

Chamber State of the Schools Luncheon Features Superintendents

The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce held its annual State of the Schools luncheon on May 16th at the Holiday Inn in Independence. More than 150 business, civic, school and community leaders attended. The superintendents of the ESC of Cuyahoga County, Independence Local Schools, Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools, and Cuyahoga Valley Career Center presented.

All the superintendents stressed the importance of working with their local business community to help educate the workforce of tomorrow.

The chamber also presented five \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors from Independence High School, Cuyahoga Heights High School, and Trinity High School.



L-R: Independence Superintendent Steve Marlow, Cuyahoga Heights Superintendent Edwin Holland, CVCC Superintendent Celena Roebuck, and ESC Superintendent Bob Mengerink.

The ESC is partnering with the chamber in planning the 3rd annual golf outing at Astorhurst on Friday, September 7th. Money raised will go towards the 2013 high school scholarships. Interested in golfing? Contact the chamber office at 216-573-2707 or log on to www.cuyahogavalleychamber.org.

Rose-Mary Center School Prom

With a country western theme, students at the Rose-Mary Center School in Tremont enjoyed their prom dance this past May. Special thanks to Director Lisa Adler and her staff for planning a wonderful afternoon for the students.



Rose-Mary Center School is a facility that educates approximately 40 disabled students (ages 5-22) from throughout Northeast Ohio. It is run by the ESC.

City of Independence resident Rebecca Fabich and student at the Rose-Mary Center School enjoys her time at the prom held this spring.

Regional Summer Academy Returns

The Cuyahoga County Regional Summer Academy was developed and piloted in summer 2011 in response to Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson's call for more regional efforts to address the needs and academic persistence of at-risk students. This Summer Academy, developed in partnership with the City of Cleveland, Cleveland Metropolitan School District and 11 partner districts, is coordinated by the ESC. It is held on the Metropolitan Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) to provide rigorous educational and enrichment opportunities as students transition to ninth and tenth grade. With the support of College Now of Greater Cleveland, the Summer Academy was developed to better prepare students for high school transition and expectations, increase college readiness skills, career planning and student aspirations. Students participate in project-based learning opportunities in English/Language Arts, mathematics, literature and social studies. These projects provide students an opportunity to think globally and interact with real-world situations.

the ESC Community Connection

Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County

SUMMER 2012



Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County Offering New Online Learning Program Beginning this Fall

The ESC of Cuyahoga County is launching an online learning program this fall for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The program hopes to attract and retain students who are enrolled in an online community school or who are home-schooled.

"This program will enable a student's home district to offer a full or part-time online curriculum so that the students will have even more opportunities and choices offered to them than they would have if they chose to enroll in an online charter school," said Dr. Bob Mengerink, ESC Superintendent. "This new program gives students the opportunity to return to their home districts to earn a local diploma and participate in district sports and extra curricular activities."

In partnership with The National Network of Digital Schools, The ESC is offering the innovative Lincoln Interactive curriculum to students in grades K-12. This award-winning and nationally recognized curriculum is aligned to Ohio's standards and is in use in 18 states.

Each course uses a variety of online and hands-on approaches to accommodate different types of learners. Students have the opportunity to experience web casts, experiments, PowerPoint presentations, videos and learning games. There are more than 250 courses in math, language arts, science, social studies, reading, wellness, visual arts and a wide variety of electives. They offer five languages: Chinese, Spanish, French, German and Latin. The Cutting Edge Science courses cover some of the most important areas of study in contemporary science and engineering fields. Offered to

high school students, these elective courses introduce contemporary topics relevant to today's STEM careers. Topics include engineering, solar technologies, biofuels, genetics, sports medicine, forensic science and more.

"Many districts are losing a substantial amount of funding because of students attending charter schools or being home-schooled in their district.

With this new program the economic benefits for these districts are significant and the additional options for their students provide previously unavailable opportunities," continued Mengerink.

Those families interested in learning more need to contact their district of residence for information and/or to register. Details can also be found at www.OhioOnlineLearning.org.

