

Spring 2010

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

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Collaboration and Partnership is the Key to our "1st Annual Response to Intervention (Rtl) Summer Institute"

By Dr. Robert A. Mengerink, Superintendent



As the Superintendent of the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County it gives me great pleasure to present to you the "1st Annual Response to Intervention (Rtl) Summer Institute." This institute is a product of the partnerships between the ESC of Cuyahoga County, our State Support Team-Region 3 and Cleveland State University.

As teachers, principals and school administrators, we know that children bring to school their own strengths and unique learning style. The focus of the Rtl Summer Institute will be around the core elements of Response to Intervention: Leadership, School Climate, Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction. At the "1st Annual Response to Intervention Summer Institute," participants will have the opportunity to hear from three featured national speakers:

- Dr. Anthony Muhammad, President, New Frontier 21 Consulting will provide participants with a framework for "Transforming School Culture."

- Dr. Ed Shapiro, Professor, Lehigh University, will share from his own personal experiences on how an Rtl framework, which supports a systematic application of scientific, research-based interventions in general education, was developed and successfully implemented.
- Dr. Doug Reeves, Founder, The Leadership and Learning Center, who has worked with education, business, non-profit and government organizations throughout the world will speak on "Leading Change."

In addition, participants will have the opportunity to hear current updates about School Improvement and Ohio's Core Standards from representatives from the Ohio Department of Education. You won't want to miss the engaging and interactive break-out sessions that will be provided by local presenters and area school districts. I hope you can join us August 3-5, 2010 at Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center for what will prove to be a remarkable collaborative event. For further information, or to register for this Rtl Summer Institute, please visit our calendar of events at: www.esc-cc.org.

Meet Our ESC Staff



Mary McFeely
Financial Specialist
Accounting

Mary McFeely was born in Cleveland, Ohio and grew up in Maple Heights with four brothers and one sister. Her first full-time job was with Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company

as secretary to the Director of Accounting and the Director of Financial Analysis. She was a “stay-at-home Mom” until her youngest child was in school. Since then she’s had varied job adventures including telemarketing, teacher’s aide, billing and accounts receivable, church secretary, and benefits coordinator.

Since joining the ESC of Cuyahoga County in September, 2000 she has been responsible for billing, collections, preparing and printing purchase orders, preparing checks for banking, entering payments, and helping process purchase orders for payment. She feels blessed to have worked with many wonderful people at the ESC – both in the office and in the many school districts that we serve.

Her husband is Bob. They have been married for 36 years and have three children: Bob, Kristy, and Brian. Mary and Bob became grandparents for the first time in January, 2010 when Evan Robert McFeely was born. What a joy it is to be a grandmother!

An interesting fact about Mary: all three schools that she attended (grade school, high school, and college) no longer exist. Also, the church where she and her husband married no longer exists.

She enjoys babysitting her grandson, family time, walking, gardening, reading, and volunteering. She and her daughter run Bingo at Jennings Center for Older Adults every Thursday evening, and she participates in Perpetual Adoration at St. Martin of Tours Church every Monday evening.



Nadine Grimm
Program Manager

Nadine Grimm is a Program Manager at the ESC of Cuyahoga County, where she administers several grant-funded projects. *Constructing, Consuming and Conserving America* is a

three-year \$1 million U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History Grant Program of professional development for teachers of history and social studies. She has managed several smaller grants, including Creating Cultural Connections, for professional development to enhance cultural competencies and global awareness, and the Dual Credit Core Program for simultaneous high school and college credit for students. She participates in grant writing for new initiatives. She is editor of the ESC newsletters.

Nadine is former Director of Education at the Cleveland Council on World Affairs and Program Manager of the K’inal Winik Cultural Center at Cleveland State University. In addition to a master’s degree in English, she holds a graduate certificate in Culture, Communication and Health Care. She teaches writing and literature courses at universities in the area. She is an author of articles about Mayan literature and has edited several books on cultural themes.

