



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report April 22, 2010

NEWS

Several members of the General Assembly or their staff members participated in the CAIU Annual Legislative Breakfast on April 16. Senator Jeff Piccola and Representatives Glen Grell, Sue Helm and Mark Keller, along with staff members from the offices of Senator Vance and Representatives Scott Perry, Ron Marsico met with 16 of our district superintendents to discuss three key issues: cyber/charter schools, mandate waivers/relief and PSERS.

The CAIU is the lead IU in a PA Department of Education project to analyze the current PDE-required strategic planning process, tools and associated reporting. Mark Hennes, Special Projects Supervisor, is providing the project management role and Jason Conway, Program Evaluation and Data Specialist, is taking the lead on conducting focus groups statewide. Part of the project includes a new Act 45 credit course proposal on strategic planning.

The Superintendents and higher education teacher preparation professionals are working together to determine how to best meet new certification requirements that mandate significant increases in the amount of time "pre" student teachers must spend observing and "teaching" prior to their actual student teaching assignment. Suzanne Fennell from Messiah College and Brian Griffith are working together to lead the Higher Education Network in developing solutions that optimizes all stakeholders' experience.

Nearly 100 players came out to the CAIU on a wildly stormy night April 16 to participate in the annual Champions for Children Basket Bingo. This year's event raised over \$2500 to help children served by the CAIU meet needs that that require resources beyond the families' means. A big thanks to Cindi Walker and her committee for all the effort put forth on behalf of the families served by the CAIU.

The CAIU administrative cabinet has completed another district visit (Camp Hill) with three more to go (East Pennsboro, Northern York County and South Middleton). In addition, I've made six of my eight annual board visits this past month (West Shore most recently) with the last two scheduled for Susquehanna Twp and Upper Dauphin Area. Administrative visits allow us to glean information about CAIU services which is then used in our annual summer planning. The Board visits are intended to provide a brief overview of CAIU programs and services and respond to any district board member questions. Each board and administrative team is visited at least once every three years.

NOTIFICATION of ACTIVITIES

- Invited to work with a committee of PDE leaders performance-based ratings of higher education teacher preparation institutions, first meeting scheduled for April 29.

- Continuing to work with PDE officials on statewide tasks associated with the Race to the Top application, including an analysis of the original RTTT proposal in preparation for re-submittal.
- Met with Acting Superintendent Dr. Sybil Knight-Burney and consultant Joy Eichelberger regarding CAIU services to the Harrisburg School District.
- Working with Angela Liddle of the PA Family Support Alliance and two other IU executive directors to develop a plan for utilizing IUs for increased ‘mandated reporter’ training as outlined in Senate Bill 1137, for which Senator Pat Vance is the prime sponsor. Mandated reporters are those who have an obligation to report suspected child abuse.
- Team directors have been pursuing several potential business partnerships with a variety of companies, with associated CAIU programs and services ranging from paperless meeting solutions (AgendaMan), lesson simulations relating to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), and the provision of certified teachers to support online learning. More detailed information will follow as these business opportunities develop further.

Upcoming Activities:

- Datesavers (all Board members are invited to attend any and all):
 - April 24 – Champions for Children Flea Market, Enola Office Parking Lot, 8:00 – noon
 - May 6 – Capital Area School for the Arts Gala and end-of-year performance, Whitaker Center, 5:30 pm (gala)/7:00 pm (performance)
 - May 7 – First Annual All-Staff Celebration Day, Eagle View Middle School, 11:30 – 3:00
 - May 18 – Deaf/Hard of Hearing Awards Night, Enola Office, 7:00 pm
 - May 20 – Employee Recognition Dinner, Harmony Hall in Middletown, 5:30 pm
- April 26 – PA Inspired Leadership (PIL) Advisory Council meeting at Lincoln IU 12 in New Oxford
- April 27 – full-day session at the University of Pennsylvania as part of the professional development series provided through the Penn Study Council
- April 30 – Central Region executive directors meeting in State College
- May 7 – serving on a panel of women leaders at the PA Association of School Administrators as part of the Women’s Caucus annual conference at Hotel Hershey
- May 12 – joint meeting of PAIUnet leadership and Kinber/PennREN, recipients of \$99 million broadband grant award, to discuss how to leverage the existing (PAIUnet) and planned (Kinber) networks connecting K-12 and higher education
- May 14 – National Incident Management System/Incident Command System (NIMS/ICS) “boot camp” for school administrators (required per the safe school audit)

Note – I will be on vacation Sunday, May 16 through Thursday, May 20, but will be back for the Employee Recognition Dinner on the evening of May 20.

I will also be on vacation Thursday, June 10 through Monday, June 21.