



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report April 23, 2015

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT

CAIU Business Team

Our Business Team, led by Daren Moran, Business Manager, provides a variety of financial and operational services to internal and external clients. In addition to the monthly financial reports to the Board, the business office oversees the daily responsibilities associated with the budget administration of approximately 52 budgets, the monitoring of state and federal grants, accounts payable/receivable and purchasing. Our business office also hosts the monthly business managers meeting for our region, supports our districts using the Alio financial accounting software, and offers a Group Purchasing Consortium through Office Depot. Most recently, our business office will help support our districts using the Eidex Solution. Thanks to our business office staff for modeling strong internal fiscal controls on a daily basis.

Immediately following today's Board meeting, Daren Moran will share an overview of CAIU Finances.

NEWS

Congratulations to East Pennsboro Middle School, the recipient of the Blended Learning Implementation Grant. This grant will enable the school to incorporate innovative teaching methods and to repurpose their physical space. Their model fuses 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 looks forward to working with East Pennsboro Middle School staff through this implementation. Our goal is to continue to emerge as a leader in blended and online learning strategies. Our work with East Pennsboro Middle School will help us achieve that goal.

Champions for Children

The 16th annual Champions for Children Basket Bingo event was held at the CAIU on Friday, April 10, 2015 from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. There were approximately 125 participants this year, and over \$4,000 was raised in support of our Champions for Children organization. Thank you to our CAIU staff that planned and staffed the event.

PA Excellence in eLearning Forum 2015

The second annual conference was held in Valley Forge on March 25- 27, 2015. Holly Brzycki, Supervisor of Online Learning, and her team organized an event for the six Intermediate Units and 88 school districts who participate in the Capital Area Online Learning Association (CAOLA). This year the event had the nationally known speaker, Tom Vander Ark, who spoke about Special



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Education in online learning. The conference was a great success with 120 district and IU partners in attendance.

Student Services

Preschool/Early Intervention

- On April 15th, some of our Preschool staff participated in West Perry School District's Pre-K Family Fun night that is designed for families of incoming kindergarteners.
- Preschool welcomes Todd Howell, a long term substitute teacher for Delbrook, and Beth Stewart, EPP at Willow Mill.
- One preschool classroom teaching team is working with Early Intervention Technical Assistance in a pilot program utilizing the Prevent Teach Reinforce for Young Children Coaching Opportunity: An Evidenced Based Practice to Support Staff and Families.

Hill Top Academy

- This month we are welcoming two new staff to our building: Fred Garman, on the intervention team, and Sandra Brownawell, a PCA for an elementary student.
- Staff and students held Field Day at Northern High School track on April 17th. Northern York County School District has graciously offered their track for us to use that morning.
- New referrals for the diagnostic classroom are now on hold for next school year. Our fourth quarter has a full class for the 45 day evaluation period this spring.
- The current student enrollment at HTA is 123 students with an ongoing active referral list.
- Teachers and students have been preparing for this month's testing. PASA testing is complete and the PSSAs are being administered from April 13 through the end of the month.

Data Systems

- CAIU staff attended the second annual PDE Data Summit March 22 – 25. The Summit brought together over 1,000 attendees comprised of education and data professionals. The CAIU region was represented by 65 attendees from 25 entities. The following districts were session presenters: Central Dauphin SD, Greenwood SD, Newport SD, Shippensburg Area SD, and West Shore SD. Cindy Gavazzi and Ariel Sutton, CAIU Staff, also led two sessions.
- CAIU is partnering with PDE to support school districts with the rollout of the Educator Dashboard/Early Warning System (EWS). Currently, Harrisburg City SD, Newport Area SD, South Middleton SD, and West Perry SD from IU15 and Annville-Cleona SD from IU13 are in the process of implementing the EWS. The Educator Dashboard is a free/ voluntary tool available to all Commonwealth local education agencies and will assist districts with identifying students at risk of dropping out.

Blind/Visually Impaired Support Program

- Stephanie Casey, CAIU Teacher of the Visually Impaired, was one of the first teachers nationwide to complete the course, "Transitioning to Unified English Braille (UEB)" offered by Hadley School for the Blind. In November 2012, the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) voted to adopt Unified English Braille (UEB) as an official code for the United States. This transition becomes effective January 4, 2016, and all new transcriptions will be produced in UEB; educators will teach the code; and devices and software will fully and accurately incorporate UEB.



