



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

## **Acting Executive Director's Report March 24, 2011**

### **NEWS**

The CAIU hosted the annual High School and Middle School Computer Fairs on March 21 and 22. Students from ten district high schools submitted 50 projects and middle school students from 7 school districts and 3 nonpublic schools submitted 41 projects. Projects were submitted in areas such as animation, computer fair logo, curriculum-based and information-based web page design, digital movie, graphic design, multimedia presentations, programming, and text-based desktop publishing. First place winners of these fairs will advance to the state competition held on May 24, 2011 at Dickinson College.

The CAIU administrative cabinet has completed two more district visits (South Middleton and Steelton-Highspire). These administrative visits provide us with an opportunity to gather feedback and input about CAIU services which we consider as we plan CAIU services. Also, I made two more annual board visits this past month (East Pennsboro and Millersburg). The Board visits provide an opportunity for sharing an overview of CAIU programs and services and responding to any questions by school board members.

The Digital Resources Initiative (DRI) is proceeding on schedule. Funded by an Act 183 EFund grant from PDE, the DRI is a two year pilot project which seeks to replace paper textbooks in the classroom with a suite of online, digital resources. Year 1 (current year) focuses on planning, training, and technical coordination, while year 2 will see the digital resources utilized in Geometry, Physics, and Biology classrooms. A total of 8 districts within CAIU have committed to the two-year project. The next step is a series of 8 professional development workshops designed to enhance teacher capabilities to use the digital resources in their classrooms. The workshops will run from April to early June 2011.

### **NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

- Attended Leadership for Teaching Act 45 course held at PASA on March 9. Several of our superintendents are also involved in this year long course. This session's topic focused on using data to drive continuous school improvement.
- Collaborated with local Rotary Club to host two educators from Malaysia's Rotary District Group Study Exchange Team. The two educators are interested in



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teaching English as a Second Language, special education instruction, and integration of technology in instruction. Visits have been planned at several local school districts, Hill Top Academy, and the Capital Area School for the Arts on May 3, 2011.

- Had the opportunity to visit the CAIU classes at Lemoyne Preschool Center. Students from the three classrooms came together to participate in music activities led by “Mr. Music.”

### **Upcoming Activities:**

- Will attend the PAIU Central Region Executive Directors’ meeting in State College on March 25.
- Will attend PAIU Monthly Executive Directors’ Meeting on March 31 and April 1
- The Superintendents’ Spring Conference will be held at Bedford Springs on March 29-31.
- Will participate in several CASA Strategic Planning sessions planned over the next two months. Dr. Linda Bigos will facilitate the strategic planning discussions. The first session is planned for March 24 at CASA in Strawberry Square.

### **Date Savers:**

- The first Harrisburg regional 10-mile run is set for Sunday, April 3 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The inaugural “**Capital 10-miler**” will benefit the arts, including Open Stage of Harrisburg and the Capital Area School for the Arts. The event will start and finish on City Island, with the course including the riverfront and the Capital Area Greenbelt as well as scenic bridges over the Susquehanna River. For additional information or to donate visit the following website:  
<http://www.openstagehbq.com/capital10-miler.html>
- **Champions for Children Bingo:** Friday, April 15, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
- **10<sup>th</sup> Annual CASA Celebration and Gala:** Thursday, May 5, 2011 at the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts
  - 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Gala Reception and Silent Auction
  - 7:00 p.m. – “Giving Back” is a performance exploring the generosity and its many facets
- **Annual Employee Recognition Dinner:** Thursday, May 12, 2011 at the C. Ted Lick (Wildwood) Conference Center at Harrisburg Area Community College