

Spring 2009

An e-newsletter published by the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County.

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The Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County Selects Dr. Robert A. Mengerink as Next Superintendent



The Governing Board of the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County (ESCCC) has selected Dr. Robert A. Mengerink as the next Superintendent. His appointment was made official on May 20th during a Governing Board meeting. The Governing Board

conducted a national search over the past three months with the assistance of School Exec Connect, an executive search firm headquartered in Highland Park, Illinois, that specializes in superintendent searches. He will officially become the Superintendent of ESCCC on August 1st.

Dr. Mengerink is currently the Superintendent of Kettering City Schools—an inner ring suburban district with 7,400 students and 1,000 employees. The community has 60,000 residents located just south of Dayton, Ohio.

“We had some outstanding candidates apply for this position,” said Governing Board President Frank Mahnic, Jr. “Dr. Mengerink brings a tremendous amount of experience coupled with an excellent academic background. He is an exceptional leader and recognized in the State of Ohio and the Midwest for his past accomplishments. The Governing Board feels fortunate to be able to attract such an individual to lead our service center. We are excited about the future of the ESC of Cuyahoga County under Dr. Mengerink’s leadership.”

Mengerink received his Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Edinboro State University in Pennsylvania, and went on to receive his Masters in Administration from Cleveland State University. He holds his Doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Akron.

He has worked in several school districts in the State of Ohio, including serving as Superintendent of Northmont City Schools and Associate Superintendent for Business of the Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools. He also served as Director of Elementary Education and Principal for Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools. Mengerink was Principal of Village Complex for Aurora City Schools and a Middle School teacher at Mayfield City Schools.

“This opportunity to be an educational service center superintendent in the largest county in Ohio was a pretty awesome opportunity and one that I have been thinking about for some time,” said Dr. Mengerink.

Besides being Superintendent, Mengerink is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Dayton and Wright State University. He also is a Certified Facilitator of The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.

A recipient of numerous awards during his career, his most recent recognition was being named “Ohio Superintendent of the Year” by BASA and AASA in 2008. He also received the Excellence in Educational Leadership Award from the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA) in 2008. He is a recipient of the Exemplary Educational Leadership Award from BASA in both 2004 and 2008. In 1997, Mengerink received the Rotary Club’s prestigious Service Beyond Self Award.

Mengerink has given numerous professional presentations to such organizations as BASA, Vanderbilt University, Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA), and Montgomery County Educational Service Center, as well as the Rotary Club, Optimists, Junior Women’s League, Chamber of Commerce, and at district events.

(continued from page 1)

Mengerink has his roots in Cuyahoga County. He was one of five children who grew up in Parma. He met his wife, Karen, in high school at Parma Senior High. They graduated in 1968. He was a Cleveland Press All Star and on the *Plain Dealer* Dream Team for

Educational Service Center Awards Humanitarian Scholarships



The Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County presented its annual Humanitarian Awards to students from **Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, and Richmond Heights School Districts**. One student from each middle and high school received the award, presented by a member of the ESC Governing Board at each honoree's recent award assembly. Recipients are nominated by their own school's administration for demonstrating outstanding character and service to the community throughout the past school year. In addition to a cash award of \$500 at the high school level and \$200 for middle school, the six students each received a personalized plaque, starfish pin, and starfish keychain. The starfish represents a short story about one person making a difference.

This year's "ESC Humanitarians" included:

Recipients from Cuyahoga Heights Schools

Victoria Eder (Middle School) - Her entry states, "Victoria continuously shows a positive attitude towards classmates and community. Daily she demonstrates random acts of kindness in her words and actions towards others. When new students join the school, Victoria naturally gravitates toward them to help adjust to the school. Many students she associates with model her kind behavior."

Kayla Evans (High School) - "Kayla has demonstrated her intrinsic goodness in quiet acts of kindness that have surely gone unrecognized by the greater population of the school," said ESC Board Vice President Tom Thacker who presented the awards at both schools. "Kayla participated in the Educational Service Center's Leadership Workshop and joined a select group of students on the planning committee for ESC's "Channel Stress-Handle It Day."

Recipients from Independence Local Schools

Erin Luciano (Middle School) - Her entry states, "This award recognizes Erin for being a true representative of humanitarian ideals and a model student for her classmates to follow. She is a member of the school's Leadership Corps, student council, and a participant in the school's new Friend to Friend program. She always brings a great attitude to school and her enthusiasm for life and learning is amazing."

