Orange-Ulster BOCES Division of Instructional Support Services
Promotes Educational Leadership with
Strengthening Teacher/Leader Effectiveness (STLE) Grant

The OU BOCES/Division of Instructional Support Services (ISS) recently received a Strengthening Teacher/Leader Effectiveness (STLE) Grant to support the development of effective teachers and principals to expand their roles as educational leaders among their peers. This grant is a strong complement to the wide-range of support the ISS division provides to districts professional development, distance learning, student enrichment, library services, instructional materials and curriculum/assessment guidance.

The STLE Grant will enable highly effective teachers and principals to be trained to coach their colleagues in best practices. The training will also spearhead the development of subject-based professional learning communities (PLCs) that will focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics skills and concepts, (STEM:S/C) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics language (STEM:L). Two other PLCs will focus on Humanities, Arts, and Social Studies skills and concepts, (HASS:S/C) and Humanities, Arts, and Social Studies language (HASS:L).

Mrs. Cynthia Benedict, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction for the Port Jervis City Schools shares, “The grant provides the opportunity for a school district to develop more fully our Professional Learning Communities [PLCs] and subsequently delve more deeply into the ELA modules and develop integrated units of study across the curriculum and grade levels. Through the BOCES’ support of PLCs we will increase literacy skills by focusing on deeper understanding through close reading and increasing teacher capacity for instruction in literacy skills across the curriculum.”
The Division of Instructional Support Services is poised to launch the STLE grant in an effort to foster excellence in all areas of teaching and administration in order to enhance optimal student learning and achievement. “We are so proud to have been selected as a STLE awardee. The grant provides a wonderful opportunity for OU BOCES to engage with educators in Port Jervis, Chester, and the rest of the county to assure that students are prepared to be college and career ready. Focusing in on STEM across the curriculum, especially engineering, positions our districts to be on the cutting-edge of curriculum development and teaching,” said Dr. Diane E. Lang, Director of the Division of Instructional Support Services.

Orange-Ulster BOCES has a proven and positive record of providing Pre-K to grade-12 teacher and leader professional development programming including functioning as the lead agency on an 11-district Race to the Top Consortia and successfully supporting the transition to the new APPR system, educating teachers in the new New York State curriculum standards and curriculum in ELA and math. Additionally, OU BOCES has successfully led the Title III Consortium for the past four years.

The Division of Instructional Support Services wrote, planned, and delivered professional development experiences and instructional materials that reached 8,823 teachers and 2,291 principals and assistant principals in the 2011-2012 school year. In the 2012-2013 school year the outreach increased to more than 12,000 participants in professional development activities. At the close of the current school year, the division reached more teachers and administrators than ever before. The Division of Instructional Support Services provides forums, coaching, workshops and multi-day institutes. Over the past three years the division has offered 681 distinct professional development workshops covering STEM pre-K to 12th grade, HASS pre-K to 12th grade, APPR, educating students with disabilities, crisis intervention, positive school climate, assessment and more.

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