

Spotlight



High School esports Comes to LI

Collaborating with Northwell Health

New Kindergarten Center Opens

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After 32 years of dedicated service to Eastern Suffolk BOCES, Chief Operating Officer Dr. Julie Davis Lutz will retire at the end of this school year. ESBOCES owes Dr. Lutz a debt of gratitude for her tireless efforts to make the agency what it is today, as she has been responsible for the oversight of all aspects of the organization since 2014. During her tenure, career and technical education programs have flourished, special education programs have incorporated innovative technology, and ESBOCES has led the region in our diversity, equity, and inclusivity efforts.



As of July 1, 2022, ESBOCES Deputy Superintendent of Management Services Ryan J. Ruf will become ESBOCES Chief Operating Officer. Transition planning has been ongoing since Dr. Lutz announced her retirement ten months ago. Mr. Ruf, who began his career as a teacher, has been a leader in the agency for the past seven years and a leader as an Assistant Superintendent for Business in the region for many years before that. During his time as Deputy Superintendent of Management Services, Mr. Ruf has overseen all aspects of the Business, Administrative, Technology, and Facilities Departments within the agency making him well positioned to continue to lead the organization forward.



James Stucchio will replace Mr. Ruf as the new Associate Superintendent of Management Services. Mr. Stucchio was most recently the Deputy Superintendent for the Cold Spring Harbor School District.



\$6M Grant

ESBOCES will receive \$6M from the State Education Department to invest in 21st Century Community Learning. These funds will be utilized to provide a variety of academic enrichment, youth development, drug and violence prevention, after school services, and high school leadership development programs in the Brentwood UFSD.

Additionally, the grant will provide tuition for 100 students to participate in the upcoming ESBOCES Summer Career Exploration Program.

ESBOCES will administer the grants funds at \$1.2M a year, for five years, between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2027.

Summer Leadership Academy Will Focus on Cultivating Fearless Schools

Social/Emotional Learning for mental health has become a priority within our schools following the pandemic, not just for students, but for the educators and school personnel who support them. As opposed to the reactive state we have been in for the past two years, schools are beginning to revisit and rebuild their cultures with a focus on resilience – bouncing back from physical, emotional, and psychological injury. Cultivating fearless schools where there is trust and appreciation among students, staff, and communities is essential to this rebuilding, and it is the theme of this year's ESBOCES Two-Day Leadership Academy.

The Leadership Academy will be held on July 13 and 14, 2022 both in person at Sequoya High School in Holtsville and livestream via Zoom. Day one will feature a full day with National Presenter Dr. Douglas Reeves, Ph.D., author of *Fearless Schools*, who will explain how leaders and teachers build and maintain trust and psychological safety. Day two will feature Ray Jorgensen, Ph.D., who will teach practical ways to develop trust throughout our schools, and local fearless school and district leaders will share their journeys toward creating a physical and psychologically safe district culture. There will be breakout sessions focused on dealing with stress, how to support student voices, and more.

This is the 18th Annual Leadership Academy created by the professional development staff in ESBOCES Educational Support Services Department, and it is open to superintendents, assistant superintendents, central office leaders, directors, chairpersons, principals, and assistant principals. Leadership teams are encouraged to participate. For more information on this opportunity to regroup and recharge while earning CEU/CTLE credit, email pdonlinesupport@esboces.org.



Adult Ed Welding Now Offers Credentialed Courses

Qualified welders are in high demand and the ESBOCES Adult Education Welding Program has grown to meet that need. We've revamped our offerings for the 2022-2023 school year to include updated courses and welding qualification exams. This comprehensive program, with exam preparation, is one of only a few available in the region.

The course or courses you choose depends upon the requirements for your industry of interest. The following are now available:

- **Universal welding**
- **Shield metal arc welding**
- **Gas metal arc welding (MIG)**
- **Gas tungsten arc welding (TIG)**
- **Ornamental welding (*artistic, non-credentialed class)**

Prerequisite courses are required before students can register for the 3G Vertical Plate and 4G Overhead Plate qualifications prep course. Five years of welding experience may possibly be substituted for the prep course, permitting those already working in the industry to register for the test class. Each qualification requires a separate registration.

