



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report September 24, 2015

NEWS

South Central PA Consortium for Excellence and Equity

The CAIU will operate, in partnership with the Penn Center for Educational Leadership at the University of Pennsylvania under the direction of Dr. Robert Jarvis, the South Central PA Consortium for Excellence & Equity. This consortium is driven by a mission to positively transform the lives of each and every one of our students by preparing them for success in post-secondary education and in life – especially our diverse children and youth who have traditionally struggled academically in our schools, or who might likely be the first in their family to attend and graduate from college. There are twenty-eight entities from IUs 13 and 15 area participating in this consortium. Seven workshops will be offered throughout the 2015-16 school year with a focus on engaging diverse learners, creating family and community partnerships, understanding the effects of poverty on learning, and creating culturally responsive schools. Our first session, “Organizing for Excellence through Equity: Building District and Schools Capacities to Nurture the Success of all Students” will be held on Monday, September 21 at Central Penn College with approximately 120 school leaders in attendance.

Technology Services

AgendaManager New Version

The Technology Services Team has been working on a new version of AgendaManager that includes enhancements that were suggested by our users over the past several years. Additionally, the new release will set the stage for a Manager Suite that our team will begin developing later this year. Some of the highlights of the Manager Suite will be Resource Scheduling, Document and Policy Storage, and Parent Teacher Conference Scheduling. Over the past year, a team that was representative of school districts and CAIU staff was established to provide input and direction for the enhancements and features of the new release of AgendaManager. Currently the CAIU, Carlisle Area School District, and Camp Hill School District are participating in User Acceptance Testing. The release of new version is scheduled for late October to early November of 2015.

CAIU Website Update

The current CAIU web site (www.caiu.org) has had the same format for over seven years. A CAIU Cross Functional Team, representatives from each team within the CAIU, was established to develop the requirements for a new website that will lead us into the next several years. In addition to a fresh design, the new website will utilize new technologies that will be more flexible for editing and allow more devices to view our content. The release of new CAIU website is scheduled for late October to early November of 2015.



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Student Services

Speech & Language

There was an Executive Function training held at the CAIU on September 17th that had over 100 attendees. We offered both American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and Act 48 hours.

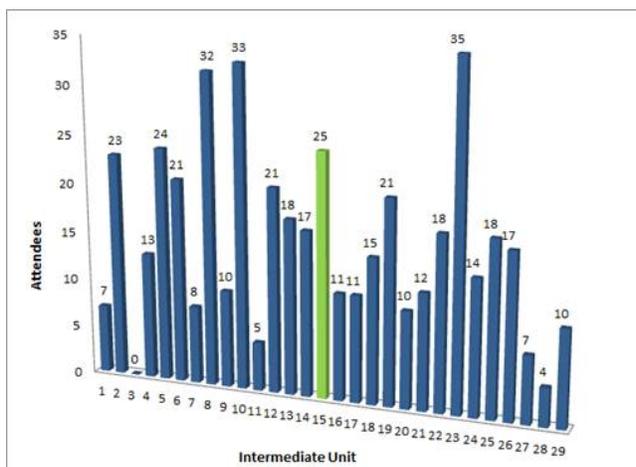
Blind/Visually Impaired Support

Rose Anna Stillwagon, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, has been invited to be a member of the State Bureau of Special Education Advisory Committee on services to students with visual impairments, blindness, and deaf-blindness. The first meeting of the advisory group will be September 25, 2015 at the PATTAN Harrisburg office.

Data Systems

We are actively developing system requirements for the creation of a new Student Services Information & Data System that will allow for more streamlined and efficient import, input and exports of required data. This is a multi-year process and encompasses many existing stand-alone systems.

The **Data Quality Network** meeting on August 19th was attended by 25 staff members from 15 LEAs in the CAIU region. Statewide there were a total of 460 participants from 28 IUs. PDE staff from the Division of Data Quality and Bureau of Special Education presented from the CAIU Enola office about changes to PIMS reporting for the 2015-2016 school year. The video conference was broadcast live across the state to other IU sites – see attendance by IU below.





