

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Lisa Israel, Vice President

Annual Meeting – April 3, 2008

On behalf of Board President Pamela Bethel and the entire BOCES Board, welcome to the Eastern Suffolk BOCES 15th Annual Meeting. I am pleased to share some of our accomplishments with you this evening. We are proud that despite the many challenges locally and statewide, Eastern Suffolk BOCES continues to provide ***educational services that transform lives.***

In the Educational Services Division we successfully worked on improving student outcomes in each of our programs.

The Special Education Department continues to work with the Regional Space Planning Committee and the State Education Department to reduce the number of students referred to Committees of Special Education.

We have expanded our support and leadership role for our component district's new special education classes and programs.

Our Administrative Leadership Development and Placement Service has been utilized to involve our administrators in global and individualized opportunities for professional growth.

Our Career, Technical and Adult Education Department initiatives in progress this year have resulted in numerous outcomes including:

- Expanded business and industry partnerships
- New course offerings
- Securing numerous college and trade school articulation agreements with institutions of higher learning

- A new downloadable 2008-09 Career Technical Education/ Special Career Education Course Catalog
- The transition of program curricula from semester to full-year programs in Special Career Education
- An expanded Regional Summer School Consortium
- Over \$640,000 in scholarship awards to pursue post secondary education opportunities for students in Career and Technical Education and Special Career Education.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Employee Assistance Program and the 20th anniversary of the Student Assistance Service, providing ongoing services to 39 school districts, Eastern Suffolk and Western Suffolk BOCES, and 43 libraries.

Educational Support Services (ESS) continues to provide a wide range of outreach programs to our component districts. Some of these programs include:

- The Long Island Scholar Artist recognition program created by a collaboration with BOCES Arts-In-Education, the Long Island Arts Alliance, and Regent Tilles
- The eighth annual Celebration of Technology in Education at Stony Brook University hosted by the Model Schools Program.
- The collaboration with Public Broadcasting Service in presenting the annual Teaching and Learning Celebration in New York City
- Educational Support Services administrators and teachers support for colleagues in our component school districts, BOCES, and private facilities in the initial training for the New York State Alternate Assessment
- Recruitment of a host of grant writing professionals to assist our component districts in their grant writing needs
- Regional workshops offered on an array of topics such as early literacy intervention through Reading Recovery and the upcoming 18th Annual Literacy and Learning Conference
- A 2008 Prejudice Reduction Conference as a result of a partnership with The Council on Prejudice Reduction

Educational Support Services continues to provide leadership in the area of curriculum, assessment, instruction, and staff development to our Eastern Suffolk BOCES special education, Career and Technical Education, and Special Career Education programs.

The Department of Administrative Services conducted a Facilities Survey focused on gathering staff perception on several key facilities' performance measures. Preliminary results show improved staff satisfaction of each measure.

Operations and Maintenance has implemented the use of technical tools to assist with the management reporting of capital projects.

In 2008, we hired a new Director of Building Services who brings expertise and leadership to the agency's management of facility needs.

The Department of Human Resources is implementing positive change within our organization and our component school districts by focusing on several key areas:

- Recruitment and retention of a culturally and ethnically diverse workforce
- Updating the Hiring Practices Manual to ensure procedures are aligned with agency policies on hiring, cultural competence, and equity
- Restructured Career Fair for Culturally and Ethnically Diverse Educators to better match candidate qualifications with school district needs by utilizing an online registration system

The department has also facilitated Personnel Administrator meetings for our component district staff involved in human resources administration to share best practices and knowledge about the field.

The Office of Communications has increased agency recognition through more than 156 featured articles and news segments in local media since this time last year.

- Total website visits for the 2007-08 service year have increased by 35%.
- An agency-wide image reflective of the mission, talent, dedication, and diversity of the staff and students, and the range of programs available to youth and adult learners continues to be established.