For information about pricing, dates, course descriptions and more, visit <https://www.esboces.org/adulted>

Classroom

Here's a quick look inside our many educational programs, which consist of Career and

Cake in a Jar

Sweet treats are always in demand. Lauren Daquet's Special Career Education Food Prep class at Islip Career Center prepared a "Cake in a Jar" sale to building students and staff. Three varieties (triple chocolate, red velvet, and cookies and cream), layered with buttercream icing made these confections irresistible. Custom vinyl labels designed by Gina Gabrini's Computer Graphic Arts class added the finishing touch.



Museum Worthy

Visit the Parrish Art Museum in Water Mill to view the incredible talent of our Professional Photography students from Liz Grafer's class at Bixhorn Tech Center. The work of these students was chosen and is on display at the museum's student exhibit. Pieces created by our Art, Design, and Visual Communications students are there as well.



Real-world Audio Production Skills

Real-world experience is what CTE provides. The Audio Production students in Matt Cooper's class at Milliken Tech are engaged in a group project where they assume the roles of production manager, music supervisor, or audio engineer. For this assignment, students manage budgets, issue contracts, "hire" and "pay" musicians, edit music tracks, and manage their time to meet deadlines to create cover songs.



Happenings

Technical Education, Adult Education, Special Education, and Special Career Education.

Yoga at Brookhaven Learning Center

Inspired by the book *Asanas for Autism and Special Needs*, Kristina Lomando has been leading her class at Brookhaven Learning Center in their daily yoga practice all year. Yoga has given the students body awareness and has helped them manage their emotions. Poses are completed standing, sitting, or lying down, and are adapted to meet the needs of each student and benefit the whole body.

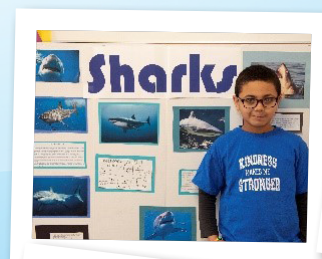


Perfecting Their Skills

Cosmetology students need to perform the 90-degree haircut, also known as a layered cut, in order to pass their state board exam and earn their license. Students Rafael and Eliana, both seniors from Brentwood UFSD, practiced this skill in Michele Pristina's class at Milliken Tech Center for their upcoming exam.

Future Writers

A school-wide writer's workshop at Tecumseh Elementary resulted in an informational text project in Terri Corriess' class about animals. Her third graders each selected different animals to research, displayed their findings on tri-fold boards, and gave presentations to the class. Students utilized organizational writing skills, developed creative hooks to draw in readers, learned to distinguish between facts and opinions, and even incorporated humor into their assignments.



Making Her Way



Afsara demonstrates how the Braille on top of the keys allows her to operate the cash register while Retail Sales Teacher Jennifer Funaro watches.

Afsara moves her fingers over the cash register, carefully feeling the Braille overlay that has been placed on top of the keys, and rings up each order before putting the money into the correct compartments in the register drawer. She is working in the snack bar at Islip Career Center, an ESBOCES school that provides special career education services.

Even though she attends the Retail Services Program at Islip Career Center (ICC) and spends her time learning the ins and outs of working in various retail environments, Afsara would like to work at a nonprofit organization after she exits high school next year. Her goal is to raise money for other blind people so that they may have access to the technology that can help them more easily navigate the world.

ESBOCES Vision Teacher Michele Berkowitz has worked with Afsara, both at ESBOCES and in her home district, since her arrival from Bangladesh when she was 10. Then, she didn't speak English and had never been to school. Today, she progresses through her classes, is fluent in English, speaks Bangla, and reads Braille. An auditory access device and other technology makes it possible for her to read print.

