



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

## Executive Director's Report March 25, 2010

### NEWS

CAIU's Counselor Network hosted its first ever Social Service and Community Agency Fair on Friday, March 19. Nearly forty agencies provided displays and personnel so counselors, social workers and many others from the CAIU and its member districts could connect with those who can best meet their students' needs. The agencies were very pleased with the turnout and are already looking forward to next year's fair!

Also, on the subject of fairs, earlier this week the CAIU hosted the annual Middle School and High School Computer Fairs. Student projects were very impressive with about a third of our member districts participating. Dave Martin, CAIU Tech Director, hopes to increase the number of districts participating in this excellent opportunity in the coming years.

The CAIU administrative cabinet has completed two more district visits to date (Millersburg and Big Spring) with four to go. In addition, I made four more of my eight annual board visits this past month (Susquenita, Mechanicsburg, Newport and Middletown). 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.

The Executive Committee of the PA Association of Intermediate Units (PAIU) met with Senator Piccola on March 3 to discuss the role of intermediate units in achieving goals that would otherwise be pursued through proposed school consolidation. (I serve on the PAIU executive committee in the role of secretary.)

The CAIU will be working with Temple University and the UCP of Central PA (United Cerebral Palsy) on a grant project intended to improve the physical fitness and nutrition of students with disabilities. The grant is funded by the National Institutes for Health.

The Superintendents' Spring Leadership Conference was held March 23-25 in Bedford, PA. Topics included ethical leadership, surviving financial challenges, developing multi-district solutions to achieve educational excellence and reduce costs, and more. This time together creates an excellent opportunity to plan for future collaborative endeavors.

The CAIU's Early Intervention program was given high marks in several areas during the verification visit from officials representing the Office of Child Development and Early Learning. Although the written report has not yet been received, verbal kudos went to several staff members and words like "dazzling" were used to describe the team's reaction to what they observed in the EI classrooms.

## **NOTIFICATION of ACTIVITIES**

- Continuing to work with a committee of PDE leaders on the first-ever Standards-Aligned Systems Institute for Higher Education, tentatively scheduled for June 7-8.
- Working with PDE officials on statewide tasks associated with the Race to the Top application.
- Brian Griffith and I met with Audrey Utley and Joy Eichelberger on March 8. Audrey and Joy are consultants assigned by PDE to work with Harrisburg School district.
- Served as a panelist on March 15 representing PAIU at the Education Policy and Leadership Council (EPLC) work session for political candidates to brief them on education issues.
- Met with the PA Association of School Administrators professional development committee on March 17.
- Participated in the Spring meeting of the Central PA College President's Circle meeting on March 17. Jennifer Delaye of JDK was the featured speaker.

### *Upcoming Activities:*

- *Travel to State College on March 25 and 26 for monthly meeting with IU executive directors from the Central Region as well as the PAIU Community-Based Education Committee*
- *Participation on March 26 in Central Dauphin SD's rededication of the Rutherford Elementary School, celebrating 100 years!*
- *The Superintendents' Legislative Committee will be meeting on March 31 to plan a Spring Legislative Breakfast*
- *District cabinet and board visits coming up in April include West Shore and Camp Hill*
- *One-day session with Dr. Elizabeth City of Harvard University on April 13 regarding "Instructional Rounds"*