

OHM BOCES CTE Student Selected as Vanguard Award Winner

Feb. 9, 2010 (New Hartford, N.Y.) – Because Kyrstan Panzone, a senior in the Automotive Technology program at the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Career and Technical Education Center, is only one of three females in her class, she became eligible for an award that will now bring her state-wide recognition.

A student in the Whitesboro Central School District, Panzone was chosen out of 24 New York state finalists as a 2009-10 Vanguard Award Winner. She is one of seven students given this honor who are enrolled in either a secondary or post-secondary program that are nontraditional for their gender.

The Vanguard Student Recognition Award is coordinated by the NET (Nontraditional Employment & Training) Project and the New York State Education Department. The NET Project, an affiliate with the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society at the University at Albany, is committed to preparing students for the 21st century workforce through the promotion of gender neutral educational strategies and practices.

“I am very happy and excited to receive this award,” said Panzone, who has been interning with Dey Chevrolet in Clinton, N.Y., since November 2009. “It’s nice being a pioneer. I really love working on cars.”

Panzone was one of four finalists for the Vanguard Award from the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES. Stephanie Wing, a senior in the Utica City School District is a student in Richard Marchitelli’s Criminal Justice II class; Augusta Smith, a senior in the Oriskany Central School District is a student in Richard Waskiewicz’s Construction Trades II course; and Zachary Sweet, a senior in the Holland Patent Central School District is a student in Colleen Perta’s Cosmetology II class, all received recognition.

“Kyrstan is one of the top two or three students I have had in my class in seven years either male or female,” said BOCES Automotive Technology Instructor John Stratton. “She is certainly the most outstanding female I have had in my class. Her work ethic is outstanding. She sees each job through to the end no matter how difficult.”

The daughter of Tom and Paula Panzone of Whitesboro, Panzone plans to attend Morrisville State College for four years to study auto mechanics. She hopes to work in an automotive shop after graduation. The Vanguard award winners will be honored on Friday, Feb. 26 at the 2010 Annual New York State Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators (ACTEA) Conference in Albany, N.Y.



