



James L. O'Brien Named New Superintendent-Director

On October 3rd, 2015, three finalists attended an open Interview in the William R. Macintosh Auditorium for the position of Superintendent. Robert Dutch, Superintendent of Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School, James L. O'Brien, Assistant Principal of GNB Voc-Tech, and Robert Watt, Vocational Principal of GNB Voc-Tech were the three finalists of the eleven candidates hoping to succeed Linda Enos, retiring after 5 years in the position.



About 100 were in attendance as the GNB Voc-Tech School Committee interviewed the three finalists. Each candidate was given about an hour to give statements and answer questions from the panel. At the end of the interviews, and a brief intermission, the committee gave brief statements then voted to elect James L. O'Brien in what was ultimately a unanimous decision.
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Alumni Scholarships

On May 20th, 2015, GNB Voc-Tech HS held its Thirty-Fourth Annual Senior Awards Night. Top Seniors from every career major and academic area were honored. Donald Desrosiers, President of the Alumni Association, presented seven students with over \$3,000 in Alumni scholarships. Josh Boucher, Jaelyn Gomes, Chris McEntyre, Nick Richard, Cameron Santos and Jake Souza each received \$350. The Annual Dick & Claudette Manning \$500 Scholarship went to Sarah Days-Merrill, a senior from Early Childhood Education.



L-R: Days-Merrill, McEntyre, Gomes, Richard, Santos, Souza.

(More Pictures on Page 2)

Superintendent-Director James L. O'Brien

Jimmy O'Brien is a proud alum, graduating from the Electrical Shop in 1981. After graduating from UMass Dartmouth with a Mathematics Degree, Mr. O'Brien began working for Voc-Tech as a math teacher. He became the Electrical Related teacher, then moved to administration in 1998. He was the Student Activities and School Services Director until 2007 when he was promoted to Assistant Principal.

In the open interview, Mr. O'Brien cited his nearly 35 years working in this building. He spoke passionately about his dedication to students and his vision for the future of GNB Voc-Tech. During a five minute recess, Committee Chairman Fred Toomey offered Mr. O'Brien the position. Mr. O'Brien returned to the stage and briefly addressed the crowd. He thanked everyone for their support and stated it will take a village to build on the great things going on here, with the help of the community, students and parents.

Asked how he felt about his new position, Mr. O'Brien stated, "I am thrilled and honored to have been selected as the new Superintendent-Director of our fine school. I think I bring a beacon of hope and opportunity to our school for not only the students, but for the faculty, staff, and the communities of New Bedford, Dartmouth and Fairhaven. I am proud to lead this great team as we work together to shape the next generation of Artisans at GNB Voc-Tech!"



"IT WILL TAKE A
VILLAGE TO BUILD
ON THE GREAT
THINGS GOING ON
HERE"

JAMES L. O'BRIEN

Follow-ups

- Sarah Days-Merrill is attending Bridgewater State University, majoring in Math with a minor in Secondary Education
- Josh Boucher is currently attending Rhode Island College, majoring in Musical Theatre
- Christopher J. McIntyre is attending Boston Conservatory, enrolled in the Musical Theater Program
- Nicholas Richard is attending Bunker Hill Community College, enrolled in the Electrical Power Utility Program.
- Cameron Santos is attending Massachusetts Maritime Academy, enrolled in the Energy Systems Engineering Program
- Jake Souza is attending Roger Williams University, enrolled in the Civil Engineering Program

2015 Alumni Scholarships Recipients

Dick & Claudette Manning Memorial Scholarship



Sarah
Days-Merrill



Josh Boucher



Jaelyn Gomes



Chris McEntyre



Nick Richard



Cameron Santos



Jake Souza

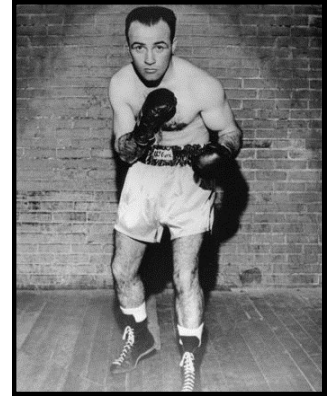


Jimmy Conner's

One of the old icons and memories of the old vocational school on Hillman Street was the place to hang known as Jimmy Conner's. On December 1st, 1957, New Bedford's own professional fighter Jimmy Connors fought Pat McCarthy for the NEAAU championship at the Mechanic's Building in Boston. Jimmy defeated McCar-

thy in a ten-round bout and won a prize purse of \$1000. Upon returning to New Bedford, Mr. Conners purchased the small restaurant on Hillman Street from Dan Sheehan and named it Jimmy Conners' Restaurant. It became the place to hang for all students from the vocational school as their home away from home. Mr. Connors owned the store from 1957 to 1962 when he sold it to his father and mother-in-law, John and Phillomena (Phil) Moniz. John and Phil acted as friends, guardians, and sometimes parents for all students that followed. The Monizes ran it until the middle of the

70s and sold it to a gentleman who renamed it Jimmy's. Many graduates have memories of going to Jimmy's for lunch or just to get handfuls of penny candy to bring back to school. One Alum of the old Voke recalls that Jimmy's had the best French Fried Potatoes in town, while another remembers the burgers being terrific. Whether they enjoyed the food, candy or donuts, most will agree that this was a great place to hang out with friends. The school closed and moved to its present location on Ashley Boulevard during the 78-79 schoolyear, but our fond memories are still alive today.



