



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

## Executive Director's Report August 27, 2009

### NEWS

The CAIU held its second annual retirement dinner for superintendents on Thursday, August 13 at the Camp Hill restaurant *2201 in the Boro*. Retiring superintendents during 2009 include David Volkman (Susquehanna Twp), Linda Bigos (East Pennsboro), Jackie Lesney (Shippensburg) and Brian Small (Northern York).



Cindy Mortzfeldt, Assistant Executive Director, and I visited almost all of our beginning-of-the-year program meetings to greet and express our appreciation to our employees. We did not hold an All-Staff Opening Day this year, but will have all staff present for an end-of-year celebration in early May. Staff photos and brief descriptors for most of our programs are posted under "CAIU News" on the home page of our website ([www.caiu.org](http://www.caiu.org)). Please visit this section of our website to become more familiar with the diversity of programs we offer.

CAIU leaders Mark Hennes, Brian Griffith, Dave Martin, Holly Brzycki and I met with leaders from Provost Systems and Edison Learning in New York City on August 14. The purpose of our meeting was to explore partnership opportunities relative to our new online learning solution, as well as consider how we might utilize their online learning applications to provide professional development. The following week, CAIU hosted meetings of Provost Systems and Edison Learning leaders with Harrisburg University and the PA State System of Higher Education leaders.

CAIU staff provided several two-day sessions on High Impact Strategies (aka Learning-Focused Schools) to pre-service teachers who will be student teaching in our member districts' buildings this fall. All 24 superintendents agreed last year that student teachers would be required to complete this two-day workshop prior to beginning a student teaching assignment. Several college and university faculty members have been participating in the sessions with their students.

The Capital Region Partnership for Career Development has finalized the new Career Development student portfolio designed to assist students in completing competencies

associated with the PA Career Education and Work Standards. The portfolio will be professionally printed using funding from sponsors whose ads appear on the back of the portfolio. A copy of the portfolio will be provided to Board members at the next meeting.

A new service available at no cost to districts can provide mentoring for instructional leaders and instructional coaches. The CAIU is one of seven IUs piloting the PA Institute for Instructional Coaching (PIIC), a public/private partnership funded through PA Department of Education and the Annenberg Foundation. Nancy Neusbaum, one of CAIU's curriculum specialists, is providing the mentoring services. On July 27 I had the opportunity to dine with the participants in this program, including several instructional coaches from our local school districts.

## **UPDATES**

Capital Area Online Learning Association – Fall semester enrollments are well underway in CAOLA, with member districts reporting the ability to solve several student issues through access to these courses. Membership has already expanded to Lincoln IU 12, with the addition of York City School District. The CAOLA Advisory Council, comprised of charter member superintendents from CAIU only, will be meeting three times per year beginning September 9. Networking user group meetings have already been scheduled for the member district points of contact.

Champions for Children – The annual golf tournament was held on July 27 and netted over \$5000 for the CAIU's 501(c)(3) educational foundation. These funds are not part of the capital campaign, but help sustain the original mission of Champions for Children which is to meet the personal and family needs of CAIU-served students when other funding is not available.

## **NOTIFICATION of ACTIVITIES**

- Met individually with new superintendents Bruce Deveney (East Pennsboro Area), Linda Lemmon (Northern York County) and Luis Gonzalez (Central Dauphin).
- Met twice with PDE personnel on PA's "Race to the Top" federal funding proposals – specifically on areas associated with school reform.
- Represented PAIU with Shawn Farr at a meeting of PDE personnel to discuss how IUs are funded.
- Met with Senator Piccola and Senate Education Committee leadership, along with representatives from PSBA, PA Elementary and Secondary Principals' Association, and PA Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development regarding the Keystone Exams which were approved by the State Board of Education this month.
- Met with Tony DeLuca, Tim Noonan, and Joe Gaskin to explore ways of working together to accommodate students with special needs and their families after the students reach the age of 21. Additional work will continue in this area.
- Visited Northeastern IU 19 to observe their online learning solution and discuss possible partnering opportunities with CAOLA.

*Upcoming Vacation: September 27-30*