



News about...

July 2019

Urban **US** Suburban

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Participating Districts:

- Brighton
- Brockport
- East Irondequoit
- East Rochester
- Fairport
- Hilton
- Honeoye Falls-Lima
- Penfield
- Pittsford
- Rochester
- Rush-Henrietta
- Spencerport
- Webster
- West Irondequoit
- Wheatland-Chili

Coordinated by:



Inaugural class of East Irondequoit U-S students graduate

by David Yates, Director of Communications, EI

It's not too often you can say that you are the first to ever do something but, when Duane Alston and Jameire Mitchell crossed the stage at Eastridge High School's (EHS) graduation, they could make that claim. They entered EHS as freshmen when the Urban-Suburban program first arrived in East Irondequoit and now are the first to earn their diplomas after spending all four years there.

"I was actually surprised and kind of excited when I heard that," Duane said. "Things like that don't happen often so it was kind of cool."

Duane and Jameire were both nervous about leaving their familiar surroundings and heading to a new school, but they both found out quickly that there was no reason to be nervous.

"I was the new kid on the block, but I was surprised. I found people right away who liked the same things as me so it was easy to fit in," said Jameire.

For Jameire, the decision to leave the city was one that his mom was pushing for. She saw it as an opportunity to focus on what was important.

"I had a lot of distractions," he said. "She thought it would be good to have a change of scenery, a better education and not as many bad influences."

That same change in scenery has made an impact on Duane that will last a lifetime.

"It's a lot different, different people and different opportunities. It's played a big role in my life," Duane said.

Jameire doesn't leave much doubt as to how different things might be if not for his decision to go to Eastridge.

"I probably would have been doing some bad things, failing classes or not going to school at all. Now that I'm here I have teachers and counselors who encourage me every day to come to school and give me positive feedback. They want to see you succeed, to become somebody and they encourage me to be better."



Left to right: Jameire Moore, Duane Alston

(continued on next page)

East Irondequoit graduates (continued)

Duane shares the same feelings about the way the staff have gone above and beyond for him.

“It helps you to know that someone is always going to be there for you. They’re not just teachers, they’re actually your friends and you can come back to them.”

Both Duane and Jameire went through the AVID program at Eastridge. It’s designed to encourage students who might not be considering college the tools and the skills to make it a possibility.

“AVID has definitely helped me push myself in classes and outside of school. It’s prepared me and helped me mature over the years.”

That preparation has paid off. Duane will be heading to Keystone College in Pennsylvania where he will study sports broadcasting. Jameire is staying closer to home and attending MCC to pursue an Optical Technology degree, an interest that he discovered by taking optics courses at Eastridge and after going on a field trip to see the program up close.

Making the decision to enter the Urban-Suburban program wasn’t easy; they were both nervous about what could go wrong. But after four years they have realized they should have been more excited about what would go right.

“Just take the chance,” said Jameire. “Life’s about taking risks. Just take the risk and hope it pays off.”

College Fair Opportunity



ROCHESTER HBCU COLLEGE FAIR 2019

CALLING ALL 11TH & 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

MONDAY NOV 18 8:30AM - 1:30PM
RIVERSIDE CONVENTION CENTER
123 E. MAIN ST, ROCHESTER NY 14604

FAIR FEATURES

- FREE ADMISSION & ON-SITE ENROLLMENT
- LUNCH PROVIDED
- TRANSCRIPT REQUIRED
- REFERENCES RECOMMENDED

WORKSHOPS

- PREPARING FOR COLLEGE
- HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE
- CAREER TOUR ZONE

PRE-EVENT URBAN LEAGUE OF ROCHESTER
COLLEGE READINESS AND PARENT WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019
CHECK-IN: 8:30AM // PROGRAM STARTS: 9:00AM
MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, BRIGHTON CAMPUS
1000 E HENRIETTA RD, ROCHESTER, NY 14623
OPEN TO 9TH-12TH GRADE STUDENTS
REGISTER AT: WWW.ULROCHESTER.ORG/

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Inaugural class of East Rochester U-S students graduate

by Iva Petrosino, Communication Specialist, ER



Left to right: Yakira Cunningham, Alexander Rans, Anicia Lee, David Warren, Rosalina Correa-Buntley, Lar Say Wah.
Not pictured: Alexandria Carver.

