



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

## Executive Director's Report April 26, 2018

### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

#### Champions for Children Bingo Night

Champions for Children held their annual bingo event on April 6. The event was a huge success! The event raised over \$5,000 for the fund and we had over 160 guests in attendance. More than 40 IU employees volunteered their time or donated food.

Every team as well as individual employees donated raffle baskets. We also had great community support with donations of gift certificates and gift cards totaling over \$400.

We are very thankful for all of the volunteer support and raffle donors. All enjoyed the entire evening.



### NEWS

#### STUDENT SERVICES

April is....

- **Occupational Therapy Awareness Month.** We are honoring our 23 occupational therapists for the excellent work they do with our preschooler and school age student in developing fine motor, daily living, and self-regulation skills.
- **National Autism Awareness Month.** April 2 was World Autism Awareness Day, designated by the UN General Assembly. We are so appreciative of the work that our Teachers, Para-educators, and Consultants do with preschool and school age children with autism in the CAIU and in our districts.

#### **Congratulations**

- Dr. Janilyn Elias, Program Director, is the new Treasurer for the Board of the Pennsylvania State Pupil Services Association.
- Kate Klopp, Preschool Teacher, who completed her coursework and became a CLM Certified Coach through Tucci Learning Solutions, Inc.
- Kareem Cotton, Preschool EPP, was accepted into Clarion University's Clinical Mental Health Counseling Graduate Program. She will start her online coursework in the fall of 2018.
- Mr. Dennis Abdul-Jihad, Loysville Teacher, was selected as "Employee of the Month" at Loysville YDC. The Student council made the nomination and he was selected by a committee. He will have preferred parking for the next 30 days. He earned this honor two months in a row!

#### **Preschool Early Intervention**

- Let's Talk AAC Camp funded by a CAIU Innovation Grant was held on April 20-21 for students and their families to promote the use of the students' augmentative and alternative communication systems. The Friday evening session took place at the CAIU Enola Center for parent training and functional activities for students to gain practice with their systems.

The Saturday morning session was held at the Capital City Mall to promote AAC use in the community for the students and their parents.

- On April 23, members of the Community Engagement Professional Learning Community (Lara Borne and Jean Gray) hosted a Lunch and Learn for community preschools and nursery schools. The discussion focused on setting up a learning environment, which focuses on social-emotional development. Jamie Gordon shared specific teaching strategies. The next Lunch and Learn will be held on May 21 from 12:30-2:00 at the Enola office.
- On April 25, West Perry School District hosted its annual Pre-K Family Fun Night at New Bloomfield Elementary. Erica Overbaugh, CAIU Preschool Teacher assisted in this event by having a dramatic play station for children and families.
- Spring Transition Meetings for children who are transitioning into Kindergarten will occur on April 30 and May 4 for children who are exiting preschool and entering school age programming.

### **Loysville Youth Development Center**

- There were 17 new residents admitted in March and 13 students released. The population is currently at 88 residents enrolled in school.
- Eighteen of the 88 students attending school, or 20% of the students enrolled, already had their GED or High School Diploma when they arrived but are attending school regardless. One student passed the GED test in March.
- An assembly with Loretta Claiborne was held on March 16. All students watched the Disney movie about her life prior to the assembly. She did a great job speaking to our youth.

### **Project Search**

We welcomed our 10 interns accepted for the 2018/2019 school year on April 10 at our Information Night. Parents, students, and district representatives heard details about how their year will be structured. Students spent time working together and parents had the opportunity to ask questions in preparation for their children's final year of education.

### **Transition**

- We welcomed Talent Assessment, Inc. (TAI) to the CAIU on April 18. TAI is the vendor for the Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES), a simulated work setting used to assess and train students in a wide range of functional work skills. As well, TAI has developed the Waypoint System, an electronic manager of assessment transition assessments that consider student interest, aptitude, and cognitive skills.
- The CAIU was the host of the Carnegie Science Center Fab Lab the week of April 2. The Fab Lab is a mobile lab that allows students to explore a number of fabrication tools

### **Consultative Staff**

We welcomed Kellie Custer to the IU on April 3. Mrs. Custer began her new position as an Educational Consultant in Student Services. She currently is working with West Shore, Upper Dauphin, East Pennsboro, and Susquehanna Township School Districts.

### **Pupil Services**

- CAIU social workers host social worker interns from Shippensburg every year. To find the best candidates we have been using an interview format with potential candidates. Four candidates from Shippensburg will be going through the interview process this month for a possible internship for the 18-19 school year.
- Our "Back-Pack" program, providing food to families, has taken off over the past two years mainly due to Ashley Mellott, a social worker at Hill Top Academy. Ashley and Deb Vandling, a CAIU teacher in a district building, partnered to provide food for families within the CAIU community at that neighboring school.
- School psychologists are in short supply for many of our districts. Districts both in and out of our footprint have reached out for assistance. To date, we are now providing services to 12 districts and charter schools.

### **Deaf/HH Program**

On April 30, the DHH classes from Conewago elementary and Susquehanna Township middle school will travel to Memorial Lake in Harrisburg for a lesson in canoeing led by Peter Fidgett,

social worker. They will participate in an initial orientation and safety lesson followed by a brief canoe trip around the lake.

