

SEOC Progress



State University of New York
Educational Opportunity Center
100 New Street
Syracuse, NY 13202

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From the Vice President

The Syracuse Educational Opportunity Center (SEOC) now has a wonderful curriculum called "Financing Your Independence." This is a very important program in my opinion. The course is designed to help anyone in the Greater Syracuse area--SEOC student or not. Its purpose is to educate people about proper credit use, basic banking services, avoidance of abusive lending, compound and simple interest, etc... Nobody who has taken the course thus far has been disappointed. If you have any questions about "Financing Your Independence," please call 472-0130.

The SEOC is now offering classes in both Chemistry and Biology as part of our College Preparation Program. We have found that many students want employment as professionals in the medical field. However, they did not take the proper courses in high school or did not do well in the sciences and math, so they can now receive the academic foundation at the SEOC. The College Preparation Program is offered during day and evening hours.

On a personal note, on September 27 I became the proud grandfather of a 6 pound, 11 ounce baby girl by the name of Jehlani Sarai Harper. This is my first grandchild. Mother and grandchild are doing very well. I am quite happy (but diapers are very expensive).
Every kind wish...

College Preparation Expansion

by Linda English, Sr. Staff Associate for Academic Affairs

The Syracuse Educational Opportunity Center (SEOC) is pleased to expand the College Preparation Program! For many students attending college or a post-secondary school, this is an opportunity to advance their career and create more income for their families. The bright promise of a college education is often tarnished by the difficulty of college-level work and tuition costs.

College-level work is difficult, yet preparation, practice, and strong study skills will improve student success. The College Preparation classes at the SEOC are English (Reading, Writing, & Study Skills), Algebra, Biology, and Chemistry. If your entry testing at college shows that you will need to take remediation classes, why pay the college for those classes when you can take them at the SEOC for free? Remedial courses at college use up a student's financial aid money, and they do not give college credit.

Theoretically, one could use tuition money and then not have college credit to apply toward a degree.

The SEOC has expanded college preparation classes for day and evening students. Due to the level of work, faculty recommends students take only two classes a semester. Congratulations to our Fall 2005 level-one completers from the College Preparation Program. They have successfully passed the first five weeks of instruction, and the best is yet to come!



Robert Weldert with his Chemistry class students.

Work Readiness Credential Project

by Marlena Daher-Rahman, Associate Director, Student Personnel Services

Face it! Employers decide what they want you to know when you apply for a job. Therefore, it is a good idea to think about what you need to know while you are in school preparing yourself for the world of work. This way you can brush up on marketable job skills while working on personal development skills. You're probably thinking that it should be enough to have a high school diploma, GED, or vocational training certificate. Employers are telling us no, they want more for their money.

How do employers assess whether or not a prospective employee has the necessary skills to succeed in the workplace? At present, they rely on diplomas, certificates, letters of recommendation, and interviewing skills. However, these documents cannot tell an employer if you possess basic workplace skills to meet the demands of entry-level work or whether you can or are willing to continue to learn while on the job.

For that reason, workforce preparation stakeholders, including elected officials, professionals from business and industry, as well as educators, decided to develop a Work Readiness Credential (WRC). This credential is designed to certify that the individual who earned a WRC is well-prepared for entry-level employment and possesses the competencies and skills necessary to succeed on the job.

The Syracuse Educational Opportunity Center, together with Buffalo, Rochester, and Brooklyn Educational Opportunity Centers, piloted this project over the past year. We are exploring the value of this credential for our students and believe that the WRC can give a graduate the extra edge when being considered for employment. To prove it, we asked a panel of employers if they would consider hiring an applicant who possessed the WRC over one who did not. Employers said that if they had two identical candidates for the same job and one had the WRC, they would hire the candidate with the WRC.

If you are interested in this project, please see your counselor for further details. At present, we are expanding this service and hope that every student will be able to take full advantage of this opportunity in the near future.

Student Recognition at the Syracuse EOC



WANT TO WIN AN SEOC T-SHIRT?

In an effort to recognize those EOC students who attend class in a consistent way, we have instituted a new student attendance award. For each week that a student has "perfect" attendance in their program, their name will be entered into a raffle. At the end of each week, two names will be drawn – one from the evening students and one from the daytime students. Both of these students will receive an EOC t-shirt!