Football. The Mengerinks have four sons—a teacher, an artist, and two musicians. They have three grandchildren and many relatives who live in Cleveland. "When I told my healthy, vibrant 90-year-old mother about the job and that we were going to be able to spend more time with her, she cried," said Dr. Mengerink. "That is the 'can't refuse' part of this job offer."

Rio Vincz (High School) - Her entry states, "Miss Vincz is very giving of her time because she is passionate about helping other middle school and high school students learn. Rio tutors students on her own time unselfishly. For two years she has been assisting middle school students with homework." ESC Board Member Carol Fortlage presented both Erin and Rio with their awards.

Recipients from Richmond Heights Schools

Alana Lloyd (Middle School) - Her entry states, "Alana is a diligent student and works hard to achieve academic excellence. Alana is a friend to everyone. She is a model citizen and an excellent role model for her peers. She is a quiet leader, and elects to lead by positive example. Alana has been active in athletic endeavors as well. She often volunteers to assist fellow classmates and teachers. She is mature and a well-rounded individual who is liked by her peers and staff." ESC Board Member Tony Hocevar presented Alana with her award.

Kathleen Ellen Behra (High School) - Her entry states, "Katie Behra has been a role model and leader both inside as well as outside of the classroom. Katie has shown that she is a magnanimous person through how she carries herself, how she interacts with others, but most importantly, how she takes every single person's feelings into consideration. Miss Behra is a pleasure to have in class with her demonstrated insights about human nature and her innate ability to place herself in someone else's shoes. She has been a student to look up to and has led her peers with her Key Club and drama leadership. Katie has always shown respect towards everyone that she meets and lends a hand to all who need assistance. Kind, courteous, and generous in spirit would be the best description of this exceptional young lady." ESC Board Member Tony Miceli presented Katie with the award.



Rio Vincz and ESC Board Member Carol Fortlage.



Katie Behra and ESC Board Member Tony Miceli.



Kayla Evans and ESC Board Vice President Tom Thacker.

Gifted & Talented Consortium News



Hyland Software Offers Shadowing Experience to Career-Minded High School Students

On Thursday, February 19th, high school students from **Lakewood, Orange, Beachwood, and North Olmsted** toured and “worked” at Hyland Software in Westlake thanks to a shadowing experience coordinated through the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County. Hyland Software is an international software company with customers throughout North America, Latin America, Europe, and Japan.

Twenty students were exposed to experiences in software development and quality assurance from the personnel at Hyland Software and learned what makes businesses successful in today’s global economy. Students from **Bay Village, Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Rocky River** and **Westlake** had this opportunity in November and **Garfield Heights** participated in May.

More than 100 Students Explore the Arts at the Beck Center for the Arts

In March, the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood opened its doors to more than 100 arts-motivated seventh graders from **Bay Village, Brecksville–Broadview Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Fairview Park, Garfield Heights, Independence, Richmond Heights, and Westlake** so that they could explore a variety of cultural arts experiences in an actual arts setting and to meet peers with similar interests in the arts.

Students participated in 30-minute sessions of mime, dance, clay, television production, improvisation and other types of visual and performing arts experiences with professionals from the Beck Center for the Arts.

The Beck Center for the Arts is a non-profit, performing arts and arts education organization dedicated to enriching the quality of life for Northeastern Ohioans. The Center combines professional theatrical productions with comprehensive curriculum-based arts education in creative arts, therapies, dance, music, theater, and visual arts, serving over 100,000 annually in Cuyahoga, Lorain, Lake, and Summit Counties.



Gifted & Talented Consortium News

Students Excel in Their Knowledge of Presidents During ESCCC's Mr. Presidents' Games

With the inauguration of our 44th President on January 20th and Presidents' Day celebrated in February, United States Presidents were top of mind for students at Brooklyn High School. On Tuesday, February 24th, more than 135 students in grades 4-8 came to the Brooklyn High School auditorium to compete in the Northeast Regional Academic Games Mr. Presidents' Competition organized through the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County.



Top Fifth Grade Winner from Richmond Heights

More than 10 different school districts participated from Cuyahoga and Lake Counties and students from **Brooklyn** School District excelled in the competition. Students had prepared an individual resource file on the Presidents of the 20th and 21st centuries in their individual classrooms. Weighted questions were asked and the students identified the President by secret ballot using their resource file. At the end of the competition, scores were tallied and the winners for each grade level, overall student winner and school were announced. There was even a special visit by Theodore Roosevelt who ate lunch with the children and helped pass out the awards. First place overall went to **Rocky River** Schools.

