



CNYSBA NEWS

Train, Empower, Advocate, and Mobilize for Students

First African-American Regents Chancellor Speaks at CNYSBA Roundtable Event

New York State Board of Regents Chancellor, Dr. Lester W. Young Jr. spoke as part of our CNYSBA Roundtable recently. (Story & video on page 4.)

STEAM Learning Centers Support Collaborative Learning

C&S believes that STEM/STEAM education is vital to the future of our company and the community. We're proud to support initiatives to build a strong pipeline of students capable of tackling our community's future challenges. *(continued on page 2)*

Thankful Thursday Videos Show Staff Appreciation

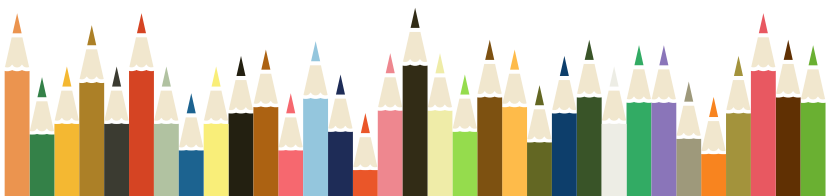
Everyone knows Thanksgiving is all about being thankful, but how can that heartfelt sentiment be applied at other times during the year? *(Read complete story on page 3)*



You Do What for a Living?

There are many careers in Central New York for graduating students who wish to stay in the area. Many times these long-term, skilled positions don't require a traditional college degree.

"Our series *"You Do What for a Living?"* is designed for students who are looking for such work opportunities immediately after high school. The careers we explore can oftentimes offer great salaries and benefits while not necessarily requiring a traditional college education.





CiTi BOCES Launches “Adopt a CTE Program”

The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation has launched the “Adopt a CTE Program.” This initiative is designed to strengthen partnerships between CiTi and local businesses; it will thus both enhance the career and technical education experience for students and fortify the hiring pipeline for local industry.

Partnering with CiTi through the Adopt a CTE Program gives organizations the chance to preview potential employees and have a voice in the curriculum and training of the upcoming workforce.

“With the increased popularity and focus on Career and Technical Education due to regional growth and the aging workforce in the trades, this program will help alleviate some of the added pressure on regional companies.” said CiTi Business Education Liaison Garrette Weiss.

Through this partnership, CiTi students, parents and staff will learn more about local businesses here and what they have to offer, and local companies will get to promote their organization county-wide.

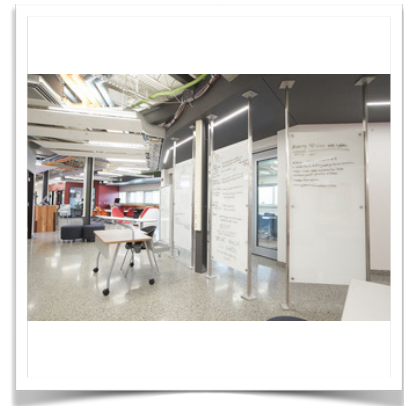
Participation options are voluntary and diverse, including guest speakers for student classes, company tours, internship experiences, scholarships, representation at school events such as career fairs, and more.

For more information or to Adopt a CTE Program, visit CitiBoces.org/

STEAM Learning Centers Support Collaborative Learning *continued from page 1*

Our construction management group has recently completed the newly renovated \$5.2 million, 8,000-square-foot STEAM learning center space at Groton Central School District’s Jr.-Sr. High School. This new teaching lab places a great emphasis on collaborative learning with an inviting open air feel while also having breakout spaces for individual and small group work. Visual emphasis was given to the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing utilities by highlighting with unique paint colors. This simple yet important detail allows the students to better understand how the mechanics of the building work and acts as a catalyst for discussion and understanding. In addition, students are encouraged to write on most wall surfaces within this STEAM Lab as they are dry erase-able and help facilitate thought and discussion.

“By designing a STEAM learning center that recognizes humans learn best when provided opportunity for direct instruction, group collaboration, independent reflection, and real life application, the district has created opportunity for students to explore careers in computer science, agricultural technology, communications and 3-D design, and the Building Trades. Student enrollment in these programs is at 52% of the junior and senior classes,” says Margo Martin, Groton Superintendent.



This project was designed by Ashley McGraw Architects. For more information about this article, please contact Crystal Rhode at C&S Companies at crhode@cscos.com or call her at (315) 703-4191.