Nadine serves on the Ohio Department of Education’s International Education Advisory Committee and is a board member of the Northeast Ohio Chapter of the Fulbright Association. She enjoys travel, art and drama. She participates in book discussions and a Spanish conversation group. Nadine enjoys her three children and four grandchildren.

Local Students Visit Hyland Software

Three times a year, Westlake-based software developer Hyland Software partners with the ESC of Cuyahoga County in opening its doors to students interested in careers in information technology. This year, students from the **Bedford, Fairview Park, Rocky River, South Euclid - Lyndhurst, Orange, Warrensville Heights, and Westlake School Districts** had a chance to visit Hyland Software.

Students learned about software development from the employees at Hyland Software and what makes businesses successful in today's global economy. At the visit in April, students had the opportunity to attend the company's annual quarterly meeting led by President and CEO A.J. Hyland. "There could be a future Hyland Software employee sitting in the audience right now," said Hyland. "It is important for our company to continue opening the eyes of our local students to the many careers in our field and for our employees to serve as mentors."



AJ Hyland, President and CEO of Hyland Software, is pictured with students from participating districts at the April 22 visit to Hyland Software.

Martha Holden Jennings Master Teacher Nomination

By Rena Wertheim

Rena Wertheim, special education supervisor, nominated Cristina DiLullo, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, for the 2010 Master Teacher Award. Nominees completed proposals for the use of a \$7,500 grant. Ms. DiLullo proposed buying assistive technology equipment to be held at the ESC of Cuyahoga County for "the purpose of supplying hands-on training tools for teachers and students

alike." Borrowing this equipment would allow the Vision Department of the ESC to assess students' abilities to use different devices so that recommendations can be made to district personnel regarding fulfilling the needs of the child with visual impairments through the use of assistive technology. Good Luck, Cristina!

Visually Impaired Workshop

By Cristina DiLullo

On April 16th, three students from **Strongsville, Garfield Heights, and Orange School Districts** attended a half-day advanced BrailleNote training workshop at the ESC of Cuyahoga County, hosted by Jim (Sully) Sullivan, a local HumanWare representative. Attending the workshop were Davidde Giannola (Strongsville), Casey Campbell (Garfield Heights), and Kim Krozser (Orange), along with

their respective Teachers of Children with Visual Impairments: Amy Yoho, Kathy Nowicki, and Cristina DiLullo. The main focus

of the workshop was to allow the students hands-on experience accessing the internet from their BrailleNote equipment. With teachers and parents looking on, the students explored various web pages, including their individual school district home pages. Instructions were given on how to navigate through numerous links, images, frames, headings, and drop down menus on each webpage. After a pizza lunch and socializing between the participants, each student had the opportunity to download a book on their notetaker. The workshop ended with time for the students to ask Sully questions regarding problems they had encountered with their daily use of the BrailleNote.



Imagine the Possibilities: Literacy Practices for Students with Significant Disabilities Conference

By Patti Porto

On March 18th and 19th, the *Imagine the Possibilities: Literacy Practices for Students with Significant Disabilities Conference* was held across the ESC of Cuyahoga County campus. This event was co-sponsored by ESC of Cuyahoga County, SST-3, SSTs from Regions 2,4,5, and 8 and the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCA-LI). Over 230 people from Northeast Ohio and around the state who serve students with significant learning challenges were in attendance. Conference sessions were presented utilizing a literacy framework and tapping into both national expertise and regional talent from our districts, County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, SSTs and OCALI.

On March 18th a full day workshop "It is Possible: Evidence-Based Approaches to Literacy for Students with Significant Disabilities" was presented by keynote speaker Dr. Karen Erickson, Director of the Center for Literacy

and Disability Studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Day two of the event consisted of 21 break-out sessions held at the Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center, LNOCA and the ESC, and an assistive technology vendor fair that was open to the public. Two additional networking opportunities were provided via video and audio conferences with Dr. Erickson and SST consultants to provide on-going job-embedded professional development.

We were overwhelmed with the response to the conference and regret that we didn't have the space to allow all to attend. We encourage people to visit www.esc-cc.org and download the handouts. We envision that this conference will be the first of many.