SEOC'S RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Mark your calendars – This year's Recognition Ceremony is tentatively scheduled for

Thursday, June 1,
at 7:00 pm
at Clary School.

If you are not sure that you will qualify to graduate, see your counselor for more information.

Hope to see you there!



SEOC'S STUDENT OF THE MONTH BULLETIN BOARDS

Have you noticed the bulletin boards on the first and third floor with student photos? These are the Student(s) of the Month for the Syracuse EOC.

Each month two faculty members are asked to select a student who has shown considerable improvement in their schoolwork, who has good attendance, and who shows enthusiasm. These people are honored by having their photo displayed for all students to see.

Careerpaths at SEOC

Customer Service Office Program

by Phyllis Shaver, Vocational Division Instructor

A new program got its start this September in the Vocational Technical Division. It is the Customer Service Office Program. The program was developed because there is a need for an intensive short-term training program which enables the student to have immediate entry into the work force. This training program prepares a student for employment in customer service, call centers, receptionist/front desk, and general clerical positions. Using The Telephone Doctor Library, the student is drilled on the "soft skills," which,

according to our Vocational Advisory Board, are absent in many applicants. Courses covered in the ten-week program, in addition to The Telephone Doctor, include keyboarding, Microsoft Windows XP, Microsoft Word XP, basic business math, and basic business English. Students are also given workshops in the job search area and will work closely with instructors, employment specialist, and counselor in getting that exciting position in an entry-level job.



Gina Rowel, Certified Nurse Aide student.

Stepping Up to Health Careers at SEOC

by Karen Krassenbaum, CNA Instructor

Moving on up!



Gina Rowel at her LPN graduation. Gina is now attending RN school.

There are many opportunities at SEOC to move up in education, step by step to a career in the health field.

We have many students who have received NYS Certification as a Nurse Aide. Some started at SEOC in our GED program,

stepped up to CNA, stepped up to College Preparation (this year including chemistry) then on to LPN, RN, or Surgical Tech.

Congratulations to all wherever you are in the process. The health care industry needs you all, and we at SEOC are very proud of your accomplishments!

Staff Recognition Committee News

by Joanne Perez, Counselor

As a member of the fun-loving Staff Recognition Committee, I am ever so pleased to announce our plans for this year. As I sit here in my Harry Potter costume and yell incantations at the television, I realize that the Halloween Party that our illustrious committee sponsored has passed several days ago. I should probably change clothes.

The Halloween Party was a grand success, thanks to the enthusiastic attendees. The committee would like to thank everyone who contributed baked goods, candy, etc. to the event. I am sure that our bodies all suffered from sugar shock for a good couple of hours, but I know in my heart, and in my pancreas, that Willy Wonka would be proud.

As for the rest of the year, after the holidays, the committee is planning to have a food drive. All too often at the beginning of the New Year, we tend to forget the less fortunate. I myself am always consumed with breaking my New Year's Resolution, which is the same every year, to not have a New Year's Resolution to break. If that confuses you, don't worry; it confuses me WAY more. But I digress. The committee is also looking forward to the annual Staff Recognition Celebration, held in previous years at the retreat at Stella Maris. We hope to make it an annual tradition that every staff and faculty member looks forward to. Hey, where else can your nose be magnified on a PowerPoint presentation?

Our future plans, therefore, are to continue to do such activities that bring us together in that Kumbayah kind of way, without, of course, having to sing it. As you look around at your fellow co-worker, you can really get a sense that we are a quirky, little family, and that we really do care about each other. So this year, most importantly, the Staff Recognition Committee hopes to continue to bring this little family together.

People You

by Cynthia Doss,

Staff As

Judy Linder

Judy was born and raised in New Jersey. She has lived in this area for 20 years. She graduated from Boston University with a Bachelors of Music Education. After college she was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Iran. She married and settled in Rock Island, Illinois. She taught music for four years and then made a career change. She was hired by Deere & Co. (a major manufacturer of farm, industrial, and consumer products). While she was working at Deere, she earned an MBA from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA. She transferred to Syracuse in 1985. She worked as a dealer management consultant for the northeast region. She worked with machinery dealers in 11 states, helping them with accounting, inventory control, computer hardware, and software. She taught bookkeeping and inventory management classes. Judy retired after 26 years of service with Deere & Co.