Afsara attends Connetquot High School for half her day to complete her academics and then spends the other half at ICC. In the Retail Program, she hones her customer service skills, fulfills and delivers retail orders to other classrooms, works with hot and cold foods and snacks, handles money, and folds and organizes clothing and merchandise in the school snack bar and boutique. She also joins her

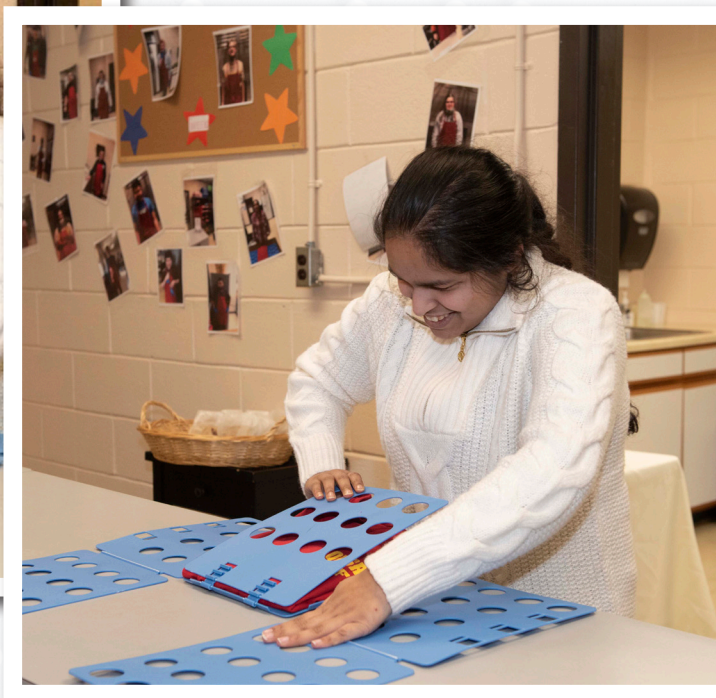
classmates weekly for their internship at Big Lots where they utilize their work skills in an industry setting. Another ESBOCES specialist visits Afsara in her home to assist with home skills, such as meal preparation.

“In addition to the services we provide here at ESBOCES,” explained Jennifer Funaro, retail services teacher at ICC, “Afsara’s work ethic and commitment to tackling challenges have helped her to advance with education and gain work experience.”

Back row, from left: ESBOCES Vision Teacher Michele Berkowitz and Teacher Assistant Lisa LaFrance. Front row, from left: Retail Teacher Jennifer Funaro, Afsara, and Classroom Aide Linda Monahan.



Afsara uses a folding board to fold a T-shirt. All boutique T-shirts are folded this way to give them a uniform look.



To learn more about ESBOCES services for visually impaired students, contact Holly Iulucci at 631-244-4052.

High School esports Has Arrived

In 2018, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), the organization that sanctions high school sports and activities, officially recognized esports as a bona fide sport.

Organized video gaming has been around as long as the video games themselves. However, the industry exploded in the 2010s due to the access that video streaming services, such as Twitch and YouTube, provided. Competitive leagues could now face off against one another while competitions were livestreamed to millions of viewers everywhere. This year, the industry is projected to total \$1.8 billion.*

More proof of the industry's rapidly growing popularity: In 2020, higher education provided more than \$16 million in esports scholarships** and currently, 175 colleges and universities are members of the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE)***.

ESBOCES Model Schools has, therefore, relaunched its esports program for the 2022-23 school year to provide districts with the gamification platforms, guidance, curriculum, and age-appropriate standards so that they may offer this activity to their students.

This program will help districts introduce esports activities through HSEL and PlayVs, two vendors that work with high schools and middle schools. Their assistance will guide districts in organizing, scheduling, and managing the logistics involved in creating competitive leagues and tournaments.

Model Schools will also provide participating districts with regional coaching clinics, guidance to integrate educational learning standards, ensure that Ed Law 2-D data privacy laws are in compliance with vendor relationships, and more.

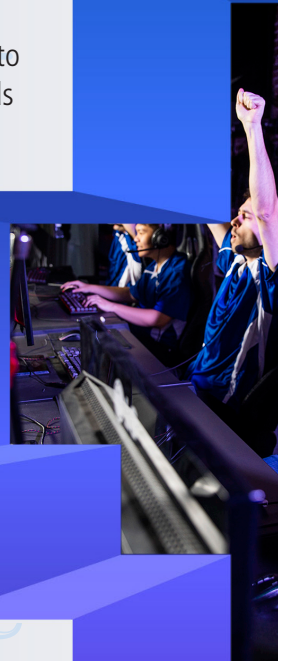
"Esports is an inclusive environment. It incorporates communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity, as well as competition and sportsmanship, just as athletics and other school clubs," said Patricia Gremillion-Burdge, assistant administrative coordinator for Curriculum and Assessment Services. "Students have the opportunity to reinforce digital citizenship skills by engaging positively in an environment that respects the rights of others through responsible technology. It's also a great opportunity to make friends and have fun."