The Sounds of American History Gala Celebrates Teaching Innovations

By Nadine Grimm

On May 6th at Cleveland State University, teachers, students, administrators, and the general public celebrated the successful conclusion of the *Sounds of American History* program that is administered through the ESC of Cuyahoga County. This Teaching American History project, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, has provided professional development during the past four years for more than 70 teachers from seven Northeastern Ohio counties. Jennifer Felker, Assistant Superintendent at the ESC, co-wrote the \$2 million grant proposal with Professor Mark Tebeau of CSU's History Department. Jim Luteran has served as the Program Manager coordinating workshops, lectures, summer institutes, and web-based training for the teachers.

The gala highlighted curricular units developed by the Sounds teachers using web-based audio and image files for creative classroom teaching. For example, Mark Soeder of **Perry Local Schools** told the story of World War II and Women on the Home Front through digitized historic posters, photographs, music, and the spoken word. Ann Hagedorn and Barb Scott showed a PowerPoint presentation about the Civil War featuring personal letters from soldiers to their loved ones, Civil War era music, and historic photographs that they use in their **Tallmadge City Schools** classrooms. Garth Holman of **Beachwood City Schools** partnered with Michael Pennington of **Chardon Local Schools** to demonstrate their national award-winning local history website about the Glenville and Hough neighborhoods of the 1960s and today. ESC

Superintendent Bob Mengerink remarked how these creative projects increase history content knowledge and historical thinking skills, and use web technology to enhance 21st century teaching and learning for hundreds of students in our area.

The 198 String Band performed a multimedia program—*Listening to the Great Depression*—following the teacher



presentations. The band, comprised of educators and musicians, performs songs from the Great Depression and New Deal eras that are accompanied with historic images of the Dust Bowl, Conservation Corps camps, and the 1930s and 40s political scene.

Concluding the event, ESC Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Felker thanked all of the individuals at CSU and the ESC staff who helped to make this collaboration such a success during the four years of the project. She honored Professor Mark Tebeau and Jim Luteran for their outstanding contributions to the professional development of teachers, presenting them with plaques in recognition of their achievements. It was a memorable event for all of those in attendance, and a reminder of the educational missions of the ESC and CSU serving the teachers and students of our community.



Constructing, Consuming and Conserving America Spring Workshops

by Nadine Grimm

Consumerism, race relations and the political agenda, and music were topics of the spring workshops for the *Constructing, Consuming and Conserving America* Teaching American History grant. During March, in a public lecture at the Western Reserve Historical Society, historian Andrew Hurley explored the development of industrial suburbs and what they reveal about the idealized American suburb. He conducted a teacher workshop that focused on the use of maps and photographs and considered how to “find” history in our contemporary suburban environments. In April, historian Charles McGovern explored the history of consumer culture, race relations, and the political scene. The teacher workshop examined 20th-century consumer culture and how it was manifested through African American music, folk music, and rock-n-roll. Teachers considered how the basic tenets of American culture—citizenship, behavior, and social life—shifted as a result of the rise of the consumer-oriented culture. Finally, during a May workshop with Prof. Marc Selverstone of the Miller Center for Presidential Affairs, teachers participated in *Listening to the American Presidency: Presidents and Vietnam*. Through historical recordings of contemporary presidents, participants learned about the private and public lives of the presidents and how their decisions affected modern U.S. History.

CCC America Teachers will participate in our second Summer Institute during June that will further explore topics of consumerism and American life and landscape as history. Teachers will explore historic neighborhoods, east and west side suburban landscapes, and learn to use blogs and Google maps to enhance their History Exhibits and classroom teaching.

Recruitment is ongoing for the third year of the project. For information, contact Program Manager **Nadine Grimm** at nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org, or 216-901-4243.

