

Spotlight

Alumni on Top of the World Read their stories

Students benefit from
new co-teaching format

East Hampton opens
in-district Academy Program

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ESBOCES Receives Teacher **Residency Grant**



Eastern Suffolk BOCES has received a \$4.6 million grant from New York State to create a pipeline of candidates qualified to go on to special education teaching careers in Eastern Suffolk schools. The grant is part of the first round of funding in the \$30 million Empire State Teacher Residency Program to grow the teacher workforce and support retention in New York State.

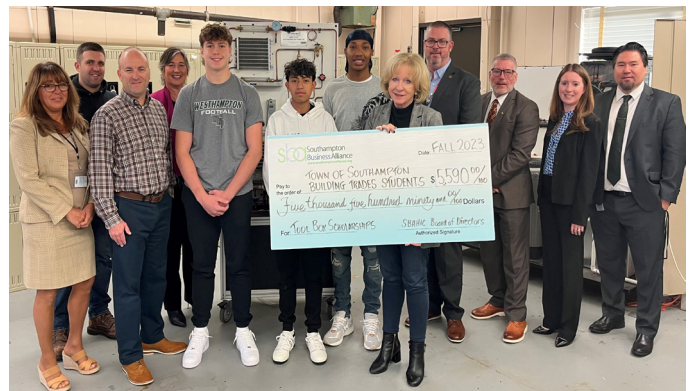
The ESBOCES grant creates space for 153 teaching assistants—many of whom will be recruited from underrepresented communities—to receive professional mentoring and financial assistance to attend graduate school for the master's degree needed to become a certified special education teacher. After two years of schooling and one year of training, these newly certified teachers will go on to support our 51 component school districts in the region.

From left to right

Divisional Administrator Educational Support Services, Dr. Krystle Barnett; New York State Governor Kathy Hochul; and Kate Davern, Director of Educational Support Services at the press conference announcing the Empire State Teacher Residency Program in September 2023.

Tools for the Trade

Members of the Southampton Business Alliance (SBA) presented East End students enrolled in ESBOCES building trades programs (Carpentry, Trade Electric, Plumbing, HVAC) with scholarship monies to put toward tools and protective clothing. This investment will help provide career skills to a new generation of students who will soon be able to reinvest in the local economies of their own Long Island communities. Since this scholarship was created, the SBA has donated \$33 thousand to support 114 ESBOCES students.



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Last January, ESBOCES launched a pilot teaching model in select special education elementary classrooms to great success. This year, the number of agency classrooms utilizing this model has grown and is exceeding expectations for student progress, while successfully managing staffing issues.

An 8:1:1 teaching model refers to a classroom with eight students, one teacher, and one teaching assistant. Each student may also require an individual aide. These small classes with multiple aides provide the most supportive environment for high-needs students. However, workforce deficits among teacher aides have strained schools, resulting in waitlists for students.

ESBOCES reworked the model to include two teachers, naming it the 8:2:1 model, and placed two shared aides in these classes instead of one for every student. This resulted in moving some of our aides to other needed classrooms, allowing the agency to take in more students and thereby reducing the waitlists.

Students in these classes now receive twice as much academic and behavioral support from experienced teachers, resulting in a decrease in behavior intervention plans, gains in personal growth, and more independence for students. "There are now two teachers to offer direct

instruction, as opposed to the reinforcement of instruction provided by aides," explained Director of Special Education Gina Reilly.

"Despite the success of this model, not every student is going to be a candidate for it. This is a shared decision made with home districts and parents or guardians."

Co-teachers are strategically paired—in most cases it's a new teacher with a more seasoned counterpart—creating an opportunity for one teacher to learn directly from an experienced colleague, while providing twice as much assistance for students.

Said Sam Rossano who co-teachers with Victoria Iodice "Having that second teacher really helps. When one of us is teaching, the other helps manage student behaviors. You also have two teachers who bounce ideas off of each other. It's a big collaboration, so you accomplish more."

