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## Executive Director's Report

June 26, 2014

### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

#### Autism Support Program – Competent Learner Model (CLM) Accreditation

**Congratulations** to the CAIU's Autism Support Program for their attainment of CLM Accreditation. The CAIU is one of three entities in the state to be granted accreditation by the Tucci organization. Gaining this accreditation is the result of hours of dedication and commitment to training, guided practice and process development. Vicci Tucci, founder of CLM and Tucci Learning Solutions, presented the certificate at the CLM Accreditation ceremony held at the CAIU on June 17<sup>th</sup>.



The Competent Learner Model or CLM features multiple components, Learner Assessments, Supplemental Curricula with Effective Teaching Strategies, Staff Training with Coaching and Collaborative Consultation, and Coaching and Implementation Guidelines. All four components are highly integrated and provide a comprehensive package that supports implementation of the model with fidelity.

The basic premise of the program identifies seven critical repertoires that all learners need to possess in order to successfully participate in instruction. These repertoires are identified as Talker, Listener, Observer, Reader, Problem Solver, Writer, and Participator. The program's learner assessments provide detailed information regarding each learner's areas of strength and needs related to the repertoires and the manualized curriculum provides classroom teachers with a direct instruction model that allows them to provide consistent and highly effective instruction in these seven areas through "format" instruction.

From the outset, CLM was a good fit for the CAIU's autism support program. It provided an intensive staff development program that was available to all members of the team, via DVD in the early days of implementation and now through web-based access. Its reliance on and requirements for modeling and guided practice provided by highly trained coaches tied into to the CAIU's Educational Consultant (EC) model and further enhanced the ECs skill sets providing added value for school districts who purchased consultative services. Further, its manualized, research-based curriculum provided the organization with a program that met the evidence-based guidelines published by the National Autism Center in its National Standards Project Report.



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The overall impact on staff and students has been profound. Progress monitoring for students in CLM classrooms shows significant increases in language development, participation in learning activities across the four classroom settings (teacher-directed, semi-directed, peer-directed and non-directed), and inclusion opportunities as well as decreases in behaviors of concern and reductions in the number of restraints and crisis calls. Teachers who have been trained in the model report increased confidence in their instruction as well as noting that their increased understanding of behavior has enhanced their overall practice.

## **NEWS**

### **Autism Support**

The CLM Conference was held on June 18th – over 75 individuals from across the United States participated either in person or virtually. Collaboration between Tucci Learning Solutions, The Vista School and the Capital Area Intermediate Unit enabled this conference to occur. Speakers for the opening session were brought together from around the world including the United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi), France, and Italy as well as locations from across the United States.

### **Nonpublic School Services**

On June 9 - 11, 2014, Nonpublic School Services provided a three day professional development academy for teachers and administrators working in nonpublic schools. Five workshops around Common Core topics of literacy and math were presented over the three days. The reading sessions focused on close reading and complex text. Writing focused on five types of writing assignments in Collins Writing. The math session focused on math practices and what they might look like in the classroom. One Hundred Seventy-Nine (179) teachers and administrators from fifteen (15) nonpublic schools attended the sessions. The Nonpublic Academy is a cooperative effort of CAIU Aid to Nonpublic Schools and the Curriculum teams. Workshops and materials were funded with Title IIA funds.

### **Preschool – Early Intervention Program**

The CAIU Preschool Speech/Language program recently applied for and was awarded an Assistive Technology grant. This grant will support the collaborative work that our preschool early intervention program does with community partners related to assistive technology and the use of strategies to support our young learners with more significant disabilities who use assistive technology in community settings. Our program will provide training and technical assistance to build competence in the use of assistive technology to improve children's participation in home, child care, preschool and community settings. A specific child study opportunity will be identified to demonstrate the utilization of assistive technology to support a child's access to and participation in the early childhood setting. In addition, grant monies will be used to expand our early intervention community assistive technology library which was created through a previous preschool assistive technology grant awarded several years ago. Kristi Shireman and Yvonne Shreffler completed the grant application and will oversee implementation.



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The Preschool Program will receive an increase in funding for 2014-15. The Bureau for Early Intervention Services recognized that we have been serving more children and they also increased our funding due to the loss of revenue from the School-Based Access Program.

In early June, Early Intervention Connections sponsored a Family Carnival at the Adventure Zone Park on Lamb's Gap Road. There were activities and games for the young children along with playtime on the handicapped accessible playground. We provided dinner which members of the Capital Area Christian Church grilled, fried and served. Children and families from the Infant & Toddler and Preschool Early Intervention programs, Capital Area Head Start and ELECT programs were invited. About 450 people attended.

### **Loysville Youth Development Center**



**Loysville Youth Development Center 2014 Graduation Ceremony:** *Clyde Caldwell*, School Principal with *Brenda Benner*, County Commissioner of Perry County and *Paula Stiffler* from State Representative Mark Keller's office (New Bloomfield). Our visitors presented the LYDC 2014 Graduates with citations for Recognition of Academic Achievement.

There were ten LYDC students who attended their graduation ceremony and received a diploma earlier in May.

### **Hill Top Academy (HTA)**

The 2013-14 school year came to a close with many successes to celebrate. The Hilltop Academy graduation took place on Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were three graduates from HTA this year. Also, there were 20 students who have or will be returning to their home districts. The diagnostic class served and evaluated 24 students this year. We added 2 new classes during the year, an elementary Autism Support and elementary Emotional Support, to meet the needs of our districts. We also had 2 long time employees retire: Carolyn Price, building secretary and David Wenger, Mental Health Treatment Specialist. Over the summer, we will have Extended School Year (ESY) classes in session. As we continue to integrate technology into our instruction, we anticipate the installation of 8 SmartBoards in classrooms that have not received them.

### **Managed Network Services for Upper Dauphin Area School District**

The CAIU Technology Services Team has been approved to provide Managed Network Services to the Upper Dauphin Area School District. This agreement will start on July 1<sup>st</sup> and will include helpdesk and network support for the entire district. Additionally, Dauphin County Technical School has signed an agreement for tier 2 and tier 3 network support as they advance their technology plan. As our technology services team has grown, we have been providing customized solutions to school districts to support the increased use of technology in their classroom.



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## **NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

- Attended the annual PAIU Conference. The theme this year was “Leading in a World of Anywhere/Anytime Learning.” The keynote speaker was Dr. Frederick Hess, author of *Cage-Busting Leadership*.
- Completed the monitoring process for Title IIA and Title III Federal programs
- Attended the webcast on Pension Reform outlining the details of Rep. Michael Tobash’s pension proposal
- Met with Mr. Charles Brown from Newport SD for a new Board member orientation
- Attended the Acting Secretary’s PA Budget and Pension Reform Update Videoconference
- Participated in the Special Education Fiscal Review at PDE. The purpose of the fiscal review is for the IU to adequately demonstrate that it is exercising due diligence on behalf of PDE for the proper administration, oversight, and management of the regional IDEA-B §611 school-age funding allocations.