



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report December 21, 2017

FAREWELL

As I write my final Executive Director's report, I am deeply honored to have had the opportunity to work at the CAIU over these past 31 ½ years. While I look forward to retirement, I will truly miss being part of the CAIU team. The CAIU staff demonstrates tireless dedication in their work and commitment to children, families, and school districts in our region. The school districts in our region excel and the CAIU is proud to collaborate with staff across many areas in our districts. Thank you to each of you for your leadership and support. I wish the very best to all of you as you continue your work supporting education in the Capital Region.

NEWS

Curriculum Services



New Teacher Induction: The CAIU continues to offer a New Teacher Induction series designed for teachers new to the profession that focuses on establishing a clear understanding of the responsibilities of a teacher and how to fulfill those responsibilities with quality and integrity. Using Multi Measure Educator Effectiveness, Cheryl Giles-Rudawski, Supervisor and Curriculum Specialist, leads the series recognizing the state changes for evaluation of teachers, the active nature of learning, and the complex decision making that characterizes good teaching. Each session focuses on one of the four domains of the

framework: Planning and Preparation, Classroom Environment, Instruction, and Professional Responsibilities.

Student Services

Student Artists

Fifteen students at Hill Top Academy entered their artwork into the 44th Annual Our Art, Our Voice Art Exhibition. This is a juried art show sponsored by The Arc, Dauphin County. The exhibition will move around through many locations before they retire the exhibition on Sunday, March 25th. In early March, the art exhibit will be displayed at the Susquehanna Art Museum in Harrisburg. Several of the Hill Top Academy students were winners in the art show. They will receive their awards at the March celebration.

Hill Top Academy

- The mobile dentist was at Hill Top on November 10th and saw approximately 30 students who had otherwise not been able to access a dentist.
- The staff at the neighboring University of Pittsburgh building have provided gifts to some of the needier students. This has become an annual tradition for them, and we appreciate their generous spirit!

Preschool

- Erin Hogan, student at Dickinson College majoring in Educational Studies, will be volunteering at Delbrook Preschool. We are looking forward to working with our volunteer in January.



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- The Preschool Speech/Language program will be providing supervision to four graduate interns in the Spring semester. Graduate students will have placements in our program from Western Kentucky University, Eastern Carolina University, University of South Carolina and Loyola University (Maryland). We are committed to helping the next generation of speech pathologists have rich learning experiences to prepare them for their careers!

ELECT

- The ELECT program held its annual holiday event in the evening of December 5th for the teen parents and their children. The teens had an opportunity to do some holiday activities with their children such as icing painting a cookie, making a picture frame, and using jingle bells to engage them in music. Pictures of the children were taken with our visiting Santa, and the students used their Baby Buck incentives to purchase items from our holiday store. We had about 70 people attend – the parents, their children, and additional adult guests.

OT/PT Program

- On December 6th, the OT/PT program held one of three scheduled program meetings. There were two main discussion sessions during the afternoon. One was about how we write and progress monitor goals. The other was an opportunity for each therapy group to hold clinical conversations about their successes and concerns. The day ended with an ice cream sundae bar with door prizes to celebrate the season a bit, too.

Loysville Youth Development Center

- The current population is 101 residents. That includes 9 new residents admitted in November and 12 who were released. There are 4 residents, who have already graduated from high school, who are unable to attend school due to class sizes being at the regulatory maximum.
- Seventeen of the 101 students already had their GED or High School Diploma when they arrived.
- Students participated in a Transition Fair on November 15th. This is arranged through the Transition office at Loysville, Elena Taylor, and Connie Swift.
- Mr. David Harper, Special Education Teacher, organized an Anti-Bullying awareness unit that included organized lessons, student self-assessment, and an assembly with a movie. Several students read a message and/or poem with anti-bullying content that was developed by the students at the assembly on November 21st.
- LYDC and our Technology team have added NetSupport software to the network system at Loysville. Implementation on a trial basis was successful and we are working on full implementation. This helps track student activity on the network. It seems like a solution to many of the security concerns and be a great monitoring tool for school staff.
- Staff is working with Holly Brzycki to develop CAOLA courses that are customized to the needs of the population at LYDC. These courses will have limited need for external links and more use of printed supporting materials. Keeping appropriate links open while blocking all other links is an issue for student and community security at LYDC. They selected 8 courses that are commonly used and expect the first to be ready for a trial period soon.
- Honor Roll calculations for the first marking period –
 - a. Honors – 42 students
 - b. High Honors – 3 students

Pupil Services

- Referrals continue to be submitted requesting school psychologist time for our districts. A new psychologist was hired and another position is posted.



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- The CAMhP (Capital Area Mental Health Program) classes have grown, and we have added a Mental Health Worker, shared across the classrooms, to be able to provide an additional layer of support to the students.
- Dr. Janilyn Elias, Program Director, has met with KidsPeace for discussions about how we could collaborate to streamline referrals and admissions. KidsPeace provides community, residential, and hospital services for children with significant mental health needs.

Variety, A Children's Charity



Janessa, age 11 received an adaptive bike from Variety about a year ago, and then on Tuesday, November 14th, we presented her with a communication device at the Capital Area Intermediate Unit.

Her mother told Variety, “Last year, Janessa started using a communication device in school, and right before Christmas (last year), she came up to me, held my face with both of her hands, and said, ‘I love you, Mommy.’ Other kids, you know, their moms hear that at one and a half or two years old, but it took ten years for her to get that out.

Having this device is a game changer for us as a family because she will have a voice at home now – not just at school. We have four other teenagers at home. When Janessa tries to get her thoughts across, there are times when she’s trying to say something and just gives up with a sigh. I’m hoping that this device will help to change all of that. Because of Variety, she will now be able to have a voice every day, all day, and to especially be able to talk with her family.”

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Planning for **All Staff Day** to be held on Friday, January 12, 2018, at the Radisson Hotel, Camp Hill, is nearing completion. All staff will attend the morning session with various presentations and celebrations. Our keynote speaker will be Carlos Ojeda, Jr. Workshop sessions and service projects will be offered in the afternoon. Nearly 300 CAIU organized and completed service projects prior to All Staff Day.
- Held the Fall Communications Meeting in person and virtually with staff and introduced Dr. Saia to staff.
- Attended CPAVTS Professional Advisory Meeting.
- Met with leadership of CAEA along with Theresa Kinsinger and Alicia McDonald for our quarterly Meet and Discuss.

*Wishing All a Very Merry Christmas
and a Joyous New Year!*