Graduation was extra sweet for some members of the East Rochester Class of 2019. Four years after coming to East Rochester through the Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program, Alexandria Carver, Rosalina Correa-Buntley, Yakira Cunningham, Anicia Lee, Alexander Rans, LarSay Wah and David Warren graduated from East Rochester High School.

East Rochester began participating in the Urban-Suburban program in September 2015, when these students were freshmen. Over the past four years, these students have become part of the East Rochester community as more than just students. Several participated in athletics, the arts and other extra-curricular activities. “My time in East Rochester has been very welcoming and heartwarming,” said Rosalina. “I made lots of friends and participated in activities such as musicals, indoor and outdoor track and volleyball. I’m grateful that I had the opportunity to receive my education in ER.”

Teachers and staff members shared memories and messages about these students. Among those messages were comments that the students were “great additions to East Rochester” who were “a positive influence on the school community.” Others remarked that these students were “responsible, focused and worked hard” and had “an incredible work ethic and sense of determination.”

“As a result of participating in the Urban-Suburban Program, our school is a more nurturing place,” said High School Principal Casey van Harsseel. “Our school has increased opportunities for learning about race and the values that we share as people. We are growing to recognize the shared responsibility we have to be respectful of each other and that we are accountable for how we think and behave.”

A total of 48 students in grades 6-12 were enrolled in the Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program in the 2018-19 school year. The program is coordinated through Monroe One BOCES. It is the first and oldest voluntary desegregation program in the United States.

Urban-Suburban hosts its 9th Annual Award Ceremony

On May 30, 2019, the Urban-Suburban Program held its 9th Annual Award Ceremony. The ceremony recognizes the academic accomplishments of our students in grades 6–12, including graduating seniors and scholarship recipients. This year, 492 students received an award.

Students received awards based on the following criteria:

- Core Honors Awards:** Average grade for three marking periods of 80–89% in math, science, English and social studies/history.
- Core 4 Awards:** Average grade for 3 marking periods of 80-89% in all 4 core subjects.
- Academic Achievement:** Average grade for three marking periods of 90% to 94% in math, science, English and social studies/history.
- Academic Excellence:** Average grade for three marking periods of 95% or more in math, science, English and social studies/history.
- Perfect Attendance:** Maintained perfect attendance for first three marking periods.
- Principal's Award:** Recipient participates with students, faculty and staff in an effort to reduce minority group isolation; works to the best of his/her ability to achieve academic excellence; and demonstrates he/she is a responsible citizen.

The ceremony also presented the Special Service Awards to honor friends of the Program for their service and commitment. This award acknowledges someone who has given unwavering dedication and commitment to the students, parents, administrators, school faculty and staff of the Program. This year, we recognized 10 individuals who have made significant contributions to the Program.

- Barry DeSain—Monroe One BOCES
- Corey Fiacco—Monroe One BOCES
- Margaret Harris—First Student Inc.
- Tim Heaphy—Eastridge High School
- Kelvin Knight—Urban-Suburban Science Bowl
- Kim Melvin—Parent Advisory Council Member
- Joe Pustulka—Webster Central Schools
- Lieselle Taylor—Parent Advisory Council Member
- Casey van Harssele—East Rochester Jr/Sr High School
- Evan Wexler—First Student Inc.

The Urban-Suburban Program would like to thank everyone that was a part of making this night a success. Special thanks to Nazareth College for hosting this year's ceremony at the Callahan Theater of Nazareth College Arts Center. Congratulations to all of our award recipients!