Questions?

Contact Gina Reilly
at 631-244-4033
greilly@esboces.org

Alumni Gallery

Students leave the many ESBOCES and Academy programs prepared for success. Here are some of their stories:



Connor Landhauser
Television, Video, and Digital Film Production CTE Program, 2014
Senior Video Producer, IMG N Media, New York, NY

Connor Landhauser, **West Islip UFSD**, agrees that the Academy provided him with a running start to his career. Landhauser attended the program at Bixhorn Technical Center during his junior and senior years in high school.

“It was exciting to get my hands on new equipment, learn new techniques, and be surrounded by like minds,” he said. Landhauser explains that he was the only aspiring filmmaker in his high school, but when he came to the Academy, he was immersed in an environment with other creative types who had the same goals.

“It was super motivating. I was meeting others who were 10 years older and working in the industry. I realized, I can do this for a living,” he said.

Landhauser attended and graduated from the prestigious School of Visual Arts after high school where he majored in cinematography. Today, he is a senior video producer in social media for IMG N Media, a Warner Music Group company. He travels coast to coast working for clients such as Levi’s, Jansport, McDonald’s, and more.

“I don’t know if I would be in the same position if I didn’t spend two years at the Academy,” he said. “I got a head start by figuring it out in high school and not college.”

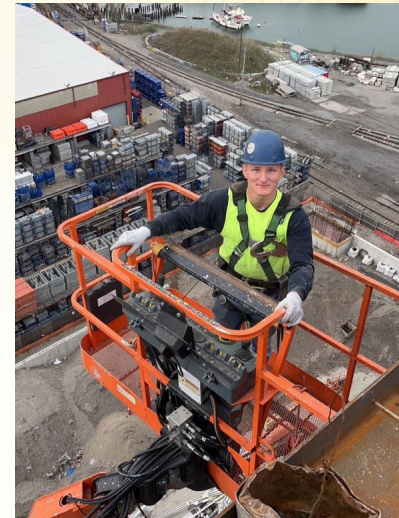
William Lovelock
Barbering, Adult Education Program, 2023
Licensed Barber, Studio 80, Patchogue

Earning his New York State Master Barber’s License was a pivotal moment in William Lovelock’s life. Lovelock began cutting hair while incarcerated. He was only permitted to use clippers and trimmers in prison. Scissors weren’t allowed. Even so, he realized then that he was going to be a barber.

After prison, he enrolled in the ESBOCES Adult Education Barbering Program, ready to learn and earn his license. He thrived in the class. “I picked it up and was good at it,” he said. Lovelock also worked as an assistant in a local salon, Studio 80, in Patchogue.

Now a licensed barber, he has a chair in the very same salon and plenty of customers. Said Lovelock, “I work on all types of hairstyles, hair lengths, and provide hot shaves. Barbering changed my life. I have something to look forward to.”

What’s next for Lovelock? Business classes. He hasn’t ruled out the possibility of owning his own shop one day and wants to be ready for the challenge. “I plan to always improve my education,” he said.



Eric Wetherbee
Welding and Metal Fabrication CTE Program, 2022
Registered Apprentice, Local 362 Ironworkers Union

Eric Wetherbee, **Sachem CSD**, attended the Academy’s Welding and Metal Fabrication Program at Milliken Technical Center for two years and graduated in 2022. During his senior year, Eric took advantage of the work-study program offered by the Academy to gain industry experience. Eric worked with the Town of Islip, assisting with daily operations and learning in the field.

Soon after completing the program, Wetherbee obtained a coveted position with the Local 362 Ironworkers Union in New York City. Now a Registered Apprentice, he continues to hone his skills and abilities, receiving mentoring from veterans of the trade and obtaining certifications required by increasingly rigorous construction and safety codes.

Carmen Calderon
Literacy, GED, and Dog Grooming Adult Education Programs, 2022
Dog Groomer at the Fur Machine, Ronkonkoma, and Canine Grooming Corp.

