

Common Grounds



Do you know the mission?

To know where you're going, it helps to know where you've been. The mission of Erie 1 BOCES is available to all staff and all partners 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The landing page of E1B.org contains the organization's mission as a welcome message, it is located just below the "connect" social media buttons. Should you need more details about the organization, simply [visit the "about" menu and click "overview" in the drop-down.](#)



Casino Trip

Erie 1 BOCES employees are invited to attend a volunteer excursion to Seneca Niagara Casino on November 10 to support the United Way. Friends and family are also welcome to attend. Buses will leave Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus - Bldg. B-Door #21 promptly at 4:15 p.m. (please plan accordingly). Buses will depart from Seneca Niagara Casino at 10:00 p.m. The price to attend is \$20 per person, which includes transportation and tip for the bus driver. There will be games on the bus with prizes. At the Casino, you will receive \$20 credit towards slots and \$5 credit towards food. Registration is required by Monday, Oct. 31. Your cash payment is required at the time of registration. Please contact one of the following people to register: Doreen Kausner – 7012 – Accounting Office (Bldg. C); Laurie Taber – 7408 - Accounting Office (Bldg. C); Valerie Winegarden – 7048 – Technology Services (Upstairs Bldg. A); Sharon Hourihan – 7155 – Technology Services (Warehouse Bldg. A) or Yvonne Mazurkiewicz – 7516 – Management Services (Bldg. C). Sorry, no refunds.



Call the Nurse Hotline

When NY 44 Health Trust enrollees need medical assistance or have medical questions but can't reach your doctor, you have options that make it easy to get the care and service you need – when you need it.

- Call the 24-Hour Medical Help Line at 1-800-501-3439 and speak to a nurse about your health concern.
- Get access to urgent medical services – an alternative to emergency rooms if you are not experiencing a life-threatening condition. Urgent care services are covered in full when in-network providers are used.



Social Media Challenge

Employees are our greatest ambassadors at Erie 1 BOCES (E1B). For the month of November, the Communication Office is challenging all E1B employees to like or share at least one piece of E1B's social media content. In doing so, you'll help spread the word about one or more effort(s) from our family of services that you are proud to be "related" to or, in the very least, to acknowledge a service you are thankful is provided to the WNY community. To put it in perspective, if all employees shared just one of E1B's social media posts from Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn, it could make a positive impression on more than 100,000 people in our community! So what do you say, challenge accepted?



Tips for Dealing with Email Spam

While our computer system is well-protected against most spam email, there are easy steps to follow if you have reason to believe that spam has made its way into your E1B inbox. First, check the bottom left-hand corner of the email for a box with the choices "spam", "not spam" and "forget previous vote." Clicking on the "spam" choice will generate a notification that the message has been marked as spam. Then delete the email. However, if you mark something as spam by mistake, click "forget previous vote."

Changes to Note

Retirement

Schiener Retirement

Tom Schiener, purchasing manager for Erie 1 BOCES since February 2007, will be retiring after his last work day on December 30, 2016. Tom prefers to leave without fanfare but looks forward making his office rounds to say goodbye to his colleagues.



Lead Testing

All public schools in New York State were required to test their water outlets for lead by October 31. Legislation requires all schools to notify parents with the results of those water tests. With the help of Erie 1 BOCES Safety Risk, the district conducted water tests at each of its centers. In addition, the staff members of Safety Risk assisted many other districts with their testing processes. The results are still coming in, but all schools are required to post their results on their web pages. Career & Technical Education's results are posted [here](#). Students in Exceptional Education are being notified by their host districts, as outlined in [this letter](#).

News Zone – Education Campus



Halloween Fundraiser

The Employee Special Events Committee will be hosting a dress up or wear jeans day on Halloween, Monday, October 31st. Participation requires the purchase of a \$2 ticket; proceeds to benefit Employees Event Fund & Children's Hospital NICU. All clothing, including costumes, must be business appropriate. If you have a special request for a photo, please contact Mark Webster at mwebster@e1b.org. Otherwise, Communication Services will be taking photos of employees in costume from 10-10:30 and noon-12:30 at BOCES Square.



Ugly Sweater Contest

Support a good cause and join the fun by participating in the ugly sweater contest during a jean day on Friday, November 18. Participation requires the purchase of a \$2 ticket; proceeds to benefit Employees Event Fund & Children's Hospital NICU. Enter your ugly sweater in the contest by having your photo taken and be in the running to win one of three prizes. Employees will have an opportunity to vote online for their favorite ugly sweater. To keep it fair, faces will be removed from the photos until the top three winners are announced at the 12-month employee holiday party.



Underground Parking

As the days get colder, this is a friendly reminder not to leave any car running in the underground parking garage. Unattended vehicles and remote car starters within the confines of the parking garage can pose a health risk to all employees. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Shared Fridge Etiquette

When using the shared refrigerators at the Education Campus, it is recommended that you clearly mark your lunches. Doing so will ensure that you do not consume another person's food by accident. Or vice versa. However, unmarked lunches are NOT considered communal. Please be respectful of one another's property.

News Zone – Exceptional Education



Division Newsletter Available

Exceptional Education's fall newsletter has been posted online. Learn about two new administrators in the division, a new club period and much more! To view this issue, [click here](#).



Northtowns Opening Day

The highly-anticipated Opening Day Picnic was held in September at Northtowns Academy. A variety of activities delighted students, teachers and staff alike following a delicious cookout lunch. Students and teachers worked as teams to solve scavenger hunt clues, which were developed to align with curriculum standards. Students then played kickball and developed their creative talents in the art room. An ice cream social with all the fixings finished the afternoon on a high note.

