



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report

January 28, 2016

Spotlight

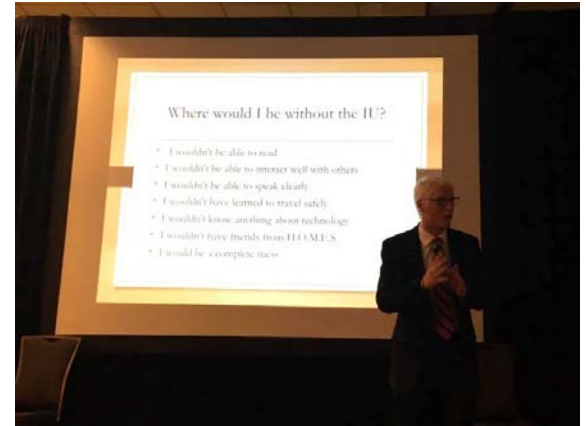
Work of the Service Dogs

Hill Top Academy, in partnership with Susquehanna Service Dogs, utilizes trained therapy dogs. Dogs are placed in classrooms in which the teacher or staff has completed the 40 hours of dog handler training and has passed a facility access test. Our students may have attachment, trauma, abuse and post-traumatic stress disorders, and the service dogs have a positive therapeutic and emotional impact on these behaviors and our students' educational success. Dogs are placed in the most stable classrooms. This ensures the dog's safety and provides a goal for those students having a difficult time with behavior.

NEWS

CAIU All Staff Day

The Annual CAIU All Staff Day was held on Monday, January 18, 2016, at the Best Western Premier Hotel & Conference Center. This annual event brings all CAIU staff together to highlight our accomplishments, review our programs and recognize staff. The morning session concluded with a Keynote Presentation from Adam Blank. Adam was a former student from Intermediate Unit #1 who has overcome significant challenges to being able to share his very heart touching story. During the afternoon, our staff participated in breakout sessions or service projects.



2015 CAIU Year in Review

- Early Intervention/Preschool served 1,958 children; 708 preschool children went to Kindergarten; and 14% entered Kindergarten without a need for Special Education Services.
- School-Age Services – there were 282 students enrolled in classroom programs at some point during the year; 689 students in districts received related services and 448 students in districts received evaluation, screening or consultations. Forty school entities were served through our school-age services (24 CAIU Districts, 5 CAIU Charter Schools, 4 Statewide Cyber Schools, 5 Out of Area Districts, and 1 Private School).
- Loysville YDC Program – 192 students served in the educational programs, 23 students graduated with PA Diplomas, and 10 students earned their GED.



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- Hospital Programs – 832 students received services as inpatients and 293 students served through the Partial Program.
- Nonpublic School Services – 672 students received reading support, 253 students received math support and over 1,000 students received individual counseling services.
- English as a Second Language – 90 students served through our ESL services.
- Curriculum and Professional Development – 477 Professional Development sessions attended by 7,988 participants, awarded 54,587 hours of Act 48 credit, and largest professional development activity in 2014-15 was iPad Summit with 201 participants.
- Comprehensive Planning – 390 participants for Phase 2 Trainings.
- Blended Learning Grant – East Pennsboro Middle school was the recipient of a three-year \$400,000 Blended Learning Implementation Grant.
- Capital Area Online Learning Association – thousands of course enrollments, 87 school districts and 4,019 students enrolled in the program.
- Technology Services – 16,403 Helpdesk Tickets completed with 99% positive rating, wrote 110,000 lines of code, provided 4,000 Mbps of Internet daily serving almost 70,000 students and provided PowerSchool support for 22 entities with 32,000 students.
- Business Office – manages over 50 budgets, processes 530 purchase orders, 6,500 checks and 2,100 invoices, manages 75 Pcards, and manages group purchasing consortium in addition to yearly audits and reviews.
- Human Resources – posted 120 jobs with more than 900 people accessing the Applicant Portal and processed new clearances for 334 staff.
- Transportation – over 600 students transported a total of 1.7 million miles.
- Maintenance & Custodial – used between 6,000 and 8,00 lbs. of salt to keep sidewalks clear.

Technology Services

East Pennsboro School District Visit

On Thursday, December 10th the Curriculum Advisory Committee and the Technology Advisory Committee held their monthly meetings at East Pennsboro Middle School where districts had an opportunity to see the work they are doing around blended and personalized learning. School administrators, staff and teachers received presentations from East Pennsboro staff and students and had an opportunity to visit several classrooms. Visitors began to see the transformation taking place in the students' approach to their own learning. Educational Consultant Scott Snyder has been working with the pilot team not only on this transformation but also the development of their technology integration in all classes.

West Perry Student's Visit

On Thursday, January 7th the Technology Department hosted Christopher Rahn, the West Perry High School Principal and two students. The students are working on a software application for the 2016 PA Governor's STEM Competition. During the student visit to the CAIU, Royce Brown and Ariel Sutton, two Technology Team members sat with the students and reviewed a presentation on their project and discussed some best practices in Application Development standards as well as discussed what it takes to have a career in application development. The students represented their district well and were happy to visit an enterprise data center and a chance to communicate with our application developers and application support team.



