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## Executive Director's Report February 26, 2015

### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

#### Regional Blended Learning Grant

CAIU is administering a regional, competitive grant process to assist schools in implementing a blended, or personalized, learning environment. The competition is open to all public middle and high schools in the CAIU region. Through a combination of three planning grants and one launch grant, the primary goals are to spur wider and deeper thinking and discussion about new teaching and learning environments, and to crystalize that into actual implementation. The grant selectees will serve as useful examples to other schools in order to advance the implementation of personalized learning throughout our region. The secondary goal is to test and refine CAIU support mechanisms for personalized learning, so we can better support other schools. CAIU's process closely mirrors the successful, national Next Generation Learning Challenge process and requirements.

#### Key Points:

- Participation is limited to public middle and high school buildings from the 24 school districts within the CAIU service region.
- Planning and implementation must result in systemic, building-wide change.
- School Building teams will be required to design, develop, and implement a learning environment in which learning experiences for all students are tailored to their individual developmental needs, skills, and interests; in which advanced teaching practices utilizing technology-enhanced, blended learning models and techniques support all learners; and in which leadership and management practices inspire, motivate, and support the new learning environment.
- Separate grants will be awarded for planning and launch (implementation). Three planning grants were awarded in October 2014 for amounts up to \$50,000 each and a single launch grant will be awarded in March 2015 for up to \$400,000. The launch grant will support a building implementation beginning in August 2015 (Academic Year 15-16), leading to complete building transformation within 3 years. Recipients of the three planning grants were Cumberland Valley High School, East Pennsboro Middle School and Northern Middle School.

Additional information about the grant can be found at <http://www.caiu.org/services/partner-initiatives/regional-blended-learning-grant.aspx>.



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## NEWS

### Student Services

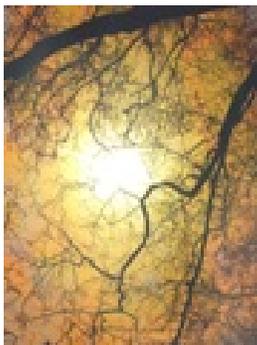
#### Preschool/Early Intervention

- We are currently serving 1,046 children, ages 3-5, in our program and have served a total of 1,673 so far this year.
- Preschool to School Age Transition meetings have taken place in January and February.
- Early Intervention Connections (EIC) has started planning The EI Carnival which will take place on 6/23/15 at Adventure Zone. Last year there were over 400 families that participated.
- EI Supervisors met with Capital Area Head Start (CAHS) Director of Health and Human Services and CAHS Special Services Coordinators to strengthen collaboration and referral process for CAIU and CAHS preschool children and families. CAHS will co-present with CAIU Service Coordinators in a professional development training for CAIU staff in April.
- Parent presentation on “*Sleeping Difficulties with Young Children*” is scheduled on April 9 at the CAIU from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- A parent recently took the time to write a thank you to a Service Coordinator regarding an initial evaluation. Please see attachment in Agendamanager.

#### Hill Top Academy

- Enrollment continues to grow with approximately 110 students attending HTA.
- Staff had training on IEP /RR timelines and development and Smartboard training. Staff continues to collect building behavior data. The data has shown continued improvement of student behaviors and reduced hands-on interventions.
- Students went snow tubing for their monthly activity.
- Our custodian, “Mr. Donnie” Orsinger, retires this month after 35 years of service with the IU.

#### Multiple Disabilities Program



One of our students in the Camp Hill HS classroom, Harry S, was awarded an Honorable Mention for his Photography piece entitled *Untitled1*. This South Central Pennsylvania Scholastic Art & Writing Award Competition was sponsored by Commonwealth Connections Academy and The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the nation’s largest, longest-running scholarship and recognition program for teenage artists and writers. For over 85 years, The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have been the preeminent showcase for student creativity. Congratulations to Harry on his success in the South Central Pennsylvania Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

#### Data Systems

- The CAIU continues to support school districts in their data governance responsibilities. The January Data Quality Network (DQN) meeting addressed upcoming PVAAS reporting and the February DQN session was devoted to *Using Data to Improve Student Achievement*. All sessions are recorded for access at a later date.



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- The upcoming [PDE Data Summit](#) to be held in Hershey, March 22 – 25, offers valuable content for effective data management. Cindy Gavazzi will be assisting with facilitation and presentations. Staff members from Shippensburg, West Shore, Greenwood, Newport, Derry Township and Central Dauphin School Districts are all presenting at the Data Summit.