The Sounds of History, a Teaching American History Grant

by Jim Luteran

The last summer workshop for the *Sounds of History* will be held the week of June 21. It will reprise and elaborate some of the ideas, content, and approaches explored over the past four years. On the first two days we will demonstrate web resources pertaining to two themes—war and activism—and concentrate on the approach of beginning with historical sounds to tell a story. On the next two days we will explore two other approaches to pairing multiple primary sources—beginning with a historical image, and a written document for which there is no sound. The workshop will offer a review and elaboration of techniques of using digital sound, as well as group planning time for Friday presentations. On Friday teachers will present PowerPoints to the entire class that were created using web sites, images and sounds clips from major historical events. These PowerPoints will be available on the Sounds web site at <http://sounds.clevelandhistory.org/>.

WKYC TV3 Features North Coast Academy

Sparked from a national story on schools opening up in vacant retail space in malls, ESC contacted WKYC’s Education Reporter Kim Wheeler to see if there would be interest in covering the story from a local perspective. Kim agreed and visited North Coast Academy at Richmond Square Mall on April 5th—the morning after spring break—and featured a story on its 6 p.m. news that evening. The story aired again on the station’s weekend news.

The day WKYC visited the school, one of the students took his graduation test and passed. They were able to see first-hand how North Coast Academy plays such a vital role in the lives of so many young adults and the difference it truly makes.

“Education is often one size fits all, and we need to modify it,” says North Coast Academy Director, Rena Wertheim.

Grants

2010 CCBD Practitioner Award to Joyce Huntz of Parmadale School

Chairperson Naomi Schoenfeld is pleased to announce that Ohio Council for Children with Behavior Disorder (CCBD) member Joyce Huntz of the Parmadale School has been awarded a practitioner grant for her Real World Math proposal. The Real World Math project, written with the help of fellow practitioner, Mary Ann Merendino, aims to improve the math literacy of students with a wide range of disabilities including those with emotional disturbances in grades 5 through 12. Many of the students are wards of the state of Ohio and attend school in a residential treatment facility. According to Huntz and Merendino, "Using math manipulatives allows us

to meet the needs of many of our students who learn through different modalities including hands-on and kinesthetic styles." The project's benefits will be evaluated using pre- and post-assessments, student-led discussions, and graphing presentations. The Parmadale School is located in Parma, Ohio. Congratulations!



Joyce Huntz (left) and Mary Ann Merendino

Family and Civic Engagement Initiative

By Jennifer Dodd

In January 2010, the ESC of Cuyahoga County, in partnership with the Family and Children First Council of Cuyahoga County, received a grant from ODE for the Family and Civic Engagement (FCE) in Schools Initiative. A county team for this initiative consists of representation from the ESC, FCFC, United Way/2-1-1 First Call for Help and seven participating school districts. The purpose of this initiative is to engage each of the seven school districts in collaboration with the county team to develop an FCE team in response to House Bill 1, create a district FCE plan, outline a process for implementation of the plan, and prepare a job description for their FCE coordinator. The seven districts participating in this pilot grant include: **Bedford, Brooklyn, Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Cleveland Metropolitan, Maple**

Heights, Parma and Warrensville. In addition to county team planning, these districts are working with consultants from the State Support Team — Region 3 (SST-3) to facilitate the work within their districts.

Beginning in April, our work extended out to other districts throughout the county with additional support from SST-3. We have concluded two of three network sessions for district representatives to attend for information about the HB 1 requirements, lessons learned from the county team trainings, and hands-on support to school districts in navigating the process of creating an FCE team and plan. Of the 24 school districts in Cuyahoga County that were not initially participating in the pilot grant, we have had 18 joining us for the network sessions.

North Coast Academy Celebrates 10 years: Reflections

By Rena Wertheim

It is amazing to think that North Coast Academy Education Resource Center (NCA) is celebrating its 10th Graduation and Awards Ceremony! In January 2000, NCA had its grand opening in Randall Park Mall with 10 students from **Beachwood, Chagrin Falls, Mayfield Heights, Shaker Heights** and **Solon**. The ESC of Cuyahoga County is the fiscal agent for the program and Simon Youth Foundation (SYF) is our partner, providing the build-out for the original facility and free rent. The Alternative Schools Challenge Grant awarded the ESC start-up funds to furnish the facility and purchase the curriculum and computers. We had one teacher, a tutor for math and a job placement specialist from Jobs for Ohio's Graduates. Our first graduating class had 16 students.

