



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

## Executive Director's Report April 27, 2017

### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

#### Innovation Grant Opportunity

The CAIU's goal is to foster an environment that encourages creativity and innovation among our staff and where ideas are shared openly. We have created an opportunity for our staff to apply for an innovation grant. The purpose of the grant is to improve the organization's support for current and future customers by improving the efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of current services or by developing high quality, relevant, new services. The Innovation grant can be used to but is not limited to:

- Support the initiation and development of new products and services,
- Purchase new technology (hardware, software, licenses, etc.) in limited numbers for trial and evaluation,
- Improve the efficiency, effectiveness, or quality of existing services, and/or
- Learn new skills critical to above, e.g. conference registration, training courses, etc.

The grant awards for 2016-17 were:

- *Parent Partnership* – Lynette Lee, Paraeducator in Preschool Classroom
- *Competent Learning Model* – Nicole Showers, Lisa Smiley and Julie Harman, Education Consultants
- *Integrating the 4 Cs in Teaching and Learning* – Karen Ditzler, Instructional Technology Specialist

Applications are now being accepted for 2017-18 school year. A committee will review the applications and if selected the staff person will provide a business plan outlining the full implementation of the grant.

### NEWS

#### 2017 PA Regional Computer Fair



Students from the Capital Region gathered on March 29, 2017 to showcase their technical talents and abilities at the annual PA Regional Middle and High School Computer Fair. Fifty high school students and sixty-two middle school students submitted a total of 57 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 on May 23, 2017. Congratulations to students from Eagle View MS,



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Hershey MS, St. Joseph School, Hershey HS, Cumberland-Perry AVTS, Halifax HS, Hershey HS, and Dauphin County Technical School as they advance to the State Computer Fair Competition.

### **2017 Superintendents' Spring Leadership Conference**

The Superintendents' Spring Leadership Conference was held on April 5-7. The conference featured speakers, educational sessions, and many opportunities for networking. The speakers and presentations included:

- *PASA Update* – Dr. Mark DiRocco, Executive Director, PASA
- *Federal Advocacy Update* – Noelle Ellerson-Ng, Associate Executive Director, Policy & Advocacy, AASA
- *Traumatic or Acquired Brain Injury-PA's Concussion Return to Learn Management Program* – Brenda Eagan-Brown, BrainSTEPS State Program Coordinator, Brain Injury Association of PA
- *BrainSTEPS (Strategies Teaching Educators, Parents, & Students)* – Arlene Moll, CAIU BrainSTEPS Team Leader and Kathy Bagian, School Nurse, and Dale Reeder, Guidance Counselor, both from Northern York County SD
- *The Impact of Childhood Trauma on Learning: Student Services Implication* – William Zee, Esq., Barley Snyder

### **Student Services**

- All of the individual contract and service feedback meetings with our school districts and charter schools have been completed and contract packets have been distributed to all the superintendents/CEOs and special education points of contact. The projections for next year are already closely aligned with the services that we are currently providing. Since our annual average growth has been 26% over the last few years, we will be looking to staff programs accordingly in order to be prepared for additional needs and referrals.
- The annual LRP National Institute, focusing on trends in special education law, was held this month in National Harbor, Maryland. As part of our support for the region and administrative professional development, a team of administrators, from eight districts, went to the conference as a result of some level of IU support and sponsorship. This conference has provided a great deal of information that will be used for regional development and training.

### **Pupil Services/CAMhP/Diakon/Educational Coaches**

- Our new CAMhP (Capital Area Mental health Program) has been operating at capacity for most of the year. The plan is to open an upper elementary and high school program next year, making the current classroom a middle school program.
- Student Services educational coaches and supervisors met with the Curriculum team to work on filling in gaps in the math curriculum. We are in need of functional math curriculum and supplemental interventions to assist those students who have missed increments of math during the course of their educational career.
- Sharing a "shout-out" to Dr. Elias' team and colleagues as many shared their experiences and stories of successes and challenges from their early teaching careers to her college class of undergraduate seniors at Shippensburg University. As we work on building capacity within our IU and finding those "right fits" as new teachers, having these students hear from some of our talented staff really bridged gaps and opened doors of opportunity for collaboration and hopefully new employees.



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### **Social Work/ELECT/School Health/OT/PT**

- Beth-Ann McConnell, Social Worker, and Kathy Gottlieb, Supervisor, presented to Millersburg Area School District's secondary special education teachers and their special education director about our Interagency Coordination services.
- The three ELECT case managers, Jody Forney-Cole, Melissa Rosado, and Jan Cuva-Primmer, and Kathy Gottlieb, Supervisor, attended the ELECT conference. They had the opportunity to network with other programs and gain programming and funding ideas. There were three keynote speakers, a brief speech from Mr. Pedro Rivera, Secretary of Education, as well as break-out sessions.