*Written by Mike DiPerna, K-12 Department Manager,
C&S Companies*

Thankful Thursdays Video Series Highlights Gratitude for School Staff

Everyone knows Thanksgiving is all about being thankful, but how can that heartfelt sentiment be applied at other times during the year? The East Syracuse Minoa (ESM) Central School District created a “Thankful Thursdays” video series to show staff just how much they are appreciated.

The three videos in the series feature three different groups thanking ESM staff: community businesses/partners, parents and students. The series is an outgrowth of the Administration’s desire to let staff know they were appreciated during this challenging year. Sincere messages in the videos were aimed at providing a boost to staff social emotional well-being. “During this challenging time, uplifting messages of gratitude provided much-needed positive energy for our staff,” said Dr. Donna DeSiato, ESM Superintendent.

The business video was first in the series and simply featured owners and staff from various businesses in the community giving “shout outs.” Select community partners also thanked staff for everything they were doing to educate students during this non-traditional year.

The second video featured a representative from each Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) in the district as well as some impromptu interviews with parents. Parents thanked staff for their commitment and dedication to teach students in these unprecedented times.

The final video featured students — the heart of WHY people are in education. The video began with adorable pre-k students thanking the staff of each union/bargaining unit in the district to make sure everyone felt included.

The video then showed a “TikTok-style “heart passing” where students passed paper hearts to each other in the ESM school colors of blue and orange as they thanked teachers and staff. The heart passing started with kindergarten (Class of 2033) and progressed to seniors in the Class of 2021, with the messages becoming more articulate with age.



ESM Students love “Thankful Thursdays”

CNYSBA Roundtable Features First African-American Chancellor of New York State Board of Regents

The Central New York School Boards Association recently held a Roundtable featuring New York State Board of Regents Chancellor Dr. Lester W. Young, Jr., who was appointed Chancellor in January of this year. He’s the first African American to ever hold that position. Dr. Young has served as a Regent since 2008. He has made creating opportunities “where every student can be successful” the guiding principle of his more than 50 years of public service. He began his career with the New York City Department of Education, variously holding the positions of teacher, guidance counselor, supervisor of special education, and principal. During his tenure as Principal, PS 183 Brooklyn (Ocean-Hill Brownsville) was recognized in 1987 as a School of Excellence by the United States Department of Education (USDOE) and the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

Dr. Young volunteers as a mentor to superintendents, principals and aspiring leaders throughout New York City. He has been recognized by many local, national education, and civic education organizations for his professional contributions. He is profiled in Men of Courage II, documenting the lives and achievements of 27 African American men. He is also a contributing writer to Child by Child: The Comer Process for Change in Education, 1999. Dr. Young received the Ed.D. degree from Fordham University and M.S. degree from Brooklyn College.

During the Zoom conference for CNYSBA, Chancellor Young gave a brief presentation and then answered questions from those who attended remotely. Dr. Young spoke about education in New York in 2021, as we face possible budget cuts and re-opening struggles due to the COVID-19 pandemic, among other topics.

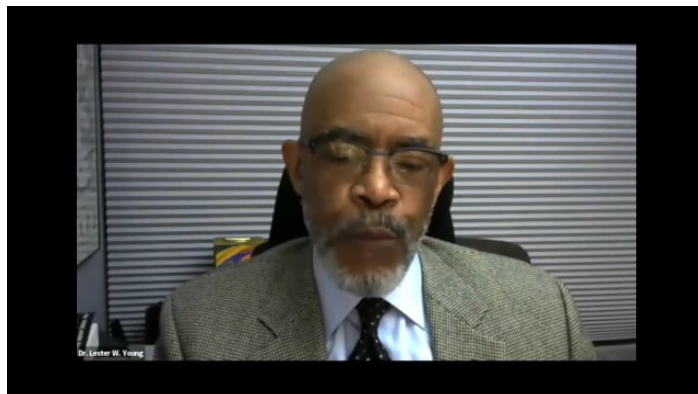
Watch the complete regional school board member Roundtable below.



What is New York State’s oldest school district?

**Email answer to Rstone@cnybsa.org.
One person with the correct answer
will win a Dunkin’ Donuts Gift Card**

Check Next Month’s Newsletter for correct answer.



[Send Us a Newsworthy Tip so we can feature it. Email \[rstone@cnybsa.org\]\(mailto:rstone@cnybsa.org\)](#)