



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report June 22, 2017

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Regional Blended Learning Challenge Grant Update

Blended learning is a combination of learning modalities involving face-to-face instruction and web-based learning delivery. When carefully designed, it uses a customized instructional strategy that leverages the strengths of each. Blended Learning includes different learning or instructional methods (lecture, discussion, guided practice, reading, games, case study, simulation), different delivery methods (live classroom or computer mediated), different scheduling (synchronous or asynchronous) and different levels of guidance (individual, instructor or expert led, or group/social learning).

The CAIU's goal is to continue to emerge as a leader in blended and online learning strategies. The goals for this Challenge Grant were to directly assist selected schools in planning and implementing a blended/personalized learning environment, indirectly assist other schools through information sharing and school visits, and enhance the CAIU's capacity to support other schools. Last spring, five planning grants were awarded to Oak Flat Elementary School in Big Spring SD, Hershey Elementary School in Derry Township SD, Halifax Elementary School in Halifax Area SD, Lenkerville Elementary School in Millersburg Area SD, and Paxtonia Elementary in Central Dauphin SD. The schools used the grants to continue their planning on how to implement Blended Learning in each of their schools this past school year.

NEWS

21st Annual Champions for Children Golf Tournament

For twenty years, the Capital Area Intermediate Unit's non-profit partner, **Champions for Children**, has sponsored an annual golf tournament fundraiser in support of children faced with unique challenges and special needs. The tournament is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 25, 2017**.

TIME: 12:00 Noon Shotgun Start (Registration begins at 11:00 a.m.)

PLACE: Cumberland Golf Club, 2395 Ritner Highway, Carlisle, PA 17015.

COST: \$65.00/person (includes green fee, cart, golf shirt, refreshments, dinner, and other prizes.)

"My Bike", "My Stroller", and "My Voice" Presentation and Parade Event

On Wednesday, May 31st, we had the privilege to again host the *adaptive equipment giveaway* event on behalf of Variety - the Children's Charity. The children and families demonstrated their joy as they rode their bikes or strollers in a parade through the lobby amidst cheers from IU staff.

Nonpublic School Services

The Nonpublic Professional Development Academy was held June 12 – 14, 2017. The focus of this year's academy was on the 4 C's





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(Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity) of STEM, differentiating instruction in the math classroom, and small group reading instruction. Lisa Klingler and Karen Ditzler, CAIU Professional Services Staff, and Mark Weakland presented the session content to the nonpublic teachers and administrators over the three days. In the 4 C's of STEM sessions, Karen led the participants in exploring no-tech, low-tech, and high-tech methods and strategies to use in the classroom. She also focused on STEM activities, coding, design challenges, and other innovative ways to encourage and motivate students while meeting educational objectives. Lisa's sessions, *Differentiating in the Math Classroom*, addressed how to differentiate during an instructional math block and how to keep students engaged in meaningful and rigorous tasks. Lisa led the participants in learning the benefits of pre-assessing, grouping and providing targeted instruction to meet the varying needs of their students. The Small Group Reading Instruction sessions by Mark Weakland focused on using assessment and managing schedules, routines, and materials so instruction flows, student engagement is maximized, and teacher stress is minimized. Over 230 nonpublic teachers and administrators from 16 nonpublic schools attended the seven sessions offered. The Nonpublic Academy is a cooperative effort of CAIU Aid to Nonpublic Schools and the Curriculum teams. Workshops and materials were funded with Title IIA funds.

Curriculum Services

During 2016-17, CAIU collaborated with the University of Pennsylvania to provide an ongoing professional development series called the **South Central PA Consortium for Excellence & Equity**.

This series was attended by teams of school district administrators, counselors and teacher leaders and included the following topics/presenters:

- ***“The Cultural Proficiency Journey: Co-Creating Culturally Responsive Schools”***
Drs. Franklin and Brenda CampellJones, Towson University College of Education (Towson, MD)
- ***“Creating Culturally Responsive and Personalized Learning Environments”***
Allison Rodman, Founder and Educational Consultant, The Learning Loop, LLC (Haddon Twp., NJ)
- ***“Brain-Based Strategies to Promote Student Engagement in the Classroom”***
Shauna F. King, Executive Director, King Professional Development Services (Bowie, MD)
- ***“Reaching and Engaging Students In Poverty and Their Families: An Equity Literacy Approach”***
Dr. Paul Gorski, George Mason University (Fairfax, VA)
- ***“Student-Centered Classrooms for Today’s Students: Engaging All Learners Through Choice, Technology, and Innovative Practices”***
A.J. Juliani, Centennial School District (Jenkintown, PA)
- ***“Learner-Active, Technology-Infused Classrooms: Building Executive Function”***
Dr. Nancy Sulla, President, Innovative Designs for Education, (Naples, FL)

As a part of the year-long focus on Equity, CAIU also sponsored a Forum for Middle School Students called ***“Wise Up to Rise Up: Climbing Mountains & Tearing Down Barriers”***. This event was held at the Park Inn, Mechanicsburg, PA and was attended by over 200 middle school students from within the CAIU region. Students heard from a variety of keynote speakers and had opportunities to attend breakout sessions of their choice.

A highlight of the day was a presentation by Actress April Hernandez-Castillo, (TV: ER, Law & Order, 30 Rock, Dexter, Movie: Freedom Writers). Nearly every student in attendance had an opportunity to meet and get their photo taken with April before leaving for the day.



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Graduations

- On May 24th, we celebrated the graduation and employment of our Project Search student interns. These graduates were from Derry Township SD, Lower Dauphin SD, Middletown Area SD, and Steelton-Highspire SD. These graduates are now employees of the Animal Hospital of Dauphin County, God's Little Rainbow Child Care Center, Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, the Nutrition Group, and Hershey Tanger Outlets.
- On May 30th, we celebrated seven graduates from CAIU classrooms. These graduates were from Central Dauphin SD, Carlisle Area SD, East Pennsboro Area SD, Northern York County SD, and West Perry SD. There were many family members, friends, classmates, district and IU staff in attendance for this momentous occasion.
- On June 9th, we celebrated nine students from Loysville YDC. Two of these young men have successfully earned their GED certificates and seven young men have earned their high school diplomas from the Commonwealth of PA. This is a wonderful accomplishment and will serve them well when they return to their hometowns.

Preschool/Early Intervention

- Our preschool program is on their June break and returns on June 26th for their summer session. Summer is a very busy time in our preschool program as we have incoming students who are turning three as well as all the children who will be transitioning to Kindergarten in the Fall.
- On June 6th, over 600 families, children, and community agency members participated in the EIC (Early Intervention Connections) Carnival, held at Adventure Zone in Mechanicsburg. This annual event is organized by the EIC committee and invites families who have children with disabilities (from birth through five years old). The families and children have opportunities for networking, resources, games, food, and fun. It was a fabulous evening!

ESY

Our Extended School Year program will be operating from July 5th – July 27th. This program provides continuity of services for students with IEPs who would otherwise regress over the summer break. The culmination of ESY is the Fishing Derby, supported and hosted by the Yellow Breeches Anglers Association, on July 27th.

Student Services Staffing

Our administration is working to screen, interview, and hire for vacancies for the upcoming school year. We are hiring teachers, social workers, job coaches, and paraeducators in order to be able to involve our new staff in the summer Academy of Continuing Education (ACE) professional development sessions.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended annual PAIU Conference in Seven Springs.
- Attended Education Pilot Project Meetings with United Way Capital Region.
- Attended CAIU Graduation Event.
- Attended CPAVTS and DCTS Senior Awards events.