



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

## Executive Director's Report October 27, 2011

### NEWS

The CAIU Superintendents' Fall Leadership Conference was held from October 25-27, 2011, in Annapolis, MD. Amy Morton, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, reviewed key PDE initiatives. Rob Mancabelli, co-author of *Personal Learning Networks: Using the Power of Connections to Transform Education*, presented insights into Twenty-First Century learning, strategies for engaging stakeholders and methods for transforming organizations. Superintendents were provided an opportunity to review the data gathered from the Regional Cost Savings Strategies implemented last year and give input for the future. The entire cost of the conference except for transportation and parking was paid for by sponsors.

CASA Walk was held on Friday October 14, 2011. The students of the Capital Area School for the students of the Capital Area School for the Arts participated in their fifth annual Walk for Arts Education. The goal of the walk was to raise awareness to the school and the importance of arts education in the city.

Other CASA News - The Paul Taylor dance company (an internationally recognized dance company) recently spent time at CASA working with students in the dance program.

**Hill Top Academy Bullying Prevention Kick-Off was on Friday, October 14, 2011. Students and staff had a great day engaging in anti-bullying various activities. Hill Top staff was trained in the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, a program designed to reduce existing bullying problems among students, prevent new bullying problems, and achieve better peer relations at school.**

### RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES

Holly Brzycki, Supervisor of Online Learning, has been nominated for iNACOL's (international association for k-12 online learning) Innovative Online Learning Practice Award. Holly Brzycki, Supervisor of Online Learning, has been asked to speak at iNACOL's annual conference. She will be a panelist discussing: *"Starting an online program is a daunting task. Policies, technologies, leadership, quality curriculum and many other issues need to be addressed in a program start up."*

Brian Griffith, Director of Curriculum Services, has been asked to serve on a panel to speak to the superintendents from Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit on the topic of starting an online learning program (several of our local superintendents will also be serving on this panel). Brian Griffith participated in a 3-day Standards-Aligned-Systems – Model District with a team of administrators and teachers from Mechanicsburg Area School District. Mechanicsburg was chosen as one of 9 SAS Model districts for PA. Brian will be supporting their team during this three year project.

Jason Conway, Tanya Morret, and Cheryl Capozzoli have all been selected to speak at the PASCD (PA Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) conference in November



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Nancy Neusbaum, Curriculum Specialist, recently presented at the statewide conference for PA Institute for Instructional Coaching

- CAIU recently sponsored a breakfast presentation for the Southern Region PASCD on the topic of the new multi-measure teacher evaluation tool. Cheryl Giles-Rudawski is the current president of the Southern Region PASCD. Approximately 80 people attended this session.

## **EVENTS HOSTED AT CAIU**

All Staff Day was held on Monday, October 10, 2011, at the Dauphin County Technical School. Staff participated in a morning session focusing on team updates, program highlights and policy review. During the afternoon staff selected from 10 breakout sessions covering a variety of topics.

Central section of PA Association of School Personnel Administrators for PDE update

PA Association of School Personnel Annual Fall Conference

Central and East PAIU Human Resource Directors

Luncheon for superintendents to meet President of HASS, Dr. "SKI" Sygielski

Southern Region PASCS sponsored a breakfast presentation of the new multi-measure teacher evaluation tool. Cheryl Giles-Rudawski is the current president of the Southern Region PASCD. Approximately 80 people attended this session.

The Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (ELECT) program serves high school students, who are pregnant or parenting, supporting them toward graduation and a career. On Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, they participated in a community gathering baby bazaar; connecting and supporting young adults (students), babies, and families & friends with resources, supplies and networking. There were approximately 200 participants.

## **PILOTS**

Desktop Virtualization - Derry Township and the CAIU have entered into a pilot to implement a virtual desktop environment and utilize the current RWAN infrastructure. Virtual desktops will enable Derry Township's computers to access a Windows desktop from a server at the CAIU. This solution will help with cutting costs for Derry by not having to replace old computers since access to virtual desktops does not depend greatly on the speed of the computer. When a student brings in a device from home (Windows laptop, Macintosh, iPad, Android tablet or iPhone), the student will be able to get to the resources they need by accessing a district's preconfigured desktop on a CAIU server and this will also provide for greater security. The CAIU commends Derry Township for being leaders in this area.

iPad 2 Elementary Integration - Five second grade teachers from five different school districts Big Spring, South Middleton, Greenwood, West Shore and Camp Hill are piloting this initiative. The objectives of this pilot are to explore innovative ways to utilize iPads as instructional tools, focus on iPad use in centers and small group settings and utilize educational Apps to engage students, reinforce skills and accelerate learning

Hybrid Learning – Hybrid learning is the integration of traditional teaching with digital learning inside the school building. It empowers students to learn at their own pace, enables teachers to provide differentiated instruction and allow administrators to measure the impact of technology investments on student achievement. CAIU is one of five intermediate units piloting this program.



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## **NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

Visited Steelton-Highspire SD, Mechanicsburg SD, and Carlisle Area SD  
Attended the United Way Women's Luncheon in West Shore  
Met with Lois Lehrman Grass and David Skerpon to discuss future of CASA  
Met with Heather Donovan the president of CAEA.  
Met with **Dr. "Ski" Sygielski, President of HACC**  
**Met with Secretary of Education at PAIU Executive Directors meeting and was sworn in for Commission**  
**Attended one day of PSBA/PASA conference**  
Attended the Central PAIU meeting in State College.  
Had lunch with Kathleen Pavelko, President and CEO of witf

## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

Tuesday, November 1, 2011 – Making the Grade: Virtual Town Hall Meeting  
Thursday, November ---CAIU Board meeting is a week early due to holiday  
Thursday, December --- CAIU Board meeting is a week early due to holiday  
Thursday, January 26, 2012 – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Employee Social at the Enola Office  
Thursday, May 17, 2012 – Employee Recognition and Retirement Dinner at the C. Ted Lick Center at HACC