



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report May 28, 2015

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT

Better Hearing and Speech Month

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month! This year's theme is "Early Intervention Counts." Three CAIU Speech Language Pathologists (SLP): Julie Bristol, Mary Jane Fledderjohn, and Emily Sidelinger, have planned activities throughout the month to raise awareness in our region and to highlight three service areas at the CAIU.

The CAIU's youngest children, ages 3-5 in our Early Intervention program, receive speech and language services to increase their language skills and to expand their speech skills, such as articulation, voice volume and pitch, and fluency. In 2013-14, the Early Intervention SLPs provided speech and language therapy to over 1,300 children.

In addition to the Early Intervention Speech and Language services, the school-age speech and language pathologists provide assessment and intervention for students in our area's public and nonpublic schools. Therapy focuses on disabilities of language, articulation, voice and fluency that are present to such a degree that educational performance is affected.

The CAIU also provides Audiology services. Audiologists are licensed professionals who evaluate and treat hearing loss. Diane Graybill, the CAIU Audiologist, provides services in the Audiology Program Lab at the CAIU or out in our districts. Services may include assessments, audiometer calibration, FM Listening System evaluations, hearing screening follow-ups and direct and consultative services for students and staff in IU classrooms and school districts.

Be sure to check the bulletin board at the entrance to the Enola office for additional information and to see some of our students' work.

Project SEARCH

Immediately following today's Board meeting, an overview of this program will be provided.

The Penn State Hershey Project SEARCH High School Transition Program features a unique, business-led, school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace, Hershey Medical Center. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and relevant job-skills training through strategically designed internships. The goal for each student participant is competitive employment.

Project SEARCH serves students with intellectual and development disabilities that have an IEP, are in their last year of high school, and have been found to be OVR eligible. The most important criterion for acceptance into Project SEARCH is a desire to achieve competitive employment.



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Participation is limited to 12 students per year. In order to be considered for the program, students must be referred by their home district, meet all eligibility requirements, submit an application and participate in an interview and skills assessment. Final selection of participants will be made by the Student Selection Team, a team comprised of representatives from each of the partners, The Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, CAIU and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).

NEWS



Congratulations to Tanya Morret, CAIU Educational Consultant, selected by the **Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education (PAGE)**, as the recipient of the 2015 **Educator of the Year Award!** She was honored recently at the annual PAGE Conference. Tanya has been involved in education for 23 years, both as a social studies teacher and gifted support teacher. In her role as an Educational Consultant here at the CAIU, her primary responsibility is to serve as the statewide Gifted Liaison and a trainer of trainers. In this role, she continues to keep the needs of gifted education on the forefront for our Department of Education. She is a valued and respected advocate who works tirelessly to promote and support all stakeholders on behalf of gifted students.

PA Middle School and High School Computer Fairs 2015

In March, the 2015 Regional Computer Fair was held at the CAIU. All winners from that competition were eligible to compete in the state competition held at Dickinson College on May 19 and 20. Several winners from our regional computer fair took top places at the state competition.

Congratulations to East Pennsboro Middle School. A student from EPMS was the 1st Place Winner for the Computer Fair Logo. This is a wonderful honor, as the winning logo will be used on the 2016 Computer Fair website and on all promotional/marketing materials used throughout the Commonwealth.

Student winners in other categories included: **Middle School:** 2nd Place – Digital Movie – St. Joseph School, Mechanicsburg

High School: 1st Place – Web Page Design – Boiling Springs HS; 2nd Place – Digital Movie – CASA Charter School; 2nd Place – Computer Fair Design – Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School; 3rd Place – Graphic Design – Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School

Student Services

Blind and Visually Impaired and **Deaf/Hard of Hearing** students attended Optimist Olympics on Friday, May 15. The Optimist International Clubs along with dozens of business sponsors, Optimist Club and various organization volunteers have worked to provide an annual sports day for the Deaf and Blind population of students in the area for 23 years. The event was held at the Penn State University York Campus. Participants in the event enjoy a variety of activities including but



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not limited to Beep T-Ball, Soccer, Goalball, mini-golf, obstacle course, parachute, racing, face painting and basketball. Nicholas, a student in our Secondary DHH class, was honored with the Thomas R McGlynn Memorial Award in recognition of leadership, sportsmanship, citizenship, perseverance, enthusiasm, and team spirit.