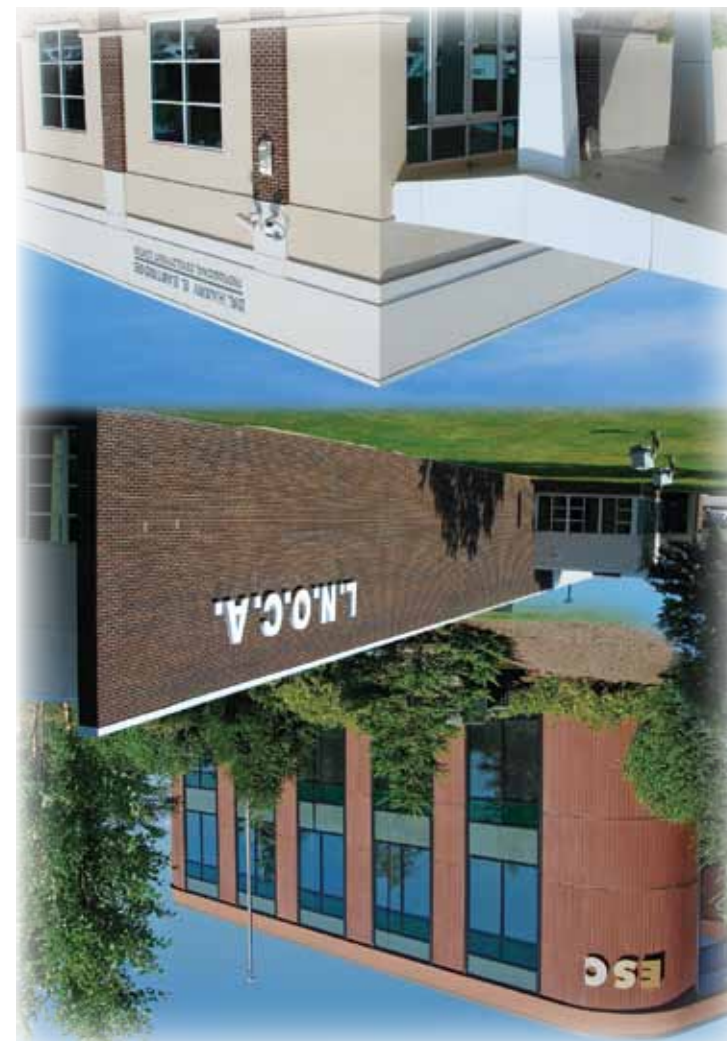


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“Recognizing Excellence in Education for Students with Disabilities” Spring Recognition Program

On May 11th, more than 200 people came together for the 26th Recognition of Excellence in Education for Students with Disabilities awards program at the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center in Valley View. The event is planned by the ESC of Cuyahoga County and the State Support Team Region 3.

The recognition brunch is an opportunity for educators, teachers, students and community members to celebrate the great things that are happening in public education today. Students, peers, parents, educators, paraprofessional and educational aides, as well as community partners received awards.



The keynote speaker was Mary Verdi-Fletcher, President and Founding Artistic Director of the Dancing Wheels Company and School. As one of the world's first and foremost professional wheelchair dancers, Mary has been a



pioneering force in the development and success of physically integrated dance for more than 30 years.

Seeing the need for training and career opportunities for dancers of all ability levels, Ms. Verdi-Fletcher created the multi-arts Dancing Wheels School in 1990. Attracting students from around the globe, the school is becoming the worldwide center for physically integrated dance.

“Today, we are celebrating those individuals who are the dream makers, cheerleaders, coaches and those that know nothing really is impossible for them,” said Verdi-Fletcher. “The sky is the limit.”

This awards program is funded by IDEA, Title VI-B Grants to States through the Ohio Department of Education grants to the ESC, fiscal agent for the State Support Team-Region 3.

Congratulations to Independence Local Schools’ Derek Topola for receiving the Outstanding Student Achievement Award. Megan Hanchette, special education specialist for Independence Local Schools, received the Outstanding Educator Achievement Award.



North Coast Academy Honor Students’ Achievements at Graduation Ceremony

More than 30 students celebrated their accomplishments at North Coast Academy’s graduation ceremony on June 6th in the Macy’s corridor at Richmond Town Square. The 2012 graduates hail from several school districts including Beachwood, Mayfield, Cleveland Heights-University Heights and Shaker Heights.

Simon Youth Foundation (SYF), a non-profit organization, supports the Simon Youth North Coast Academy (NCA), located above Sears, at Richmond Town Square that provides alternative learning environments for at-risk high school students. NCA focuses on transforming the life of youth and offers courses tailored to meet the specific needs of each student, while catering to various learning styles and instructional needs. The academy also improves educational opportunities and career development for its students.

NCA is run by the ESC of Cuyahoga County, which supervises the educational efforts and purchases the computers, on-line curriculum and other materials used in the daily instruction of the students.

