



Trying college again pays off for NCCC student

Courtney Oakes has a message for anyone who tried college once, failed, and thought they would never get another chance to go back to school.

“Don’t let that one experience sour you on going to college,” she said. “Reflect on why it didn’t work and what you could do differently, then try again.”

Oakes, who’s from Bombay, speaks from her own experience. After graduating high school, her first attempt at college didn’t work out. Three years into pre-med at a four-year university, her GPA fell below 2.0 and she lost her financial aid, so she withdrew.

In fall 2016, Oakes transferred to North Country and entered the Health Sciences program, starting first in Malone, then later moving to Saranac Lake. The 23-year-old is now in the Licensed Practical Nursing program. Her career goal is to be a pediatric nurse.

“It was so much more welcoming here,” Oakes said. “It’s a tight-knit community where you feel like you have more support. And I knew the nursing program here was really good, so it felt like a new start for me.

“When I graduated high school, I wanted to get out of here and see something new. But sometimes coming back to your roots is the best thing you can do. And that’s what it has been like for me here at North Country.”

Beyond her studies at NCCC, Oakes is a resident assistant in the college’s residence halls, a peer mentor for incoming students, works part-time in Financial Aid and is the student representative on the college Board of Trustees.



NCCC faculty member teaching in Russia as Fulbright Scholar

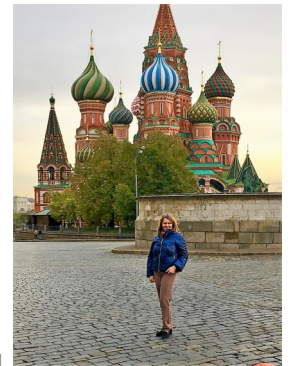


Selina LeMay-Klippel, a nursing professor and NCCC’s Ticonderoga campus coordinator, is teaching at Bashkir State Medical University in Ufa, Russia this semester after winning a prestigious Fulbright U.S. Scholar award.

“I was expecting the welcome to be guarded but polite and accommodating, but what I received has been overwhelmingly inclusive and grateful, with the red carpet rolled out to every door in Ufa,” she said.



Follow Selina’s journey through her podcast “Russia on My Mind,” available at www.nccc.edu



32 students graduate in first Second Chance Pell class

More than thirty students from state and federal correctional facilities across the region graduated this fall from the college’s Second Chance Pell program, which allows non-violent inmates with less than five years left on their sentences to earn an associate’s degree.

NCCC is the only two-year college in the SUNY system to offer Second Chance Pell. The goal of the program is for the students to improve their chances of finding employment upon release.

“They have accomplished a lot,” said Sarah Kilby, the college’s Second Chance Pell director. “Just seeing some of the students start to see other futures for themselves, it’s been rewarding to be a part of this program.”





Destigmatizing Trade School Education

by Dr. Steve Tyrell, NCCC President



Not a week goes by when there isn't another news story about the difficulty homeowners and employers have in finding qualified trades professionals. Electricians, building contractors, automotive techs are all in demand across the region.

If that's the case, why is this too often the response when a high school student tells a parent that he or she is considering going to BOCES for building trades? "That's great, but you are going to college no matter what." And why is this something we typically hear in a social setting? "We need more trades people, but my child is going to a four-year college."

There is a stigmatization placed on these important professions, often by the same people who lament that they cannot find a carpenter or electrician. Too many of us devalue trade professions as viable careers to those we influence.

"Too many of us devalue the trades as viable careers to those we influence"

The truth is, there is solid evidence that a trade professional can earn a livable wage without extensive years of training and right after completing their education. Ten years later, that livable wage can grow to a modest income that would overshadow many who had completed a baccalaureate degree during the same time span. Encouraging people we know to pursue the trade professions is the first step toward resolving this issue.

We also need to educate ourselves in regard to how much these professions have changed in the last decade. The introduction of "green" technologies and other advancements specific to these fields has led to a work environment that looks very different and more modernized than what many of us may have envisioned.

Increasing our understanding of the modern trade professional today will greatly reduce the stigma out there and may encourage more people to pursue these critical professions we need in the North Country region.

Editor's note: A consulting firm hired by NCCC is currently studying the feasibility of a proposed School of Applied Technology in Ticonderoga. Its findings and recommendations are due later this semester.

NCCC wins grant to help college go tobacco-free

North Country Community College will use an \$18,800 Truth Initiative grant to help go tobacco-free on its Malone, Saranac Lake and Ticonderoga campuses by 2020.

The college will create a task force to assess tobacco-related issues on campus, educate and engage students and staff on the need for and benefits of going tobacco-free, identify a plan to address treatment for who are interested in quitting, and develop a tobacco-free policy recommendation.

"We will be doing everything we can to engage the campus community on the program level, on the cessation level, on the policy level," said NCCC Dean of Student Life Kim Irland, the project's co-leader.

Using funds from the grant, North Country recently hired two student leaders – Colby Reynolds of Rutland, Vermont, and Chis Murguia of Saranac Lake – who will engage the student body on tobacco-free awareness, advocacy and prevention.



NCCC students Colby Reynolds, left, and Chris Murguia will organize events to engage their fellow students on the perils of tobacco use.



(Photo: Adirondack Daily Enterprise -- Justin A. Levine)

Alicia Cook: NCCC's all-time leading scorer

Alicia Cook of Chateaugay, a Radiologic Technology student, made history this fall when she set a new all-time scoring mark for NCCC women's soccer. She notched her 36th career goal on Sept. 21, eclipsing the prior record (35) held by Morgan Fountain.

And Cook didn't stop there. She finished her Saints soccer career with 45 goals and 34 assists, for a total of 124 career points.

"Alicia works hard, never complains, and is always supportive and a positive influence with her teammates," said Saints Head Coach Kent Egglefield. "On top of all that, she is an amazing student in one of our hardest curricula. I couldn't be more proud of Alicia."