Since retiring Judy has worked as a literacy instructor for Even Start in Oswego County, and has been a GED instructor for Oswego County BOCES.

Judy was a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Oneida Shores. She initiated the Christmas Book Basket and school supplies projects. She is a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Central Square and is a member of their Social Justice Committee.

Judy's hobbies include gardening, horseback riding, bird watching, tatting, and hiking.



Judy Linder

Robert Weldert

On behalf of the SEOC family, please help in welcoming Robert Weldert to Syracuse EOC. Mr. Weldert is the college preparation Chemistry teacher here at SEOC. He began working here in September of this year and really likes it.

Mr. Weldert graduated from Syracuse University and previously taught Chemistry at the high school level in Chittenango and at Onondaga Community College. He states that he likes working with the adults rather than the adolescents because they seem to be more disciplined and focused. He also likes the class size he has here at SEOC.

Mr. Weldert is retired but teaches here at SEOC to keep busy. He states that he doesn't think he would like sitting at home and being idle. In his spare time he is an antique collector. He collects all things nautical as well as scientific instruments like globes, telescopes, and measuring apparatus. He has been doing this for 35 years and has a very extensive collection. He has a wife who works for Syracuse University and a son who is in finances. However, his son is thinking about changing his profession to teaching and becoming a math teacher.

So when you see Robert Weldert, be sure and welcome him to the SEOC. Ask him about his collection. I'm sure that he would love to tell you all about it.



Robert Weldert



Judy Linder.



Robert Weldert.

Want to Know

Staff Assistant, Student Personnel Services

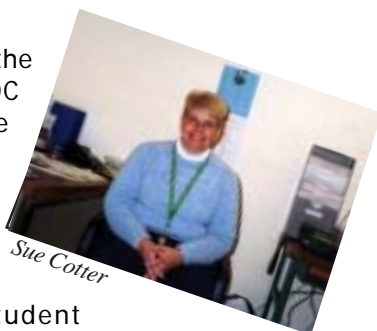
Sue Cotter

On behalf of the Syracuse EOC family, please help in welcoming Sue Cotter to Syracuse EOC. Sue Cotter is the new Employment Specialist in Student Personnel Services. She received her Bachelors degree from SUNY Oswego in psychology and her Masters degree in adult education from Elmira College.

She previously worked at Career Connections Center as an Employment Specialist for Social Services in Mexico, NY. She has been in her current position for six months and states that she really likes the job, the people are nice, and she enjoys working with the students. She also states that there is a more diverse population here than her previous position, and she likes that.

Ms. Cotter has one sister and one brother. She has three grown children, and she lives with her fiancé and her cat Squirt. In her spare time she sings and plays guitar in a group called Concinnity.

Stop by the Career Center for help in job hunting, for answers to your questions about career development, or you can just stop in and say "hi."



Sue Cotter



Sue Cotter.

James Resti

Jim Resti joined the SEOC faculty in September, teaching writing and social studies in the evening program. He graduated from Queens College with a B.A. in Philosophy and earned a law degree at Syracuse University College of Law.



James Resti

Jim spent the first half of his legal career in New York City practicing international law and the latter half in Syracuse as a Criminal Defense lawyer. He also taught at Syracuse University College of Law.

In 2001, Jim began his second career as an English teacher through the New York City teaching fellows program. As a fellow, Jim taught at a high school in Williamsburg, New York, and undertook graduate studies in education at Brooklyn College. The following year Jim returned to Syracuse and began work at the City School District where he is a day time GED instructor at Central Tech.

Jim has been married for 32 years to Cecelia, who is the coordinator of the 21st Century After School Program at Levy Middle School. Jim and Cecelia have three sons, two of whom live in Syracuse and one in Bethesda, MD.



James Resti.

Women on a Mission

Syracuse EOC's Women on a Mission group (better known as WOAM) is off to a great start for the 2005-2006 school year.

Current discussions indicate that the women of WOAM are interested in planning another electrifying fashion show for the students, staff, and faculty. Stay tuned! Also, the possibility of scheduling presentations relating to finance and career paths is being discussed.

In any event, we are looking forward to another fun-filled and educational WOAM year!

