



Orange-Ulster BOCES Career and Technical Education To Offer NYS Division of Homeland Security/Emergency Services-Certified Fire Science Program to Local High School Students

The Career & Technical Education Center (CTEC) has recently been approved to offer a NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services-certified Fire Science Program to high school students who attend the Fire Science Program in the CTEC Security Careers Academy. The Firefighter I course will be offered to all juniors and seniors and will utilize the Delmar Firefighter's Handbook which follows the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control Program. A certificate will be issued to all program completers who meet the certification requirements. This certification will provide a realistic foundation for students serious about taking on the challenges of a career in fire service or any other related profession.

The Fire Science Program provides local high school students with the opportunity to learn basic fire-fighting proficiencies and expanded Scene Support Operations along with physical fitness work and hands-on skills. The students also learn teamwork and to be accountable to each other.

The opportunity for high school students to achieve this level of Firefighter I Certification is a first in New York State. The course is also structured to mirror the training offered by the Orange County Training Center. Thanks to the cooperative relationship between Orange-Ulster BOCES instructors/administrators and fire officials in Orange County, the Orange County Training Center will be accessible to the Fire Science students to complete the required progression of courses.



Fire Science, con't.

The availability of the Training Center will enable students to fulfill the rigorous requirements set forth by New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services and approved by Thomas J. Wutz, Fire Prevention Bureau Chief, Office of Fire Prevention & Control.



Les Greenwood, Fire Protection Specialist in the NYS Office of Fire Prevention & Control, is also supportive of this unique opportunity for BOCES students. He says, "The Office of Fire Prevention & Control's mission is to further the training of the fire service in New York State. With the creation of the BOCES program this effort has been expanded and will help the fire service in the state continue to provide protection in the manner our citizens expect."

Over the past few years, the CTEC Fire Science Program has expanded and acquired equipment, tools and resources in order to be able to offer a top-quality training program for local high school students. The program's latest acquisition was a 1987 Pierce Arrow Fire Pumper generously donated by the City of Middletown in October 2010. The Fire Science classes are structured similarly to real-world firefighter training, and with the latest tools and techniques, students who attend the CTEC Fire Science Program will emerge prepared and certified to take their next steps into the field of fire-fighting.

Professional Wheelchair Basketball Star Visits 12-Month Special Education Summer Program

One of the highlights of the BOCES 12-month Special Education Program was a presentation to a group of students and staff by *Ryan Martin* (pictured right), a professional wheelchair basketball player currently playing for CID Casa Murcia Getafe in Spain.



Ryan Martin, con't:



Ryan was born with Spina Bifida and was adopted at birth by parents of a family of twelve children (some adopted, some biological). As a result of the Spina Bifida, Ryan had both legs amputated at the age of two. He first started playing basketball against his older siblings when he was 12 years old and was hooked for life.

After graduating from high school in 1997, Ryan attended Southwest Minnesota State University, where he excelled at wheelchair basketball; he was a four-year letter winner, three-year captain and still holds multiple records. He graduated in 2002 with a degree in Secondary Education. He is currently working on his master's degree in Curriculum Instruction. After graduation, Ryan joined the Phoenix Wheelchair Suns. Ryan teamed with NWBA Hall of Famer, Jimbo Miller, to help guide the Suns to the N.W.B.A Final Four in 2005 & 2006. In 2007, Ryan joined a professional wheelchair basketball league in Spain. He has played 4 seasons in Spain, the last three for CID Casa Murcia Getafe.

Ryan's commitment to giving back to his community brought him to BOCES to share his unique story. Although he had prepared a presentation, he never got to it because for more than an hour he graciously answered insightful questions from students and staff members. He captivated the audience with his candor, sense of humor and easy demeanor. It was clear he inspired all who were privileged to have the chance to see him speak. Ryan has recently created a foundation focusing on assisting students with disabilities to obtain a college education.

Orange-Ulster BOCES Adult Education Offers New Construction Careers Certifications and Ongoing Health Careers Training

Starting this fall, the BOCES Adult Education Division is excited to introduce the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) curricula and national certifications into our Electrical, HVAC and Welding programs.



NCCER sets the standard in construction education. NCCER's training process was founded over a decade ago and includes instructor certification, standardized curriculum, an automated national registry for successful program completers, and assessment and certification programs that are nationally endorsed and supported by leading contractors, associations and manufacturers. NCCER credentials are portable and industry-recognized around the country for those who successfully complete programs and/or assessment requirements. BOCES will be offering NCCER Certification in Electrical, HVAC (Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning) and Welding.

The Adult Education Division has expanded its health careers offerings to meet the needs of the local community and your professional goals. The programs offered can create a career pathway which may begin with a short-term training program and eventually lead to a college Degree.



Congratulations to William M. "Bill" Boss, Vice-President of the Cooperative Board, who is this year's recipient of the New York State School Boards Association's (NYSSBA) Everett R. Dyer Distinguished Service Award.

NYSSBA's Distinguished Service Award is given to a school board member who is a role model for school board members and whose school board service inspires other board members to similar or even greater contributions to public education and the children they serve. Bill's long and varied record of service certainly makes him an inspiration to others. Bill will be honored at NYSSBA's 92nd Annual Convention & Expo in October in Buffalo where he will join the illustrious group of previous Distinguished Service Award winners.