Middle School Night

On Friday, October 9th, GNB Voc-Tech held its 3rd annual Middle School Night.

Middle School Night is a recruiting event for students in grades 6, 7, and 8 from New Bedford, Dartmouth and Fairhaven. These middle school students and their families were invited to our Homecoming Game where we had many activities going on including a guidance booth where middle school students could apply to GNB Voc-Tech, get information about the school, and talk with counselors and other students. We also had Fun 107 here

for Middle School Night promoting the school and giving these children a chance to win prizes. Also, the GNB Voc-Tech Trading Post was on hand selling Voc-Tech attire and accessories and the concession stand was open with lots of goodies for sale. This year, the Middle School Night event was pleased to include

Blount Seafood and Clam Shack! Blount donated chowder, containers and Blount Seafood coupons for use at our event.

Middle School Night gives these young people and their families a chance to come to our campus and see the athletic programs, have fun, interact with our students and staff and get more information for applying to our school. Despite some torrential rain and lightning, 1,548 people were in attendance at the event this year. The inclement weather finally forced the event to close early, but the Bears continued the football game the following day and defeated the Blue Devils.



ACCEPTING

CAREER

ACHIEVEMENT AND

HALL OF FAME

NOMINATIONS FOR

2018

2015 Career Achievement/Hall of Fame

Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School hosted its Hall of Fame/Career Achievement Awards Night on May 3, 2015 at the Century House in Acushnet, MA. Alumni president Donald Desrosiers opened the evening with a retrospective, while Superintendent-Director

Linda Enos served as Master of Ceremonies. Career Achievement recipients for the night were **Brian Lajeunesse** – Electrical '93, **Jacqueline Mays** – Cosmetology '81, **Paul Moniz** – Marine Industries '82, **Albert Porter** – Electrical '53, **Paul Rocha** – Automotive '70, and **Leo Rousseau** – Carpentry '56. Hall of Fame inductees that evening were **Derek Cunha** '93-95, **Isaac Rodriguez** '92, and **George**



L-R: Porter, Lajeunesse, Rousseau, Mays, Moniz, Rocha



L-R: Cunha, Sharp (wife Janice accepting), Rodriguez

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
(508) 998-3321 EXT. 424

28th Annual Holiday Scholarship Fund Craft Fair!

Saturday, November 28, 2015 - 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 29, 2015 - 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Over 150 crafters

Refreshments & raffles will be available.

\$1.00 Donation to benefit the scholarship fund.

Open House

Sunday, November 22, 2012

- 12:30 Middle School **Presentation** in the Field House
- 12:30 Main building opens for parents and campus tours
- 2:00 Meet and Greet with the new Superintendent-Director in the new Student Conference Center near the cafeteria
- 2:00 GNB Theatre Company performs a scene from *Our Town* in the auditorium

Be sure to visit our Alumni table in the Main Foyer.

Reunion Corner

Class of 1965

The class of 1965 celebrated its 50th reunion on September 25 at the Century House in Acushnet. It was attended by 60 plus people coming from as far Florida and Georgia. Spearheading the reunion committee was Mr. Richard Partridge. He and his group worked hard to make it a great evening. Guest speakers were former teacher, coach and director Joseph Barbero, and president of the Voke/Voc-Tech Alumni Association Donald Desrosiers.

Classmates socialized and danced to DJ Gene Daniels and music of the 50s and 60s. Adding to the fun filled night was a singing contest between the guys and girls. Of course the girls won. The reunion ended around 11:30 with fun had by all.

Classes of '50-'53

The combined class of 1950, 51, 52 and 53 enjoyed a reunion get together on Saturday, September 12th at the Century House in Acushnet.

Because of the advanced age of the celebrants, the soiree ran from noon to 4:00 pm.

About 75 classmates and spouses/partners enjoyed a buffet luncheon.

Classmates caught up with over sixty years of life experiences, shared family photos, and retreated back to their youthful days.

The long overdue get together was planned by a hard-working committee composed of Rhea (Figuerre) Cate '50, Joan (Gobiel) Fernandes '51 Shirley (Hamer) Oliver '52, and Marilyn Richards '53.

Following the luncheon, the group was invited to an Open House hosted by Connie Levasseur. A great time was had by all, and it was agreed that we should have another get together before too many more years have passed.

'86 Gives Back

The class of 1986 is planning their 30th reunion for next summer. On July 30th, 2016, they will celebrate their class reunion at the Century House in Acushnet. The class has already had several fund raisers which they will use to give scholarships to the class of 2016 through the Alumni Association. They are still looking for classmates. Anyone who would like more information or to contribute to the scholarship fund can contact Michael Leung at Nbvoke86@gmail.com or at 904-207-2828.

Class of 1970

The 45th reunion for the class of 1970 was held August 15 at the Century House in Acushnet. It was attended by about 80 people from as far away as Florida. Guest speakers were Voke/Voc-Tech Alumni Association president Donald Desrosiers, former superintendent/ director Jeffrey E. Riley and Edward Cambra, the only male teacher in the girls building at NB Voke.

Michelle Souza Gerrior and the reunion committee made it a memorable evening of rekindling old friendships, socializing and an all-around great time. Everyone there had a great time reminiscing and dancing to the music of the 60s and 70s by DJ Plourde and Sons.

TO POST OR FIND
INFORMATION
ABOUT CLASS
REUNIONS VISIT
OUR WEBSITE OR
FACEBOOK PAGE.



Benches outside the new cafeteria courtyard donated from the Class of 2015

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