



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Acting Executive Director's Report May 26, 2011

NEWS

On Friday, May 6, 2011, the CAIU held its All-Staff Celebration Day at Cumberland Valley High School's Performing Arts Center. This annual event brings all the CAIU staff together to provide updates, share successes from the year, and recognize special accomplishments of the staff. This year, the Josephine J. Decima Award for Excellence in the Field of Special Education was presented to Cynthia Shaul, a CAIU speech and language pathologist. This award was established to honor the life of Josephine J. Decima, a former CAIU employee and one who believed that students with special needs were entitled to a strong academic program supplemented by life skills training. Our day concluded with a presentation, "Feeling Good," with motivational speaker, Gretchen Sortzi.



On May 20, the CAIU hosted the regional Math 24 tournament, a math competition for 4th and 5th graders. Students from twenty-three schools representing thirteen districts and private schools from central Pennsylvania participated in the event. In Math 24, students mentally solve a problem with four unique numbers using the math operations of add, subtract, multiply, and divide, resulting in an answer of "24." Secretary of Education, Ronald Tomalis, presented the winning teams and individuals with their awards.

Representatives Bloom, Grell, and Perry, staff members from the offices of Representatives Helm and Keller, and Senators Vance and Piccola, along with 18 district superintendents attended the CAIU Annual Legislative Breakfast held on May 13. Several key educational issues, such as furloughing of professional staff, mandate relief related to special education costs, and the educational efficiencies in Pennsylvania, were discussed.

CAIU employees enjoyed the Tenth Annual Celebration of Retirees and Staff at the C. Ted Lick Wildwood Conference Center at HACC on Thursday evening, May 12. This annual celebration is set aside to personally recognize staff that have retired within the last year or will be retiring at the conclusion of this school year. Also recognized was the staff who has dedicated 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, or 35 years of service to the CAIU. A special pin and certificate are given to each employee depending on the years of service.

The Capital Region Counselors Association, the school counselor network supported by the CAIU, hosted its second Community Resource and Social Services Fair on Friday, April 29. The purpose of the fair is to provide a networking forum for school counselors and community agency representatives. This year more than 40 vendors from agencies across the CAIU footprint participated in the fair. The agencies provided information on mental health services, services for students with disabilities, and other resources to assist students and families in need. School counselors, school psychologists, social workers, nurses, administrators, and other school support staff from the intermediate unit and its representative districts and nonpublic schools were invited to attend. Attendees received a Resource Guide with details about the agencies, their contact information, and the services they provide.

Through collaboration with a local Rotary Club, several CAIU staff was host to two educators from Malaysia's Rotary District Group Study Exchange Team. Mr. Muhammad Abubakar's main interests were in technology integration and special education. Karen Ditzler, Instructional Technology Specialist, coordinated visits to West Shore School District, so he could observe classroom teachers integrating technology tools into instructional activities. Todd Kehler, CAIU administrator, provided an overview of the special education services provided at the Hill Top Academy. Mr. Chee Lau is a high school English Language teacher in Malaysia. Cheryl Giles-Rudawski, ESL supervisor, planned opportunities for Lau to observe secondary ESL classes at Cedar Cliff and Cumberland Valley High Schools. He also visited the Capital Area School for the Arts and concluded his day at the Enola office where Alicia McDonald provided a tour of our facility and an overview of the services provided at an intermediate unit.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- The New Federal Program Coordinators' training session was held here at the CAIU on May 24. Over 60 coordinators from the Central Pennsylvania region participated in this training. I am one of ten trainers for the PDE Division of Federal Programs who provides these training sessions annually. Trainings are held three times per year, September, February, and May.
- Dr. Mark Lewis, Shippensburg University Professor, Phyllis Brown, CAIU Social Worker, and I met to review the final activities for Phyllis's administrative practicum requirements. I have served as mentor for Phyllis this semester as she completed the requirements for her principal certification.
- Several CAIU administrators will be attending the annual PAIU Conference on June 1-3.
- Attended West Perry and Lower Dauphin Board meetings on May 2 and 16, respectively.
- All Staff Communications Meetings – Thursday, May 26, Enola Office at 12:00 pm and 4:15 pm and Hill Top Academy at 3:00 pm
- Datesavers (all Board members are invited to attend):
 - June 6, 6:00 pm, Hill Top Academy – Emotional Support and CAPP Graduation
 - June 7, 7:00 pm, Enola Office – Multiple Disabilities Support/Life Skills Support Program Graduation