APC Bulletin

Bryant & Stratton's Albany Annex Flourishes

College excels at producing multi-skilled professionals with specialized skills.

** Note: This is the first in a three-part article series on Bryant & Stratton in the Capital Region.*

It was just over three years ago when Bryant & Stratton's leadership made the decision, due in part to an ever-increasing demand for health care professionals in the Capital Region, to expand its medical curriculum and offer a new bachelor's degree program in Health Services Administration.

L to R: Bryan Gregory, dir of financial services training; Victoria Hernick, dir of curriculum development and compliance; and Ashley Soroka, regional healthcare director welcome students to Bryant & Stratton's Wolf Road location.

Knowing the expansion would result in a significant enrollment increase, the college relocated its health care and medical offerings to an 18,222 square foot space located along Wolf Road in Colonie.

The expansion was initially planned for the college's existing Albany campus on Central Avenue in Albany. However, parking constraints and concerns about traffic congestion prompted the college to expand off-campus.

"Our new space on Wolf Road is allowing us to serve our students better," said Bryan Gregory, director of financial services training in Albany. "We offer more classes at times when students need them the most and have a comfortable learning environment."

Today the Wolf Road location accommodates all of the college's health care and medical courses as well as courses in financial services. All of the school's liberal arts and general courses continue to be held at the Central Avenue campus in Albany.

Ashley Soroka, regional healthcare director in Albany, said both campus locations focus on providing students with a complex body of knowledge, enabling them to make a direct contribution in the workplace.

"Not only do our students complete the required program coursework needed for their degree, each program incorporates an additional component, giving our graduates an edge over other job applicants," said Soroka. "For instance, our medical assisting program encourages students to complete the coursework necessary to become certified in phlebotomy as well. In addition, all students must complete an internship prior to graduation."

L to R: Victoria Hernick and Ashley Soroka, pose by the Wolf Road location's Job Board. The board contains employment opportunities from local employers as well as a schedule of events from the county's One Stop program. One Stop is a statewide workforce development system that provides career counseling, job-search workshops, and employment statistics on the labor market, as well as data regarding the skills necessary to obtain employment for local occupations that are in demand.

APC Lobby Day is March 2nd & 3rd

Planning is underway for the 2015 APC Lobby Day, so mark your calendars and plan to join us on **March 2 and 3 at the Albany Hilton**.

Come to Albany and reacquaint lawmakers with your college and urge them to provide the maximum TAP award available to all students! We must remove the TAP Cap placed on students enrolled in an APC member college that only offers two-year degree programs.

Hotel Information:

Albany Hilton, 40 Lodge Street

Call – 1-800-445-8667 and use APC's room block code: 1APC to receive our special room rate of $169 per night.

Who should attend?

Select a combination of three to five students, employers and successful graduates from your college to attend Lobby Day activities. Your representatives will need a full two-day commitment to allow for travel and meeting with legislators. College representatives should be well-spoken, well-dressed and passionate about the value of TAP in making their college experience possible and successful.

Schedule of events:

Monday, March 2nd

- Afternoon - Check in at the Albany Hilton
- 4 - 5:30 PM – Student Boot Camp
- 6 - 7 PM – Reception
- 7 - 9:30 PM – Dinner and Presentation at the Albany Hilton

Tuesday, March 3rd

- 7:30 - 8:30 AM – Breakfast at the Albany Hilton
- 9 AM - 2 PM – Legislative Visits (Legislative Office Building & Capitol)
- 1 - 3 PM – Requested box lunches available for pick up at the Albany Hilton

For more information, please contact Donna at dgurnett@apc-colleges.org for an information packet and registration form. And don't delay, the forms must be completed and returned by **Monday, February 2nd.**

Bryant and Stratton Host Snow-A-Palooza

On Dec.5, Santa and his sleigh landed on Bryant & Stratton's extension site in Malta, NY, to help celebrate the location's one-year anniversary and kick off the holiday season. Together with local business groups, the college celebrated the magic of the season with the community. Area children decorated cupcakes, played games and danced in time to the Wii video game, "Just Dance" and spent time with Santa!

