



## **GREENE IDA, GREENVILLE CSD AND C2 BIOTECHNOLOGIES JOIN TOGETHER IN UNIQUE COLLABORATION**

A significant partnership joining the business community with education was announced in mid-March showcasing the benefits to both groups. Larry Cosenza, Ph.D., founder and Chief Science Manager for a small Bio Tech Startup company called C2 Biotechnologies, has established a research lab and office at the Greenville High School campus with support from the Greene IDA and State Senator James Seward.

This Pilot project called the Greene Commercial Center creates a hybrid “Innovation Center” joining business, secondary and community college education and community organizations in a multi-functional Business Center/Incubator environment at the high school campus. C2 Biotechnologies, funded with a US Energy Grant, has joined with the Greene IDA utilizing a Senator Seward member initiative and partnered with the Greenville School District to establish this progressive model. Encouraging student and educator involvement and direct hands on experience with the research and development being conducted by the company provides an incredible opportunity in workforce development and project based learning.

C2 Biotechnologies specializes in developing consumables for the renewable energy markets. Specifically, they design enzymes used to convert biomass into energy. This concept blends perfectly with the Greene IDA efforts to attract biomass production and utilization in the production of energy. “This model of interacting with students and educators as a regular practice during research and development activities is extremely attractive and beneficial. Incorporating students into my regular course of conducting experiments is helpful and provides a level of education hard to replicate in the classroom,” explained Larry Cosenza – Founder of C2 Biotechnologies.

The Greenville Central School District embraced the concept of The Greene Commercial Center as an opportunity to enhance their current Agriculture and Science programming by providing real-world connections to their existing curriculum. Greenville School Superintendent Cheryl Dudley offered, “This concept grew out of the participation of the Greene IDA in our Master Planning process. We are thrilled by the potential for student internships, employment and relevant hands-on scientific research in an emerging technological area. This partnership is a model for future school – business interaction benefiting all parties.”

The long term goal of this model is a stronger workforce to compete in future high tech sector employment opportunities and the creation of local jobs as these companies become successful at commercializing their new technologies. “The Greene IDA will continue to work at linking start-up business opportunities directly to education will support our overall goal of preparing our young workforce for future jobs. Plus, we remain driven to achieve our overall goal of creating these valuable tech jobs in Greene County,” explained Greene IDA Chairman Paul Slutzky.



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### **Middle School Students Participate in Twin County Science Expo**

Ten students in grades six through eight participated in the Twin County Science Expo, held at Columbia Greene Community College on March 20. Students participated and presented their projects as individuals or in small groups and competed based on grade level.

Sixth grade students Natalie Louban and LilyAnn McQuillen presented a project on grass growth and Brittany Johnson entered a rubber band heat engine. Seventh grade students Brandon Johnson and Brenden Lee entered a trebuchet (engine used during the Middle Ages), Bethany Mitchell presented a project on Olympic medals and Kenneth Bates took 4th place for his project on optical illusions.

Eighth grade participants included Emily Mitchell who entered a project on Olympic medals, Anna Kelly presented a project called 'sweet surprise' and Trevor Weeks entered a project on theories of time travel.

### **Elementary Students Celebrate St. Patrick's Day**

On March 17 Scott M. Ellis Elementary School was filled with students and teachers wearing green and participating in special St. Patrick's Day activities. The day began with a fun and interactive Irish Step Dancing performance showcasing the talents of fellow classmates.

Sixteen students performed traditional Irish Step Dancing on stage, some for the first time, during the assembly. Students performing included Fiona Donlon, Trista Mistler, Sydney Smith, Sierra Mistler, Tess Fitzmaurice, Nicole Bowden, Theresa Donlon, Emily Connolly, Riley Uht, Grace Statham, Ellen Hagan, Claire Tolan, Elise DuBois, Allie Cullen, Kerianne Mahoney and Cormac Tolan. Returning from the Middle School to participate in the presentation was Colin Mahoney.

Thank you to all the dancers and Mrs. DuBois for organizing this event!





### IB Open House Held at GCS High School

On March 15 members of the International Baccalaureate (IB) team at Greenville High School hosted an Open House for students and their parents to learn more about the rigorous diploma program. High School Principal Mr. Laster, provided an overview of the program and required coursework before students and parents spent time discussing class requirements with faculty from each course area.



The GCS Community is excited and pleased to offer IB coursework for the first time in September 2010. The initial course offerings include English, Spanish, Latin, History of the Americas/20<sup>th</sup> Century World Issues, Biology, Environmental Systems and Societies, Mathematics, Music, Theatre and Theory of Knowledge.

Our review of the IB program has shown that IB students are well prepared for college, learn time management and organizational skills and view their learning from a global perspective. These qualities make students stronger competitors for employment.

### Writing Celebration at Ellis

Fifth grade students in Ms. Parvis and Ms. Rowlee's classes have been studying short stories as part of their English Language Arts curriculum. During this unit each student wrote his/her own short story, created illustrations and designed a cover for a book. At the conclusion of the unit these "published" pieces were shared with classmates at a Writing Celebration where the books were viewed in stations. Students enjoyed the opportunity to share their work with classmates and learn from one another.



### Middle School Students Attend Anti-Bullying Assembly

On March 18 students in grades 6 through 8 attended an assembly on anti-bullying. Each grade level met to discuss what bullying is and what they can do to prevent it from happening. During the presentation students watched a video called *The Broken Toy* which told the story of a middle school boy who was being bullied during and after school. Students discussed the video, and shared their thoughts.