### **Pupil Services/Hospital/Diakon/ELECT-EFI/Homeless**

- Coordinated efforts are underway between our Hershey Medical Center Children's Hospital teachers and the Child Life Specialist for the NCIU to start a library for these infants. Our team has started a book drive to start this library and is spearheading a volunteer group to read to the infants while in hospital care.
- Kristen Hoffa is the new Regional Coordinator for the Homeless Grant. In addition, Trish Lacey is the new Site Coordinator at the CAIU. Districts have been introduced to Trish and are aware she is their new contact for any homeless student questions/concerns.
- The new Senior Vice President of Diakon Youth Services has invited the CAIU staff to join the Diakon staff for a strategic development meeting.

### **School-Age Speech/Language Program**

During the 2014-15 school year, the School-Age Speech/Language Program piloted a new service: **Augmentative Communication (AC) Coaching**. Presently, they are working in an elementary classroom in Shippensburg Area School District. They will be expanding this service to all districts in the upcoming school year. This student-specific service is available to assist with the implementation of devices for students with alternative and augmentative communication needs. The CAIU AC Coach works directly with the team and the student on a regular basis. The coach can assist with installation of software, customization of vocabulary and display, overview of device and its functions, staff and student training in the use of the device, modeling of device implementation across the curriculum including introductory functional activities, guided practice, provision of initial framework for progress monitoring IEP goals, and support to parents in the school setting.

### **Technology Services**

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual **Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference (PETE&C)** was held at the Hershey Convention Center from February 8-11, 2015. This is a statewide event that brings together educators, administrators, school board members, parents and students. The purpose is to provide quality programs focused on technology in the educational field. The Capital Area Intermediate Unit was highly involved in making this a successful conference. CAIU employees provided technical support for the conference. They coordinated the set-up of presentation rooms with projectors and other technical supplies. They supported presenters by troubleshooting to ensure that everything ran smoothly. Students from West Shore and Derry Township School Districts joined the CAIU Team on Monday and Tuesday. They helped presenters with technical needs and took time to learn about the latest and greatest technology. Thank you for allowing your students to be involved with our team and the conference. They represented the districts well and we hope this was a valuable experience for each student.



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The second **Regional Disaster Recovery Technology Team** meeting occurred on Thursday, February 19, 2015. Representatives from 5 school districts are part of this team and are charged with developing a Disaster Recovery plan template for our region. This has been particularly important as we utilize and rely more on electronic data. This past meeting, we had Mark Walz, an attorney for Sweet, Stevens, Katz, and Williams, in to talk about the legal issues involved in data backup and retention and disaster recovery planning and policy. The next steps are to start drafting the framework for components of a Disaster Recovery Plan.

## NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors' meeting. As part of the monthly meeting, the Executive Directors met with Acting Secretary Pedro Rivera and key PDE staff.
- Attended the Central Region PAIU Executive Directors' meeting.
- Attended the PAIU Curriculum Coordinators meeting as the Executive Director Liaison for the group.
- The CAIU Cabinet members began the annual visits with our school districts. We visit each district on a three year cycle. The CAIU Administrative Cabinet met with Harrisburg School District's administrative team on February 3. Visits with our districts' teams are scheduled over the next few months.
- Dr. Brunner and I provided an overview of CAIU services at the Lower Dauphin School District board meeting on February 16. Board visits are scheduled through May 2015.
- Attended the Career and Technical Education Forum hosted by Dr. Peggy Grimm and Senator Rob Teplitz at the Dauphin County Technical School (DCTS).

## Upcoming CAIU Events

**CAIU CanvasCon 2015** – March 4, 2015 – This will be a day for teams from any district to join us to learn more about Canvas. We begin by discussing how Canvas supports a Blended Learning environment. Staff from districts will present about how they are using Canvas, what they like about it, etc. Canvas representatives will also present new features and answer questions.

**CAIU Regional Computer Fair** – Registration is now open for the 2015 Regional Computer Fair at the Capital Area Intermediate Unit. The event will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 and will showcase both Middle and High School student products/projects created using technology. The Computer Fair is an annual event where students from our districts submit projects in the area of: Animation, Computer Fair Logo, Digital Movie, Graphic Design, Programming, and Web Page Design. While judging of the projects is being completed, students have the opportunity to attend technology sessions on a variety of topics. The winners of the CAIU Regional Computer Fair will advance to the statewide competition on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at Dickinson College in Carlisle and compete against students from across Pennsylvania. Please visit the site for details: <http://www.caiu.org/services/technology/computer-fair.aspx>

## Upcoming Events

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency is offering **Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools** at the CAIU on March 2-5, 2015. Priority registration is given to School/School District Administrators from our IU region.