



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Substitute Executive Director's Report December 16, 2010

NEWS



Congratulations to Heather Lee, Learning Support Teacher at Nye Elementary School in Lower Dauphin School District, who received the 2010 Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Educational Leadership Award at the district's board meeting on December 6. This award is given annually to an educator with the CAIU who demonstrates exemplary leadership qualities. The Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Educational Leadership Award was established in 2002 to honor the memory of the former principal and superintendent of Susquehanna Township School District, whose passion for learning, positive attitude, commitment to his students' success, and concern for diversity, were an inspiration

to all who knew him.

Staff from our Technology and Curriculum Teams led two workshop sessions at the annual Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA) Conference in Savannah, Georgia. Holly A. Brzycki, Supervisor of Online Learning, shared the development and vision of the Capital Area Online Learning Association (CAOLA). Educators from the state of Washington are interested in visiting the CAIU and learning more about our development of CAOLA. Jill Machemer and Joan Adams, two members of our technology team, hosted a session, "Communicate with AgendaMan: An Effective Paperless Meeting Solution."

The CAIU staff at the **Focused on Living** location and **Play 'n Learn Preschool Center** welcomed fourteen visitors from Russia, including educators, therapists, and parents, to their sites. The group was particularly interested in our educational programs for students with Autism.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- On November 23, I had an opportunity to attend the annual Thanksgiving luncheon, along with Jill Williamson, one of our Board members, at the Hill Top Academy. On December 2, Todd Kehler, the building administrator, and I

completed a walkthrough of Hill Top Academy visiting all the classrooms. Todd highlighted the different programs, provided background on the students' needs and achievements, and shared information about the monthly activities being completed by the students.

- Each Cabinet member has opportunities to visit our preschool and school age class locations throughout the school year. This month, I visited Heather Donovan's preschool class at Carroll Elementary in Shermans Dale. The preschoolers shared the excitement of the holiday season by actively participating in a story about chopping down Christmas trees, learning about the winter weather, and practicing words that begin with the letter "b."
- I continue to participate in the Dauphin County Safe Schools meetings. Districts, along with the CAIU, are concentrating on revising our Emergency Operations Plans, including evacuation procedures in the event of a Three Mile Island Emergency.
- On December 8-9, I attended "Leadership for Teaching," an Act 45 course for educational leaders, available through Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA). The course focuses on teaching, instruction, and resiliency.
- Father Edward Quinlan, Secretary for Education at the Diocese of Harrisburg and a member of Governor-elect Tom Corbett's Transition Team, met with me on December 10 to discuss the services provided by Intermediate Units.
- There are many holiday special events taking place this month across the CAIU programs. I visited with Susan Way and her students in her multiple disabilities classroom in Camp Hill High School. Each year Susan and her students host a holiday open house for staff and parents.

Upcoming Activities:

- Will be attending the PAIU Central Region Executive Directors' meeting in State College on Friday, December 17.
- On January 5, assisting PDE Federal Programs staff to plan the next New Federal Program Coordinators' training session.
- PAIU Executive Directors' monthly meeting will be held January 6-7 here at the CAIU and PDE. Several Executive Directors will attend the meeting virtually.
- Will be attending "Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents" at HACC on January 19.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday and many blessings in the New Year