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Berkeley College Announces New President, Michael J. Smith

The Board of Trustees of Berkeley College has named Michael J. Smith as President, effective July 1, 2015. Mr. Smith currently serves as senior vice president, Finance and chief financial officer of BES Inc., the corporate office of Berkeley College. Smith will succeed Dario A. Cortes, Ph.D., who announced his retirement earlier this year. He was president since July 2008.

"We are both pleased and excited to promote from within," said Kevin Luing, chairman of the Board of Trustees. "Michael Smith's institutional knowledge and proven leadership ability, along with his concern for student success, will drive Berkeley College to new heights."

"My plan is to build upon the tradition of Berkeley College, where students come first," said Mr. Smith. "Emphasizing personalized attention to each and every student will increase successful student outcomes in the form of higher graduation rates, and that can drive graduates toward more meaningful professional careers."

Smith's career at Berkeley began in 1996. During his tenure, he transformed the technology infrastructure for human resources at the college and emphasized a centralized approach toward organizational management and services. He conceptualized systems and processes to implement sophisticated planning and budgeting, forecasting, balance sheet and working capital management, capital budgeting and external reporting.

Under Smith's leadership Berkeley College has garnered numerous best workplace and best employer awards. He also has served as treasurer for the Board of Trustees, and as chief operating officer at Berkeley College's, White Plains, NY, campus. He was also a member of evaluation teams for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education – regional accrediting organization covering the mid-Atlantic region

APC's New Office Location

The Association of Proprietary Colleges announces its new office location at:

2501 Jerome Avenue

Bronx, NY 10468

Phone: 646-393-8520

Email: dgurnett@apc-colleges.org

www.apc-colleges.org

APC's government relations office in Albany:

121 State Street

Albany, NY 12207

Phone: 518-437-1867

APC Appoints Mary Beth Del Balzo to the Board of Trustees

On Tues., Jan. 13, the association appointed Mary Beth Del Balzo, LCSW, president and CEO of The College of Westchester (CW), to the APC's Board of Trustees.

Del Balzo became president and CEO of CW in December 2014, as then-president and CEO, Karen Smith, stepped down and into the position of vice chairwoman of the college's Board of Trustees.. Since 1982, Del Balzo has helped create innovations in various department of CW, most recently as the senior executive vice president and chief operating officer leading the college in its day to day functions and strategic planning and implementation. Her role also included the development and inception of the online division and widening the corporate relations reach to better serve the adult learners in the community.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome the extraordinary leadership and vast expertise Mary Beth brings to the board," said Donna Stelling-Gurnett, executive director of APC. "For many years, Mary Beth has been a valued member of APC and a tremendous resource for the association and its membership. I look forward to continuing our work together in the future as we advance the interests of higher education and the students we serve."

"I find that my professional training in psychotherapy and social work brings a unique perspective to my position as president of The College of Westchester as well as my work with my APC," said Del Balzo. "It enhances my world view of student achievement and success, staff and faculty interactions and how CW interacts and works with our local community, corporate, academic and community based organizations."

On behalf of CW and the association, Del Balzo has worked with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the New York State Education Department on various workgroups. She has also appeared before the United States House Committee on Education and the Workforce to share CW's best practices for retaining and graduating low-income and first-generation students. In addition, Del Balzo has been instrumental in the progress of CW's Advisory Council. Comprised of local business leaders, the council continually evaluates and improves curriculum based on emerging regional workforce needs.

"Ensuring the educational needs of our students while supplying employers with talented candidates who have the skills need to immediately contribute to the company's success is a priority to all of our institutions as well as New York's," said Stelling-Gurnett. "Mary Beth's firsthand knowledge of what an employer needs to thrive in today's economy is a tremendous asset."