View more 2019 Award Ceremony photos at www.monroe.edu/US2019Awards

Advice from an Alum

Gianna Brown-Grant
Class of 2017
Pittsford Mendon High School

Hi! My name is Gianni Brown-Grant and I attended Pittsford-Mendon High School, Class of 2017. Since graduating, I have thrown myself into my studies at Binghamton University. I am majoring in Integrative Neuroscience and Spanish Language and Literature. I am also pre-med and plan on attending medical school after getting my Master's Degree in Spanish. When I am not in class or studying, you can usually find me working at Planet Fitness or volunteering with Chenango Ambulance Services a few hours a week. At school, I am a member of the Binghamton University Gospel Choir and I get to tutor lovely children in Spanish a couple times a week as well! I am super excited to start my junior year as this fall I will be doing research on degenerative neurological diseases—specifically Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease.



If there was anything I wish someone had told me before starting college it would probably be to relax. I know you get to school and think "Wow, I should take as much as I can and bury my head in the books" which may sound like the road to success but I promise, it's not. I 100% recommend being on top of school work. While I benefitted immensely (and still do) from doing my homework a week in advance and having all of my syllabus' tacked to the wall with deadlines and due dates highlighted, I benefitted the most from relaxing. Making personal time each week to do whatever makes your heart happy is the key to balancing a hectic schedule and promoting good mental health, which is essential to becoming successful. If you keep planting and planting but you do not water your garden, nothing will grow. Always, always, always remember to take care of yourself!

Class of 2019 receives \$24,500 in Urban-Suburban Scholarships

As a result of the annual pledges and proceeds from the 3-on-3 Basketball Scholarship Tournament, \$24,500 was raised for the Urban-Suburban Scholarship Fund.

On May 6, the Urban-Suburban Scholarship Committee convened and awarded \$24,500 in college scholarships to 32 students. The awards ranged from \$200 to \$2,400. Scholarship recipients must be Urban-Suburban students in good standing, scheduled to graduate in the year the application was submitted, have at least a “C” average, and plan to attend college the September or January following their high school graduation. Scholarship awards are sent directly to the designated college in August of each year.

In addition, the Monroe One BOCES Educational Foundation awarded (1) \$1000 college scholarship to a graduating senior in the Urban-Suburban Program. This scholarship can be received directly by the student and used to assist with out-of-pocket college expenses, such as books. The Educational Foundation continues to designate this scholarship annually. All scholarship recipients were recognized at the Annual Urban-Suburban Award Ceremony and their respective schools’ award ceremonies in May and June. This year’s Scholarship Committee consisted of eight volunteers: six current program parents and two district representatives. The Program seeks new volunteers each year, affording current high school parents of the Program an opportunity to learn about the Urban-Suburban Scholarship and application process. In order to be a committee member, parent volunteers must have a student in grades 9–11. It is never too early to sign-up. If you are interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee for the Class of 2020, please contact Felicia Smith at (585) 249-7046.

2019 Scholarship Committee



Seated: Denis Louis, W. Irondequoit Parent, Janice Kpor, Brockport Parent, Damaris Torres, Fairport Parent, Dr. Leslie Maloney, Penfield Principal

Standing: Ta’Kara Gaines, Spencerport Parent, Deborah Hudnell, Pittsford Parent, Stephanie Dana, Penfield Counselor, Gwendolyn Brisbon, Brighton Parent

Congratulations to the Urban-Suburban 2019 graduating class!

The 2019 graduating class will soon begin the next phase of a magnificent journey. Many will pursue a post-secondary education, while others will go into the military or enter the workforce. Whatever path is chosen, we wish them nothing but success.

Brighton High School



Island Bowman*
Daemen College
Major: Psychology



Alana Britton◆
Howard University
Major: Psychology



Aliyah Dent-Jackson
Monroe Community College
Major: Culinary Arts



Aremee Hall
Monroe Community College
Major: Information
Technology & Networking



Hannah Martinez*
Syracuse University
Major: Political Science



Jonathan Torres◆
Undecided



Keenan Vick*
Monroe Community College/
Rochester Institute of Technology
Major: Information Technology



Jordan Wilson
Monroe Community College
Major: Undecided

* **Urban-Suburban Scholarship Award Recipient**
◆ **Monroe One BOCES Educational Foundation Scholarship Award Recipient**
◆ **Urban-League of Rochester Black Scholar**

