



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report September 24, 2009

NEWS

CASA held an Open House on Wednesday, September 23 for parents, alumni, school district leaders, the Harrisburg arts community, and friends of CASA in general to celebrate the opening of the school in Strawberry Square. A highlight of the evening was the unveiling of Capital Blue Cross's "window to the arts" which they had designed exclusively for to support CASA. Businesses are being solicited for additional sponsorships through this unique opportunity.



Several CAIU superintendents were joined by superintendents from Lincoln IU 12 for a press conference in the Capital Rotunda to provide accurate information about equitable funding and restrictions on federal stimulus spending (Title I and IDEA). The CAIU organized this event on behalf of our member districts. All four local television stations and the Patriot-News were on hand and filed stories.

All 24 superintendents and 2 AVTS directors attended the first CAIU Superintendents' Advisory Council meeting for the new school year. Immediately following the meeting, several superintendents stayed for a welcome back luncheon and a roundtable discussion about the controversy surrounding President Obama's "back to school" speech.

The Central Penn Business Journal published the supplement on CAIU in their September 11 edition. Copies were distributed to all 24 member school districts and the 29 IU executive directors. Thank you letters were sent to the vendors who advertised in the supplement, allowing the CAIU to spread its story to the business community at no cost. CPBJ provided an additional 2000 copies to the CAIU, again, at no charge.

Capital Blue Cross filmed a commercial for their next advertising campaign, featuring CAIU as a satisfied client. The commercial is scheduled to air as early as late September. Filming was done in the administrative wing of the building, reducing disruptions to other programs and services as much as possible.



UPDATES

Capital Area Online Learning Association – Over 150 students from 13 school districts are enrolled in 45 different courses as of the second week of September. Visits were made during the past month to Schuylkill County IU 29's Superintendents' Advisory Council and Allegheny IU 3's Leadership Team to share information about CAOLA. In

addition, IU 1 in southwestern PA has also scheduled our team for a visit to share information about getting involved in CAOLA. Also, Holly Brzycki, CAIU's online learning supervisor, coached me through an interview with WHTM Channel 27 News on cyber education.

Champions for Children – Photographer Jeff Lynch held an art show/fundraiser for CASA at Suba, donating ¼ of his sales to our capital campaign. In addition, the servers donated their tips to the campaign!

AgendaMan – We have begun using this online meeting management system internally, with our superintendents and other job-alike networking groups, as well as with our internal Leadership Team. The response has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. Several school districts are piloting this solution before it becomes officially available next year.

PAIUnet – I attended a meeting on September 23 with the State System of Higher Education other university and community college representatives relative to the broadband stimulus funds available through the federal government. Both higher education and K-12 have proposals under review which will need to be coordinated so that all students and educators in our systems will benefit should an award be made to Pennsylvania.

NOTIFICATION of ACTIVITIES

- Met again with PDE personnel on PA's "Race to the Top" federal funding proposals – specifically on areas associated with school reform. I designed a schemata, using our high school redesign vision - "Engage, Achieve, Succeed: Options for Every Learner" - to use to organize the grant application. The format was well received by PDE personnel.
- Represented PAIUnet Project Management Team with Shawn Farr at a meeting with PAIUnet Operations and Council leaders to reflect on the first year in our role as Project Management Team.
- Was scheduled to testify on behalf of IUs to the Senate Education Committee on September 23 regarding the value of IUs in lieu of school consolidation. The meeting and testimony have been postponed due to forward action on the state budget this week.
- Participated in the Central Pennsylvania College President's Circle meeting (held twice per year). I have been asked to make a presentation about the CAIU at the September 2010 meeting.
- Participated in the monthly meeting of the PA Collaborative Coaching Board. This Board, of which I have been a member for the past year, is responsible for setting the direction and recommending policy for instructional coaching in PA.
- Attended the retirement celebration for Stinson Stroup, who has served for the past 27 years as the Executive Director for the PA Association of School Administrators.

Upcoming Vacation: September 27-30