The participating districts included **Bay Village, Brooklyn, Cuyahoga Heights, Fairview Park, Garfield Heights, Kirtland, Olmsted Falls, Richmond Heights, Rocky River, Warrensville Heights** and **Westlake**.

Grade level winners included:

Grade 4

- 1st Place: Peter Wilson – Rocky River
- 2nd Place: Phil Lally – Bay Village
- 3rd Place: Andrew Gluntz – Rocky River
Dana Way – Rocky River
Sophie Manoloff – Rocky River



Fourth Grade Winners

Grade 5

- 1st Place: Jennifer Humarchuk – Richmond Heights
- 2nd Place: Allison Vincent – Brooklyn
- 3rd Place: Deja Campbell – Garfield Heights
- 4th Place: Kyle Petryk – Bay Village



Fifth Grade Winners Brooklyn Schools

Grade 6

- 1st Place: Lauren Celluci – Westlake
- 2nd Place: Yahia Ali – Olmsted Falls
Rachael Williams – Bay Village
- 3rd Place: Laura McDiarmid – Westlake



Sixth Grade Winners

Grade 7 & 8

- 1st Place: Cameron Taylor – Bay Village
- 2nd Place: Cecelia Dahlinger – Bay Village
- 3rd Place: Lametria Carlton – Westlake
Virag Varga – Bay Village



Seventh & Eighth Grade Winners

Students wrote to President Obama to congratulate him, as well as provided suggestions on what he should do to help the country.

Channel Stress, Handle It!

A Workshop For High School Students to Learn How to Handle Stress

The Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County's Gifted & Talented Consortium's Annual Stress Conference, Channel Stress, Handle It! was held in various meeting rooms at the ESCCC campus on Thursday, April 30th. Channel Stress, Handle It! is a workshop that is planned completely by students for students to teach them how to relieve and manage stress.

High School students from **Bay Village, Bedford, Cuyahoga Heights, Fairview Park, North Olmsted,** and **Richmond Heights** met faithfully with Cleveland Museum of Natural History and ESCCC personnel to make this a very successful conference for high school students. More than 100 students attended this event that included more than 10 breakout sessions, breakfast, lunch and a speaker to end the conference.



Breakout session topics included massage therapy, dream school, yoga, nutrition, drum circle, improvisation, laughing, aromatherapy, and hip hop dancing. The guest speaker at lunch was Jennifer Landrey, who spoke on ways to relieve stress in your life. She is the mother of Hannah Brown, a student from North Olmsted High School, who was on the planning committee.



Orienteering for 7th Grade Students

In May, seventh grade students from **Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Fairview Park, Garfield Heights,** and **Richmond Heights** participated in a workshop involving finding one's way in an unknown area using a compass. Students had an opportunity to develop skills in using a map and compass while strengthening their logical reasoning strategies. The workshop took place in the Cleveland Metroparks in Strongsville.



Recognition Awards & Honors

ESCCC Board Members Receive the 2009 OSBA Award of Achievement

On Wednesday, March 18th, the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) at Austintown Fitch High School in Youngstown honored Frank Mahnic, Jr., President of the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County and Tony Hocevar, member of the ESCCC Board, with the 2009 OSBA Award of Achievement. Hocevar also was recognized for 10 years of service to the Board.

The OSBA Award of Achievement is presented to a very select group each year. Of the more than 3,400 board members in Ohio, only 74 will receive the honor in 2009. Award recipients are rewarded for continuing education credits which are received for attending seminars, workshops and conferences throughout the year. In addition, credits are awarded for leadership positions such as President, delegate, and serving on boards and state committees.

"Their efforts reflect a true commitment toward public education and the importance they attach to their roles on the ESCCC School Board," said Al Meloy, OSBA Deputy Director of Search Services and Board of Development.



Frank Mahnic, Jr.



Tony Hocevar

ESCCC Hosts Chamber Breakfast Featuring Jim Rokakis

Cuyahoga County Treasurer Jim Rokakis addressed the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce at a Breakfast Networking Meeting this past April at the Educational Service Center's Professional Development Center in Valley View. Approximately 100 people attended the continental breakfast and listened to Rokakis speak about the foreclosure crisis in Cuyahoga County and his plan to help bring economic vitality back to Cleveland.

