



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report July 23, 2009

NEWS

The Cabinet members "retreated" from July 13-16 to review the past year, establish goals for the coming year, and participate in a book study using *Leadership Courage* by David Cottrell and Eric Harvey. We also prepared our meals together and enjoyed each other's company, getting to know one another on a more personal basis.

On Friday, July 17, the CAIU hosted a session for Superintendents to discuss the implications and strategies for dealing with the state budget impasse. We were joined for our second hour by Representative Glen Grell and lead staff from the offices of Senator Vance, Representative Marsico, and Representative Delozier.

The CAIU is working with Harrisburg University on an innovative project which utilizes "synthetic interview" technology. Initial steps are underway to develop applications of this technology for high school students seeking post-secondary options. Stay tuned!

The CAIU is coordinating a second annual retirement dinner for superintendents to be held on Thursday, August 13. Retiring superintendents during 2009 include Jackie Lesney (Shippensburg), Linda Bigos (East Pennsboro), Brian Small (Northern York) and David Volkman (Susquehanna Twp). We are pleased to welcome their replacements, respectively: Kristin Carroll, Bruce Deveney, Linda Lemmon (acting), and Susan Kegerise (beginning January 2010). We also welcome new superintendent, Luis Gonzalez, who is the new superintendent for Central Dauphin SD. I have been scheduling individual meetings with the new superintendents, and to date have met with Kristin Carroll (July 7) and Linda Lemmon (today).

UPDATES

Capital Area Online Learning Association – Holly Brzycki, our new Online Learning Supervisor began working at the CAIU in June and has been busy working with the districts who are engaged in the summer school component of this new initiative. In addition, she has met with school districts from Lincoln IU 12 which are interested in becoming members of CAOLA. We have also met with the leaders of Schuylkill IU 29, Berks IU 14, Allegheny IU 3 and Colonial IU 20 regarding their interest in CAOLA.

Champions for Children Capital Campaign – Campaign Pledges to date are approaching \$800,000. We are still attempting to reach 100% participation by our CAIU and Champions for Children Board members, as well as our superintendents and employees. Recent large gifts have been through life insurance policies.

PAIUnet – PAIUnet is working with various groups associated with the federal Broadband Stimulus funding. To that end, I met with, and later attended a meeting facilitated by, Art Stephens at the PA State System for Higher Education (PASSHE). Since PAIUnet has already developed a statewide high-speed network, we serve as a valuable partner to any grant application which might allow us to expand bandwidth and increase the number of entities connected to our network.

NOTIFICATION of ACTIVITIES

Brian Griffith and I spent July 19-22 presenting a conference on assessment to the Diocesan educators from across PA. Held in State College, this is the 11th year I have been involved in this conference. The purpose of the conference is to facilitate improved understanding of Title I assessment requirements and best practices.

My term as secretary of the PA Association of Intermediate Units begins this month. The executive directors meet monthly and I am responsible for keeping the minutes, conducting correspondence as requested, and serving on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Past President) will be meeting in State College on July 29-30 to plan for 2009-2010.

I will continue to serve in the role of Shippensburg University School Study Council President, working with interim director, Dr. Bob Bartos, with whom I met earlier this month to plan for the 2009-2010 school year.

On August 5 I will be providing a “keynote” session for the Mechanicsburg Area School District administrators at the invitation of Superintendent Joe Hood.

Several of us who have been involved with CAOLA will be traveling to New York City at the invitation of the leaders from Provost Systems and Edison Learning to discuss a variety of innovative ventures in the pipeline. The meetings begin on August 13 and I will be joining the group on August 14 for the day.