2019 graduating class (continued)

Brockport High School



Emilio Ball
The University of Alabama
at Birmingham
Major: Sports Medicine



Alana Blocker**
The College at Brockport
Major: Nursing



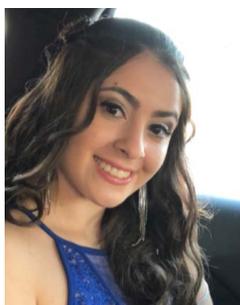
Jalyn Cox-Cooper**
SUNY Purchase College
Major: Journalism



Destinee Ellison**
University of Rochester
Major: Biology



Ishmael Hannah
Roberts Wesleyan College
Major: Exercise Science



Jannara Rosales*
SUNY Oswego
Major: Biology



Daniel Santos
Entering the Workforce



Jezelle Sergenton*
Monroe Community College
Major: Liberal Arts &
Communications



Karina Zayas*
Buffalo State College
Major: Forensic Chemistry

East Rochester High School



**Alexzaundria
Carver***
Virginia State University
Major: Biology



**Rosalina Correa-
Buntley**
Monroe Community College
Major: Criminal Justice



Yakira Cunningham*
Genesee Community
College
Major: Sports Management



Anicia Lee
Monroe Community College
Major: Gender & Sexuality
Studies



Alexander Rans
Monroe Community College
Major: Automotive
Technology



Lar Say Wah*
Rochester Institute of
Technology
Major: Liberal Arts



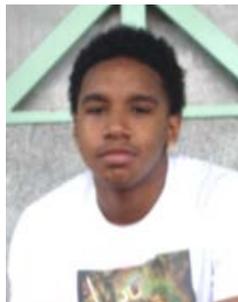
David Warren*
Buffalo State College
Major: Psychology

2019 graduating class (continued)

Eastridge High School



Duane Alston*
Keystone College
Major: Sports Broadcasting



Jameire Mitchell
Monroe Community College
Major: Applied Science

Fairport High School



A'jah Charlemagne
The College at Brockport
Major: Recreation & Leisure
Studies



Jair Ford*
SUNY Cortland
Major: Physical Education



Jordyn Johnson♦
Hampton University
Major: Biology/Forensic
Pathology



Vanzell Johnson
Nazareth College
Major: Nursing



Chivonna Reed*♦
Alfred State
Major: Veterinary
Technology



**Jasmin Rodriguez-
Santiago**
Monroe Community College
Major: Liberal Arts



Rosalee Santiago
Monroe Community College
Major: Liberal Arts



Andre Starks♦♦
Corning Community College
Major: Business
Administration

* *Urban-Suburban Scholarship Award Recipient*
♦ *Monroe One BOCES Educational Foundation Scholarship Award Recipient*
♦ *Urban-League of Rochester Black Scholar*

2019 graduating class (continued)

Irondequoit High School



Summer Bennett♦**
Buffalo State College
Major: Fashion & Textile
Technology



Mikayla Coffie
Monroe Community College
Major: Business
Administration



Caleb Felton♦**
Nazareth College
Major: Undeclared



Kazmin Houser♦**
Monroe Community College
Major: Accounting



Terry-Ann Lewin♦**
St. Lawrence University
Major: Anthropology



N'dia Neal♦
Clark Atlanta University
Major: Accounting



Lily Smith♦**
Mercyhurst University
Major: Exercise Science



Robert Smith
Trade School for Carpentry



Kyle Taylor♦**
Alfred State College
Major: Architectural
Engineering



Ajalaa Williams
Johnson C. Smith University
Major: Business
Administration



K'von Windom
Apprenticeship Program for
Construction

*** Urban-Suburban Scholarship Award Recipient**
♦ Monroe One BOCES Educational Foundation Scholarship Award Recipient
♦ Urban-League of Rochester Black Scholar

2019 graduating class (continued)

Penfield High School



Nicholas Bundah
Monroe Community College
Major: Fire Protection
Technology



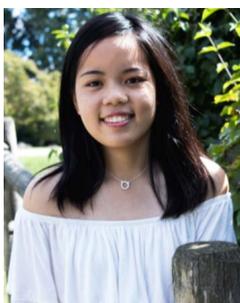
Ariani Colon-Rivera*
The College at Brockport
Major: Political Science