Over the years our enrollment has increased to serve over 100 students each year. We have increased the staff to four teachers and a tutor, changed the curriculum and requirements for completion of the program and moved to our present location at Richmond Town Square above Sears. Again the ESC and SYF partnered to make the new facility welcoming to the students. To date, 340 students have completed their coursework at NCA enabling them to receive diplomas from their sending school district. School district data indicate that NCA contributes 5% to their graduation rate with additional positive impact on the attendance rates on the districts' report cards. SYF awards renewable scholarships to deserving students yearly. The 2010 class will range between 40 and 50 students!



News from Rose-Mary Center School

Rose-Mary Center School held a school formal on Friday, May 7th from 1-2 pm. The theme was a Night at the Oscars and everyone enjoyed the decorations as well as the dancing to the DJ. Students and staff were able to dress up for the event. Parents attended and had a great time with their children.

On Friday, June 4th, Rose-Mary Center had two students graduate. The graduates received a diploma from the district and a certificate of program completion from the ESC of Cuyahoga County. ESC and district representatives attended, as well as parents, students, and staff. The program also featured a slide show of the graduates and an all-school slide show.



ESC Hosts Chamber Networking Breakfast

Land foreclosures, status of land banks, and the new Cuyahoga County Council form of government were the topics of discussion addressed by Jim Rokakis, Cuyahoga County Treasurer, at the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce's Networking Breakfast in April. The event was sponsored by the ESC of Cuyahoga County and was held at the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center. More than 50 people attended the event and enjoyed the networking and continental breakfast.



Chamber State of the Schools Luncheon Features Local Superintendents

Superintendent Bob Mengerink of the ESC of Cuyahoga County addressed members of the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce this past May at the annual State of the Schools Luncheon. He was joined by Roscoe Schlachter, Superintendent of the **Cuyahoga Valley Career Center**; Peter Guerrero, Superintendent of **Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools**; and David Laurenzi, Superintendent of **Independence Local Schools**. More than 200 people attended the event.



Ohio School Boards Association Honors ESC Board Members Frank Mahnic, Jr. and Tony Hocevar

The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) honored Frank Mahnic, Jr. and Tony Hocevar, members of the ESC of Cuyahoga County Governing Board, with the 2010 OSBA Award of Achievement as well as its "Master Board Member" Award during its spring conference in Warren, Ohio.

The OSBA "Master Board Member" Award was presented to only 20 of 3,400 board members in Ohio this year. It is given to those board members who dedicate themselves to improving their boardmanship skills knowledge. It is awarded only once to an individual and is recognized for life.

The OSBA Award of Achievement also is presented to a very select group each year. Of more than 3,400 board members in Ohio, only 93 received the honor this year. Recipients are honored for earning continuing education credits received when 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 ESC Governing Board," said Al Meloy, OSBA Deputy Director of Search Services and Board of Development.



Frank Mahnic, Jr., Ken Perk (Cuyahoga Heights Board of Education) and Tony Hocevar.

Recognition Awards & Honors

Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County Awards Humanitarian Scholarships

The ESC 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 \$250 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.

Recipients from Cuyahoga Heights Schools

MarySarah Menkhaus **Cuyahoga Heights Middle School.**

Her entry states, "MarySarah has done countless services for many at Cuyahoga Heights Middle School and within our communities. She naturally gravitates toward those in need offering assistance and encouragement. She does not do this because she is asked to; she does this because it is part of her nature. MarySarah's random acts of kindness have been contagious. Many of the students she associates with model her kind behavior."



Alisa Cubbison **Cuyahoga Heights High School.**

Her entry states, "Alisa exemplifies a genuine concern for people in need. As a senior this year, she has gone above and beyond her community service requirement. I have been especially impressed when it comes to the extra time she has spent behind the scenes helping some of our younger students with their academics. She is always well prepared for their "classes" and shows

a tremendous amount of patience when working with them. She has been so effective that I have suggested that she pursue a career in education." ESC Board Member Frank Mahnic, Jr. presented both MarySarah and Alisa with their awards.

