



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report

August 23, 2018

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Introduction of new Assistant Executive Director.

NEWS

Student Services

Staffing

- We are close to being fully staffed for professionals. We have two recent teacher vacancies due to a resignation and a move to a different program; these positions have been posted.
- We are continuing to experience significant shortages and vacancies in our paraeducator and PCA positions. There are approximately fourteen open positions for the start of the 2018-19 school year. This is very challenging as our paraeducators are a critical part of our classroom teams and provide many supports to the students throughout the day.
- We have hired eight new Pupil Services staff (school psychologists, social and mental health workers)
- Kynisha Cloud, Speech & Language Clinician in our Preschool program, has completed her CLM (Competent Learner Module) work and received her CLM Certification.

Congratulations Kynisha!

Hill Top Academy

- Hill Top Academy will open its doors to 110 students on Monday August 27 for the start of the 2018-2019 school year.
- This year, Hill Top Academy is adopting Restorative Practices as another resource for working with students who have a high risk of trauma and mental health needs. We are excited about this opportunity to further support students and a positive school culture. To kick-off this initiative, William Zee of Barley Snyder provided an overview of Restorative Practices to staff on Hill Top's Program Day on August 16. All Hill Top staff will then engage in a book study on implementing Restorative Practices in a school/classroom setting.
- Hill Top has tentatively scheduled its Back-to-School Night for Thursday October 4 at 5:30 pm.

Diakon/CenterPoint

- Diakon Wilderness Center will no longer provide transportation to district-placed students. Districts were contacted in July. This change will result in increased educational time and more potential for work-based learning.
- Diakon is working alongside of Hill Top to adopt a Restorative Practices model at that site. Professional Development and book studies will be introduced at Opening Day next week.

Preschool Parent Note

Dear Eric,

My son just finished his third and final year with the CAIU preschool program, and I wanted to reach out to you to let you know just how happy my husband and I are with the entire team who worked with our son over the last three years. Megan and her team helped him grow in ways we did not think would be possible three years ago. Kynisha, Melissa, Megan, and Joey (and Ms. Val) were always so patient and caring. I reached out to them quite a bit, and they always responded quickly and enthusiastically to any ideas and changes we suggested that might help our son. Whether it was addressing

behavioral issues (he has a tendency to pinch) or switching from PECS and sign language to the Proloquo2go speech app, they were always willing to work with us and address our needs as a family.

I just wanted you to be aware of just how special this team is. My husband and I entered the world of autism a very scared, depressed, and confused family. We were grieving the loss of the life we had envisioned for our only child, and we were unsure of the future. We are still unsure of what the future holds for him, but because of this special team of ladies, we understand so much more and we can see the potential. He can achieve so much with the help of teachers and therapists like them. Please listen to them and help them with whatever they need, because they TRULY understand what our kids need, and they provide the structure and guidance that children with autism need, all in a kind and compassionate atmosphere.

It is because of them that Logan has the foundation and the skills to be able to successfully transition to his next phase of learning. We are forever grateful for them and for everything they have done for our family.

