

# The ESC CONNECTION



**EAST CLEVELAND  
STUDENTS ATTEND  
GPS WORKSHOP**  
STORY ON PAGE 8



**Governing Board**

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Universities & Colleges • Students • Adult Learners  
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# Superintendent's Message

By Dr. Bob Mengerink, *Superintendent*

## Continuing Education: Campus Connections



The ESC of Cuyahoga County is pleased to offer even more opportunities for educators to take graduate courses on our campus or to purchase graduate credit, at a reduced rate, for professional development workshops and programs through Akron University, Ashland University and

Cleveland State University (CSU). The second cohort of the CSU Inspired Leaders Principal Licensure Program will begin in January, 2014. We also are excited to announce that the Ashland

Cleveland Center's NEW location is at the ESC of Cuyahoga County! In addition to their M.Ed. degree programs currently offered at our offices in Valley View, Ashland will begin offering three new graduate programs at the ESC—Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), Gifted and Talented, and Intervention Specialist-Mild Moderate (ISMM)- at our new expanded site in Independence. Other projects and collaborative partnerships have been launched and are underway with the University of Dayton and Wright State University. Additional information can be found on our website at:

[www.esc-cc.org](http://www.esc-cc.org).

## New ESC Location | New Vision!

The ESC of Cuyahoga County will soon be moving to its new location to better serve our clients and partners. As a part of this relocation we will be bringing together our administrative offices and conference center into one location at 6393 Oak Tree Blvd., Independence, Ohio. Our new building, named Essex Place, will have expanded conference center facilities on the first floor to meet the increasing professional development needs of educators in an updated, professional environment. The third floor will house all of our ESC and SST staff, as well as other partners committed to serving educators including: Ohio Schools Council, GCSSA, Ashland

University, ODE Area Coordinators, the Ohio Council on Economic Education, and the Society for Prevention of Violence. By sharing our space with these agencies and future partners, all involved will significantly enhance their capacity to deliver unique and innovative programs and services to our districts and agencies. This move is only the first step in our new vision of a "Center of Excellence" where our clients will find extensive resources to better meet the needs of our youth. Throughout November and December, please watch our website, social media and emails for additional information on our relocation dates.



# A Warm Welcome to our New Employees



Lynn Hruschak,  
Curriculum Coordinator



Jessica Tresko,  
Curriculum Consultant



Amy Moore,  
Curriculum Consultant



Bev Metzger, SST3  
Specialist for Families  
with Disabilities



Betty Beach,  
Payroll Specialist



Sharon Novak,  
Coordinator of  
Educator Quality  
Programs



Beth Burdick, Gifted and  
Talented Coordinator  
(North Royalton and  
Strongsville)



Kathy Baylog, Gifted and  
Talented Coordinator  
(Garfield Heights)



# Cuyahoga County Regional Summer Academy in Third Year

The Cuyahoga County Regional Summer Academy is a place where students are getting a chance to prepare for their future in high school and beyond. For the past three years, students from various school districts across Cuyahoga County, including the **Cleveland Metropolitan School District**, came together every day for five weeks at the Cuyahoga Community College metro campus to learn, grow, and build their self-confidence, abilities, and leadership skills.

City of Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Senator Nina Turner, the ESC of Cuyahoga County, along with several corporate and non-profit partners, are pleased that their vision for this academy has continued into a third year.

Principal Rick Gurski, an assistant principal, guidance counselor, intervention specialist and three teams of teachers made up the academy's staff. Lessons in English/Language Arts and mathematics followed weekly themes that focused on diversity/cultures and stereotypes, music and arts, pop culture, sports and travel. College Now of Greater Cleveland continued to support our students and provide them with experiences focusing on career interests, college



programs, work place skills, and tools for success in both high school and future postsecondary opportunities.

Cuyahoga County has experienced genuine collaboration this summer with this academy that offered educational opportunities for critical thinking, rigorous instruction, relationship building and a focus on future opportunities for these young adults. We look forward to continuing our work with these and other students to watch their "dreams" and aspirations turn into realities.



# Simon Youth North Coast Academy Graduate Aaron Thomas Becomes Field Engineer for National Contractor

Since its inception in January 2001, Simon Youth North Coast Academy (NCA) has helped hundreds of students make a fresh start academically and begin preparing for college or a career.