ESCCC's Linda Hile Named Ohio Coordinator of the Year

On March 5th, the Ohio Association of Supervisors and Coordinators for Exceptional Students (OASCES) named Linda Hile as the Ohio Coordinator of the Year for 2008-09. In statements of support, her peers applauded her leadership, knowledge, and dedication to creating successes in the lives of the students she serves.



Ms. Hile joins an elite group of 32 Ohio educators who have been honored since 1976 for their professionalism and dedication to student accomplishments. Ms. Hile is employed by the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County as a Work-Study Coordinator. She has been actively involved in local and state professional activities. Currently, Ms. Hile is serving as OASCES state treasurer and also serving on numerous committees.

OASCES (pronounced "oasis") was formed in 1975 with a mission of promoting professional excellence in the field of special education. The association has taken a proactive role in the development and implementation of special education services in the State of Ohio. Over the past 34 years it has become the largest special education organization in the state. Special Education Supervisors, Work-Study Coordinators and Transition to Work (TTW) Service Providers actively participate in the organization.

OASCES is recognized by the Ohio Office for Exceptional Children as a key organization involved in the shaping of special education programs and services. As such, OASCES and the Office for Exceptional Children enjoy open communication and reciprocal participation in meetings and committees on a regular basis.



ESCCC Board President Frank Mahnic, Jr., Cuyahoga County Treasurer Jim Rokakis, ESCCC Board Member Tony Hocevar, and ESCCC Board Vice President Tom Thacker.

Recognition Awards & Honors

Dr. Eastridge Receives Phi Delta Kappa Educator Award

The North Coast Ohio Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa awarded Dr. Harry Eastridge with the most prestigious award given each year – the Educator/Kappan Award. He was recognized at a dinner on May 19th at Baldwin-Wallace College.

This award is presented to member Kappans who have significantly contributed to public education in general and to each Phi Delta Kappa Chapter individually. These are educators who have devoted their entire professional lives to improving public education by making significant contributions in assisting students to improve academically and assisting other educators

to improve professionally. In addition, they have personally contributed in either educational leadership, educational service, and/or educational research which are the three major tenants of Phi Delta Kappa.

Also recognized with the award this year were Mary Maul, Principal, Scranton Elementary, **Cleveland Municipal School District** and Gerry Knapp, Teacher, Butternut Elementary, **North Olmsted City Schools**. In the 26 years of the North Coast Ohio Chapter, this award has never been given to more than one individual. All three educators are retiring at the conclusion of this school year.

Programs

News from Rose-Mary Center School

Rose-Mary Center School held a school formal on Friday, May 8th from 1-2 p.m. The theme was the 1960s, and everyone enjoyed the decorations as well as dancing to the DJ. Students and staff were able to dress up (formal or Sunday best) for the event. Parents attended and had a great time with their children.

On Friday, June 5th, Rose-Mary Center had one student graduate. The graduate received a diploma from the district and a certificate of program completion from the ESCCC. The ESCCC and district representatives attended, as well as parents, students and staff. The program also featured a slide show of the graduate, and an all-school slide show.

News from North Coast Academy

North Coast Academy had a blood drive on April 15th for the American Red Cross. Twenty pints of blood were collected which was an increase of 30% from the drive held in January. Donors received American Red Cross dog tags to wear. There was also a drawing for those who gave or attempted to give. Lorenzo Hite won a \$10 iTunes card and Garron Parks won a Warp concert t-shirt. Any student who donates blood again this summer will be given an opportunity to attend the festivities for the Warp Summer Concert Experience.

Graduation information on page 10.



Jennifer Felker,
Mr. & Mrs. Manos,
Nicholas Manos,
Curtis Beckham,
Patty Ott.

Recognition Awards & Honors

Dr. Eastridge is Honored at PEP Rally for Kids

Positive Education Program (PEP) proudly recognized Dr. Harry Eastridge, Superintendent of the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County, as its First Annual PEP Rally for Kids Honoree for his commitment and devotion to the education and well-being of children across Ohio. His illustrious career in education has been defined by trust, vision, leadership and an unyielding belief in the potential of all children.