Spanish is Carmen Calderon’s first language. She came to the United States from El Salvador when she was 19, married, and started a family. When her children started school, so did Calderon. She enrolled in a series of ESBOCES programs—Literacy, GED, Dog Grooming—to pursue her dream of working as a groomer and owning her own business.

“I’ve wanted to be a dog groomer since I was a teenager, but I needed to learn English to take the courses,” she explained. Today, she grooms three days a week at the Fur Machine in Ronkonkoma, and through her home-based business, Canine Grooming Corp.

“I plan to grow my business while being there for my young children. I want the freedom to design my own schedule.”



Kyle Schlichting
SCE Food Preparation/Service Program, 2021
Food Prep at SeaStar Ballroom at Atlantis Aquarium, Riverhead



After completing two years in the Special Career Education Food Preparation/Service Program at Ward Technical Center, Kyle Schlichting, **Riverhead CSD**, secured a full-time position at SeaStar Ballroom at the Atlantis Aquarium in Riverhead. Kyle has been employed at the ballroom for the past two years, working on food preparation for all of the events held there. He credits the program for the cooking skills he has needed for his job, especially his knife skills.

Classroom Happenings

Here's a quick look inside our many educational programs, which consist of Career and Technical Education, Adult Education, Special Education, and Special Career Education.

Coming Out In 2023

Students and staff at Sequoya High School and Brookhaven Learning Center gathered to support and celebrate National Coming Out Day on October 11.



Tools of the Trade

Look at our Dental Chairside Assisting students! They are learning and practicing basic instrumentation. Here they are during a hands-on lesson where they determine which instruments to use for numerous procedures, how to position those tools correctly, and how to place them ergonomically in the mouth.

Student Leaders

At Jefferson Academic Center, student leaders were chosen to join the Student Staff Organization (SSO) based on their positive behavior and leadership qualities. This group, comprising student leaders and volunteer staff members, collaborates throughout the year to enhance the school and community. Their initiatives include team-building exercises, entertaining activities, and fundraisers. Students will work alongside staff and administrators to foster a better school climate.



Bunny Love

Students at Sayville Elementary were recently visited by ICC Canine Careers Teacher Lisa Konnerth and her Angora bunny. Konnerth taught the class how to properly care for the bunny and let them hold and play with him. This multisensory lesson is ideal for students with autism. Incorporating several senses into an activity (touch, sight, smell) helps them learn and understand.

Butterflies are Free

Monarch Butterfly Specialist Ellen Federico, the Butterfly Lady of Fire Island, visited Danielle Merrill's Horticultural Program at Islip Career Center to discuss conservation and habitat planting. The class received a milkweed plant and essential seeds for the Monarch's survival. They were educated about the Monarch's life cycle and released one into their newly-created pollinator garden.



Nurse Assisting

Nurse Assisting students at Milliken Technical Center learned the basics at the start of the school year including folding linens, taking pulse and respiration, and using safety mittens. Safety mittens prevent patients from pulling out any essential lines or tubes when they are restless, confused, or unaware that they need to keep the tubes in.

Animal Science Visits Cat Cafe

The BTC Animal Science Program visited the Shabby Tabby Cat Cafe in Sayville to discover opportunities available in the feline-specific field. Students learned how to run an animal facility, care for special needs cats and kittens, and prioritize safety, cleaning, and biosecurity protocols all while giving the cats and kittens some TLC.



In-District Automotive Technology Program Opens in East Hampton

Eastern Suffolk BOCES, in partnership with the East Hampton Union Free School District, celebrated the opening of a new, in-district Automotive Technology Program for East Hampton High School students looking to pursue a career in the field. The centerpiece of this program is a brand-new classroom facility equipped with the latest automotive repair equipment, allowing students to gain hands-on experience in this important trade. The opening of this program was six years in the making and many East Hampton community members contributed to the creation of the class.



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