The youth enrolled in the middle school program also enjoyed the festivities following their field trip to the Buffalo Zoo. Thanks to all of the teachers, including science teacher Joe Meyer and physical education teacher Mary Tomczak, for their role in organizing the day.



Project SEARCH Open House

An open house for Project SEARCH was held this week at Beechwood Continuing Care in Amherst. Students enrolled in the program detailed their experiences as interns to prospective students and parents, family members, partnering agencies and school leaders. Western New York Project SEARCH is a business-led partnership that offers a school-to-work program alternative for students with disabilities who are in their last year of high school. Meet the interns and learn more about the [program here](#).



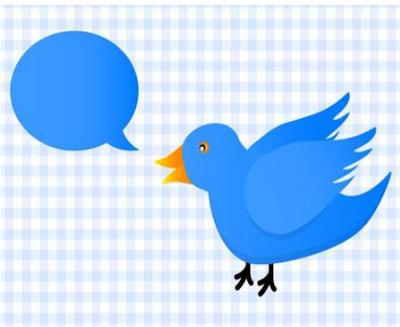
Tiny House

WIVB Ch. 4 shared Kenton CTE Building Trades' "Tiny House" project with WNY. [Watch the video here.](#)



On the Cutting Edge of Virtual Reality

The Oculus Rift™ may sound like an ancient dispute best discussed in a world history class, but in fact, it's cutting-edge computer technology, and it's up and running at the Erie 1 BOCES Harkness Career & Technical Center. Oculus Rift is a next-generation virtual reality (VR) system, utilizing goggles, sensors and an advanced computer system to place users in an imaginary, but amazingly realistic world where virtually anything seems possible. That Erie 1 BOCES has such a system, released in September 2016, is a credit to the foresight of Harkness electronics and computer technology instructor Thomas Isula. [Read more...](#)



Radio Personality Tweets About Student Project

Clay Moden, radio personality for WYRK, wrote the following on Twitter, "There are some very talented students at @E1BKenton @Erie1BOCES @WNYHeroes." Moden, who also posted a photo, is enrolled in Workforce Development's rough framing program and posted a photo of the cornhole games the Kenton students made for the WNY Heroes Red, White and Blue Gala.

The building trades class built and donated a 6-ft picnic table and a set of cornhole games to WNY Heroes' charity auction this Friday at the Seneca Niagara casino. To learn more about the event, see this link. <http://wnyheroes.org/veterans-events/Red--White-&-Blue-Gala/1/>.



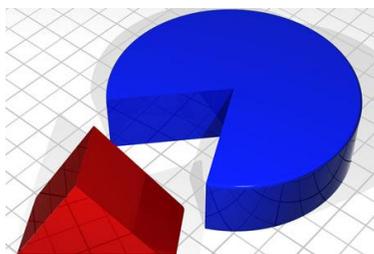
Counselor Breakfasts

For many families, the 2016-2017 school year has just begun. However, for school leaders, the planning for next year is well underway. Erie 1 BOCES' three career and technical centers hosted counselors from local high schools to learn about career and technical programs that will be available to local teens in the 2017-18 school year. The counselors experienced student demonstrations, received a course catalog, took tours, dined on a breakfast prepared by culinary students, and heard from local automotive businesses.

As part of public education, in concert with 19 local school districts, Erie 1 BOCES will be providing 30 different career programs to high school students in Erie County. From honors-level classes at local hospitals to occupational skills for students with disabilities, and everything in between, the cooperative is focused on helping all youth in Western New York become college- and career-ready.

Parents and students interested in seeing what programs are available may visit www.e1b.org/cte and speak with their high school counselor.

Special Features



Labor Market Demand Percentage

A four-year university degree has many benefits; however, the percentage of perceived underemployment is on rise. Looking at career preparation from an economic standpoint, the following information may prove helpful.

In 1960, the labor market was comprised of 20 percent of jobs requiring a four-year degree, 20 percent requiring skilled training and 60 percent of unskilled labor. A Harvard University study predicts the labor market demands for 2018 will be comprised of 33 percent of positions

requiring a four-year degree, 57 percent of positions requiring technical skills training and 10 percent of positions available will be for unskilled labor.

According to Kevin Flemming, creator of "Success in the New Economy," the ratio of 1:2:7 does not change as the workforce grows. Meaning, for every one job requiring a master's degree or higher, two jobs require a four-year university degree, and seven jobs require a skills-based certificate.

He shares that, in the new economy, an acquired education coupled with honed skills will give job seekers the best competitive edge. To learn more on this topic, [watch this video](#).



Tips to build financial health

October Newsletter from the Employee Assistance Program

This month, the Employee Assistance Program sat down with Noelle Carter, Chief Operating Officer at Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Buffalo, Inc. to brainstorm tips that you can use to build your financial health...one paycheck at a time! See the newsletter [here](#).



Like Us, Share Us and Re-Tweet Us

One of the easiest ways you can help promote Erie 1 BOCES is by following us and interacting with us on social media. If you like, share or re-tweet E1B's postings you can quickly spread the word about the great work accomplished by E1B.

Erie 1 BOCES provides equal opportunity for students and does not discriminate against any student enrolled in (or any candidate for admission to) its programs and activities. Also, Erie 1 BOCES is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment. To review the full nondiscrimination notice, please see [e1b.org](#).

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