The First Annual PEP Rally for Kids was held on Thursday, May 21st, and over 200 guests were in attendance to show their support of Dr. Eastridge. Keynote speaker Deborah S. Delisle, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Ohio Department of Education, expressed her great pride in being part of this event that honored her friend and colleague, whom she described as a personal inspiration. She explained that in her travels, she's seen first-hand that Dr. Eastridge's focus on excellence, eternal optimism and visionary leadership have been felt across the State.

In presenting this award, Frank A. Fecser, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of Positive Education Program, expressed Dr. Eastridge's deep conviction that as adults, it is important to truly understand the importance of one's influence on the life of a child.



His compassion and contributions have been felt by thousands of children, educators and administrators. A passionate advocate for children, Dr. Eastridge has been an important partner to Positive Education Program for many years, and it is especially fitting that he be recognized as the first PEP Rally for Kids Honoree.

Education Alternatives' Senior Gathering

On Monday, May 18th, the graduating class from Education Alternative's five sites gathered at the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County for their annual Senior Gathering. The Senior Gathering is held in recognition of the graduates' hard work and accomplishments and provides encouragement for the years to come. This year, the graduates listened to a presentation from Jamie White, a Rehabilitation Program Specialist with the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. Ms. White's interactive and upbeat presentation focused on the transition from high school to adulthood and particularly concentrated on the decisions adults must make in the areas of career and education. Overall, the staff and students had an enjoyable time at the luncheon and were very appreciative of the opportunity to celebrate their graduation.



Meet Our ESC Staff

Nina Stein Administrative Assistant



Nina Stein was born in Urbana, IL and moved to Floral Park on Long Island, NY where she attended school and graduated from Sewahanaka High School. After graduation she moved to Cleveland, OH with her family and worked for Equitable Life Insurance Company at 3100 Euclid Avenue (PEP is there now) and Commercial Credit Corporation in Parma where she met her husband-to-be.

Nina and Ralph married at St. Charles Church in Parma and had 5 children (four girls and one boy). Nina was a "stay at home mom" until Ralph decided to establish his own financial planning practice. This introduced Nina to the computer world and her second career as an administrative assistant began.

Since joining the ESCCC in 1996 as an assistant to the Gifted and Talented Consortium she has continued to be the support person for them. Along with these duties, she is the Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Dr. Harry Eastridge and is responsible for preparing agendas, recording minutes and other work for the Governing Board as well as working on content for the *ESC Connection* and the *ESC Staffer*, the inside newsletter at the ESCCC. As a member of the Educational Office Professionals of Ohio (EOPO), Nina was the Scholarship Chair for two years.

In her free time, she is active in the Middleburg Heights Women's Club, enjoys gardening and spending time with her family and nine grandchildren.

Helen Brown Financial Specialist



Helen Brown was born in Cleveland, OH and grew up in the city of East Cleveland. She worked at Hough Bakery as a teenager and after graduating from Shaw High School, spent 11 years as a payroll clerk for Bearings, Inc. located at 3600 Euclid Avenue in Cleveland. From there, she went to the Maple Heights Board of Education to work as their payroll clerk and joined the ESCCC in 1997 as the Financial Specialist for Payroll.

Helen has three sons, Brandon, Anthony, and Justin, and resides in Maple Heights. She has a passion for helping people and is very active in her worship center, NewBirth Missionary Church, as a trustee, youth advisor and the Vice Chair of NewBirth Development Corporation. The Development Corporation has recently been chosen by the city of East Cleveland as its Community Housing Development Organization. She is also the Vice President of their daycare center, Hannah's Child Development Center, which has three locations.

Helen enjoys laughing a lot, encouraging others, shopping, cooking and just plain having fun.

Reception Area in Lobby

When you visit the ESCCC building, you will notice a new reception area in the lobby to welcome and direct visitors in the building. Diana Paluscsak, the receptionist, will greet you with a warm, friendly smile.



North Coast Academy Graduates 28 Students



North Coast Academy Education Resource Center held its first graduation in its new location at Richmond Town Square on Thursday, May 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Macy's corridor of the mall.

The school is under the auspices of the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County and partners with the Simon Youth Foundation, the Ohio Department of

Education and 13 school districts that comprise the consortium of schools that refers at-risk students to the program.

