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## Acting Executive Director's Report April 28, 2011

### NEWS

The Superintendents' Spring Leadership Conference was held on March 29-31 in Bedford, PA. Agenda topics focused on budget and finances including cost saving strategies, bargaining in tough economic times, and technical and legal implications when furloughing professional staff. Presenters at the conference included Dr. Woodrow Sites, Assistant Executive Director of Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS), James Buckheit, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA), Jay Himes, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO), and Carl Beard, Esquire, from Andrews & Beard Law Offices.



On April 7, CAIU reading specialists hosted the annual Title I Parent Night for families whose children participate in the Title I program in our nonpublic schools. This year, the 'Reading Café' evening focused on reading strategies for parents and children. A parent brochure, created by the reading specialists and distributed to the parents, offered many ideas that parents and children can use before reading, while reading, and after reading a book. The children received the book, *Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep*, by Maureen Wright who also provided activities for the parents and children. The evening concluded with a treat of cookies and Starbucks coffee and hot chocolate, donated by Starbucks in Camp Hill.

The CAIU administrative cabinet has completed two more district visits (Cumberland Valley and Greenwood). These administrative visits provide us with an opportunity to gather feedback and input about CAIU services which we consider as we plan CAIU services.

The CAIU was one of the 29 host sites for a statewide Virtual Conference held on April 13 that focused on the Challenges and Opportunities of Online and Blended Learning in Pennsylvania. Through video conferencing, using PAIUNet, 450 participants had the opportunity to hear keynote speakers, interact with panelists and conduct conversations with educators locally and at other IUs. Acting Secretary, Ron Tomalis, provided the opening remarks here at the CAIU. Because of the coordinated efforts of Holly Jobe from PDE, Karen Ditzler, CAIU Instructional Technology Specialist, Cheryl Capozzoli,



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CAIU Educational Consultant, and Chris Monasmith, CAIU Technology Support Coordinator, this event went very well and the feedback was very positive.

On April 12, Cheryl Giles-Rudawski, CAIU administrator for the Capital Area School for the Arts (CASA) and I participated in the biennial Three Mile Island School Exercise. The purpose of this exercise was for school systems to demonstrate the ability to implement protective action decisions for students in the event of an emergency involving Three Mile Island. A PEMA observer and a FEMA Evaluator were present at the Enola office and CASA. Based on initial reports there were no performance issues requiring corrective action.

The annual Champions for Children Bingo event was held on April 15. This year's event raised nearly \$2,800 to help children served by the CAIU. Thank you to Cindi Walker and the committee for all their effort to make this a very successful fundraiser.

#### **NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

- Attended Pennsylvania Association Federal Program Coordinators (PAFPC) annual conference on April 3-6 in Seven Springs
- Attended the CASA Strategic Planning sessions on March 24, April 7, and April 21. Several action items will be completed over the next couple of months. The group will reconvene to review the information and outline strategic goals and objectives
- Visited the Capital Area Partial Program (CAPP) class located at Monroe Elementary School and the middle school Autism class at Susquenita Middle School
- Met with the Superintendents' Legislative Committee on April 13 to plan a Spring Legislative Breakfast
- Dr. Fowler, Shippensburg University Professor, and I completed the Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility Practicum Exit Interview with Joe Fay, CAIU Teacher at Diakon. I have served as mentor for Joe this semester as he completed the requirements for this certification
- Met with PDE staff and representatives from other IUs and school districts from across PA to plan the May New Federal Program Coordinators' training session.



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### **Upcoming Activities:**

- Datesavers (all Board members are invited to attend):
  - May 5 – Capital Area School for the Arts Gala Reception/Silent Auction (5:30 p.m.) and Performance “Giving Back” (7:00 p.m.) at the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, Sunoco Performance Theater
  - May 6 – All Staff Day, Cumberland Valley HS Performing Arts Center – 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
  - May 12 – Annual CAIU Celebration of Retirees and Staff, C. Ted Lick Wildwood Conference Center at Harrisburg Area Community College – 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Will attend the PAIU Central Region Executive Directors’ meeting in State College on April 29 and the monthly Executive Directors’ meeting on May 5-6
- May 13 – Spring Legislative Breakfast
- May 24 – New Federal Program Coordinators’ Training Session