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South Middleton School District and Newport School District completed Train-the-Trainer sessions for PDE's ***Educator Dashboard Early Warning System Intervention Catalog***. Both districts are working to implement this new system to aid the education staff in identifying and monitoring students at risk of dropping out and/or in need of interventions. West Perry School District and Harrisburg City School District are also working toward implementing this system. CAIU is partnering with PDE for this training initiative which is being supported jointly by Curriculum Services (Karen Ditzler) and Student Services (Cindy Gavazzi).

CAIU Curriculum Services and Student Services are offering a 4-part training series to assist LEAs in understanding their state assessment data and using the data to inform instruction. The **Making Connections** series will follow the data through all stages of the lifecycle of state assessment data. Please see the flyer for more information: <https://www.smore.com/ykgyq>.

Loysville Youth Development Center

A new scheduling process has been implemented that allows for more flexibility in student assignment to courses in order to meet their developmental, vocational and credit needs. A Culinary Arts program has been added and a new teacher hired. The students and the Department of Human Services (DHS) staff are excited about the variety of vocational opportunities at the school. We expect that five students will earn their Diplomas in the first marking period.

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

- The required annual meeting/training for Surrogate Parents was held for five volunteers this year.
- Diakon staff will be utilizing the funds granted to Diakon/CAIU by the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Foundation for their first outdoor trip early October.
- Hershey Medical Center is having an Educational Awareness Night on September 23, 2015. Our teachers have been invited to speak at this event.
- The first evening event for our ELECT-EFI students was held on September 10, 2015. Twenty three out of fifty one students attended.
- All staff is giving a beginning of the year diagnostic evaluation to our students to identify levels of learning. Data will be collected to assist with providing the most appropriate education

Transitional Support

Project Search has had a very successful opening with the interns (students) preparing to begin their first job rotation. Penn State Hershey Medical Center has offered 12 different areas of the hospitals for these internships to take place. On September 1, Alan Brechbill, Hospital Executive Director, and Dr. Craig Hillemeier, Dean of the College and CEO of the Hospital, joined the class to present an overview of the medical center to the interns.



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Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program

Despite changes in teachers at all three level (Elementary, Middle School, and High School), all programs have had a very smooth start to the school year. Students and staff are excited to begin using our on-line curriculum and resources (Engage NY, iReady).

Multiple Disabilities Support Program

Students and staff have received a very warm and welcoming response to their move into the Steelton-Highspire High School. The district has been very supportive in providing the things needed to open our MDS class there.

Hill Top Academy

Enrollment: 120

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) Team has been formed and training is scheduled to begin this month. Three new PCAs (Personal Care Aides/1:1 Para with a student) have been hired to support students in the classrooms. The Hill Top Academy secondary students have an upcoming experiential educational trip to the ropes course at Enola office.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Visited classes at Hill Top Academy.
- Visited the new ProjectSEARCH classroom at Hershey Medical Center.
- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors' meeting including a meeting with PDE Secretary of Education and his staff.
- Participated in the PAIU Government Relations Committee meeting.
- Attended the Professional Advisory Committee meeting at CPAVTS.
- Attended the AESA Educators' Call to Action Federal Advocacy Conference in Arlington, VA.
- Met with Executive Director of Partnership for Career Development.
- Attended the first session of the South Central PA Consortium for Excellence & Equity, "Organizing for Excellence through Equity: Building District and School Capacities to Nurture the Success of all Students."
- Met with CAEA Leadership, along with Alicia McDonald and Theresa Kinsinger, for our quarterly meeting.
- Attended Millersburg Area School District Board Meeting.
- Attended the monthly Chief Recovery Officer meeting at Harrisburg School District.
- Met with the Superintendents' Strategic Innovation Committee.