

## Sweet Soprano



Michelle Stoecker is only 19, but she's got a bright future. A resident of the East Street IRA in Skaneateles, Michelle is a BOCES student, which offers a three-year high school extension course for people with disabilities through Cayuga Community College.

In addition to her classroom studies, Michelle has gotten involved in the CCC choir. Special Ed teacher Jane Conklin introduced her to the idea, so Michelle went to check it out. It was an instant hit and Michelle joined. "We practice Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and I'm a soprano," she says.

The pay-off from those rehearsals came in May, when the CCC student chorus and jazz band were invited to perform on stage alongside internationally-known musician Samite. Samite Mulondo of Uganda is CCC's 2012 Brunell Visiting Scholar, and a renowned humanitarian, musician, and photographer. Together, the groups performed a number of well-known American hits and some of Samite's original compositions.

Michelle takes advantage of all the college has to offer. She has utilized the library, recreation room, and the fitness/weight room. She delivers mail to the CCC nurses' office every day, has taken a six-week nutrition and meal planning class at the Cooperative Extension, and participates in social activities. She's creating a vision board to guide her in meeting life goals, and next year she will be involved in travel training exercises for independent travel.