Recipients from Independence Local Schools

Sarah Andexler **Independence Middle School.**

Her entry states, "She never leaves the side of a person struggling and can be counted on by all for continued emotional and physical support by her presence and demeanor. By her stance, she eliminates anyone from being made fun of or bullied. She is exceptional for putting the thoughts and feelings of others first and puts those of herself last. Sarah does this while maintaining honor roll status and involvement in middle school athletics. She has enriched the school by her presence, and we are very happy she has joined the Independence Class of 2014." ESC Board Member Dr. Christine Krol presented Sarah with her award.

Valerie Fletcher **Independence High School.**

Her entry states, "Valerie has worked numerous hours with our developmentally delayed students. She completed over 500 community service hours – including summer service out of state. She is going to major in special education in college. She has been selected to the "Look Up To Cleveland" leadership program and received the Parma Hospital Renaissance Service Award." ESC Board Vice President Carol Fortlage presented Valerie her award.



Recipients from Richmond Heights Schools

Alexander Vanek **Richmond Heights Middle School.**

His entry states, "Alex is this year's recipient of this award because his philosophy with everyone he meets is, "I will make a difference with that one person."

Whether it is through random acts of kindness, extending a helping hand to a fellow student, or peer, he is always willing to be a positive influence in the lives of all of those he encounters on a daily basis. The most amazing thing about Alex is that he does so with a joyful heart. He is a role model for his peers, and is well liked by his classmates and teachers." ESC Board Member Tony Hocevar presented Alex with his award.



Gabrielle Kisner **Richmond Heights High School.**

Her entry states, "Gabrielle Kisner is an outstanding student and young lady. Her academic credentials are superb. She is a Gates Scholarship Finalist, as well as, a Robert Byrd Scholarship Finalist. What sets Gabrielle apart from our other fine scholars is her spirit of volunteerism, and her compassion and caring for her fellow students. Gabrielle delivers

the morning announcements to our students and staff. The school day at Richmond Heights doesn't officially begin until Gabrielle says, "Be prepared. Be prompt. Be polite. Be positive. Have a great day, and make good choices." ESC Board President Tony Miceli presented Gabrielle with her award.

Recognition Awards & Honors



Dr. Sally Pisarchick
and Diana Paluscak.

Planting the Seeds of the 21st Century

By Linda Koren and Juanita Primous

The ESC of Cuyahoga County, along with State Support Team-Region 3 (SST- 3), hosted an awards ceremony on April 23rd honoring those individuals who have made outstanding achievements in the education of students with disabilities. This uplifting event, "Planting the Seeds of the 21st Century: Recognizing Excellence in Education for Students with Disabilities," was held at the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center. Mistress of ceremonies, Dr. Sally Pisarchick, provided her usual sunshine and bubbly personality to set the tone for the morning. Keynote speakers—the mother/daughter team of Candee and Katie Basford— made it even warmer with

their inspirational story. Candee and Katie shared details of their journey as they overcame society's stereotypes of how a child with Down syndrome should be raised and educated, beginning in the late 1970s, and culminating in Katie's independent life as a "woman of the new millennium." By the end of Katie's presentation, the room was filled with laughter and good feelings from her inspirational story.

After the keynote presentation, there were outstanding achievement awards for students, peers, parents, educators, paraprofessionals/educational aides, related service providers and community partners.



2010 Outstanding Student Achievement Award

This award was established as a means of acknowledging achievements of school-age children and youth with disabilities in Cuyahoga County.

Bob Mengerink, Superintendent of the ESC and Alexandria Delk, the recipient from Cleveland School of the Arts.



Dr. William Zelei, Superintendent of the South Euclid - Lyndhurst City Schools and the recipients from Glendale Primary School in Bedford, Kerry Boscarello, Elsie Tarczy, Lisa Vargo, Katy Burant, Christie Needham, and Maria Williams.

