



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report

November 19, 2015

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Training and Consultation (TaC) Services is authorized by the Federal Government (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA) to provide professional development and consultative services to administrators, consultants, teachers and parents. These services are an integral part of broad school and district-wide accountability planning. Professional education activities are aligned with national, state and local initiatives, and support the strategically identified needs of our constituent school districts. While these services are not designed to focus on ongoing individual student interventions, they are intended to provide staff with professional development and resources to build capacity within the school to improve the education of all students. The Pennsylvania Department of Education outlines six initiatives, **Autism, Inclusive Practices/Least Restrictive Environment, Behavior Support, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS-RtII), Secondary Transition, and Assistive Technology**, which are the focus of this team's work with local education agencies.

NEWS

FALL SUPERINTENDENTS' LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



The CAIU Superintendents' Leadership Conference was held from November 4-6, 2015, in Annapolis, MD. The initial session included a team building activity where teams of superintendents prepared each course of the evening dinner. The content for this year's conference focused on "**Equity and Excellence**". Dr. Paul Gorski's presentation was on "Reaching and Teaching Students in Poverty" and Dr. Gayle Allen's was on "The New Pillars of Modern Leading, Learning, and Teaching."

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

AgendaManager Upgrade. The CAIU is excited to announce the release of the new AgendaManager that occurred on November 13, 2015. Over the past year we have taken feedback from our existing user community and incorporated some of those requests into this version of AgendaManager. AgendaManager offers a new interface with enhanced performance and functionality that include (but not limited to):

- Dashboard for Quick View of Vital Information
- Key Agenda Items to be Saved for Reuse
- More Role Permission Options
- Streamlined Announcements



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In addition to the enhancements during this new release, this upgrade uses the latest application development technology and will position the application to grow with future requests to meet the needs of our districts.

Content Keeper Upgrade and Training. ContentKeeper is our Internet filtering solution that provides real-time, high performance web content analysis, utilizing advanced heuristics and deep packet inspection for 24 schools in our region. During the month of November, the CAIU Technology staff worked with ContentKeeper to upgrade the Internet filtering servers so districts may have advanced reporting options. Training for this upgrade is scheduled for November 19th and is free to all districts.

E-rate Training. E-rate, the commonly used name for the Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, is a federal program to ensure that schools and libraries have affordable access to advanced telecommunications services. Under the program, districts receive discounts on Telecommunications Services, Internet Access, and Internal infrastructure. The CAIU applies for E-rate for CAIU districts that are part of the WAN and Internet consortium. On November 11th, Julie Tritt Schell delivered her annual full day E-rate training at the CAIU. There have been significant changes to E-rate over the past year. Approximately 70 people attended and it was a very informative session.

STUDENT SERVICES

Hill Top Academy

- Currently, there are 126 students enrolled and 10 requests (referrals) for placement. We are reviewing the class lists and considering the need to open additional classrooms to be able to meet district needs.
- Hill Top Academy's core PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) Team trained all HTA staff as we begin to roll-out SWPBS (Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support) at our most recent Act 80 day on October 4th.
- High school teacher, Ms. Chasteen, has partnered with Trout Unlimited to bring *Trout in The Classroom* to HTA. Equipment and materials have been donated by Trout Unlimited that will allow HTA students to learn about cold water conservation as they raise brook trout from eggs to fingerlings in a classroom aquarium.

Pupil Services

- **Diakon Wilderness Center and CAIU Grant Proposal for Annie E. Casey Foundation's Learn and Achieve Potential (LEAP) initiative.** Diakon Youth Services and the CAIU has advanced to the second phase in a competitive proposal process for the LEAP initiative which focuses on youth and young adults ages 14-25 who have been involved in the child welfare (foster care) and juvenile justice systems. This grant will help to assist transitional age youth with obtaining their high school diploma or GED and transition into the workforce or postsecondary education. Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) specialists (which will be



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the CAIU educational staff) will provide classroom instruction, mentoring, guidance counseling and hands-on vocational training. Students form their own leadership council in which they elect officers select community service projects and engage in teamwork and leadership activities.

Speech/Language

- We have increased our staffing by 4 positions within the last 10 months. This is directly related to speech/language needs of students in IU class placements as well as district/agency contract increases.
- The first Speech/Language Networking meeting for the IU and district SLPs was held on Friday, October 30, 2015. Topics discussed included: Ed Specialist certification for SLPs, assessment of bi-lingual students, language assessment/interpretations, early intervention for students with speech/language needs and vocabulary instruction.

Equitable Participation

- **Coaching:** We are currently working with five non-public schools to expand skills of regular education teachers working with students identified as special education and in need of specially designed instruction. In one of the schools, the teacher commented: "The best thing about having an instructional coach available to our school is that she not only helps the students with learning disabilities, but she helps us help ALL of the students." Requests for coaching continue to increase.
- **Learning Support Network:** Our first learning support network meeting held on October 14, 2015 focused on the following engagement strategies: beach ball activity, reciprocal teaching, turn and talk, four corners, shoulder partner discussion, ticket out the door. The next Learning Support Network meeting for non-public schools is scheduled for December 15, 2015 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in our Enola center.

Blind/Visually Impaired Support

- All CAIU Teachers of the Visually Impaired will have completed training on the Unified English Braille by the end of the month. This braille system will be rolled out across the Commonwealth on January 4, 2016.

Early Warning System/Educator Dashboard: Administrators from West Perry School District completed Train-the-Trainer sessions for PDE's ***Educator Dashboard Early Warning System Intervention Catalog***. District administrators are working to implement this new system to aid the education staff in identifying and monitoring students at risk of dropping out and/or in need of interventions. IU15 partnered with PDE for this training initiative which was supported jointly by Curriculum Services (Karen Ditzler) and Student Services (Cindy Gavazzi).



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NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended joint meeting of the Harrisburg SD Chief Recovery Officer Committee and Board Curriculum Committee.
- Attended the Regional Consortium for Excellence & Equity session, “Empowering and Engaging ALL Students for Learning.”
- Visited Lemoyne Preschool Center to participate in their Halloween celebration.
- Participated in the Dauphin County Technical School administrative review for school nutrition
- Attended Dauphin County Technical School Open House

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.