



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report

May 24, 2012

NEWS

BRIDGESCAPES

We are finalizing the agreement with Edison Learning and HACC for the implementation of the Bridgescapes program focusing on bringing back students who have dropped out of school.

HILL TOP PERFORMANCE

Students at Hill Top Academy will be hosting a "GLEE-spree" performance on Friday, June 1st. This is a musical take on a talent show, highlighting student performances.

COMPETENT LEARNER MODEL AND CURRICULUM

Our school-age autism support program is conducting the final steps toward accreditation as for Competent Learner Model and Curriculum for students with Autism.

PENNDATA AND SPECIAL ED

Due to some of the statewide changes and requirements, we are moving forward with changing our PennData and Special Ed. PIMS systems to a Leader Services Children Count system.

PDE TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS PILOT

CAIU will be part of the Phase III for the PDE Teacher Effectiveness Pilot.

AESA CONFERENCE

We have submitted two presentation proposals for the fall AESA Conference. The focus areas are the Bridgescapes Program and the Behavioral Imaging Project in Autism. We have also submitted a conference proposal for the PASCD conference regarding staff supervision and evaluation for related service staff.

CHECK INTO LITERACY GRANT

The Capital Area Intermediate Unit is pleased to announce a \$15,000 grant from Verizon's 'Check Into Literacy' program to help improve the education of today's youth and tomorrow's leaders with the skills needed to compete in today's global economy. This funding will provide the necessary funds for the promotion of early literacy skills at the Steelton-Highspire School District. The grant monies will be utilized to purchase instructional materials designed to supplement the district's core reading program and provide staff development in current reading research and training in the use of the new materials. Ongoing classroom coaching will also be provided to teachers throughout the 2012-2013 school year. Verizon's Check into Literacy program allows Verizon landline telephone customers to support literacy by checking a box on their monthly phone bills to make a \$1 tax-deductible donation to promote literacy.

STATE COMPUTER FAIR

The 2012 State High School and Middle School Computer Fair was held at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. The first place winners from the CAIU Regional competition moved on to the state



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competition where they competed against students across the Commonwealth. The students represented our region well. We are hoping to increase the number of participants next year by having local districts conduct their own local computer fair before advancing to the regional competition.

REGIONAL WAN UPGRADE

The Regional WAN upgrade from 100 Mbps to 1,000 Mbps (1 Gbps) is in progress. If you recall, we bid our telecommunications contract early which provided more bandwidth at a lower cost. This transition should be occurring during the month of July. Cumberland Valley School District will be first on the list since they are new to the WAN. This upgrade is critical as districts have been utilizing resources at the CAIU to help reduce technology costs. Some of the most recent WAN solutions have been hosting servers for districts so they do not have to purchase and maintain their own server infrastructure as well as running phone systems over the WAN. The regional phone system solution provides a cost savings for the Cisco VoIP system, a point of aggregation of PRI lines, and a service level agreement with our own local expertise to control costs and provide better service.

MATH 24 COMPETITION

CAIU hosted the Regional Math 24 competition. Twenty-three school districts and charter schools from twelve districts have entered this year's regional competition with teams of four. Districts include: Camp Hill, Cumberland Valley, Harrisburg, Steelton-Highspire, Big Spring, Mechanicsburg, Milton Hershey, Lower Dauphin, Middletown, Millersburg, Newport, Silver Academy, Saint Joseph in Mechanicsburg and West Shore. Senator Pat Vance was present to crown the team champion and individual champion.

CASA'S 11TH ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND GALA

The audience at the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts were enthralled by another amazing production from CASA. The entire performance was designed, produces, choreographed by the students. Sixty-five people attended the performance and \$13,688 was collected for scholarships. Harrisburg Foundation has approved a donation of \$22,000 for CASA scholarships for next year.

CAIU EMPLOYEE AND RETIREMENT

Approximately 60 CAIU employees attended the annual employee recognition dinner. Jean Rice, Jill Williamson and Judith Quigley were also present to celebrate the CAIU 2012 retirees and years of service staff.

RECOGNITION

Jeanne Morrow, a speech/language clinician, has been recognized by the Cumberland/Perry IDD/MH Agency (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/Mental Health) for the quality of her work with young children.

Deb Evans, CAIU Curriculum Educational Consultant, was the first recipient of the Apple Award for her yearlong support to the staff at Central Dauphin around secondary transition.



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JOSEPHINE DECIMA AWARD

A winner has been chosen for the 2nd Annual Josephine Decima Award. Winner will be announced in the near future.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Continuing to meet with legislators to discuss issues that affect CAIU and our districts. This month I met with Representatives Marsico and Delozier and Senators Piccola and Gordner
- Attended PASA Woman's caucus in State College and sat on panel of Intermediate Unit Executive Directors to encourage women to look at the IUs when seeking leadership roles
- Attended PAIU Executive Directors meeting with the Secretary of Education and other PDE personnel. Received updates on on-going projects and future initiatives.
- Had lunch with the students at our Focused on Living home in Mechanicsburg
- Welcomed attendees to CASA's 11th Annual Performance and Gala, Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts.
- Met with PDE to discuss options for Steelton-Highspire
- Attended check presentation of Verizon grant to Steelton-Highspire
- Attended CAIU Employee Recognition Dinner at Wildwood Center
- Helped to chaperon CASA's prom at Strawberry Square
- Participated in interviews for administrative director at Cumberland Perry Area Vo-Tech

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Graduations and End Of the Year Activities

- **June 4** at 12:45 - **Emotional Support & CAPP Graduation**— 3 graduates, 1 walking with home district
- **June 6th** in the evening - **Multiple Disabilities Support Graduation** – 1 graduate.
- **June 8th** at 1:00 - **Loysville Youth Development Center Graduation**, potentially 7 students.