Shalese Cotton**
Howard University
Major: Political Science



Elaye Ekiyor**
University at Buffalo
Major: Pre-Medicine



Annie Hou
University at Buffalo
Major: Biomedical
Engineering



Kennedy Jackson**
Marrist College
Major: Environmental
Science



Tatiana Jose-Santos*
Boston University
Major: Biology



Jailah Lovett**
Clark Atlanta University
Major: Business
Administration



Javion Monroe
Erie Community College
Major: Physical Therapy



Raven Phelps*
Roberts Wesleyan College
Major: Psychology



Trenton Wynn**
St. John Fisher College
Major: Accounting

Pittsford Mendon High School



Naiyah James**
SUNY Fredonia
Major: Psychology



Isac Roman*
Canisius College
Major: Pre-Engineering



Shemaiah Young**
University at Buffalo
Major: Biology/Pre-Med

2019 graduating class (continued)

Pittsford Sutherland High School



Vanessa Cummings
Monroe Community College
Major: Psychology



Sameerah Jackson
Pace University
Major: Nursing



Geovanna Joseph ♦
Continental School of Beauty
Major: Cosmetology



Aniyah McIntyre
University of Akron
Major: Criminology &
Criminal Justice



Julian Melendez
SUNY Albany
Major: Accounting



Nayyirah Morrow
Dillard University
Major: Biology



Samuel Santiago
Utica College
Major: Health Services

Wheatland Chili High School



Vanessa Nowicki
Johnson and Wales University
Major: Baking & Pastry Arts/
Business Administration



Desmond Walker ♦
Monroe Community College
Major: Accounting/Finance

* *Urban-Suburban Scholarship Award Recipient*
♦ *Monroe One BOCES Educational Foundation Scholarship Award Recipient*
♦ *Urban-League of Rochester Black Scholar*

District Updates

Fairport

DID YOU KNOW?

Students in the Fairport Central School District are able to take Senior Portraits for FREE! Legacy Studios is Fairport High School's official senior portrait photographer! They will be taking photos at the school on August 5–7, 2019. Visit seniors.legacystudios.com to sign up for an appointment!

PLEASE NOTE: Proper dress is required. Boys must wear a dress shirt and tie. Girls are not allowed to wear spaghetti straps, halters, tube tops, or show cleavage.

Penfield

Savine named Penfield High School Assistant Principal

The Penfield Central School District is pleased to announce that Tracey Savine has been named as the new Assistant Principal at Penfield High School. Mrs. Savine comes to Penfield from the West Irondequoit School District, where she has served as Director of the Teaching Learning Center for the past year. While in West Irondequoit, she also served as a summer school principal and as an Italian teacher for 12 years.

Mrs. Savine holds her administrative certification from the University of Rochester, a master's degree in Liberal Studies from SUNY Brockport and a bachelor's degree in Italian Language and Literature from Nazareth College.

Mrs. Savine is replacing outgoing Assistant Principal Terry Febrey, who retired at the end of June. She began her new position July 1.



Pittsford

Attention Pittsford families: A message from the Pittsford PTSA

Pittsford PTSA continues to support its Diversity & Inclusion Committee and its PTSA Urban-Suburban Liaisons, who are planning an active and productive 2019–2020 school year. New projects include initiatives to increase communication on inclusivity, connectedness and belonging within our community.

A new building-level role has been created titled, "PTSA Building-based Diversity & Inclusion Liaison," who will work within each of our nine schools to discuss and plan for ways to create a welcoming school climate for families and children of all identities. Each Liaison will work closely with the Building PTSA chairs to advocate and communicate with local administration, teachers, and other parents.

Pittsford PTSA will also foster strong relationships among like families through new PTSA Parent Affinity Groups. Parent Affinity Groups will leverage Restorative Practices to build understanding, empathy, and support for families with diverse experiences and backgrounds. All groups will be open to all parents. Currently, planning is to support initial communication through PTSA maintained email lists; however other tools are also being explored and will

be reported on in future meetings.

