District, Monroe Community College** (MCC) and a consortium of local businesses. After graduating from the grade 9-14 school, students will earn a high school diploma and an associate degree from MCC that will prepare them for careers in computer information technology.



The **New Visions Medical Program** at **Monroe 1 BOCES** allows high school seniors to explore careers in health care through partnerships with **Rochester General Hospital** and **St. Ann’s Community.** Students participate in a rigorous academic program and participate in four 10-week rotations in different medical departments of the health care facility. This placement provides the student with an in-depth look at the responsibilities of patient care in a health care facility.



The **Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection** (HW-SC), which was created in 1987 in partnership with **Wegmans Food Markets**, was originally founded to improve graduation rates in the City of Rochester. It has since grown to utilize a multi-pronged approach to helping area youth: parents, educators, businesses, higher education, local government and youth advocates are all involved in helping students achieve success in school and work. Students voluntarily enroll in the program in seventh through ninth grade. In addition to receiving academic support, students that complete the program's Youth Employment Training Academy have the opportunity to work part time with one of HW-SC's job partners, where they have the chance to learn invaluable technical and "soft" skills that are vital to success.



Students from the **Churchville-Chili CSD** had the opportunity to "reverse engineer" assemblies designed and/or produced by local companies, as part of a technology course. The students began the project with an analysis of what the assembly was, the material it was manufactured with, and how it was produced. They then collected precise measurements and created a computer model allowing them to extrude individual parts and see how each assembly works. Finger Lakes Advanced Manufacturers' Enterprise assisted the Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES in identifying the 16 companies that donated assemblies: **Applied Energy Solutions; Brinkman Precision; Ratnik Industries; Southco, Inc.; Chapin International, Inc.; QED Technologies; Liberty Pumps; Star Headlight & Lantern Co.; Gunlocke; Torvec, Inc.; Sentry Safe; Day Automation; Gorbel; Delphi; Oxbo; and REDCOM Laboratories.**



Genesee Valley BOCES' Agri-Business Program affords high school seniors opportunities to learn about the agricultural industry cluster. On the farming side, the program has partnered with **SJ Starowitz Farms, Torrey Farms, Lee Shuknecht & Sons, My-T Acres, Ron St. John's Dairy Farm, Panek's Pickin' Patch/ Panek Farms, Walton Farms Custom Harvesting, Poverty Hill Farms, High View Dairy, Conde Farms, Stein Farms, and Baskin Livestock.** Students learn about other, non-farming aspects of the cluster by visiting area business such as **Oxbo** and **Alleghany Farm Services LLC.** All of these farms and service companies have become mentors for the program and/or hosted student tours of their facilities. And **Farm Credit East**, a local credit union for farmers, provides the use of their facilities as a work experience site for the program's students.



Covering Livingston, Wyoming, and Genesee Counties, the **Business Education Alliance** and **Business Education Council** act as a liaison between local businesses and schools to help students explore careers and develop the workforce skills needed to be successful beyond 12th grade. School and business leaders work together to design the programming, which includes Junior Achievement activities, job shadowing, mock interviews, industry site visits for teachers, student field trips, virtual tour videos, health expos, career fairs, business classroom speakers, and career exploration summer camps. Business and industry partners such as **Five Star Bank, Morton Salt, Kelly's Garage, Lend Lease, Java Farm Supply, Pennysaver, and Castile Ag Service** are committed to developing a world-class workforce that will support the needs of local employers.



In July 2014, the **Summer Advanced Manufacturing Experience** celebrated the graduation of its third cohort of students. A collaboration of Monroe County, Monroe Community College, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES, Finger Lakes Advanced Manufacturers' Enterprise, and local advanced manufacturing companies, the program is open to 9th and 10th graders who have completed certain math prerequisites. Students work with an engineering and metal fabrication teacher, earn college credit, and gain exposure to career opportunities by touring local advanced manufacturing companies, including **Stefan Sydor Optics, Micro Instrument, OptiPro, Optimax Systems, OGP (Optical Gaging Products), SPX – Lightnin, and Harbec Plastics.**



In 1997, **Cisco** established the **Cisco Networking Academy Program**. The program teaches students networking and other information technology-related skills, preparing them for jobs and for higher education in engineering, computer science, and related fields. Since its launch, more than 60,000 students have participated in Academies operating in colleges and universities, technical schools, community-based organizations, and other educational programs around New York State. There are currently more than 100 Academies in New York, including 7 sites throughout the Finger Lakes Region. At the Monroe #1 BOCES site, for example, students learn skills in basic network cabling, network security, wireless implementation, and advanced routing and design and complete internships in local information technology companies such as **CGI Communications.**

"I am encouraged that our region understands that the rigor of the Common Core prepares youth for the world of work. True college and career readiness means that students have the knowledge and skills that lead to employment and true value creation in any occupation."

Mike Mandina, Finger Lakes Advanced Manufacturers' Enterprise