“These students have shown dedication and determination throughout their time at NCA and deserve to be recognized for their accomplishments,” said Rena Wertheim, director of NCA.

During the ceremony a SYF scholarship worth \$7,000 to attend a four-year institution was presented to graduate DeAngelo Merritt from Shaker Heights High School. Melissa Slaughter and Nick Lyons from Cleveland Heights High School and Daniel Bincofsky from Beachwood High School each received \$3,000 for attending a two-year post-secondary program. Each scholarship is renewable for the length of the program if a 2.0 GPA or above is maintained.

Over the school's 12 year history, 34 SYF scholarships have been awarded, improving the chances these graduates have of accessing a post-secondary education.

The SYF has also provided the students with state of the art equipment for the school, facilitating field trips to tour local college campuses. Students recently attended a Holocaust education program where they were able to hear a first hand account from a Holocaust survivor and tour a museum with artifacts of the period. The students gained knowledge of the causes of WWII, the impact of propaganda and information about stereotyping and prejudice. This program is hosted by Congregation Shaarey Tikvah, a local synagogue.

“NCA is a wonderful community asset and we are proud to be a part of the wonderful work it does for youth in our area,” said Kate Anderson, area director of marketing & business development, Simon Property Group.

Three graduates shared their personal success stories with fellow students and families during the ceremony. Certificates of completion were handed to each graduate by Dr. Robert Mengerink, Superintendent of the ESC and Steve Rogaski, Director of Pupil Services of the ESC. The address to the graduates was given by Robert Ross, Director of Pupil Services of Mayfield City Schools.



Students Awarded for Making the Difference

The ESC of Cuyahoga County recently named several area students as recipients of their annual Humanitarian Awards. Recipients were nominated by administrators in their schools for showing leadership and community service as well as possessing great character during the 2011-2012 school year.

One student from each middle and high school in the communities of Cuyahoga Heights, Independence and Richmond Heights received the

scholarships and award. The awards were presented by ESC board members at their individual schools’ award assemblies during the months of May and June.

In addition to a cash award, students received a personalized plaque, starfish pin and starfish keychain. The starfish is the symbol of a story of the impact one person can make in a community.

This year’s ESC Humanitarians include:

Recipients from Cuyahoga Heights Schools

William Charles Pelfrey, eighth-grader at Cuyahoga Heights Middle School

In the nomination, it was noted that Charlie, as he is called, constantly performs random acts of kindness at his school and in the community. “Charlie naturally gravitates toward those in need, offering assistance and encouragement. He does not do this because he is asked; he does this because it is part of his nature.”



Maria Falorio, graduating senior at Cuyahoga Heights High School

Maria’s nomination stated, “Maria treats all students equally and always has a positive attitude. She never turns down an opportunity to help a teacher, fellow student or any other staff person associated with the school. She treats all students as if they are her friends and goes out of her way to stop and talk to those who may not have as many friends.” ESC Board Member Frank Mahnic presented both of these awards.



Recipients from Independence Local Schools



Kathleen George, eighth-grader at Independence Middle School

Kathleen’s nomination shared how she volunteers and helps others by tutoring and being a peer mediator. “She never puts herself first. Her kindness shines through her positive demeanor. It is said that some have glasses half full and some half empty;

Kathleen’s is bubbling over.” ESC Board President Carol Fortlage presented the award.



Lauren Marie Pieplow, graduating senior at Independence High School

Lauren was commended in her nomination for not only earning a high school diploma, but an associate’s degree from Cuyahoga Community College. Her nomination stated, “Lauren has completed nearly 290 community service hours while taking college and high

school classes. She is a camp counselor, a shelter volunteer, a tutor and provides meal services to people.” ESC Board Vice President Dr. Christine Krol presented the award.

Recipients from Richmond Heights Schools

Sandy Vasquez-Garcia, eighth-grader at Richmond Heights Middle School

Sandy’s nomination stated, “Sandy is well-liked and respected by teachers and peers and is known to help others with homework, assist a classmate in opening a locker or being kind by giving a smile. She models appropriate behavior and encourages other students around her to be attentive and focused.” ESC Board Member Tony Miceli presented the award.



Chantal Hodge, graduating senior at Richmond Heights High School

Chantal’s nomination stated, “Chantal exemplifies the characteristics of a humanitarian. She is a quiet spirit that moves through the halls of Richmond Heights, but her actions are ones that will help a student at a moment’s notice. She is respectful and kind to all. She is an ambassador for life.” ESC Board Member Tony Hocevar presented the award.