The school graduated 28 students who received their certificates of completion allowing them to also receive their diplomas from their sending school districts. The graduates represent students from **Beachwood, Cleveland Heights, Chagrin Falls, Orange and Shaker Heights Schools.**

Dr. Christopher Chalker, Vice President of Educational Services of the Simon Youth Foundation, presented six graduating students with renewable four year scholarships from the Simon Youth Foundation. The scholarship recipients are:

Elizabeth Drake	\$1,500 (Cleveland Hts/University Hts Schools)
Evan Fantz	\$7,000 (Chagrin Falls Schools)
Nakisha Jackson	\$3,000 (Cleveland Hts/University Hts Schools)
Brenton O'Bryant	\$7,000 (Shaker Schools)
Michael Stout	\$7,000 (Cleveland Hts/University Hts Schools)
Caitlyn Harrill	\$3,500 (Shaker Schools)

Andre Moultry was awarded \$500 from the architectural firm Dorsky Hodgson Parish Yue to use for his future education for his Academic Achievement.

State Representative Kenny Yuko welcomed the graduates and their families and Mall Manager Tony Pestyk said a few words as well. Beachwood High School Assistant Principal Paul Chase addressed the graduates.

Awards were given to the graduates and some of the returning students.

North Coast Academy relocated to Richmond Town Square above the Sears this past August. Because of the relocation, the Academy was able to accept more

students due to the increased space of the new facility, as well as an on-going waiting list of over 20 students throughout the year. When the new school's doors opened on August 24th NCA increased its capacity from 70 to 80 students and in January hired an additional instructor and admitted an additional 20 students bringing the program capacity to 100 students divided evenly in half-day sessions.



Creating Cultural Connections

Creating Cultural Connections is a professional development program to enhance cultural competencies and global awareness. The Ohio Department of Education is advocating international-mindedness to prepare our students for the global context in which they will live and work. The series of professional development programs will run from Spring through Fall 2009. On April 22nd, 33 local teachers met for a day-long workshop with 16 international teachers who are in residency at Kent State University through the State Department and International Research Exchanges Board's International Leaders in Education Program. Teachers learned about one another's professional and personal lives and made connections for possible classroom exchanges once the international teachers return to their homelands. The series of programs includes book discussions, a film viewing, International School Walk protocols, and International Development Inventory assessments.



Local teachers will create lesson plans or an event with an international focus to be implemented by International Education Week during November 2009. Teachers may earn graduate credit through Kent State University. The program is funded in part by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation and is offered in collaboration with Kent State's Gerald H. Read Center for International and Intercultural Education. Contact **Nadine Grimm**, at 216-901-4243 or nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org.



Teaching American History Grant CCC America Explores Invention and Technology

The history of American expansion, technology, and inventiveness were the topics of the Spring 2009 programs for Constructing, Consuming and Conserving America, a three-year Teaching American History program being coordinated by the ESCCC. During the first year of the program, more than 50 teachers explored the theme of Constructing America—immigration, building community, the rise of industry and technology, the labor movement, urbanization.

During February, teacher teams participated in a book discussion of *Nature's Metropolis* by William Cronon that discusses the natural resources of the United States, development of waterways and railroads, and the founding of commodities markets, all of which contributed to the development of the nation. During March, Andre Millard, professor of history at the University of Alabama—Birmingham, gave a public lecture that considered the history of popular music and how musicians creatively alter their instruments, audio and technical equipment, and musical performances to fit their creative needs and practical applications.

The following day, on March 26th, Historian Millard led a workshop for teachers focusing on American inventors and the products of their creative invention. Millard is an expert on social history and author of *Edison and the Business of*

Innovation. He led a discussion about specific inventions, such as the phonograph, electric light bulb, and the motion picture camera, and about the rise of industrial organizations, mass production, and product marketing. Participants had hands-on activities with WRHS (Western Reserve Historical Society) artifacts, including the incandescent bulb, Edison phonographs, and voice and musical recordings on foil and wax cylinders and on diamond discs. Under the direction of master teachers, participants considered ways that the historical content and resources might relate to their own curriculum and classroom activities, or how the experiential methods and formats modeled may apply to other topics and content they teach.

CCC America teachers participated in a workshop during May at Cleveland State University. Topics included web resources for teaching, the American census and local census data from Cleveland neighborhoods, and Cleveland Memory resources. A Summer Institute will include field trips and research on primary sources to tie teachers' newly-acquired content knowledge to local history. In addition, they will be trained on software to create on-line exhibits of digitized primary resources for their own classroom teaching.

