



## Executive Director's Report

June 23, 2016

### MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT

#### Blended Learning

Blended learning is a combination of learning modalities involving face-to-face instruction and web-based learning delivery. When carefully designed, it uses a customized instructional strategy that leverages the strengths of each. Blended Learning includes different learning or instructional methods (lecture, discussion, guided practice, reading, games, case study, simulation), different delivery methods (live classroom or computer mediated), different scheduling (synchronous or asynchronous) and different levels of guidance (individual, instructor or expert led, or group/social learning).

The CAIU's goal is to continue to emerge as a leader in blended and online learning strategies. Last spring, East Pennsboro Middle School, was awarded the Blended Learning Implementation Grant. This grant's purpose was to enable the school to incorporate innovative teaching methods and to repurpose their physical space. Their model fused online content delivered through a blended lab rotation with project-based learning and a competency-based curriculum to create a personalized educational experience for all students. CAIU staff worked with East Pennsboro Middle School staff through this school year to support the implementation.

This year we have also provided an opportunity for our elementary schools to apply for a Blended Learning Planning grant. Five elementary schools from the school districts of Halifax Area, Central Dauphin, Derry Township, Millersburg Area, and Big Spring were recipients of this year's grants. They will continue their planning of how to implement Blended Learning in each of their schools into the 2016-17 school year.

### NEWS

You are invited to participate in the **20th Annual CAIU Champions for Children Golf Tournament to be held on Tuesday, July 26, 2016.**

**TIME:** 12:00 Noon Shotgun Start (Registration begins at 11:00 a.m.)

**PLACE:** Cumberland Golf Club, 2395 Ritner Highway, Carlisle, PA 17015.

**COST:** \$65.00/person (includes green fee, cart, golf shirt, refreshments, dinner, and other prizes.)





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### **Statewide Computer Fair Competition**

There were several winners at the State High School Computer Fair held at Dickinson College on May 24, 2016, from our region:

- **Maizie Ober** from Cumberland Valley High School placed 3rd Place in the area of *Computer Fair Logo*.
- **Devin Ballew, Daulton Bigler, and Stacey Rodriguez Martinez** from Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School placed 1st in the category of *Graphic Design*.

### **Curriculum Services**

- Proposals for the First Annual CAIU Tinker Expo are being accepted until July 8 for the big event planned for October 5, 2016.
- Statewide training is being conducted for administrative teams across the Commonwealth by the Comprehensive Planning Team.
- The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was reauthorized by Congress and signed into law by President Obama on December 10th, 2015. The latest iteration of ESEA, known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and which replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), gives Pennsylvania's Department of Education the authority to design federal accountability plans within certain parameters. PDE has partnered with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the CAIU to hold stakeholder feedback sessions from April to October 2016. These sessions will convene stakeholders from across the Commonwealth with the intended purpose of developing a comprehensive report of detailed recommendations in each of the following areas:
  - Accountability
  - Educator Evaluation
  - Assessment
  - Educator Certification
- The final report will serve as a framework for Pennsylvania's ESSA plan and, given the statutory and regulatory implications, will be shared with the General Assembly for consideration. Dr. Rhonda Brunner, along with several superintendents, Mr. Rich Fry, Dr. Sherri Smith, and Mr. John Friend, are participating in the sessions.

### **Student Services**

- Graduation was held at the CAIU on May 31<sup>st</sup> for six students who received diplomas from their home district at the ceremony.

### **Preschool**

- The Early Intervention Family Carnival was held on June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Adventure Zone Playground in Mechanicsburg. There were 415 children and families in attendance from Early Intervention and Head Start programs in Dauphin, Cumberland, northern York and Perry Counties. The families were able to interact with one another and participate in many games and activities. Representative Rob Teplitz was unable to attend but donated coloring books for the children as an activity.
- On June 8<sup>th</sup>, CAIU Early Intervention Supervisors and Dr. Brunner visited the Capitol with a parent who wanted to share her experience and the importance of early intervention and



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the need to increase funding for EI. She brought four of her children who had received early intervention services. They participated in a press conference and met with Chris Wakely from Chairman James Roebuck's office and Kate McMullen from Representative Dermody's office. They also stopped in and talked to staff from Representative Rob Teplitz and Senator Pat Vance's offices.

- Yvonne Schreffler, SLP and Barb Kline, OT made a presentation on Assistive Technology (AT) to the students of the Central Penn College Occupational Therapy Assistant program. Students were given opportunities to interact with various AT devices and were provided information on the functional use and application of AT for children with special needs.

### **Hill Top Academy**

- To celebrate the final days of the 2015-2016 school year, Hill Top Academy held an end-of-the-year carnival and cookout on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Hill Top cafeteria staff served a cookout style lunch and students enjoyed beautiful weather and carnival themed games. The festivities also included a water balloon toss at the principal, Dr. Thompson, which staff and students thoroughly enjoyed.

### **Pupil Services/Hospital/ELECT-EFI/Diakon/Blended Learning**

- Dr. Janilyn Elias has been asked to speak at the National Discipline Conference for the second year in a row. Topics will include Positive Behavior Support and Discipline for Special Education Students.
- The Blended Learning Team is currently working on the needs for our teachers to rollout Engage NY Math for the 2016-2017 school year.

### **Project Max at CAIU Hershey Middle School Class:**

- Project Max focuses on presuming competence and raising the expectations for students with complex instructional needs. It is believed that students should have access to the same curriculum as their same grade peers, as well as produce work that they would be proud to show off to their peers. Many middle school students enjoy texting and emailing. This year, we found out that our students are able to do that through one of the communication apps, Proloquo2Go. Students who use the app are able to type a message as usual. When they are finished typing their message, they can press the AirDrop button and can send it in a text message through the Messages app, or in an email. This has opened doors for our students to interact through technology, just as their same age peers! Thanks to Samantha Forsythe (classroom teacher) and Emily Sidelinger (speech/language pathologist) for teaching students how to use this application.
- Samantha Forsythe's Autism Support class also successfully completed the development of a standards-aligned unit outlining the instructional process and individualized student plans as part of their work with the Project Max initiative. Their work will be shared at a poster presentation at the Pennsylvania Low Incidence Institute at Penn State in August.

### **Transition**

- Project SEARCH Graduation was held on June 7<sup>th</sup> in the Junker Auditorium at the Penn State Health - Hershey Medical Center. Five interns were honored with certificates and diplomas for successful completion of the program. Each of the interns was recognized for their achievements and for the fact that each has obtained competitive employment in various fields. We are extremely proud of all they have accomplished.



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- Recently, the Buskey Awards luncheon was held to recognize students who have demonstrated progress in overcoming personal challenges and have built bridges toward successful post-school transition. Over 20 students from local school districts were honored at this event.

#### **Deaf/Hard of Hearing**

- An awards program was held on May 26<sup>th</sup> at CAIU to recognize the accomplishments of our Deaf/Hard of Hearing students. It was a wonderful night with displays of our students' work and presentation of certificates.

### **NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

- Attended the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awards program, the CAIU Graduation and the Project SEARCH Graduation at Penn State Health – Hershey Medical Center.
- Attended PAIU Conference in Seven Springs on June 1-3.
- Participated in a book study, "Work Rules," – *Insights from Inside Google that will Transform how you Live and Lead*, with Cabinet members as part of our annual Cabinet Retreat. In addition other topics included Comprehensive Planning, Goals Review, and policy and procedures review.