PTSA Urban-Suburban Liaisons and PTSA Diversity & Inclusion Committee will be working in partnership to create new support between Urban-Suburban and Pittsford families. Planning may include creation of new roles within PTSA Building Committees for Urban-Suburban Liaisons to coordinate activities and resources for Urban-Suburban families. The U-S Liaisons will help to advocate for Urban-Suburban family needs and communicate regarding PTSA and District resources that may be beneficial to U-S students and families. The objective of the support is to foster a more active and welcoming community that will increase communication, a sense of belonging and a stronger connection for all families within the Pittsford District and community.

We are looking for more parents who want to be involved! Please reach out to dandi@pittsfordptsa.net if you have an interest in joining our District committee, becoming a Building Liaison or have any questions regarding involvement in any of our new initiatives. Watch for details about our first meeting in September—we hope to see you there!

Jill Doyle new Assistant Principal for Plank South Elementary School

WCSD is pleased to announce that Jill Doyle has accepted the position as the new assistant principal for Plank South Elementary School. She began her new role on July 1.

Mrs. Doyle is not only a proud graduate of Webster CSD (and a former Plank South student!), but she is also a fourth grade teacher at Plank South, a position she has held since 2016. She has been an outstanding educator in the Plank South community, serving as a lead teacher and co-teacher in the Integrated Co-Teach/English as a Second Language classroom. Mrs. Doyle is adept at collaborating with colleagues and her commitment to students is evident in all that she does.



Prior to returning to Webster CSD as a teacher and now assistant principal, Mrs. Doyle worked in the Arlington (Virginia) Public Schools as interim assistant principal of Ashlawn Elementary School. She also served as instructional lead teacher, general education teacher, and special education co-teacher at Ashlawn where she was named Teacher of the Year by her colleagues. Among her many duties as an interim assistant principal, Mrs. Doyle was responsible for coordinating state and district testing, developing the master schedule, and evaluating teacher performance. She was especially committed to collaborating with teachers, families, and community members to ensure that every student felt valued, supported, and invested in their education. Additionally, Mrs. Doyle served as a general education teacher and special education teacher for students with autism in Loudon County (Virginia) Public Schools.

Mrs. Doyle received her undergraduate degree from State University of New York, College at Geneseo and earned a Master's Degree in Reading and Educational Leadership Endorsement from the University of Virginia.

New Assistant Principal named for Spry Middle School

Matthew Mietelski has accepted the position as new assistant principal for Spry Middle School's White House. Mr. Mietelski began his new position on July 1. Mr. Mietelski is replacing Interim Assistant Principal Jim Vitale. WCSD thanks Mr. Vitale for his leadership and service to Spry Middle School.

Prior to beginning his new position, Mr. Mietelski was the assistant principal of cooperative summer school for Monroe #1 BOCES and a literacy specialist at Johanna Perrin Middle School in Fairport CSD, where he taught since 2013. Among his many duties as assistant principal, Mr. Mietelski was responsible for student scheduling, partnering with other districts on transportation needs, and implementing critical safety measures and emergency drills. As a literacy specialist, Mr. Mietelski excelled at leading instructional change through facilitating data review meetings, collaborating with teachers to support literacy best-practices, and coordinating a course aimed at supporting the executive functioning needs of students. He also enjoyed leadership roles in many schoolwide extra-curricular activities, including his service as the girls basketball coach.



Mr. Mietelski began his career as a teacher of adult learners with special needs for the L.I.V.E.S. program

(continued on next page)

at State University of New York (SUNY), College at Geneseo and then taught English Language Arts at the Young Women's College Preparatory Charter School in Rochester. He then served as a literacy specialist at Johanna Perrin Middle School in Fairport CSD, along with his summer school leadership role at Monroe #1 BOCES. He earned his undergraduate and master's degrees from SUNY Geneseo and his Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Administration from SUNY Brockport.

