

SPOTLIGHT ON

BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS IN THE MID-HUDSON REGION

The Orange-Ulster BOCES Career and Technical Education (CTE) Division includes 12 career academies that offer programs in two locations, the Amy Bull Crist Area Education Center and the Regional Education Center at Arden Hill, both located in Goshen, New York. All of the CTE curriculum maps are aligned with the **Common Core Standards** as well as business and industry requirements. Every year, the BOCES looks at how to make its Engineering Academy even stronger to support current career options. Beginning this year, they are working with the Nano-Link Center for Nanotechnology Education to integrate nanoscale concepts into their STEM Programs. Local business partners include, **AMSCAN, Chromalloy, Cornerstone Environmental Group,** and **Spence Engineering.**

Orange-Ulster BOCES works closely with a **CTEC Advisory Council**, a group of local businesspeople who meet several times a year to assist educators in reviewing and refining the CTE Academy programs. The **Health Careers Advisory Committee** includes providers such as **Catskill Regional Medical Center, Wellness Home Care, Valley View Center for Nursing Care and Rehabilitation, Crystal Run Healthcare, St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital, Orange Regional Medical Center,** and **MidHudson Regional Hospital of Westchester Medical Center.** The **Trades Advisory Committee** includes business partners such as **Jones Services Company, Hudson Valley Builders & Remodelers Association, Brakewell Steel Fabricators, Armistead Mechanical, Orange County Ironworkers Local 417,** and the **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.** Many students who complete Career and Technical Programs will gain employment with these partners after successfully completing high school.

Orange-Ulster BOCES currently has over 150 contracts with business and industry partners that welcome students into their businesses and share their knowledge, time and experiences with them. Students participate in work-based learning experiences with businesses such as **Healey Brothers Automotive, Toyota, Holiday Inn, Comfort Inn & Suites, Orange Regional Medical Center,** and **Elant.**

"It's been a pleasure having the students come to our facility to work with the staff. We've watched them grow as students, and some have returned after college to become part of the Healey Team. The program is a great stepping-stone to help students leap into their career."

*Bryan Gingold, Parts and Service Director
Healey Brothers Automotive*



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 14 sites throughout the Mid Hudson Region. At the Orange-Ulster BOCES site, for example, offerings include the Cisco CCNA Routing and Switching Program and Cisco Certified Network Associate.

“The more we can link businesses in communities to school districts that are implementing the Common Core, and they get into the classroom to see what’s happening and talk to the teachers and the kids, that’s going to be important. They (businesses) need to be participating in this.”

*John Ravitz
Executive Vice President
Business Council of Westchester County*



There are four New York State Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) partnerships in the Hudson Valley region.

At Excelsior Academy, a grade 9-14 P-TECH school, students will receive a high school diploma and an associate in applied science (A.A.S) degree upon graduation from the integrated six-year program. The school is a partnership between the Newburgh Enlarged City School District, SUNY Orange and **IBM**.

The Rockland BOCES, Southern Westchester and Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES, each Rockland County Public School District, several Westchester Public School Districts, Rockland Community College, Westchester Community College, SUNY IT, **Avon, Fairway Testing, All Bright Electric, Hightech Security Systems** and **Wick Arborists** have partnered to form Hudson Valley P-TECH High School, a grade 9-14 school where graduates will receive an A.A.S. and be first in line for jobs in computer information technology, engineering and green building technology.

Ulster BOCES, the **Hudson Valley Council of Industry**, SUNY Ulster, Dutchess Community College, Orange Community College, Sullivan Community College, SUNY New Paltz, Dutchess BOCES, Orange-Ulster BOCES, Sullivan BOCES and the Kingston City School District partnered to form an upper Hudson Valley P-TECH school that will prepare students for careers in high-skills STEM occupations.

The field of architecture is the focus at Riverside High School for students who participate in the fourth Hudson Valley region P-TECH school. The school is a partnership between **Fuller and D’Angelo P.C.**, the **Yonkers Workforce Investment Board**, Westchester Community College and Yonkers Public Schools.