To learn more, call 631-244-4269, email pgremill@esboces.org or visit <https://www.esboces.org/Page/3203>

* [InsiderIntelligence.com](https://insiderintelligence.com), "Esports Ecosystem in 2022: Key industry companies, viewership growth trends, and market revenue stats," March 7, 2022

** ncasports.org, "Esports See Explosive Growth in U.S. High Schools," September 16, 2021

*** ncasports.org, "List of Colleges with Varsity Esports Programs"



Grant funded Pre-Employment Transition Services This Summer at ESBOCES

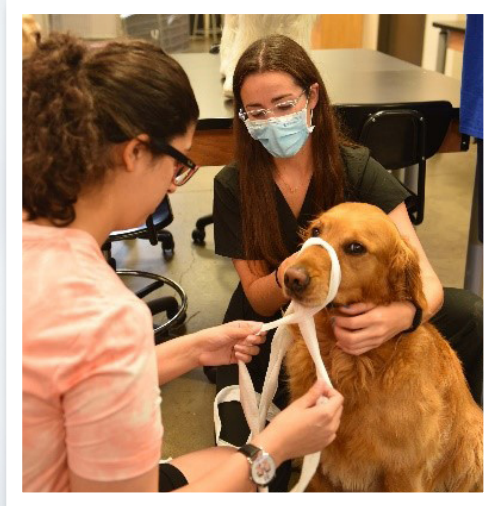
This summer, special needs students ages 14 to 21 will once again be able to explore careers and gain workplace readiness skills at the Pre-Employment Transition Services Summer Career Exploration Program. This is the second year of the program, which is funded by a five-year grant from the NYS Education Department's ACCES-VR Program. ACCES-VR's goal is to assist individuals with disabilities in achieving and maintaining employment and to support independent living.



The ACCES-VR grant allows students who are Eastern Suffolk residents, or are currently ESBOCES students, to attend the summer program. Students will sample four different career alternatives including Culinary Arts, Animal Science, Health Careers, and Automotive/Trades. In addition to getting a taste of some of the career tracks that Eastern Suffolk BOCES offers, students experience job exploration counseling, instruction in self-advocacy, counseling on post-secondary options, workplace readiness training, and work-based learning.

strength inventories. They will learn how to advocate for themselves in the workplace and will gain soft skills that will help them get and keep a job." The counseling portion of the program is very broad and dependent on the student, and can include things like how to transition to college with a disability, access to trade schools, and more.

Sessions will run from July 11 through July 21, 2022, Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the ESBOCES Career and Technical Education Centers in Bellport and Riverhead. Contact 631-286-6520 for more information or to register.



Summer Career Exploration for Students Ages 13 to 15



Students ages 13 to 15 can explore potential career options this summer through Eastern Suffolk BOCES popular Summer Career Exploration Program. This year's program features three weeks of project-based introductory courses at the three ESBOCES technical career centers located in Bellport, Oakdale, and Riverhead. The program will run Monday through Thursday from July 11 through July 28, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Course offerings include Culinary Arts, Automotive Technology, Cosmetology, Dog Care and Training, Welding, and Carpentry. To register, call 631-369-7567 or for additional information, call 631-286-6535.

New Kindergarten Center Coming Fall 2022

When the 2022-2023 school year begins, Premm Learning Center (PLC) will be the home of a new kindergarten center for ESBOCES students. PLC expanded their kindergarten classes this school year to accommodate the influx of kindergarten students the agency experienced, which is continuing into the 2022-2023 school year. PLC was prepared to accommodate these students who need a developmental education and the proper teams were put in place for their arrival. "During the 2020/2021 school year, due to the pandemic, a lot of students who would benefit from what we offer weren't identified and spent time in-district or homeschooling," said PLC Principal Laura Schwartz-Papaleo. "This led to a mid-year influx of kindergarteners to Premm with new classes opening in January, February, and April 2022."