### **Preschool/Early Intervention**

- Eric Bostick and Terry Telep, Preschool Supervisors, attended a 2-day Data Literacy Academy, sponsored by Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), focusing on gaining better understanding of the effective use of data to improve the management and quality of Early Intervention Programs.
- Jean Gray, Educational Consultant, participated in a story time activity for children and families sponsored by the Simpson Library Story Time.
- Several preschool staff (Erica Overbaugh, Teacher, Jean Gray, Educational Consultant, and Terry Telep, Supervisor) participated in a Pre-K Fun Night Station at New Bloomfield Elementary. The evening was filled with games and activities for preschool children and their families in the West Perry School District. Information and resources on the CAIU Preschool Program were shared with all of the families.
- Cindy Mortzfeldt, Dr. Rhonda Brunner, Daren Moran, Eric Bostick and Terry Telep participated in "PAIU Day on the Hill". They were accompanied by a family whose child receives CAIU services. The team met with Representative Mark Keller and Senator John DiSanto to educate them about the work we do and the need for an increase in early intervention funding. The team also shared materials with staff of Representative Steve Bloom's and Representative Sheryl Delozier's offices.
- Preschool staff is participating in a professional development training on April 27. Topics focus on increasing parent involvement, shaping participation, building a cohesive team, First Aide/CPR re-certification, and a presentation from Parent to Parent.
- The outside play area at the Enola building has been assembled with fun play equipment for our preschool children!

### **Hill Top Academy**

- All Hill Top Academy students in grades 3-8 participated in the Language Arts PSSAs the week of April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Every student present tested and put forth their best effort!
- At the most recent Act 80 day half day on April 12<sup>th</sup>, all Hill Top Academy staff participated in team building activities on the Enola low ropes course.

### **MDS/Autism Support/Transition Services/Project Search**

- Our MDS classes have been invited to participate in the West Shore Consortium Prom to be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year's theme is "A Day in Candyland".
- Several IU students have been nominated for the Tom Buskey award and will receive recognition for their achievements at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual luncheon to be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Karen's Catering of Harmony Hall. This award is to honor students who have demonstrated progress in overcoming personal challenges and are realizing future potential by building bridges toward successful post school transition.
- Ms. Klinedinst and her staff (AS class at Dillsburg) continue to work through the Competent Learner Model Courses of Study to help support the daily activities of their students.



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### **DHH/BVIS/School-age Speech**

- A number of our speech clinicians recently provided training to Susquehanna Township SD speech and language practitioners on a variety of topics such as English Language Learners (ELL), student enrollment, assessment, goal writing, and dismissal from services. Additionally, CAIU Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP) formed a network meeting with area SLPs in the districts that we support. The group has met a number of times this year to discuss a variety of topics such as ELL, assessments, and case studies to brainstorm goals and possible therapy techniques.
- Ms. Colleen Deignan is currently completing her graduate student externship in Speech-Language Pathology with a combined placement in the CAIU pre-school and school aged programs. In addition, her experience within the CAIU - DHH program has enabled her to become more proficient in her development and use of ASL (American Sign Language) while providing instruction to her students.
- The 25th Annual Optimist Olympics, for deaf/hard of hearing and blind/visually impaired students, will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> at the York City Ice Arena. The event is coordinated by the Optimist Clubs of York, Adams, and Lancaster counties and representatives from Capital Area Intermediate Unit and Lincoln Intermediate Unit, including CAIU staff, Mary Daubenspeck and Deb Genet. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students with sensory impairments to interact, socialize, and participate in a variety of sports activities that are modified for them, including guide ropes for running, sound-producing sports equipment, Braille and large print certificates, and sign language interpreters. Many of our Capital Area Intermediate Unit students and teachers will be attending and we anticipate yet another successful event.

### **NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

- Attended the PAIU Central Region Executive Directors' meeting
- Attended PAIU Day on the Hill and met with Representative Mark Keller and Senator DiSanto
- Met with Representative Dawn Keefer
- Attended Shippensburg University School Study Council's Annual Law Review
- Held CAIU Staff Communications Meetings
- Attended the PDE IDEA Fiscal Review for CAIU
- Attended Education Transition Team Meetings with United Way Capital Region
- Attended Dauphin County Technical School's Local Advisory and Perkins Planning Meeting
- The CAIU Cabinet members met with Northern York County SD's and Big Spring SD's administrative teams. These meetings provide an opportunity for districts to share feedback about CAIU services and for the CAIU team to learn about the needs of our districts.

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

- Graduation for the 2017 interns at Project Search will be held on May 24<sup>th</sup> at Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center. All six interns will be honored for their accomplishments this year.