We welcome additional teacher teams to join this program that provides benefits that include participant stipends, educational materials for classroom use, a three-year membership to the Western Reserve Historical Society, field trips for classes, summer institutes, and payment to school districts for substitute teachers. For information, please contact CCC America Program Manager, **Nadine Grimm**, at 216-901-4243 or nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org.

Grants

Dual Credit Core Program

Administrators and faculty from Cuyahoga Community College met with administrators and teachers from **Olmsted Falls** and **South Euclid-Lyndhurst** Districts on April 21st at the ESCCC for a professional development program. The Dual Credit Core Program provides simultaneous high school and college credit for high school students who can then transfer credits to any Ohio state university. Brush High School students study Spanish and German. Students at Olmsted Falls participated in courses in Advanced Mathematics. At the professional

development meeting, faculty and teachers met to discuss course work, testing, and educational trends in their fields. Math teachers met with NASA educational specialists, James B. Fitzgerald and Norman F. "Storm" Robinson, who guided hands-on activities about the use of calculus and algebra in rocket production and space technology. Modern Language instructors learned about the latest trends in Foreign Language Writing Proficiency from Professor Antonio Medina-Rivera of Cleveland State University's Department of Modern Languages. The Department of Education's Dual Credit Core Program provides opportunities for professional travel and development for educators who participate.

Ukraine Educators Visit ESC

On April 28th, six Ministers of Education from the Ukraine visited the Educational Service Center to learn more about the operations and the services of our regional school administrative organization. Philip Price from **Mayfield**

Heights and Doug Sebring from **North Olmsted** participated in the program along with ESCCC directors. The Ministers were in the US as part of the Open World Program. They visited the US Department of Education and Senator George Voinovich's office while in Washington, DC prior to their visits with Ohio Department of Education staff and with the ESCCC personnel.

Recreation Fair for Kids with Disabilities Draws Hundreds To Explore Summer Opportunities

With the challenges faced by parents of children with disabilities, the ARC of Greater Cleveland and the Northeast Ohio Parent Mentor Project in partnership with the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County, hosted the 11th Annual Recreation Fair for Families of Children with Disabilities on February 28th. The event took place at St. Michael Woodside Party Center in Broadview Heights and attracted nearly 400 people. The participation in this event has grown since the 95 people it drew its first year.



Many local and regional organizations offer not only recreational opportunities but also academic and therapeutic choices throughout the year for children with disabilities.

"Families of children with disabilities struggle to find accessible and meaningful recreational opportunities for their children," said Terri McIntee, a family and community involvement consultant with the ESCCC. "For some students, nine months of learning is not enough for them to close the achievement gap, and sometimes additional academic and therapeutic choices help level the playing field when they return to school in the fall."

Forty representatives from area camps and organizations were available to answer questions and share information.

"The recreation fair was very resourceful and interactive with the story telling and the soap box derby was a nice touch. I plan to attend all future recreation fairs," said parent Calista J. Codougan.



"As a project manager and co-chair of the Family Council, we appreciate the opportunity to participate in this event showcasing opportunities for students with disabilities. It's not always easy to locate appropriate educational and enriching summer activities for our children. The recreation and educational activity guide distributed that day are treated like gold by all. Participants and local groups who support students with special needs are featured with contact information. Parents and school staff members want to get their hands on such a fine resource prior to registering for summer events," said Lisa A. Neumeyer. "We all enjoy the beautiful atmosphere of St. Michael Woodside along with ample parking and the accessibility for people with disabilities. Many thanks go to the staff of the ESCCC and SST-3 who enrich the lives of so many with this beneficial project."

ETR/IEP Training Sessions

The staff of the State Support Team Region 3 (SST-3) offered both full and half-day workshops that provided intensive training for district level personnel on the new Ohio Department of Education / Office for Exceptional Children approved forms for the Evaluation Team Report (ETR) and the Individual Education Program (IEP). The training sessions provided expert direction and guidance on the characteristics of the ETR and IEP forms as well as guided interpretation of the accompanying annotated version booklets.



Teachers Learn How to Use New Digital Microscopes

Jim Luteran, retired principal from Olmsted Falls, led a class for science teachers at the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County this past April on a new digital microscope which connects up to a computer through a USB port.

