

AFG Ambassadors Needed!

Are you interested in the Middle States Accreditation for Growth (AFG) process? Dr. Candace White-Ciraco, Director of the Office of Planning & Program Improvement, is looking for volunteers to become AFG ambassadors.

Eastern Suffolk BOCES employees are needed on a voluntary basis to become AFG Ambassadors for their various professional peer and staff groups. Dr. White-Ciraco would like a select number of individuals from each of the major divisions / departments of the agency to receive basic two-hour training about AFG.

Dr. White-Ciraco is looking for:

- Leaders
- Communicators
- People Developers

Ambassadors will receive additional briefings throughout the year about important news and/or changes pertaining to Middle States. As an ambassador, you would "get the word out" around the agency and be a vital asset to the Eastern Suffolk BOCES AFG Planning Team, whose major purpose is to track and analyze ESBOCES fulfillment of the Middle States accreditation requirements.

If you are interested, please contact the Office of Planning & Program Improvement at 631-687-3264.

The rewards are found in the change process and making a positive difference in the agency and the region.

Waterfall Landscape Soothes the Soul – Dedicated to the Lives Lost on 9/11



In an effort to create a positive atmosphere for learning and school spirit, students in Mark Havens' horticulture program began beautifying the entrance to the Islip Career Center (ICC) in Oakdale. They've just completed a waterfall landscape surrounded by fieldstone, plants, and shrubs. This beautification project instills respect for the environment of the community and school. The final touch to this project came about on September 11, 2009. It is hoped that the calming sound will soothe the soul and sorrow of those who visit it.

This year commemorates the eighth anniversary of the 9/11 tragic events. Students and staff chose to commemorate John Crisci, brother-in-law of Mildred Crisci, an ESBOCES paraeducator and 20-year veteran, by displaying a plaque dedicated in memory to all the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Mr. Crisci was last seen racing to the World Trade Center hoping to make a difference.

Each year the students and staff at the center participate in a ceremony remembering 9/11. This year they memorialized Mr. Crisci with a plaque that will forever remain proudly displayed on the hill of the newly created waterfall landscape design.

Stephen Kuhl's culinary arts students assisted the horticulture students by fueling their creative juices. They baked cookies as a way of thanking them for beautifying their school.

Karl, a student in Mr. Kuhl's class and a student from the Brentwood UFSD said, "It feels good to do this. On this anniversary of 9/11, we have a chance to remember the people whose lives were lost. I appreciate them and I am sad for them and their families. It feels good to take time to remember them.

Mr. Meinhold, retired teacher and advisor to SkillsUSA, was a guest speaker at the commemorative ceremony. He read the

following to commemorate Mr. Crisci and all the lives lost on 9/11.

"Eight years ago on a beautiful Tuesday morning, the lives of thousands were changed forever. Most of the students here today were in elementary school at that time.

On that Tuesday morning, many Americans including Ms. Crisci's brother-in-law, John Crisci, raced to the World Trade Center hoping to make a difference. Mr.

Crisci entered the south tower and was last seen on the 48th floor.

As everyone watched the tower collapse, Mr. Crisci's family did not know that he was in it. He gave his life with many others to save lives that morning.

That day, 2,752 people lost their lives at the World Trade Center.

What our heroes gave us that day was courage. All of us felt the loss of our fellow Americans. They made us feel good about being Americans and brought our country together.

Today we remember all who died that day. And, in memory, we invite all of you to do a random act of kindness for someone, anyone. By this, none of our heroes died in vain."

