



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report

November 17, 2016

Program Spotlight

Project SEARCH

The CAIU operates a licensed Project SEARCH classroom at Penn State Hershey Medical Center for seniors who are graduating and seeking competitive employment in an integrated setting. This is a partnership program that operates collaboratively with Penn State Hershey Medical Center (PSHMC), Ms. Danielle Iovino, the PA Department of Labor & Industry - Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Ms. Janice Mazzitti, and our member School Districts. Mrs. Ann Vacchiano is the teacher, Ms. Pam Wilson is the job coach, and Mr. Keith Imboden is the program supervisor.

There are six young adults (interns) in the classroom from four school districts. The interns learn relevant, marketable skills through their workplace rotations with PSHMC employee mentors as well as learning employment skills in the classroom (workplace safety, technology, social skills, communication, interviewing, money management, job search skills, transportation and workplace navigation, etc).

The staff and interns will speak to you directly, using Zoom, about their program during the Board meeting.

NEWS

"My Bike" Presentation and Parade Event

On Monday, October 31st, we had the privilege to again host the "My Bike" event on behalf of Variety - the Children's Charity. Eight children received adaptive bikes and several other children were fitted for adaptive bikes. PA State Senator, Rob Teplitz attended the event. The children and families demonstrated their joy as they rode their bikes in a parade through the lobby amidst cheers from IU staff.



Fall Superintendents' Conference

The Fall Superintendents' Conference was held on November 2-4, 2016. This year's theme was "Leveraging Your Leadership." Liz Weber, conference presenter, specializes in strategic planning, succession planning and leadership development. Andrew VanWylen, from Eidex Insights, provided an overview and functionality of Eidex Focus, a business analytics tool.

Curriculum Services

- This month's Curriculum Advisory Council (CAC) meeting will be held at Big Spring SD on November 16th. The group will be going to Big Spring SD to learn about their Business



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Incubator Program. Here's a link to a story about their program:

<https://www.psea.org/general.aspx?id=13848>

- On Thursday, Nov. 17th, CAIU will be hosting the 3rd session of this year's South Central PA Consortium for Excellence and Equity. The title of the session is "Creating Culturally Responsive and Personalized Learning Environments". The presenter is Allison Rodman, Founder of the Learning Loop, LLC from Haddon Twp, NJ.

Student Services

Hill Top Academy

- Hill Top recently sent a team of staff and students to the South Central Pennsylvania Consortium for Excellence & Equity 1st Annual Middle School Forum: "Wise Up to Rise Up: Climbing Mountains & Tearing Down Barriers". Hill Top students listened to speakers and worked side by side with Middle School students from districts throughout South Central PA.
- Patti Chasteen's classroom will again be working with Trout Unlimited to raise trout in the classroom. Hundreds of trout eggs arrived at Hill Top last week to be raised by students in a classroom aquarium, for release as fingerlings this spring in the Yellow Breeches.
- Hill Top's principal, Dr. John Thompson, was a presenter representing the CAIU at the annual PA Principals' Conference at Penn State this past week. His session was entitled, "Cultivating a SUPER Instructional Culture at Your School."

Project SEARCH

- Ann Vacchiano, teacher of our Project Search program, has begun an email mentoring program in which the interns in her program are paired with a CAIU staff member to share email correspondence. This activity helps the interns practice writing business email with oversight from our staff members. It also helps them learn more about employability skills from professional workers. Thank you to the mentors for their involvement.
- On October 17, Danielle Lovino, was honored at a Business Champions Luncheon for her role in providing support in the hiring of students with disabilities. Ms. Lovino is our business partner at Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center who is part of our Project SEARCH steering committee. We thank Danielle for her dedication to our program.

Autism Support (AS)

- Our AS class at Central Dauphin has connected with Colonial Park Fire department. After taking a tour of their facility, the students are now beginning to do odd jobs at the department in support of the staff there. The fire fighters have been very accepting of having our students be part of their "team".
- Our Project Max team, under the leadership of our internal coach, Lisa Smiley, is expanding its focus on implementing instructional strategies and technological innovations to incorporate grade level standards into our classes for students with complex learning needs. The team has plans to roll out the core tenets of Project Max to all district-based classes throughout CAIU.