The new center, to be housed in a wing of PLC previously used by the **Connetquot CSD** for administration offices, will accommodate five brand new kindergarten classrooms and a Behavior Intervention Room, where students will have a safe space to calm down and reorganize themselves to return to class. There will be eight students per class in the fall. The PLC kindergarteners will ultimately be assessed to determine whether they remain PLC students after kindergarten or are placed at ESBOCES Sayville Elementary School. Sayville Elementary School will now be for students in grades one through six, with all kindergarteners at the new center at PLC.

Premm Learning Center, located in Oakdale, N.Y., serves students with moderate to severe developmental delays. The team at PLC ensures that each student develops to their maximum potential academically, socially, and physically, and achieves their highest level of independence.



Health Sciences Program News

1. New FlexStaff Program

Graduates of the Adult Education Clinical Medical Assisting Program can now participate in the new FlexStaff Program with Northwell Health. This program gives students the opportunity to explore various sectors of the vast healthcare industry while remaining with a single employer – Northwell. FlexStaff members can benefit from a variety of networking opportunities and experiences prior to obtaining a permanent position as they move between different sites and different specialties, to determine what suits them best (cardiology, gastroenterology, neurology, etc ...) without changing jobs.

Virtual Job Fair with Northwell

Graduating Adult Ed and high school Medical Assisting students can now participate in a virtual job fair with Northwell Health to possibly secure employment before they graduate. Students pre-interview with Northwell to exchange information and learn about available opportunities with the organization, and then take part in the interview. Successful candidates progress to a final round.

3. Hospitality Healthcare Program in the Works

ESBOCES; Northwell Health; and the Suffolk County Department of Labor, Licensing, and Consumer Affairs are collaborating to enhance our current healthcare curriculum or offer a standalone Hospitality in Healthcare Program. This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of careers in the healthcare industry and the importance of infusing customer service skills to enhance patient experiences. This course will focus on front-of-the house, customer service positions, such as employees who greet individuals in hospital lobbies, since positive patient experiences are the responsibility of every healthcare provider.

First Ever Summer Course Debuts

This July, the Adult Education Department launches its first summer course – Home Health Aide. If you or a friend are interested in exploring a career in this field, visit the Adult Ed catalog at <https://www.esboces.org/adulted> for details and registration.

Free Reads

Students across Long Island can now obtain FREE access to a digital library consisting of K-12 electronic and audio reading material through the federally funded LI Students Read Program, administered by the three Long Island-based School Library Systems.

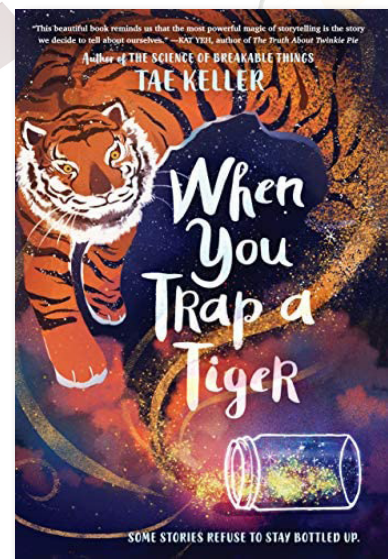
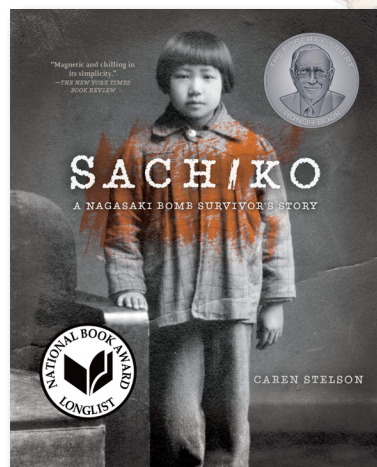
The School Library Systems are housed within each BOCES across the state. Three BOCES service Long Island and they all participate in the new reading program, which launched March 1.

Districts can register for free so their students can access titles. Students log on to the system with the Sora app or by using a web browser.

Currently there are more than 2,000 juvenile to young adult titles from which to choose and more will be added through June 30. The books focus on diversity or feature diverse characters to represent all students.

Ask your school librarian if they've registered your district for the program. Once registered, students can add the LI Students Read library collection to their logon, which they receive through their district classroom accounts.

Questions? Contact the ESBOCES School Library System at 631-286-0891.



www.esboces.org



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