WCSD Announces New Willink MS Assistant Principals

WCSD is pleased to announce that Ashley Socola and Jason Simoni have accepted positions as new assistant principals of Willink Middle School's Blue and Green Houses, respectively. Both Ms. Socola and Mr. Simoni began their new positions on July 1.

Ms. Socola is replacing interim Blue House Assistant Principal Annette McCabe.

Mr. Simoni is replacing Jeremy McBride who moved to Webster Thomas High School to serve as an assistant principal for that school community. WCSD thanks both Ms. McCabe and Mr. McBride for their service to Willink.



Ms. Socola was an assistant principal at Merton Williams Middle School in the Hilton Central School District, a position she served in since 2016. While at Hilton CSD, she co-chaired the district improvement team, was responsible for the school's scheduling, and worked with her colleagues and students to support that district's 1:1 technology initiative. She has an extensive background in playing and coaching basketball and enjoys sharing the invaluable life lessons athletics has taught her with students. Ms. Socola began her career as a teacher at Penfield CSD, where she also served as an administrative intern. She then served as a life skills coordinator at Monroe Community College and later returned to the classroom to continue teaching. She earned her undergraduate and master's degrees from Syracuse University and her Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership from the University of Rochester.

Mr. Simoni is a proud alumni of Webster CSD and is returning to the One Webster community from Bishop Kearney High School, where he has served as principal since 2015. During his tenure, Mr. Simoni implemented an innovative mentoring program for students and supported teachers as the school experienced growth in AP course offerings, and improved national test scores and overall enrollment. Prior to his leadership role at Bishop Kearney, Mr. Simoni served as summer school principal and middle school teacher in the Fairfax County (Virginia) Public Schools. An avid runner, he spent eight years as the varsity head track and cross country coach for McLean High School while working in Virginia. He began his career in education as a middle school social studies teacher in the Sarasota County (Florida) Public Schools. Mr. Simoni earned his undergraduate degree from Ithaca College and his master's degree from National Louis University.

Zipp-McLaughlin appointed new IHS Principal

Ms. Alecia Zipp-McLaughlin was appointed the new Principal of Irondequoit High School on June 6 by the West Irondequoit Central School District's Board of Education. Prior to her appointment, she served as Freshman Academy Director at East Upper High School while also supervising its 7-12 English Department for four years.

Ms. Zipp-McLaughlin has spent her entire 23-year career in the Rochester City School District as an administrator and teacher, creating and fostering a positive educational culture through restorative practices, strong leadership and building relationships. Her work with ninth-graders is of special note and has been instrumental in demonstrating definable success. That includes East improving its graduation rate from 33% to 61% and a significant drop in suspension rates.

She utilizes clear and consistent communication with students and parents about expectations and support. Ms. Zipp-McLaughlin is a collaborative leader who thrives on daily interaction and relating to all students. She also understands how using data can be a critical tool to drive a student's academic achievement.

Her other experiences include:

- Program Administrator (2015–2019)
- Vice Principal (2009–2015)
- Coordinating Administrator of Special Education (2006–2009)
- Teacher, ELA and Special Education (1996–2006)

A native of Dolgeville in Herkimer County, east of Utica, she earned her Bachelor of Science in psychology (elementary education minor) from Saint John Fisher College in 1994. She also holds Master of Science degrees from Nazareth College in special education and St. John Fisher in educational administration.



Ms. Zipp-McLaughlin is a West Irondequoit resident with two children who currently attend Irondequoit High School: Meghan, a senior, and Kalan, a freshman. She understands the District's commitment to developing well-rounded young adults ready to take on challenges in a global and diverse society. Ms. Zipp-McLaughlin succeeds Mr. Doug Lauf, who departed to serve as the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Labor Relations for the Fairport Central School District. He has been the leader at IHS for five years.

Ms. Zipp-McLaughlin started July 7. WICSD Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Aaron Johnson, thanks the 60-plus faculty, staff, administrators, students and parents who participated in the interview and selection process. The input was a critical and valued asset in making the decision, he said.



Visit the Urban-Suburban Program Web site at:

www.monroe.edu/US

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