



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

## Executive Director's Report

December 22, 2016

### NEWS

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual iPad Summit

On December 2, 2016, the Capital Area Intermediate Unit hosted the 5th Annual CAIU iPad Summit. The summit brought together over 140 educators, tech directors, principals and school leaders for a day full of presentations, workshops, and hands-on sessions. The Summit offered over 20 sessions that focused on ways to integrate using iPads seamlessly and transparently in the classroom. Our wonderful presenters shared their ideas and experiences to engage and motivate students of all age levels. Some topics that were presented included content creation, flipping the classroom, coding, gaming, and digital storytelling.



Dr. Randy Ziegenfuss and Mrs. Lynn Fuini-Hetten from Salisbury Township School District kicked off this year's Summit with a keynote presentation entitled, "Elevating Our Vision for the Future." The day ended with an App Smackdown in which educators shared their favorite apps and how they used them in their learning environment. Participants walked away with a wealth of ideas for ways to utilize their iPads effectively in the classroom.

#### Student Services

##### **OT/PT, Nurses, Social Work**

- Mrs. Gottlieb, program supervisor, has been spending her first months at our various sites observing therapists and getting better acquainted with the classroom teams in general. Her observations have validated the comments that she heard regarding the expertise of our related services staff! They are truly child-centered practitioners who work collaboratively with classroom teams.
- Lori Glumac attended the American Physical Therapy Association's Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy Annual conference. She will create a list of the practice changes that she plans to implement as a result of the new information learned at the conference and will share this information with the IU Physical Therapists.

##### **Autism/Hospital Programs**

- Samantha Forsythe's Autism Support class at Central Dauphin Middle School has connected with the school district's NutriPacks program. Every week the students help fill bags with groceries in preparation for disbursement to students at various schools within the district. This activity helps promote vocational skills while at the same time providing a service to the community.
- Enrollment in our Autism Support classes is increasing with 6 new students enrolling within the past month across all grade levels.



**educational excellence** through leadership, partnership, and innovation

- On December 1, our new class opened at the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute (PPI) for students ages 4-12. This new area accommodates 9 students who are in need of in-patient psychiatric care. CAIU staff will provide the educational part of the students' days.

#### **Loysville Youth Development Center**

- Loysville currently has 104 residents. Over the past month, 13 students have been released and 17 new students entered. Eighteen of the 104 students, or 17%, of the population already have their GED or High School Diploma.
- There are seven students that will complete their high school experience by mid-January and earn their high school diploma. Most will be leaving before the end of the second marking period so there is no commencement ceremony planned.
- Mr. Dave Harper organized an Anti-Bullying initiative that culminated with an assembly on November 22. Students took a survey, talked about bullying behavior in class, and wrote about past experiences. The results were shared at an assembly along with a movie. A few students read their class writings in front of the student body. It was well received by students.
- Elena Taylor was nominated by Department of Human Services (DHS) Loysville for Employee of the Month for her extra efforts in helping the students at Loysville with Transitional services and other support. We congratulate her on the nomination and offer best wishes in the final selection.

#### **Hill Top Academy**

- The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center operated by The University of Pittsburgh (located next door to Hill Top) has reached out and offered to provide Christmas gifts for the students most in need at Hill Top Academy. The Hill Top social workers will work with Pitt staff to identify and distribute the gifts anonymously to students.
- Hill Top Academy will be collaborating with Elizabethtown University to complete an exciting research study titled: Interoception, the 8th Sense: A Pilot Intervention Efficacy Study for School Age with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This study's purpose is to determine if intervening to improve interoceptive awareness will help school-aged children with autism increase interoception capability which may allow improved self-regulation and performance at school.
- Hill Top Academy and Messiah College have engaged in planning to expand their partnership for the 2017-2018 school year. Tentative arrangements have been made for Hill Top Academy to host 10-15 Level I interns from Messiah's new OT/PT graduate program.

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

- Diakon/Center Point Day program has 30 students with 23 of them district referred students receiving Drug and Alcohol, Anger Management and Social Anxiety counseling.
- The Capital Area Mental-health Program (CAMhP) continues to receive referrals; however, we are running out of space. Our original plan was to open two classes but due to space constraints only one was opened at the start of the school year. We are investigating other options to open a second class.
- Data coaching meetings are happening classroom wide on a weekly basis. The administrative staff meets monthly with the coaches to review the data and provide appropriate professional development.

#### **Preschool Updates**

- We will have 3 graduate students working with us for their internships in speech/language pathology in the Spring 2017 semester. Two of the interns will split their experience between preschool and school-age speech language. One of the students will complete her internship



**educational excellence** through leadership, partnership, and innovation

just with a preschool speech language therapist. The graduate programs represented will be: Misericordia, Edinboro and James Madison.

- Preschool supervisors and the preschool service coordinators attended a discussion led by Colleen Wislor, Lincoln Intermediate Unit at the CAIU regarding Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program.
- January will kick off school age transition meetings for approximately 570 families.

## **NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

- Attended the monthly Central Region Executive Directors' meeting.
- The CAIU Cabinet members met with Millersburg Area School District's administrative team. 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.
- Attended school board meetings at Middletown Area SD, Mechanicsburg Area SD and Carlisle Area SD to share an overview of CAIU services.
- Attended Association of Education Service Agencies (AESA) Annual Conference in Savannah, GA.

## **Upcoming CAIU Events**

**All Staff Day** – January 13, 2017 – All CAIU employees will attend the All Staff Day at the Best Western Premier Hotel and Conference Center, Harrisburg. A variety of activities and presentations is planned for the morning, and staff will participate in workshop sessions or service projects during the afternoon.