Hill Top Academy (HTA)

This month finds **Hill Top Academy** completing the state assessments: PASA, PSSA as well as the Keystone exams for the secondary students. On May 13, there was a school wide spring social with a DJ. That afternoon, the staff engaged in strategic planning for 2015-16 school year. Students also went to Pinchot Park to canoe; for several students this was their first experience in a canoe. There is an Art Fair on Thursday, May 28 featuring the art of HTA students.

Autism Support

As Michelle Krolczyk's class at Hershey Early Childhood Center transfers to a Derry Township operated program, many students have successfully been included in regular Kindergarten classes as part of their school day (with the support of our teacher and paraprofessional staff).

Multiple Disabilities Support (MDS)

On Thursday, May 14 at the Camp Hill Senior High School Awards assembly, Harry, won 2 awards from his art teacher. The 1st award was for 4 years of art achievement, and the 2nd award was the first annual Lifelong Learner of the Arts award which included a one-year membership to the Susquehanna Art Museum.

Preschool/Early Intervention

- The new preschool classroom will officially start on May 21 at Willow Mill in Mechanicsburg. A tentative Open House is planned for June 29 in the afternoon.
- Preschool staff participated in a "Literacy Night Under The Lights" event sponsored by Mechanicsburg School District on May 8 at Memorial Park in Mechanicsburg. Hands on activities were available for children with a focus on building literacy education in the community for parents and children from birth through Kindergarten.
- **Roots and Branches** is a training initiative of the Early Intervention Program at the CAIU. Our goal is to enhance the EI staff's understanding and appreciation of diversity. This year's ALL STAFF training will include activities designed to sensitize staff to the importance of a adapting their educational program to the many faces of diversity; a self- assessment and environmental assessment of their cultural competencies; and a Resource Fair where many different, nationalities, religious groups, advocacy groups etc. are invited to provide information and answer questions the staff may find useful.



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NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Visited Hill Top Academy on April 27.
- Attended the PASA Women's Caucus Conference in Hershey on May 3-5.
- Attended the Shippensburg University School Study Council's Exemplary Program Presentations on May 6. I participated on the Review Committee selecting the programs.
- Met with Dr. Robert Jarvis from University of Pennsylvania and several superintendents and school district staff to discuss the creation of a regional consortium for our area.
- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors' meeting on May 11-12.
- Provided an overview of CAIU Services at Camp Hill SD Board Meeting on May 11.
- Recognized and celebrated our 2015 Superintendent retirees: **Sheree-Lee Knorr**, Millersburg Area SD, **Ed Burns**, Greenwood SD, with a breakfast prior to the SAC meeting.
- Participated in the Dauphin County Technical School Local Advisory and Perkins Planning Committee meetings on May 14.
- Met with CAIU Transportation Committee to discuss transportation services for the 2015-16 school year on May 18.
- CAIU Administrative Cabinet met with the administrative teams of the following districts:
 - Steelton-Highspire SD on April 28
 - Central Dauphin SD on May 12
 - Carlisle Area SD on May 18
 - Derry Township SD on May 26
- Participated with CAIU Cabinet members in a Data Breach Simulation Exercise on May 19.

UPCOMING CAIU EVENTS

Deaf or Hard of Hearing Awards Program will be held on May 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Enola Office. Student awards will be presented at that time.

Hill Top Academy graduation ceremony will be held on June 1 at 1:00 p.m. in the Library. Five students will be graduating.

Multiple Disabilities Support (MDS) graduation ceremony will be held on June 4 at 7:00 p.m. at our Enola office. Four students will be graduating.

Extended School Year (ESY) Fishing Derby will take place on July 22 from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at South Middleton Township Park in Boiling Springs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency is offering a second **Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools** at the CAIU on July 14-16, 2015. Priority registration is given to School/School District Administrators from our IU region.