



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report February 22, 2018

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Curriculum and Instruction

An "Active Shooter" training was held for CAIU staff on February 8 at the Enola offices. Rick Capozzi of the Capozzi Group provided the training from Hollidaysburg, PA. The training included a variety of simulations designed to prepare staff to respond to such an event.

The objectives for this training were to:

- review strategies recommended by Homeland Security
- move from condition of white (oblivious) to condition yellow (aware)
- discuss numerous response considerations and how to choose the most appropriate for the scenario
- review FBI statistics and why they should be a concern
- participate in building response preparation
- develop a survival mindset by practicing drills to build muscle memory



NEWS

Curriculum Services

- The Pennsylvania Governor's STEM Competition was held at CAIU on February 14. The Governor's STEM Competition is an annual, themed, academic competition for students in grades 9-12. Students are challenged to research, present, and design a device/project that can improve the life of Pennsylvanians. This year's theme was "Improving Pennsylvania Through STEM." Teams from five local high schools competed this year: Cedar Cliff HS, Lower Dauphin HS, Red Land HS, SciTech HS, and Shippensburg Area Senior HS. Lower Dauphin HS took first place with their biodegradable soda ring holder, and will move on to the State Competition at Thaddeus Stevens in May (see picture).

The winners were:

1st Place – Lower Dauphin HS (moving to)

2nd Place – Shippensburg Area Senior HS

3rd Place – Cedar Cliff HS

Special thanks to our business and industry judges from the Foundry Makerspace, Gannett Fleming, and Tadano.



- On February 22, Dr. Tyrone Howard from UCLA will present on "**Why Race and Culture Matter in Schools: Closing the Achievement Gap in America's Classrooms**" as part the Equity and Excellence series.

While race and culture remain important variables in how young people experience schools, they are often misunderstood by educators and school personnel. Building on three studies that investigated schools successful in closing the achievement gap, Tyrone

Howard shows how adopting greater awareness and comprehensive understanding of race and culture can improve educational outcomes.

Important for anyone who is genuinely committed to promoting educational equity and excellence for all children, this presentation, based on the book of the same name:

- Outlines the changing racial, ethnic, and cultural demographics in U.S. schools.
- Calls for educators to pay serious attention to how race and culture play out in school settings.
- Presents empirical data from schools that have improved achievement outcomes for racially and culturally diverse students.
- Focuses on ways in which educators can partner with parents and communities.

Student Services

Program Elect

The ELECT program received feedback from the recent state monitoring and our program is meeting expectations in all monitored areas. The monitors complimented our program on its strong services to students and our connections with other community resources. Big thanks to our Project Elect Staff for their exceptional work!

Preschool – Early Intervention

- Eric Bostick participates on the Foundation for Enhancing Communities' Early Childhood Education Initiative Advisory Committee and attended an early childhood engagement meeting on February 8. Discussions focused on creating a P-3 community in Lebanon, Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, and Franklin counties.
- We have speech/language students from University of South Carolina, Loyola University (MD), Western Kentucky University and East Carolina University. These students are doing their internships in our program and working closely with our Preschool Speech and Language Pathologists.
- Jamie Gordon, Inclusion Consultant, provided a workshop entitled "Designing Classrooms for the Best Social-Emotional Setting" at the Transition to Kindergarten Conference. This event was sponsored by The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, South Middletown School District, Success by 6, and United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland Counties.

Pupil Services

- We were able to secure an Organizational Membership for PAPSA (PA Pupil Services Association). Several administrators were added to this membership to begin receiving information.
- Social workers in the Capital Area Therapeutic Emotional Support (CATES) department are working with PDE to pilot a Behavioral Health Survey to our students. The pilot will begin during the fourth marking period.

Hill Top Academy

- Hill Top Academy will host 14 Messiah College interns during the spring semester. In addition, Hill Top and CAIU staff will provide a series of five seminars to the Messiah students, which will spotlight various services provided by the CAIU.
- Dr. Janylyn Elias will be presenting at the PAEEF Conference in March. Her topic is, 'The Benefits of Online Learning for Students with Disabilities.'

Transition Services

Project Search Interviews and Assessments were held, on February 15, to determine the class of 2019. The team from Hershey Medical Center, OVR, and CAIU met to review the results (scored rubrics) and will be offering spots for next year. We have 15 applicants this year, which is the largest applicant pool that this program has experienced so far.

Occupational Therapy

As of February 1, we have five Messiah graduate students in occupational therapy doing their Level 1 Field Placements at Hill Top Academy. The level one placement is designed to acquaint the students with the educational environment and students with disabilities. One student will be placed with a therapist and the other students are placed with various teachers. The internship is once per week for the entire semester.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Classrooms

On Feb 3, the middle school and high school Deaf and Hard of Hearing classes went to TGI Fridays for lunch and then to the Central PA Food Bank to volunteer.



Prior to the experience, students practiced reading the menu, budgeting for the meal, communication skills to order independently, and how to use appropriate social language and behavior in a public setting. The classes also went to the Central PA Food Bank to volunteer. This activity was part of the formal transition planning that secondary classes often do and the goal was to have the students learn about volunteering, warehouse jobs, and different resources available in the community. One group opened boxes of packaged food and put them into a large container so they can be easily accessed later for other projects while another group scooped 1-pound bags of pasta. They had to scoop,

weigh (adjust the weight as necessary) and tie the bags. The students were given compliments by Food Bank staff on their good work and their teachers were proud of how they conducted themselves. The students enjoyed the experience and even asked if they could return in the future.

Technology Services

2017 Pennsylvania Education Technology Expo and Conference (PETE&C)

PETE&C is a statewide conference that focuses on the creative use of technology in schools. The technology demonstrated is a wide range from instructional to technical solutions. Each year, staff from the CAIU Technology and Curriculum teams provide coordination and technical support to the conference. In addition to the CAIU staff, students from West Shore, Derry Township, and Susquenita School Districts provided support to all the presenters in the breakout rooms and had an opportunity to interact with the vendors. The students all did a fantastic job. Thank you to our districts who permitted students to attend and gain real hands-on experience in technology support.

Technology Training

The Technology Advisory Council (TAC) has continued with its training and collaboration initiative this year so that district's technology staff are prepared to support the staff and students in their classrooms. On Thursday, February 8, the Technology Advisory Council hosted a Microsoft Deployment Toolkit (MDT) training at the CAIU. MDT is a unified collection of tools for automating computer and server deployments. Districts have been increasing their use of MDT and this training centered on setup, configuration and deployment of MDT in their environment. The session was led by CAIU Technology staff and was a collaborative and informative session for all attendees.

Cyber Security Seminar

On March 16, 2018, the CAIU is hosting a legal briefing being led by Mark Walz, an attorney with Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams, regarding Cybersecurity. The intent of this session is to inform district staff of the important aspects and rationale of a Cybersecurity plan. This seminar will set the stage as we establish 3-year goals for CAIU regional Cybersecurity.

NOTIFICATION of ACTIVITIES

- Attended Harrisburg SD CRO Advisory Council meeting
- Active Shooter training, Enola Office
- Toured Loysville YDC
- Governor's "Cabinet in your Community" , Greenwood School District
- The CAIU Wellness Committee is sponsoring a food drive to benefit the Central PA Food Bank this month.
- CAIU Practice Gratitude Activity during the month of February

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: Date Savers

(All Board members are invited to attend any and all)

- March 21-23: PA Excellence in E-Learning Forum, Pocono Manor, PA
- CAIU Regional Computer Fair, Tuesday March 27, Enola Pa
- April 6: Champions for Children Spring Bingo, CAIU Enola, PA