## High School Student Takes Second Place at Regional Brain Bee

High School senior Dylan Yeomans placed as first runner up in the regional Brain Bee, a neuroscience competition for high school students. Dylan is a student in Questar III's New Visions: Scientific Research & World Health, an accelerated program for high school seniors based at the University at Albany's East Campus.

The Brain Bee is a live question and answer competition to identify the student who has the best knowledge of brain function and dysfunction, physiology and chemistry. The Albany Chapter of the International Society for Neuroscience, headed by SUNY professor and neuroscientist Dr. Cheryl Frye, sponsors the Brain Bee each year to encourage area high school students to learn about the human brain.

Faculty, staff and administrators would like to congratulate Dylan on his achievement!



## Student Art Work Acknowledged at March Board of Education Meeting

Two students from Greenville High School were chosen to participate in the Columbia-Greene Community College (C-GCC) 14th Annual Juried Art Show. Sophomore Matthew Tarbox and senior Stephanie Bouillon had their art work displayed in the C-GCC Foundation Gallery at the campus Arts Center through February 26.

During the March 8 Board of Education Meeting, these students were also acknowledged by the Greenville School Board for exceptional artistic talent. Matt's graphite pencil drawing depicted a fox and Stephanie's charcoal drawing captured a movie still.

## Changes to GCS Middle School Newsletter

This year exciting changes are being made to the Middle School newsletter. Rather than publish a quarterly newsletter made of current, non-fiction writing, the Newsletter Club will now create an annually published "year in review". The newsletter will be a literary magazine, full of creative writing from students throughout the school and will include poetry, short stories, plays, drawings and photographs. The newsletter will be published at the end of the school year and every student in the school will receive a copy.

In this format, writing and art submissions will be open not only to members of the Newsletter Club but to all middle school students. Club members will help complete essential publishing jobs such as editing, graphic designing and advertising. This project will allow students the opportunity to see their literary and artistic works published in a formal format and to view all of the work - and fun - that takes place through the publishing process.



### Reading Partners at GCS

Throughout the school year fifth grade students in Ms. Persico's class have been paired with Kindergarten students in Ms. Overbaugh's class as 'Reading Partners'. Working as a team these students meet once a week for about an hour. Fifth grade students interview the kindergartners, read to them and then visit the public library to select books for next week's session.

The Reading Partners program benefits both the older and younger students in many ways. Fifth grade students practice reading fluency, learn about helping others and are able to learn about the Greenville Public Library. Kindergartners are able to learn and practice pre-reading techniques and further their skills by hearing the modeled reading of fifth graders. Both age groups greatly enjoy this on-going learning and sharing experience.

### High School Student Advocates at State Capital

On March 10th Greenville High School student, Joseph Chase, spent the day meeting with state lawmakers at the Capitol. Chase, along with others, met with state representatives to show support for the unique regional High School, Tech Valley (TVHS).

Tech Valley High School is an innovative, regional public high school located in Rensselaer, NY. Curriculum at Tech Valley emphasizes math, science and technology while providing a well-rounded education that prepares students to compete in the growing high tech and global economy. The school is a joint venture between Capital Region and Questar III BOCES that is shaped and sustained through collaboration of K-12 public schools, higher education, business, organized labor and government.

While at the Capital, Joe and other students currently attending TVHS, met with Sen. Steven Saland, Assemblymen Robert Reilly, John McEneny, George Amedore, Peter Lopez, Jim Tedisco, Tim Gordon and Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari. They carried with them the message that TVHS is a viable alternative for the future of education in New York State.





### **Winter Athletics at GCS**

On March 11 Greenville High School held its annual Winter Sports Awards Night to present athletes with certificates of participation and to recognize individual players for their outstanding efforts during the season. Coaches presented plaques to students receiving the Coach's Award and Most Valuable Player (MVP). All seniors received special recognition and a plaque to honor their athletic achievements. Seen here are group pictures of this year's senior athletes, Coach's Award and MVP recipients.

The Athletic Department at Greenville HS is also pleased to announce that two High School varsity sports teams have been named Scholar Athlete Teams by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) for the winter 2009-10 season. To earn this prestigious honor the team must have a combined overall average of 90 percent or better. Teams receiving this honor for the winter season are Boys Basketball (92.6) and Girls Basketball (95.3).

Congratulations to High School junior TaylorAnne Young for being selected to the 2009-10 Patroon Conference Girls Basketball All-Stars team!

### **Grant Provides New Supplies for Students**

Thanks to DonorsChoose.org Greenville High School faculty will purchase new sketch pads and a digital camera to assist them with classroom projects. DonorsChoose.org is a non-profit organization that allows teachers to request funding for projects that involve student-centered learning.

Individuals wishing to donate can visit the DonorsChoose.org website and donate toward a project of their choice. When the project reaches its funding goal DonorsChoose.org will purchase the necessary supplies and provide them to the school.

Using these supplies students will create an inspirational video to share with students and adults around the world using the video sharing website, YouTube. This video will be planned, organized and directed by students and will provide techniques for self-improvement, overcoming obstacles and striving for success.

School Psychologist Michael Flagg believes that this video project will help empower students. "Students have a desire to learn more about technology, how it works and what it can do," says Flagg. "Creation of this video will help students further their technological skills and show them that they can relate not only to each other, but to people around the world through modern technology", says Flagg.