### **Teachers of the Visually Impaired Networking**

On March 9, CAIU teachers of the visually impaired (TVIs) hosted a meeting with other TVIs from Mechanicsburg, Carlisle, Central Dauphin, and West Shore school districts. The meeting marked the first truly collaborative effort between TVIs within the CAIU footprint. The agenda touched on many important topics facing professionals in the field and was highly praised by the attendees. Because of the productivity and appreciation for the collaboration, quarterly meetings will be scheduled for the 18-19 school year.

### **Audiology**

- Dr. Diane Graybill attended the Educational Audiology Roundtable on April 13 at PaTTAN Harrisburg. Intermediate Unit audiologists in central and eastern PA gather at this meeting to discuss topics pertinent to audiology in the schools. The audiologists share case studies and discuss audiology issues in a rare collaborative effort.
- Dr. Graybill has been asked to attend a parent and toddler workshop to be held at the Simpson Library in Mechanicsburg on May 4. She attended a similar event in the fall and will be providing information to parents regarding hearing loss in children.

### **BrainSTEPS**

The BrainSTEPS program continues to grow in the region, our region is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state in referrals. We continue to encourage our districts to form Concussion Management teams at each school/level. The new training is now active and available online. For more detailed information on the process, please don't hesitate to contact Arlene Moll, BrainSTEPS Team Leader, at [amoll@caiu.org](mailto:amoll@caiu.org) or 717-732-8400 x 8376.

### **Hill Top Academy**

- All Hill Top Academy staff participated in an Active Shooter Training provided by the Capozzi Group on March 28 for their Act 80 half day. Active scenarios provided the opportunity to drill potential responses to an active shooter event at the school.
- As part of the NNPS (National Network of Partnership Schools) grant initiative, students worked hard to complete Math and Reading punch cards starting on February 14. Those that completed 10 full punch cards earned a pizza party with the principal Dr. Thompson on April 6.
- In April, Hill Top held a PBIS LABS pep rally! The winners of the student LABS commercial contest were announced at this event. Each classroom developed a unique commercial to advertise what PBIS LABS behavior meant to them. One of the winners and staff favorite is attached.
- April 20 was the Annual PBIS Puppy Day with Susquehanna Service Dogs and their new "Cooperstown" litter.

### **CURRICULUM SERVICES**

#### **24 Challenge Competition**

The regional 24 Challenge Competition (formerly Math 24), will be held at CAIU on May 7, 2018 for grades 4-5 and May 8 for grade 6-8. Over 200 students from 14 of our CAIU school districts and 5 non-public schools will be competing in this year's competition.

#### **Pre-KCounts Grant Application**

CAIU staff are preparing to submit a Pre-K Counts Grant Application, which is due on Friday, May 11. This first grant application will include five partners: Middletown Area SD, Bright Horizons (on campus of Penn State Harrisburg), Bright Beginnings (within Central Dauphin SD), Newport Assembly of God Child Care, and Neighborhood UMC (within Harrisburg SD). If awarded this grant, we anticipate adding services for 60 students (ages 3-4) in collaboration with our grant partners.

### **TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

#### **2017 PA Regional Computer Fair**

Students from the Capital Area Intermediate Unit region gathered on March 27 to highlight their technical talents and abilities at the annual PA Regional Middle and High School Computer Fair. Forty-eight high school students and eighty-nine middle school students submitted 84 projects in the areas of Computer Fair Logo, Web Page Design, Digital Movie, Graphic Design,

Programming, and Animation. Students placing first place in their category will represent their districts and region at the PA State Computer Fair at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA on May 22 and 23. It was an energizing day and students from all districts represented their schools well. While the projects were being evaluated, students also had the chance to attend workshops to learn about technologies such as Coding with Circuitry, Breakout EDU, and online Quiz Bowl. **Congratulations to students from Eagle View MS, Hershey MS, Mechanicsburg MS, Good Hope MS, Middletown Area HS, Central Dauphin HS, Boiling Springs HS, Newport HS, and Cumberland-Perry AVTS as they advance to the State Computer Fair Competition.**



### **Technology Training**

On Thursday, April 12, the Technology Advisory Council hosted a Google Administration training at the CAIU. This session focused on the Google Admin Suite and was designed to help school administrators set up and configure the G Suite domain and begin to explore how G Suite for Education can be used as a platform for teaching and learning.

### **Social Media Presentation**

On April 19, the CAIU organized a presentation from Social Sentinel about their social media threat alert system. Members of school district's safety team attended the session to learn how a social media monitoring and notification system can help keep their schools and their students safe.

### **NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

- Attended DCTS JOC and Board meetings
- Attended the Spring Superintendents' Leadership Conference
- Met with Jerry Wilson, Superintendent at Shippensburg Area SD
- Met with Sherri Smith, PDE Director

### **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES** - *Board members are invited to attend the following events:*

- **May 17 - Deaf/HH Awards Night**, Enola
- **May 24 @ 6pm - Project SEARCH Graduation at the Hershey Medical Center**
- **May 30 @ 6:30pm - CAIU/Hill Top Academy Senior Graduation - Enola**
- **June 6 - Graduation at Diakon CenterPoint Program**
- **June 8 @ 2pm - Loysville Graduation**