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School-Age Speech/Language Support Program

- Members of the School-Age Speech and Language Staff assisted Susquenita School District with speech and language screenings during kindergarten registration. Additionally, they completed speech and language assessments for a district Speech and Language Pathologist who is on maternity leave.

Autism

- April is **National Autism Awareness Month**. In order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, the Autism Society has been celebrating National Autism Awareness Month since the 1970s. The United States recognizes April as a special opportunity to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.
- Samantha Forsythe and her staff at Hershey Middle School are preparing to participate in Project Max, a statewide initiative which promotes access to general education content and curriculum for all students, especially those with complex instructional needs.
- Michelle Krolczyk's classroom at Hershey Early Childhood Center has successfully become involved in regular education Kindergarten classes with increasing hours and success. Thanks to the staff and administration at HECC for their on-going support of our students.
- On April 11, Ms. Krolczyk and her staff participated in the 10th annual Logan's Run & Walk for Autism at Harrisburg's City Island. "Team WOW" raised \$580 in support of the Autism Society Greater Harrisburg chapter. Congratulations!
- The Competent Learner Model Conference will be held at CAIU in October 2015. Details to follow.

Transition

- Project Search interviews were successfully held on March 18 at Hershey Medical Center. Seven students came and performed skills assessments as well as answered interview questions. Six students were selected to participate in this year's upcoming program, with another applicant being considered. Open House for students and their families will be held on May 19, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Multiple Disabilities

- After 21 years occupying a classroom at Camp Hill High School, our secondary MDS class will be moving to Steelton-Highspire High School. Many thanks to Camp Hill for their years of dedication to our program.

Equitable Participation Program

- Margaret Taylor-Makuch, Equitable Participation Coordinator, will be offering two parent sessions to solicit input regarding use of funds for students identified as special education and parentally placed in non-public schools. These sessions will be held at 7 p.m. on April 16th at West Shore Christian Academy and April 21st at Seven Sorrows School.

Pupil Services/Hospital/Diakon/ELECT-EFI/Homeless

- ELECT newsletter will be disseminated quarterly ~ attached to the board agenda is our first installment.
- The ELECT annual conference was held on April 22-24 in Harrisburg.
- We will have a monitoring visit for the Region 2 Homeless grant on April 29.



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- CAIU staff at Diakon was instrumental in getting both the Chesapeake Bay Watershed grant and the Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training (PACTT) grant to allow us more opportunities to utilize the nature for educational purposes.
- CAIU hosted a consortium meeting (6 districts) at the Diakon Wilderness Center to discuss planning and contracting for student placements.
- Our teachers at the Hershey Medical Center are actively involved in the Four Diamonds organization. In addition to their inclusion in the brochure/flyer, they asked to be included in a survey regarding their services. Information provided will be a jumping off point to help them market their services in the future.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors' meeting.
- Attended the Central Region PAIU Executive Directors' meeting.
- Attended a community meeting, hosted by Education Voters of PA and Education Matters in the Cumberland Valley, about public school funding in Cumberland County on April 1st. Several of the panelists (superintendents, business manager, and school board member) were from our districts in Cumberland County.
- Attended "Meet the Newly Appointed Secretary of Education" event at Penn State Harrisburg.
- Held two communications meetings with CAIU staff – offered both face-to-face sessions and Live Streaming so staff at various locations could participate.
- Visited Preschool Classrooms located in our district schools: Foose Elementary, Fishing Creek Elementary, Londonderry Elementary, Hershey Early Childhood Center and Conewago Elementary
- A Board Visit is scheduled for April 20 at Big Spring School District.
- Met with CAEA Leadership, along with Theresa Kinsinger and Alicia McDonald, for our quarterly meeting.
- Attended PAIU "Day on the Hill" and met with House and Senate leaders.

UPCOMING CAIU EVENTS

Deaf or Hard of Hearing Awards Program – May 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Enola Office. Student awards will be presented at that time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency is offering a second **Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools** at the CAIU on July 14-16, 2015. Priority registration is given to School/School District Administrators from our IU region.