From The Library

by Grace Lai, Senior Assistant Librarian

We are very pleased that the Central New York Reads Consortium has provided us a book loan with 48 copies of North Star Conspiracy by Miriam Grace Monfredo. This book has been selected for the 2005-2006 "All CNY Reads" program. It deals with a young fugitive slave who escaped to freedom on the Underground Railroad. The setting was in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1854. The response from the EOC students/staff has been very positive with 100% in circulation.

In December the library, in collaboration with Mr. Jim Engle's College Preparation classes, will sponsor a school-wide book discussion on the above title. Also, we have a plan for our students to view the Underground Railroad Exhibition at the Onondaga Historical Association Museum and to attend the author's lecture at the Soule Branch Library in January, 2006.

In response to student interest, the library has begun to build a new "African American" section. Our emphasis is to gather the contemporary books by and about African Americans in one location for easy access and fun reading. We are asking all staff, if possible, to donate any books they may have in this subject area. Your participation will facilitate our book collection task for the benefits of our students.



Grace Lai working with students in the library.



Quick Guide on Purchasing a Digital Camera



by Brian Lee, Computer Technician



Megapixels: 3 to 5 megapixels (\$180-\$300)

More megapixels are not necessarily better for you. To print photos on an 8x10" paper, you would need about 3 megapixels to print a good picture. A 5mp camera would not print a 4x6" photo any better than a 3mp camera would.

To visualize the size of the actual image, a typical image size of a 5mp camera = 3MB file size @ 3072x2304 pixels. Your 17" monitor can show 1024x768 pixels.

Flash Memory Size: 256MB to 1.0GB (\$40 - \$100)

While 256MB may be fine for a day or two, a larger memory card could be a worthwhile purchase. People tend to shoot about 3 times more pictures with a digital camera than they do with a regular film camera. 5 mp camera: 256MB = 85 images, 512MB = 170 images.

Extra rechargeable batteries: \$20 - \$40

Cameras drink batteries quickly because they are entirely electronic. Through a normal day of use, you may go through 2 sets of batteries.

Brand: Personal preference

This is a personal preference. While there are reviews on digital cameras, it is best to go by what feels right in your hands. Just like buying a car, you buy one that feels right for you.

Average Total Cost: \$240 - \$440

It's All Good

by Joanne Stephens, Vocational Division Instructor

Welcome back to all of the students in attendance at the Syracuse Educational Opportunity Center. The entire staff welcomes you back, and we appreciate you choosing our program to pursue your continuing education.

My name is Joanne Stephens, and I am an instructor for Software Enrichment Training. I also write the articles for "It's All Good." Usually I write inspirational articles that, hopefully, provide the reader with food for thought. For this first article of the 2005-2006 school year I thought I would try something different. Who knows, it might add a little spice to our lives. So in an effort to make this experience interactive in nature, what follows is a poem and a couple of questions that you might want to answer.

KNOW ME...

Know me by my essence, my aura
 Know me by my laughter, my smile
 Know me by my presence, my impatience
 Know me by my idiosyncrasies,
 those little things that make me unique

Know me by my spiritual contemplation,
 join me in my meditation
 See things, my way without question,
 I will do the same for you
 Listen to my words,
 I will listen to yours

Discover my way of thinking, perceiving
 and be astonished by our similarities
 Enjoy me in my totality
 Enjoy me unconditionally
 As I will you

If, indeed, you answer the questions, you can send your response to my e-mail address: stephejd@morrisville.edu.

1. What is the message of this poem as it relates to you?
2. How could you apply this in your everyday life and interaction with others?

Well, until the next time, be good to yourself and let **no one** (man or woman) mess with your **JOY**.

When I've Done My Best

by Ophelia Brown, Instructor

When I've done my best,
 They still put me to the test.
 They spin and weave my thoughts away
 But I still come back another day.

When I've done my best,
 They still put me to the test.
 They sigh and smirk at my individuality
 While I deal in logic, they deal in practicality.

But I won't give up the race for a positive goal,
 Nor will I let naysayers bruise my soul.

When I've done my best,
 They still put me to the test.

Failure is a possibility, but it's not my destiny;
 For my success is up to me.
 I will forge ahead and prepare true,
 For I seek excellence in all I do.

When I've done my best,
 They still put me to the test.

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College Preparation students in the chemistry lab class.



Medical Billing & Coding, June 2005.



Certified Nurse Aide students during class.



SEOC students during a WOAM meeting.

The SEOC Progress

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