



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

## Executive Director's Report February 25, 2010

### NEWS

Five CAIU staff members took the plunge – the Polar Bear Plunge that is – held February 13 on City Island. This annual event is a fundraiser for our local Area M Special Olympics. Cheryl Park, Cindy Mellott, Beth Light, Tracy Geist, and Tracy Hipple were on the Krazy Kelly's team, named in honor of Cindy's daughter. Krazy Kelly's raised \$22,000 dollars for Special Olympics. *Note: The CAIU provides office space at the Enola Office for the Special Olympics and hosts various events such as the recent Valentines' Day dance.*



The CAIU administrative cabinet has completed two of eight district visits to date (West Perry and Lower Dauphin). In addition, I have made one of my eight annual board visits (Northern York). 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.

A joint project with Delaware County Intermediate Unit is in its beginning stages. At the request of the PA Department of Education, our two IUs will be working together to achieve a more unified approach to district strategic planning (*eStrategic Plan* or *eSP*) and building-level school improvement planning (*Getting Results*).

The CAIU has received three communication awards from the PA School Public Relations Association. The highest award, the Award of Excellence, was assigned to the CAIU website, the Partnership for Career Development website, and the Champions for Children Capital Campaign brochure.

Kevin Dellicker, a contracted consultant with the CAIU, nominated our Capital Area Online Learning Association for a TechQuest award. I attended the awards ceremony at the Whitaker Center on February 12. Although we did not win the award, I am pleased to report that CAOLA continues to attract attention from around the state for its innovative continuum of online learning solutions. Brian Griffith and Holly Brzycki recently presented as one of three finalists submitting online learning proposals to the Allegheny Area Intermediate Unit (Pittsburgh area), and CAIU co-hosted a dinner at Edison Learning's expense for the PA Association of Intermediate Unit's curriculum coordinators in State College on February 18.

Early Intervention services from the CAIU were given high marks by parents of children served as reported in recently released survey data collected by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL).

## NOTIFICATION of ACTIVITIES

- Agreed to work with a committee of PDE leaders on the first-ever Standards-Aligned Systems Institute for Higher Education, tentatively scheduled for late spring.
- Met with Charles Zogby, former Secretary of Education and currently serving as policy advisor to gubernatorial candidate Tom Corbett, on a proposal to partner with HACC to serve disenfranchised high school students.
- Spent several days at home this month recovering from hernia surgery. Between that and the snowstorms, and the fact that February is a short month, there is not as much to report as usual!

### *Upcoming Activities:*

- *Brian Griffith and I will be meeting with Audrey Utley and Joy Eichelberger who have been assigned by PDE to work full-time with Harrisburg School District.*
- *Meeting of the PAIU Executive Committee (I serve as Secretary) with Senator Piccola and his staff regarding the role of PAIU and his pending legislation (SB 1202) on March 3*
- *Early Intervention Program “verification” is set for March 8 – 10. This is essentially a monitoring visit by the Office of Child Development and Early learning (OCDEL)*
- *Several more visits to member districts to meet with their administrative teams and boards are scheduled for March*
- *Superintendents’ Spring Leadership Conference, March 23-25 in Bedford. Focus will be on cost-savings through collaborative efforts. Several key sponsors are helping to underwrite the meals.*
- *Work continues on the statewide Higher Education Conference for teacher preparation faculty to better understand the needs of K-12 schools and the Standards-Aligned System (SAS). The conference, planned by PDE and administered by CAIU, is scheduled for June 7-8 at the Lancaster Convention Center.*
- *Work continues with a meeting scheduled for March 10 on bringing together our local higher education partners with district administrators to determine how to best meet the challenges posed by new teacher certification requirements.*