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## Substitute Executive Director's Report

December 19, 2013

### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

#### Deaf or Hard of Hearing Program (DHH)

The Deaf or Hard of Hearing **school-age** classroom program is designed for students, ages 5-21, with an educational and medical diagnosis of hearing impairment. All classes provide academic instruction and instruction to promote communication and language development. The elementary program includes instruction in self-help and readiness skills, in addition to coaching in self-advocacy, assistive technology, and the use of an interpreter where appropriate. The secondary programs also include instruction in self-advocacy related to hearing loss, communication and assistive technology. Students engage in learning in inclusive settings as much as possible.

The DHH school age classroom program has three self-contained classes located in two school districts. One elementary class (K-5) is located at East Hanover Elementary School in Lower Dauphin School District. The middle school (grades 6-8) class is located at Susquehanna Township Middle School, and the high school class (grades 7-9) is located at Susquehanna Township High School. In addition, the CAIU provides DHH Itinerant Support for 69 students in thirteen school districts and one cyber charter school.

Deaf or Hard of Hearing services are also provided for our **preschool** children and families. The services include the following:

**Screening and Assessment** involves collaboration with local audiologists and CAIU audiologist to share the history of the child's hearing. Discussions are held with individual families regarding the frequency of their child's wearing of hearing aids/cochlear implants and specifically how their child responds to the sounds. An informal listening assessment is also conducted to see how a child responds to environmental sounds, what their speech sound production is like and their ability to follow simple directions.

A specialized **Early Childhood Education Classroom** is in place for children who have a hearing impairment and/or other developmental delays. On a daily basis, the teaching team tests the hearing aids. Activities focus on encouraging children to develop communication skills. Sign language is used, as well as verbal communication. There is an emphasis on helping these children to develop their listening skills, which aids them in speech production. Therapies are embedded into the classroom and at times are delivered in a pull-out session to provide more focus on additional and more intense skills. Home-school journals provide a way to communicate with families on a daily basis. These journals share the activities that took place during the child's daily programming. The teaching team utilizes a weekly Homework Bag which has an activity, paired with visual support (pictures), for the parents to do with their child at home.



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There are also children who are enrolled in early childhood programs and who do not need a restrictive classroom like the one mentioned above. For children who are enrolled in an early childhood environment (community preschools, nursery schools, library times, etc.) and do not need a restrictive environment, we provide support and consultation for the student and also offer support to the early childhood environment teaching staff. Itinerant teachers and support staff utilize the collaborative consultation model when working with community partners.

I had the opportunity to visit the DHH elementary class at East Hanover Elementary School. As a former reading specialist, I found it fascinating to observe Cheryl Martin provide reading instruction for some of her deaf students.

## **NEWS**

### **CAIU iPad Summit 2013**

The second annual CAIU Apple iPad Summit, will be held on Monday, December 16, 2013, and reached maximum enrollment with 225 participants as well as 5 students from Camp Hill School District who will model their use of iPads in their classroom. The Summit will bring together educators, technology directors, principals and school leaders for a day of presentations, workshops and hands-on sessions to identify emerging best practices and effective methods of implementing and using iPads in the classroom.

The iPad Summit combines keynote sessions, featured speakers, a student showcase, and presentation sessions that address three key conference strands:

- **Leadership** - School change requires leadership and support. This strand focused on providing leadership and the kinds of professional development that help teachers be successful.
- **Classroom Integration** - At the core of any good school initiative is improving student learning. This strand answered how iPads impact what is taught, how teachers teach and how students learn.
- **Technical** - Technology management is a huge part of educational iPad programs. This strand discussed how to purchase, manage, and sync apps, how to store and protect iPads, and what policies and procedures need to be in place to support the program.

You can view more detail on our Wiki at: <http://caiupadsummit2013.wiki.caiu.org/Home> or follow us on Twitter #CAIUpadsummit2013

### **PA eLearning Summit**

A statewide professional development opportunity, PA eLearning Summit, was held at the CAIU on December 10, 2013. This day was filled with discussion and networking opportunities revolving around eLearning in Pennsylvania. The event targeted administrators involved with online learning, digital learning, and hybrid learning. Keynote speakers and the breakout sessions focused on professional development, program management/attendance/technology, teacher union considerations, attracting and supporting online learners, flipped classroom,



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instructional resources beyond the learning management system, and student engagement and the role of the teacher. There were 75 registrants from across Pennsylvania.

### **Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA) 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

Several CAIU staff had the opportunity to attend and present at the AESA Annual Conference held in San Antonio, Texas. The sessions included:

***Focusing on the Future in a Short-Sighted World:*** This session highlighted the innovative, cost effective services provided for our districts through the Capital Area Online Learning Association (CAOLA). Mark Hennes, Special Projects Supervisor, and Holly Brzycki, Supervisor of Online Learning, were the presenters for this session.

Karen Ditzler, Instructional Technology Specialist, provided an overview of the ***iPad Integration*** project that started in five second-grade classrooms in our region and has now expanded to 24 classrooms across 19 districts. This project focused on high quality professional development, building a strong professional learning network, and effectively integrating iPads into the curriculum.

Brian Griffith, Director of Curriculum Services, and Rob Mancabelli, CEO and Co-Founder of BrightBytes, from San Francisco, CA, shared how the CAIU ***Uses Data to Create a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Service Agency***, to shape the delivery of services, and to improve the quality of programs.

### **Hill Top Academy**

The annual holiday food drive was another big success.

Senator Folmer will be visiting HTA on Tuesday, December 17. He accepted an invitation to visit during last month's student and service dog visit to the Capitol when Dr. Geist was honored for her work with the therapy dogs at HTA.

Susquehanna Service Dogs are having a puppy visit at HTA on Thursday, December 19, which helps socialize potential new service dogs and also provides motivation and excitement for the students.

### **Pupil Services**

The ELECT (Education Leading to Employment and Career Training) grant audit was held on November 22, 2013, with extremely high marks for our organization of our student files and continuation of our educational programming. They were over half-way through their monitoring process and the PDE expressed we were 2nd best if not the best so far with being in compliance.

The new teacher and CAIU educational program began at Roxbury Treatment Center in Shippensburg on December 3, 2013. The teacher will be part of their treatment team meetings



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as well as educating students in grades 7-12 while they are at the medical facility. We are pleased to have Kathleen Livengood as a CAIU staff member at this facility.

## **NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

- Attended AESA Conference in San Antonio, TX on December 4-7
- Completed the Act 45 Course offered through Penn State – “Ethics in Educational Leadership”
- Attended the Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) Holiday Program
- Attended the PASA Women’s Caucus Executive Board meeting