



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report February 23, 2017

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Capital Area Online Learning Association

School districts in the Capital Area region came together as the Capital Area Online Learning Association (CAOLA) in 2009 to provide a quality online learning solutions for students. Since its inception, CAOLA has expanded to other Intermediate Units and districts across Pennsylvania. CAOLA offers flexible learning options for students with limited course selections, unique scheduling needs or family obligations. CAOLA offers a highly engaging curriculum that meets the needs of a variety of students. Currently, CAOLA membership includes 97 school districts across 11 Intermediate Units. Over 4,000 students are enrolled in more than 36,000 courses. Most recently, CAOLA has added project based learning courses that require students to create projects addressing real world problems and scenarios.

NEWS

Variety – the Children's Charity

Variety enables children with disabilities to live life to the fullest with a focus on mobility, communication and social inclusion. The CAIU has worked with Variety to identify and provide children with adaptive bikes through the "My Bike" program. In the near future, the children and families in our region will be able to participate in Variety's "My Stroller" and "My Voice" programs. "My Stroller" program provides a Kid Kart Mighty Lite adaptive strollers and "My Voice" program provides a communication device to eligible children with a communication disorder. We are very excited to learn about the expanded opportunities for children in our region.

STEM Competition

The **Governor's STEM Competition** is an annual, rotating themed academic contest for students in grades 9-12 that is focused on exposing students to STEM concepts, skills, and occupations. This year's theme was "Building a Stronger Pennsylvania." The purpose for the competition is to increase STEM-related educational opportunities for students at the regional and state levels. Furthermore, the STEM Competition intends to raise awareness of the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. This year's Governor's STEM Competition was held at the CAIU on February 14, 2017. We had 6 teams participate: Cumberland Valley HS, Lower Dauphin HS, Newport HS, Cedar Cliff HS, Shippensburg Area Senior HS and West Perry Senior HS. The top three winning teams were:





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1st Place – Cumberland Valley HS (moving to the State Competition at Thaddeus Stevens in May)

2nd Place – West Perry Senior HS

3rd Place – Shippensburg Area Senior HS

Student Services

Pupil Services/CAMhP/Diakon/Educational Coaches

- Hill Top Academy and Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute (PPI) are continuing their partnership with success. Students who are in immediate crisis are able to bypass the Emergency Room and be automatically admitted based on required criteria that our Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Licensed Social Worker review for placement.
- We continue to fill contracts for Psychological services to support districts in staff shortages in Chambersburg, Lower Dauphin and Big Spring.
- The coaches are working with staff to get trained for PSSA/Keystone exams. Keystone exams will be done online for the first time for 2017 testing window.
- Our school-age staff Summer Academy training calendar will be completed by the end of February and on 48 CARATS in March. There are several opportunities for district staff to register for professional development.

OT/PT

- Caseloads are very full for this time of year. We are looking to increase the time of one of our part-time OT's and we are looking for an LTS PT for the rest of the year.

Early Intervention/Preschool

- Jean Gray and Lara Borne, Educational Consultants, attended and provided resources at a transition conference that focused on childhood trauma, challenging behaviors, administering the Adverse Childhood Experiences Scale and how to prepare for transition of new students into kindergarten. This event was sponsored by Parents and Partners, South Middletown School District, IU13 and Success by 6 United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland Counties.

Hill Top Academy

- Hill Top Academy, with the support of the Technology team in Enola, has committed to administering all Keystone exams online this spring. Transitioning away from the paper and pencil exams is expected to improve test security and student engagement during testing.
- To date, secondary students at Hill Top have completed 10 CAOLA courses with a 100% pass rate. Through utilizing CAOLA, Hill Top has been able to offer higher-level courses to students and allow them to continue courses they were taking in their home district.
- Earlier this month Hill Top Academy hosted the orientation for Messiah College's spring teacher interns. Student Services will host close to 20 interns this spring at Hill Top, Early Intervention and various district classrooms.

Autism/Multiple Disabilities Support

- The Project Max team is planning professional development for all district-based IU classes in the areas of presumed competence, a focused look at academic standards, deconstructing a unit plan, a new perspective on inclusion opportunities, and involving families in the academic process.



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- One of our MDS students at Steelton-Highspire High School recently received a wheelchair mount which allows her the opportunity to independently access curriculum resources through her Eye Gaze technology.

Project Search

- We have received 10 applications for Project Search for the 17-18 school year. The Interview and Assessment Day will be held on March 29th at Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center.

Loysville Youth Development Center

- The current enrollment is 106 residents; approximately 33% of the population had turned over since early December.
- Twenty-three of the 106 students, or 22%, of the population already have their GED or High School Diploma but still attend school daily.
- Five students passed the GED test this month and seven earned their HS Diploma (issued by the Commonwealth of PA)
- January 10, 11, and 12 – Building Trades class had 9 students prepare for Weatherization skills testing. A representative from Penn Tech spent three days testing students with a 100% success rate. All students received certification.

School-age Speech and Language

- For the second time in two months, Alice Womer has visited the Camp Hill State Prison in order to complete a referral request, submitted by the state, for a speech and language assessment. In both cases, the young men had IEPs that included speech services so the prison officials were ensuring that FAPE was still being provided.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

- The students in Jennifer McLaughlin's DHH class at Conewago Elementary celebrated the 100th day of school last week with a variety of activities and were able to join the Kindergarten class for some activities with their students such as stacking 100 solo cups in various ways, doing 100 seconds of exercises, and building towers with 100 Legos, etc. They also made a delicious Trail Mix with 100 pieces of Chex, Cheez-it, M & Ms, pretzels, marshmallows, and more.

Equitable Participation

- Meg Taylor-Makuch, Heather Waldner, and Alicia Shaffer continue to coach teams of educators in the non-public schools. They have kept busy with a steady stream of requests for coaching, as they continue to work toward bringing in schools who have not accessed the coaching model yet. The three staff held a workshop at the CAIU on January 18th that was attended by members of ten schools. They had planned activities which highlighted the best practices for teaching vocabulary. With this, they also shared many resources related to vocabulary and then guided some collaborative sharing among the educators.



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NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended the PAIU Central Region Executive Directors' meeting
- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors' meeting.
- Attended Harrisburg Chief Recovery Officer Committee meeting
- Attended the Capital Region Partnership for Career Development Student Showcase Luncheon and Event

SAVE THE DATE:

18th Annual Champions for Children Bingo - April 7, 2017

Let's play Bingo--and help support Champions for Children! Bingo and raffle prizes at this year's event will include Vera Bradley bags and accessories and Longaberger Baskets. Food will be available and raffles will be held throughout the evening.

Champions for Children offers assistance to children in need within the Capital Area Intermediate Unit's service area. Since 2000, Champions for Children Basket Bingo has helped to raise over \$40,000!

Doors open at 5:45 p.m., bingo starts at 6:45 p.m. Adults only. Tickets: \$25 for 6 cards.