*Sincerely, Mrs. ****

Education Services

- The Educational Services team hosted a **Curriculum Software Showcase** on July 31, 2018 for any district or IU leader interested in learning more about software used for curriculum collaboration, access, alignment and data analysis. The four vendor partners who participated in this day were: Chalk, EduPlanet21, Rubicon Atlas and EdInsight/OnHands Schools, Inc. Twenty-two educational leaders from our region representing nine LEAs were in attendance. A survey was disseminated to attendees to gather feedback on the day to drive further discussions and negotiations with the vendors.
- Planning is underway for the **Third Annual Tinker Expo** on October 23, 2018. The Tinker Expo will offer over ten concurrent sessions related to STEAM, the 4 C's, and the maker movement. Sessions will include interactive sessions in robotics, engineering, coding, design thinking and more. Along with an optional half-day **BREAKOUT EDU** session, this year the Tinker Expo will include a new half-day **DRONES IN EDUCATION** session! Registration is \$100 a person, which will include a \$10 food truck voucher for each attendee. An additional fee for the Drones in Education session of \$150 will apply (includes session, Drone, and Drones in Education book) and an additional fee for the Breakout EDU session is \$75 (includes session and Breakout EDU box and materials). **Register is now open:** <https://tinyurl.com/tinkerexpo18>
- **Open Educational Resources (OER)** training for teachers in Cohort 1 was held at the CAIU on August 9. Teachers from West Shore SD and Shippensburg Area SD curated and evaluated resources aligned to their curriculum while using the OER statewide hub. A copy of the presentation can be found here: <https://goo.gl/yFhF6p>
- A full day workshop on **Text Dependent Analysis** was conducted by the Educational Services team on July 31. This was the first day of a series of workshops examining the components of the Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) prompt for grades 4-8 PSSA's. The training provided attendees with a high-level overview of the components of the TDA. Teachers worked collaboratively on close reading and text selection, learned the difference between summarizing and analysis, identified explicit and implicit evidence, and wrote examples of both fiction and non-fiction prompts. Attendees were encouraged to attend additional half-day workshops offered by the CAIU that dive deeper into each of the components.
- A half-day **Save Your Wikispaces** workshop was conducted by the Educational Services team on August 8. This training guided participants through the process of creating and setting up a new Google Site before being shown how to move content from Wikispaces to their new site. With the upcoming shutdown of our CAIU Private Label Wikispace in January, participants learned how to rescue their content and place it on a Google Site. Another workshop similar to this will be offered to CAIU staff on October 16.

- Sixteen regional teachers attended **the Integrating the 4Cs: Taking Teaching and Learning to the Next Level** workshop on August 2. This highly engaging and very interactive workshop explored ways to integrate the 4Cs (Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity) into classrooms effectively. Educators explored no-tech, low-tech and high-tech methods and strategies that they can take back to use in their elementary/middle school classrooms. There was a heavy focus on STEM education, coding, design challenges, robotics, Makerspace activities, and BreakoutEDU in this workshop.
- District and school administrators from the several LEAs have been collaborating with Jill Neuhard and her team on delivering a personalized professional development package in the areas of instructional technology and coaching. Camp Hill SD, Cumberland Valley SD, Middletown, Millersburg SD, Newport SD, Seven Sorrows, West Perry SD, and St. Stephen's Episcopal School have all committed to a comprehensive package to assist them in growing their capacity internally, increasing rigor in instruction, and ultimately, making students successful in their educational endeavors. More than \$104,000 in revenue will come from these agreements.

Technology Services

Comprehensive Planning Team

- The PA Planning Team concluded the Phase 1 face-to-face Comprehensive Planning (CP) training for the summer. We had approximately 100 attendees from around the state participate in a half day training. The training was geared toward new leaders and new members leading the planning process. During the afternoon, our team spent time working individually with school leaders to personalize their planning efforts while supporting them through the CP process.
- As we wrap up the submissions for School Improvement Plans and the Charter School Annual Report, The PA Planning Team has been communicating with the Department of Education as well as the field to ensure all plans are submitted and approved in a timely manner.
- The CAIU application developers recently completed a new submission workflow for all Title I Schoolwide schools to ensure plans were submitted and approved for federal accountability purposes. The PA Planning Team has been working closely with Regional Coordinator, Maria Garcia, as we finalized the process and now as the review process is taking place.
- As we near the submission date for Phase 3 LEA Comprehensive Plans, our team will conduct a final webinar and several email reminders to guarantee schools are informed and prepared for their November 30, 2018 submission date.
- Starting in the fall, the PA Planning Team will kick off the planning year for Phase 1 LEAs. Opportunities will include webinars, personalized sessions and communications with best practices for moving through the CP process.

NOTIFICATION of ACTIVITIES

- Met with Dr. Donna Dunar, East Penn SD
- Attended Program day events for a variety of IU programs
- Attended DCTS Local Advisory Committee and Board meeting
- Met with the Highmark Caring Place Director, Terese Vorsheck
- Attended Variety Presentation

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: Date Savers *(all Board members are invited to attend any and all)*

- Rescheduled Champions for Children Golf Tournament, Friday, September 14, 2018