



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

## Executive Director's Report June 24, 2010

### NEWS

Congratulations to the students who graduated from our emotional support, partial hospitalization and multiple disabilities programs earlier this month. A special thanks to the board members and district special education directors who attended the events held on June 1 at Hill Top Academy (emotional support and partial hospitalization) and June 9 at the CAIU Enola Office (multiple disabilities). Proud parents, family members, friends and CAIU staff celebrated with our graduates whose achievements we commend!

Two PDE projects administered by the CAIU recently received very high marks from participants.

- CAIU Program Evaluation and Data Specialist, Jason Conway, has provided excellent leadership for the statewide Strategic Planning Analysis project which will result in improved tools and processes for completing district strategic plans that will coordinate more seamlessly with building level school improvement plans.
- Special Projects Supervisor, Mark Hennes, and his staff delivered on all the logistics associated with the first-ever higher education conference on Standards-Aligned Systems, designed especially to bridge the gap between K-12 and teacher-preparation institutions.

Mechanicsburg Superintendent, Joe Hood, and CAIU Curriculum Services Director, Brian Griffith served on panel at the aforementioned Standards-Aligned System higher education conference to share information about the groundbreaking CAIU and district partnerships with teacher preparation institutions. According to PDE personnel responsible for the conference program, this session was the highest rated by the 400+ participants. I had the pleasure of facilitating the panel discussion.

CAIU superintendents who began a book study on John Kotter's Sense of Urgency in March 2009 at the Spring SAC Leadership Conference, earned (or will earn) 36 Act 45 credit hours with the completion of the last follow-up session held on June 9 (for those who needed credit prior to June 30, 2010) or scheduled for July 12 (for those who want the credit applied to their 2010-2015 continuing professional education window). This book has generated excellent discussion among our district leaders.

CAIU application developers are putting the finishing touches on several new features of AgendaMan(ager). The upgrades will be effective July 1, the official roll-out of this newly developing paperless meeting manager and effective communication and collaboration web-based service. Several CAIU districts and a few other IUs have been piloting the tool for the past 6-12 months. A brief review of the upgrades and basic user training will be provided at the July CAIU Board meeting. Stay tuned!

## **NOTIFICATION of ACTIVITIES**

### *Upcoming Activities:*

- June 30 – Champions for Children Board of Directors, 12 noon at Enola Office
- June 30 – Superintendents' Leadership Conference Committee meeting, 2:00 pm at Enola Office and via videoconference
- July 14-15 – CAIU Cabinet Retreat at the home of Alicia McDonald
- July 28 – Annual Champions for Children Golf Tournament