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Google Certifications

The CAIU partnered with IU12 and IU13 to offer a two day Google Certification Boot Camp in November and December where participants learned the essentials of Google Apps for Education with a focus on the skills and techniques needed to complete the online exams to achieve "Google Educator Level 2" status. Rich Kiker, from Kiker Learning, led the 130 participants through activities utilizing a variety of Google Apps for Ed. He focused on how Google Apps can help users be more efficient and how they can be effectively integrated in the classroom. More sessions are scheduled in April for additional Google Boot Camps.

STUDENT SERVICES

Preschool/Early Intervention

- The Preschool Program has established a new Preschool Parent Resource Area in the lobby at Enola. Please take some time to stop in and see what resources are available for families for children with special needs.
- Preschool to School Age Transition Meetings are currently being held with the 24 school districts, and we anticipate that we will complete 650 meetings by 2/9/16.
- We have continued observations with high school and college students who are interested in early childhood special education. Currently we have a West Shore School District high school student completing a "work study" program with our Preschool Program classroom at Fishing Creek Elementary. In addition, we have one student teacher at Shippensburg Preschool Program for the spring semester.
- We are working with Carlisle High School and their childcare program to discuss the CAIU early intervention process and what services can look like in an early childhood special education class. A future collaboration meeting will take place to include planning a field trip to Willow Mill Preschool for the high school students to observe first-hand.
- Congratulations to Dina Duffy, EI S/L Clinician for being nominated for the Josephine J. Decima Award.

Pupil Services/Hospital/ELECT-EFI

- The autism team continues to meet at Hershey Medical Center Children's Hospital to coordinate efforts for those families who have children with autism who are admitted to the hospital. Discussions include socialization, acclimation/awareness of what will happen at each area of the hospital and how to best interact with these students/patients when family is not available.
- Children's Miracle Network will continue to partner with CAIU Hershey Medical Center teachers to support the provision of summer educational programming.
- ELECT-EFI numbers continue to grow (up to 58 participants in the program).
- PPI Inpatient has admitted 286 students so far this year. Plans are in place to add an additional adolescent wing for the 16-17 school year.

Hill Top Academy

- There have been five paraeducator/PCA vacancies recently filled. This will certainly help with program continuity and coverage.
- Hill Top Academy staff held a holiday food drive resulting in 18 families being provided with holiday food baskets and gift cards for Giant Foods just prior to the holiday break.



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- Ms. Lavia's middle school ES class completed a service learning project where they made and delivered fleece blankets for children living in a local homeless shelter.
- Hill Top Academy students provided artwork for the all staff day event and Hill Top staff and students made homemade dog biscuits sold at the all staff event. All proceeds from the sale went to the Hill Top Academy student activity fund.
- Hill Top Academy students participated in two recent educational trips. The first was to the Oakes Museum of Natural History on the campus of Messiah College and the other was to the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg. Both outings proved to be a great experiential education and social learning experiences for the students.

Transition Services

- The Project SEARCH interns are in their second rotation at Hershey Medical Center. The second round of internships has been arranged in Health Information Systems, Foods, the Infusion Clinic and Admissions.
- Our Transition Coordinator, Melissa Bialas, has completed the initial training in the Discovery Process (an alternative to traditional vocational assessment). She will be continuing with face to face training in order to receive certification.

Autism Support

- Congratulations to Dina Roseberry (AS teacher at East Pennsboro HS) and Samantha Forsythe (AS teacher at Hershey Middle School) for being nominated for the Josephine J. Decima Award.
- Staff continues to express positive feedback regarding the introduction of Engage NY and iReady to support curriculum and instruction.
- The Hershey MS Autism Support class team continues to work on the Project Max initiative. Trainings have focused on accessing rigorous academics and increasing student engagement in the general education curriculum. We are pleased to have one of our student's parents on the team.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Classrooms

- Our DHH classes have grown in student enrollment. We began the year with 9 students and currently have 15 in our elementary, middle, and high school classes.
- Our elementary class experienced the Farm Show on January 14 and had a wonderful time learning about various aspects of farming (and petting the animals)!

Multiple Disabilities Support

- Our MDS class at Steelton Highspire High School visited the Popcorn Hat Players theatre to view (and participate in) the production of Sleeping Beauty. One of our students, Ashlee, played the role of a fairy.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Met with Superintendents' Finance Committee and Board Finance Committee to review the proposed 2016-17 General Operating Budget
- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors meeting
- Attended the Regional Consortium for Excellence & Equity session, "*The Cultural Proficiency Journey: Co-Creating Culturally Responsive Schools*"



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- Participated in the United Way Central Region's Education Task Force meeting
- Visited with teachers and staff at Hill Top Academy

SAVE THE DATE

PDE Data Summit: Planning is underway for the 3rd PDE Data Summit to be held in Hershey from May 22 – 25, 2016. Several IU15 staff have volunteered to help with the Summit and will receive free conference registration in return for their efforts. Board members are invited to attend.

Upcoming Events

The **2016 Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference (PETE&C)** is a statewide event that provides programs focused on technology in the educational field. The conference is being held at the Hershey Lodge and this year's dates are February 21-24. During the conference companies and educators showcase their latest technology products and services to teachers, administrators, technology directors, school board members and students. The CAIU Technology Team, as well as students from some of our districts, provides support for this conference. This is always a great opportunity for the students as they experience customer service skills and technology skills first hand as well as attend technology session and speak to innovative educators and companies.