



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Robert G. Ortt

## Ortt Delivers a Total of \$80K to Area BOCES & Cornell Cooperative

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During a ceremonial check presentation today, Senator Rob Ortt (R,C,I – North Tonawanda) delivered a total of \$80,000 in state funding to support educational programs, services and projects throughout Niagara, Orleans and Monroe counties.

The Orleans/Niagara Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) received \$45,000 for its nationally-recognized adult health care programs offered at both its locations in Sanborn and Medina. The funding will go toward purchasing medical equipment and supplies, hospital beds, and computerized manikins used for scenario-based simulations.

Adult/Continuing Education health care programs offered at O/N BOCES include Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN), Certified Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy and Home Health Aide. With a high need for employees in the health care field, O/N BOCES is hoping the addition of new, state-of-the-art medical equipment will bolster the number of students in these programs.

Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES was presented with a \$15,000 ceremonial check to expand its library instructional services for its students. BOCES 2 will purchase educational tools and technology that will provide the 34,000 students it serves with hands-on experiences and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills for college and career readiness. Specifically, BOCES 2 plans to buy additional e-books, so that more students can access its collection, LEGO Robotics kits to teach kids about coding and how it works, MaKey MaKey Invention Kits to turn ordinary objects into touch pads that connect to the Internet, and green screen kits to superimpose images. The technology will enhance creative thinking skills and problem solving skills in students and help them find solutions to everyday situations.

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension received \$20,000 in funding that will be used to implement the Ag in the Classroom and Community Program. Working with school districts and community organizations in Orleans County, the non-profit plans to teach kids, ranging in ages from 3 to 18 years old, about agriculture. The program provides kids with a better understanding of where their food comes from and how it's produced, and aims to build an interest in agricultural science-related career paths.

The funding was secured by Senator Ortt in the 2016-17 State Budget in addition to state aid secured last year.