



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

## **Executive Director's Report February 23, 2012**

### **NEWS**

#### **School Improvement**

Teams from 30 schools attended two days of Comprehensive Planning at CAIU. These sessions were for schools that are currently in Warning, School Improvement and Corrective Action. These sessions were facilitated by Cheryl Capozzoli, Educational Consultant on the Curriculum Services Team.

#### **Multi-Measure Teacher Evaluation Project**

There are 8 districts and two career and technical centers from the CAIU region involved in the project. Two-day training sessions have been held in our region with more than 60 participants. Additionally, three districts have requested on-site training for teachers. This project is being led by Cheryl Giles-Rudawski and Nancy Neusbaum, both Curriculum Specialists on the Curriculum Services Team.

#### **TEDxEnola**

This full day event was held at CAIU on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The day focused on 21st Century education reform with a focus on cutting edge brain research topics and strategies. Twelve national neuroscience and education experts from the field shared ideas and research about the critical need for brain centered learning environments in today's schools. The 100 attendees to the TEDxEnola day learned how to engage students with brain based and innovative 21st Century instructional strategies that work. Students from CASA assisted in the filming and editing of the event. The sessions are being archived and will be posted in the very near future. WITF interviewed several of the presenters for their Radio SmartTalk show, including Dr. Jason Conway who is a Curriculum Specialist on the CAIU Curriculum Services Team.

#### **High Impact Strategies – Student Teacher Training**

In January, 288 college students completed two full days of training at CAIU prior to beginning their student teaching experiences in our districts. These students came from 13 different colleges and universities.

#### **Comprehensive Planning**

CAIU continues to take the lead in PA's transition to a Comprehensive Planning Model. This project, funded by PDE, is a collaborative effort between CAIU's Curriculum Services and Technology Services teams. This project primarily involves application development of the online tool and professional development to train school administrators. Our IU staff have trained over 1,500 educators across PA this year. Dr. Jason Conway (Curriculum Services) and Joan Adams (Technology Services) are leading this project for CAIU.

#### **CASA Open House**

The open house was held for interested students and their parents on Sunday, February 5, 2012 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the school's location.



**educational excellence** through leadership, partnership, and innovation

### **A Look Inside ScholarPort – CAIU’s Digital Textbook Pilot**

Barbara Miller, reporter from the Patriot-News, visited Hershey High School to get a feel for ScholarPort, a digital textbook option being piloted through the CAIU.

The CAIU is one of only two school entities in the state with a digital textbook option.

ScholarPort, a program funded through a \$386,000 state grant, is currently being offered in eight school districts through the Capital Area Intermediate Unit.

### **Polar Bear Plunge**

On Saturday, February 4, eight CAIU employees participated in the Polar Plunge to help raise money for Special Olympics Area M. The eight CAIU employees were a part of a 110-person team called the Krazy Kellys. The Krazy Kellys raised \$35,465 for Special Olympics Area M.

## **RECOGNITION**

### **CAIU Psychiatrist, Dr. Shawna Brent, Publishes a Book**

Dr. Brent’s book is titled “A Guide to Psychiatric Services in Schools: Understanding Roles, Treatment, and Collaboration (School-Based Practice in Action).” The book can be purchased on Amazon.

## **NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

### **Thomas W. Holtzman Jr. Educational Leadership Award**

The 2011 Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Educational Leadership Award was awarded to Shannon Bastian, reading specialist at Lower Dauphin School District on Monday, February 6, 2012. I presented the award to Shannon at the Lower Dauphin School District Board Meeting.

### **CAIU Winter Social**

On January 26, the CAIU held their annual Winter Social. Approximately 100 employees shared an enjoyable evening of food, beverages and great entertainment.

### **Meeting with Senator Piccola**

On February 13, Daren Moran and I met with Senator Piccola, chair of the Senate Education Committee, Senator Folmer and Representative Rayburn, minority chair of House Education Committee, to discuss whether the transparency reports met their needs. They were very positive meetings and they are open to suggestions for ways to make the reports less time consuming or more useful.

### **AASA Conference**

This month, I attended the AASA National Conference on Education in Houston, Texas. The title of the conference was “Big Conversations. Big Solutions.”

## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

- **Thursday, May 17, 2012** is CAIU Employee Recognition Dinner. Please place this on your calendar.