Loysville Youth Development Center (LYDC)

- Since the end of October, we have had 10 students released and 13 students enter. We currently have 95 residents.
- Jim Towse from PDE had a walk-through/visit to LYDC on October 18, 2016.
- The employability class had a guest speaker from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) on October 17th. She spoke to the groups about services they offer and how to access services. Some students completed applications and will start receiving services when they leave LYDC.



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

- We had a guest Speaker for an assembly on October 31st. Mr. TJ Griffin spoke to the students about being successful, being real, don't "Fake it to make it" and how he turned his life around. It was an excellent positive message for our students.
- The ASVAB test was offered on October 25th. Twelve students took the ASVAB.
- Two representatives from the Breaking the Chains organization visited LYDC to help students prepare for Mock Interviews on October 26th. All students in the Employability class participated.
- Representatives from OVR, Career Links, and Human Resource personnel from some local companies came on November 4th to interview all the students in the Employability Class. Fifty students dressed up in new clothes from Dress for Success in preparation for the interviews.
- Mr. Harper organized the Anti-Bullying series. The series began with an assembly on October 27th and data collection from the students.

Preschool/Early Intervention

- Dr. Rhonda Brunner, Assistant Executive Director and Terry Telep, Preschool Supervisor, participated in the PAIU Fall Day on The Hill on October 18th. The PAIU Fall Day on the Hill was a day to visit with local legislators in the Capitol and to share with them the important contributions IUs are making in communities across the Commonwealth.
- Preschool Supervisors attended the Early Intervention Fall Leadership Conference: Fostering Leadership Skills for Quality Inclusive Practices on November 2nd and 3rd.
- Preschool Staff participated in professional development about naïve learners led by Dr. Cathy Scutta.
- Terry Telep, Preschool Supervisor, Lara Borne, Preschool Educational Consultant, and Amy Reed, Early Intervention Coordinator, Cumberland and Perry MH/IDD Program provided an overview of early intervention services to The School Readiness Team sponsored by Success by 6, United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County.
- As part of the Evidence Based Grant and in collaboration with Follow Me Christian Child Care Center, Jamie Gordon, Preschool Inclusion Consultant, participated in a literacy night at the child care center on November 7th. Literacy and hands on activities focused on social-emotional development and the PATH's curriculum (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) were offered to children and families from 6:00-8:00 PM.
- Jean Gray and Lara Borne, Preschool Educational Consultants, provided training and consultation with the preschool staff at Grace Christian Preschool on developmental screenings and the CAIU referral process.
- Karen Wronski, Preschool SLP, is currently working with seven families in the Hanen fall class, "More than Words". Families participate in a total of eight evening classes throughout the course. The program provides parents with the teaching tools and strategies they need to help their children reach their full communication potential.
- The development of the playground located in the back area of the Enola building has begun and was supported by fundraisers and Champions for Children. Preschool staff and children who receive services at the Enola center are looking forward to using the playground upon completion!
- Loretta Connolly, Preschool SLP, completed a series of Parent Fluency training. Several preschool families participated.



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

- Preschool Parent Orientation meetings have been scheduled with the 24 school districts and the families of the preschool children who will transition into school age program in the 2017-18 school year. Meetings will take place in November and December.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended the monthly Central Region Executive Directors' meeting.
- Visited Lemoyne Preschool Center.
- The CAIU Cabinet members met with East Pennsboro Area School District's administrative team on November 1st. 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 Fall Superintendents' Leadership Conference.
- Held two All Staff Communication Meetings on November 8. Virtual participation through Zoom webinar was offered for staff not able to participate in person. We also kicked off our United Way of the Central Region annual campaign.

SAVE THE DATE

- **Project SEARCH** - An **Open House** will be held on November 15th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. This event gives prospective students and families an opportunity to learn more about this exciting program.
- The **5th Annual CAIU iPad Summit** will be held on Friday, December 2nd. For more information, please visit the Smore (<https://www.smore.com/eh9u7>) and the Wikispace (<http://caiupadsummit16.wiki.caiu.org/home>). Register here: <https://goo.gl/eNNQWH>