- More than 200 print media items, including brochures, posters, and course catalogs, related to our mission, goals, and objectives have been produced.
 - Key print media items and internal student and parent publications and forms have been translated into Spanish.
-

Research continues to be a priority throughout the agency to ensure that programs meet the needs of students and to advocate for these programs to be adequately funded by the State. The Research Office has:

- Assisted in-house programs with evaluating their outcomes.
 - Developed a program of regional education and school district finance research for the agency, component school districts, and other constituents
 - Analyzed the effects of school district funding and regional and statewide student outcomes to inform school district personnel, policy makers, and communities statewide
-

The Office of Planning and Program Improvement has been busily working with the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Reaccreditation Planning Team, which is made up of 29 internal and external stakeholders who will help guide the process for our Middle States Reaccreditation Validation Visit in December, 2008. This office has:

- Provided leadership and guidance in response to internal and external program requests and initiatives from local districts, state and federal government
- Facilitated, through strategic partnerships and grants administration, Eastern Suffolk BOCES becoming a regional leader in providing supplemental services, facilities and personnel

In fact, approximately \$32 million have been allocated to our region through the efforts of Eastern Suffolk BOCES administrators, who lead and manage specially-funded programs.

Several of our Specially Funded Projects through the state networks have been making a difference throughout the region and beyond.

Through the Long Island Transition Coordination Site, the first Annual Technology School Fair, which is intended to provide students with a career exploration experience and inform them about alternatives to post secondary two or four year colleges, was a huge success.

The Special Education Training & Resource Center's collaboration with staff from Patchogue-Medford, Brentwood, and Sachem school districts on the development of an Authentic Assessment Protocol for English Language Learners now includes a partnership with higher education.

The Family Education Outreach Programs (FEOP) is a complex mix of programs serving children and families. The Parent Child Home Program has expanded to include the Central Islip UFSD. The Mobile Outreach Parent Child Home Program (MOCHP), a leading model in the field, continues to receive recognition as an innovative way to provide researched based effective early childhood and parenting skills to homeless families.

The Long Island Regional School Support Center was actively engaged in supporting its targeted school districts.

Additionally, the assignment by the New York State Education Department to ESBOCES of the statewide Audit of Curriculum, and the sharing of staff between the Long Island Regional School Support Center and ESBOCES, have resulted in a close collaboration to help Districts in Need of Improvement.

The Bilingual/English As a Second Language Technical Assistance Center's high level of professionalism and hard work has allowed us to provide professional development conferences, workshops, and presentations to over 1,000 teachers and administrators since the beginning of the 2007-08 academic year.

In competing successfully for contracts with the New York State Education Department, the Intensive Teacher Institute programs will continue through the next four and a half years with a total funding allocation of over \$8.7 million.

The Management Services Division continues to provide professional development opportunities for ESBOCES staff as well as for district school business officials and superintendents. The department has:

- Updated ESBOCES administrative regulations, forms and Board Policies to reflect current law, improved procedures or recommendations by our internal auditors and are now available on the Intranet for sharing of information and documents
- Implemented a new school district billing and accounts receivable system
- Provided the 2008-09 Shared Service Guide online

The Associate Superintendent for Management Services conducts regular meetings for business officials throughout Suffolk County focusing on current school business management issues.

The Regional Information Center, also known as “the RIC”, has developed a handout for school districts providing information on how to engage the RIC and Eastern Suffolk BOCES when looking to acquire technology.

The RIC has also been responding to district requests for new services. Some of which include:

- A new website for all districts relative to Data Warehouse information and support tools
 - Disaster Recovery planning support
 - Off-site storage for critical and/or required data retention, with additional out-of-region data storage
 - Microsoft Exchange services have been designed, with a pricing model distributed to all Suffolk Technology Directors.
 - Internet2 has been implemented as a new research effort for districts to connect through the RIC.
-

In closing, all of these accomplishments are just a few examples of the great successes our agency has experienced over the past year in partnership with all our districts and numerous regional stakeholders. Keeping in mind the fiscal needs of our component districts and our region, this agency has completed a budget that we believe will continue to offer the same quality cost-effective services that our stakeholders have come to expect from Eastern Suffolk BOCES. I am confident that this budget will allow us to build upon all of the success we have established within our agency.

Thank you.