The new technology allows the teachers to magnify items up to 200x and display the images on Smartboards or computer screens for the whole class to view. This amazing microscope can also take timelapse pictures, create movies, and edit digital files of the items being viewed by the students. During the session Mr. Luteran had live insects, worms, flower petals, leaves, and even money to demonstrate the awesome power of this new educational tool. The teachers who

attended were from the **Cleveland Heights/University Heights School District** and **Southeast Local Schools**. They agreed that these microscopes were impressive and they would get hours of use in their classrooms.



Local Students Attend Chamber Functions

Thanks to the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County, students from **Independence** and **Cuyahoga Heights** Schools have the opportunity to attend the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce luncheons. Students recently attended the Chamber's "Spring into Wellness Fair and Luncheon" at the Holiday Inn on April 24th.



ESC Board Vice President Tom Thacker, who also serves on the board of the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber, is pictured with students and guidance counselors from Independence and Cuyahoga Heights Schools.



Professional Development Opportunities

Mark Your Calendar for the Annual Scholars Academy

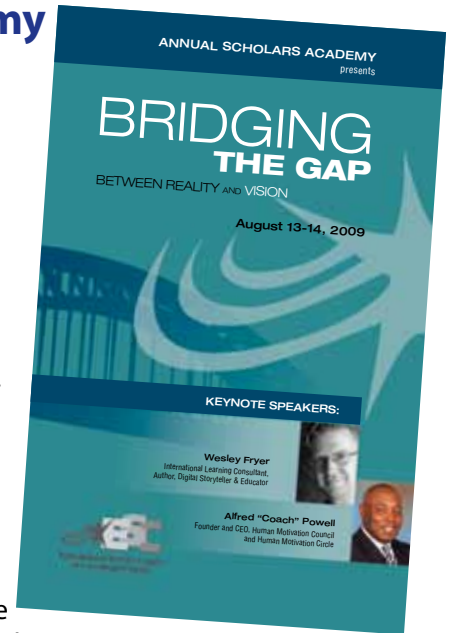
Each year in August, administrators from area school districts in Cuyahoga County come together for a two-day administrative retreat. This year, the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County is planning another successful academy at the Bertram Hotel and Conference Center in Aurora. The keynote speakers will be Wesley Fryer, international learning consultant, author, digital storyteller and educator, and Alfred "Coach" Powell, founder and CEO of Human Motivation Council and Human Motivation Circle.

Fryer will be speaking on "Reinventing Education for the 21st Century (Designing School 2.0)" on Thursday, August 13th from 10 a.m. – noon. On Friday, August 14th from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Powell will be speaking on "Coaching in the Classroom: Helping Underserved Students Win the Game of Academic Excellence."

Administrators are welcome to join the ESC on one or both days. Costs are \$125 for Thursday only and

\$75 for Friday only. The full conference is \$200, meals are included. Overnight accommodations will be available at a rate of \$109/night. The deadline for registration is July 1st.

In addition, meeting rooms will be available, upon request, for district use. To reserve your meeting room, please contact **Nina Stein**, Administrative Assistant, at 216- 901-4201. For additional information, please visit our website at www.esc-cc.org.



Entry Year

Forty-three teachers participated in the ESCCC's Entry Year Teacher Program. Each entry year teacher selected an article that presented a classroom strategy or project for using technology, behavior management, student assessment, collaborating with families or developing IEPs. Each teacher then worked to implement this strategy or project in their own classroom with the support of their mentor teacher. As a culminating activity for the school year, teachers created a poster display reflecting on their project, how it worked in the classroom and what they learned or would have changed. This poster session not only gave every teacher time to try and reflect on a new strategy in their classroom, but also presented a lot of new ideas to other teachers in the program.



New from the North Coast Media Center

As the 2008-09 school year winds down, the NCEMC has begun to receive contracts from member schools for 2009-2010. We have added Bloom's to our on-line offerings that include Biography Resource Center, ABC-CLIO, Today's Science and Country Reports. Our consortium pricing will help our member schools realize a 50-75% savings for the upcoming school year. We will continue to offer videos, DVDs, books on tape and CDs as well as discounted pricing on Discovery Education streaming and Learn 360 streaming. We will be hosting a Day of Discovery in September for member schools purchasing the streaming option, and continue to offer in-services for any of our databases. Please visit our website at www.ncemc.org. For more information, contact **Roni Staimpel** at 216-642-8523 or roni.staimpel@esc-cc.org.