2010 Outstanding Peer Achievement Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize and honor students with or without disabilities who have established positive relationships, assisted other students with disabilities, and who have been exemplary role models.



Mary McFeely, Financial Specialist of the ESC and Natalie LaCava the recipient from Central School in Brecksville-Broadview Heights

2010 Outstanding Educators Achievement Award

These educators and educational teams are the exemplars in designing instructional strategies and programs. They have been recognized for their work in one of the following categories of achievement: standards, capacity or accountability.



Dr. William Zelei, Superintendent of the South Euclid - Lyndhurst City Schools and the recipients from Cleveland School of the Arts, Bruce Ranson, Barbara Walton, and Talise Campbell.

Recognition Awards & Honors

"Planting the Seeds..." continued from page 11



Teresa Karsnak, Parent Mentor of Strongsville City Schools and Zivile Khoury the recipient from Mayfield City Schools.

2010 Outstanding Parent Service Achievement Award

This award was created to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of a parent of a school-age child with a disability who has worked on behalf of children with disabilities in Cuyahoga County.

2010 Outstanding Paraprofessional/Educational Aide Achievement Award

These candidates must be full-time paraprofessional/educational aides who work with students with disabilities in Cuyahoga County, have provided outstanding service, and have made contributions that have enhanced the lives of the students and/or their families.



Steve Rogaski, Director of Pupil Services of the ESC and Nancy Scherry the recipient from Goldwood Primary School in Rocky River.

2010 Outstanding Related Services Achievement Award

This award was established to recognize and celebrate the special accomplishments of related services staff involved with school-age children with disabilities in Cuyahoga County.



Jackie Lawson, Consultant, State Support Team-Region 3 and Karen Svoboda the recipient from North Royalton

2010 Outstanding Community Partner Achievement Award

This award was established to recognize and celebrate the special accomplishments of community partners' involvement with school-age children with disabilities in Cuyahoga County.



Dr. Kathleen Foley, Director of Student Services for the Lakewood City Schools and Marlene Jackson the recipient from Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Bob Mengerink, Superintendent of the ESC and Keynote Speakers Candee and Katie Basford.



Moon Dog and Beth O'Donnell, Principal of Valley Vista Elementary in North Royalton.

Special thanks to the members of the SST-3 and ESC for their hard work in planning this event. In addition, members of the SST-3 Family Council, especially Raychelle Faire, Sandra Jordan, Lisa Neumeyer, Michelle Pallo, and Val Shivers, were instrumental in providing leadership for this event. Thanks also to Moon Dog and Ahmad Crump who provided us with lots of laughter and entertainment, including taking pictures with not only the students and peers but also the "kids at heart" adults. Finally, very special thanks to Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) International, Cuyahoga Valley Chapter, for the beautiful centerpieces and decorations made possible by their donation.

Recognition Awards & Honors

PEP Announces \$4 Million Capital Campaign at PEP Rally for Kids

As National Autism Awareness Month calls attention to the challenges facing as many as one in 110 children, Positive Education Program (PEP) began a major capital campaign to fund a state-of-the-art facility to serve children with autism.

This new autism center will combine education for children, training for practitioners and academic research into medical protocols and educational strategies. It will facilitate collaboration with Cleveland State University, University Hospitals and other partners.

PEP announced the public phase of this \$4 million campaign - Creating a Spectrum of Hope - at its Second Annual PEP Rally for Kids on Friday, April 23rd. More than 300 guests were on-hand to celebrate this exciting announcement and learn that the Elisabeth Severance

Prentiss Foundation has generously committed \$1 million to the project.

As reported by *The Plain Dealer*, this contribution, the agency's first million dollar gift and the largest made by the foundation this year, puts PEP that much closer to reaching its \$4 million campaign goal. In honor of the generous contribution, this new facility will proudly carry the Prentiss name.

This unique space, formerly an office building in Fairview Park, is expected to open at the beginning of the next school year and will house PEP Harbor (soon to be PEP Prentiss), a long-standing program dedicated to helping children with autism and other complex developmental disabilities.



**Senator Nina Turner (left)
visited North Coast Academy
this past May.**