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## Executive Director's Report October 23, 2014

### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

#### Capital Area Online Learning Association (CAOLA)

Capital Area Online Learning Association (CAOLA) is a collaborative effort between CAIU, member school districts and Intermediate Units. CAOLA was created to address the need in Pennsylvania for a challenging and flexible education option for students who want or need something different from traditional schools but don't want to enroll in a full time cyber charter school. CAOLA districts have autonomy and are locally managed by a district team. CAOLA's web-based courses meet the increasing demand for high quality student instruction that incorporate online learning practices and next generation software. The key objectives of the program are to address unmet needs of students by increasing available learning options, meeting various learning modalities, connecting required learning to real-world applications and increasing available options for credit recovery, interventions, homebound, and alternative education. An overview of CAOLA will be shared immediately following the Board meeting.

### NEWS

#### Curriculum Services

Edison Learning has contracted with CAIU to provide professional development and coaching for their online learning administrators and teachers who are located in Pittsburgh and South Carolina. In preparation for this new partnership, CAIU administrators Cheryl Rudawski, Brian Griffith and Rhonda Brunner recently attended Edison Learning's annual "EdisonLearning Leadership Development Academy" (ELDA). As part of the conference, the team provided two sessions to introduce the EdisonLearning administrators and board members to the Charlotte Danielson "Framework for Teaching". Over the next several months, CAIU will provide professional development for all of the EdisonLearning online teachers and will assist administrators as they begin implementing this new evaluation system, modeled after PA's Educator Effectiveness model.

#### Counselor Network

The **Capital Region School Counselors Network** is comprised of school counselors from school districts, charter schools, nonpublic schools, and graduate schools within the CAIU footprint. The mission of the Counselor Network is to provide professional development, networking, advocacy, and leadership opportunities for area K-12 school counselors in an effort to enhance services for students and to build stronger school and community relationships. The network meets monthly throughout the school year. Meeting agendas focus on topics that are relevant to the school counseling profession and reflect the needs of students in the region. Attendance at recent meetings has exceeded 30 counselors. Social service agencies are frequent guests at network



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meetings, presenting valuable information on local resources and supports for students and families. This year's meetings focus on Educator Effectiveness and supervision and evaluation of school counselors.

## **Technology Services**

The CAIU hosted report training for **Content Keeper**, the Internet Consortium's new content filter, on Thursday October 9<sup>th</sup>. During the training, districts were shown how to configure the solution to meet their needs as well as how to run reports on Internet traffic. Two CAIU staff also assisted with the training and has become the regional experts on the Content Keeper filter which will allow greater support for our school districts.

**Barracuda Backup Training:** Barracuda representatives were at the CAIU on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> to conduct a "Deep Dive" training on their backup solution that is used by the CAIU and the majority of our school districts. During the training, Barracuda covered the following areas with district staff from our region:

- Product Demonstration
- Backup History and Roadmap
- Storage Portfolio
- Best Practices
- Resources available to districts when they need assistance

## **Student Services**

**Pupil Services:** Premier Arts and Science Charter School has asked for guidance counselor and administrative time to assist with vacancies in these areas. CAIU Pupil Services will be providing guidance services for four hours per day and administrative supports are pending.

**PresenceLearning:** We continue to receive requests and inquiries from IUs, Districts, and Charter Schools for online therapy opportunities in speech and occupational therapy. We currently have 129 children receiving online therapy using the CAIU and PresenceLearning - compared to only 14 students at the end of last year. We are expecting this to continue to grow and are looking at ways to use our own staff to provide the services.

## **Autism Support**

We recently received very positive written feedback from two outside sources related to the services provided by our Autism Support program and classes.

- One from a non-member district LEA expressing thanks and appreciation to the student's IEP team at Hill Top for their professionalism and demonstration of understanding student needs. The student is enrolled in Adam Shickley's Autism Support class.
- Another from an Assistant Professor of Special Education at Messiah College who recognized the consistent system of Positive Behavior Support that the Messiah College interns have observed in Stephanie Klinedinst's class at Elmwood Elementary.



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### Hill Top Academy

- This month, visitors from the Keystone Institute are coming to Hill Top to learn about how the CAIU works with school districts and families to provide programming for students here. They will meet with staff and observe in several classrooms.
- October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Susquehanna Service Dog organization which supports the Hill Top therapy dogs, brought in puppies to visit with the students.
- October 10<sup>th</sup>, staff participated in training in the development of data driven PBSP (positive behavior support plans) and behavior crisis planning.
- The building is also participating in the Great Northeast Shake-Out on October 16<sup>th</sup>, an annual earthquake drill, to remind and practice “Drop, Cover and Hold On”.
- Parent conferences are being held on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Two days this month we have student wellness activities: Walk at School Day, October 8<sup>th</sup> and Apple Crunch Day on October 21st.

### **NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors’ meeting. The meeting was held at Seneca Highlands IU #9 in Smethport, PA.
- Attended the monthly PAIU Central Region Executive Directors’ meeting
- Attended the School Funding Campaign Statewide Videoconference Event. CAIU was one of 29 sites that hosted this event.
- Visited with Clyde Caldwell, Principal, and staff at Loysville YDC.
- Attended the monthly Professional Advisory Committee meeting at Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School
- Met with Dr. Lesli Shuman, Principal at CPAVTS, to review the implementation of Principal Effectiveness within a vocational technical school setting.
- Attended PAIU-Curriculum Coordinators’ meeting as the Executive Director Liaison
- Participated in the third PAIU Planning Process Work Group session
- Attended PASA-PSBA Leadership Conference and the PASA Women’s Caucus Executive Board Meeting