One of those success stories is Aaron Thomas, who attended NCA in 2006. After transferring from Cleveland Heights to Shaker Heights in his senior year, he learned he was 12 credits short of graduation. He heard about NCA from some friends, then asked his guidance counselor for more information.

Founded by the Simon Youth Foundation (SYF) and run by the ESC of Cuyahoga County, at-risk students from 13 districts earn their high school diplomas through an alternate, half-day program of online curriculum and tutoring at the school, which is housed above Sears at Richmond Town Square in Richmond Heights. The teens take one or two classes at a time, but the accelerated program often enables them to graduate with their own class and prepare for college, the Armed Forces, or the job market. In addition, the students learn social skills, financial literacy, writing structure, and job-related skills.

*“NCA was a very independent atmosphere and the courses were tailored exactly to my personal track,” Aaron said. “It worked for me because for the first time ever, I felt in control of my life and graduation rate. This was a point in my life where I became ambitious for the right reasons.”*

Director Rena Wertheim remembers that when Aaron came to NCA, he was ready to change and ready to become a leader. “He was a student who had messed up in his first year or two of high school, but he knew he wanted to fix it and move forward,” she said.

He became active in the school’s community service efforts and took part in shadowing experiences in the field of architecture. As recognition of his leadership on campus, he was awarded a SYF scholarship and went on to earn a bachelor of science in construction engineering technology at the University of Toledo.

“I got a second chance at going to college. I was able to use the discipline I developed at NCA on my college campus. Through college I was able to start a great career,” he said. After graduation, he landed a job as a field engineer for a national general contractor. His current project is the renovation and upgrade of several terminals at Los Angeles International Airport.

He has come back to NCA to tell his story and to encourage the students to take whatever steps are needed so they can be accepted to college. He would tell future NCA students, “Anyone can do it. Don’t be afraid to ask questions even if it seems impossible. I bet Mrs. Wertheim and the teachers got tired of my questions, but look where it got me. You can do it too.”





# Simon Youth North Coast Academy Implements New Curriculum Program

Simon Youth North Coast Academy (NCA) is using a new curriculum this school year, and it is already getting high marks from both students and administrators. Director Rena Wertheim explained that the new curriculum, called PLATO, is from the same company as the previous program but has been updated to line up with the new state standards.

“It is also more interactive, using more audio and video. I think the students are more engaged,” she said. The students like it because they spend less time just reading pages of text on the screen. On a recent morning, Shaker Heights student Chuck Johnson was working on an economics assignment. “They put more life into it. There are more activities,” he said.

Lawrence Butler, also of Shaker Heights, likes that the new program has more freedom. “It is more trial-and-error than the old software. You learn right away when you get an answer wrong, so you get it right the next time,” he said. “You understand more quickly.”

Aaron Williams began using PLATO for a physical science course.

*“The new system gives more visual examples, and I like to listen to the auditory input,” he said. “It is a lot more visual, and I am a visual learner.”*

But Wertheim said more audio and video does not mean the new curriculum is easier. In fact, it has more rigor and is geared to help the students develop critical thinking. “It asks for extended responses. The students are asked to analyze, or compare and contrast. They can’t just take something and memorize it,” she said. “The educators like it because it is pushing the students to challenge themselves. The long term outcome is better prepared students.” Teachers are also on campus to help the students.



# GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAMS



## GPS Workshop for Middle School Students

Students from seven school districts (**Bedford, Independence, East Cleveland, Rocky River, Westlake, Richmond Heights, and South Euclid-Lyndhurst**) attended this middle school student seminar at Look About Lodge in the Chagrin Reservation on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Students were instructed by Carly Martin, naturalist at the park, on the theory and use of a

handheld GPS unit. After the instruction on the GPS, students in teams of four and five searched for eight different waypoints in the woods. They also completed an exercise in triangulation. This is an annual event for districts that are a part of the Gifted Consortium of the ESC of Cuyahoga County.

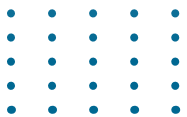
Is your district taking advantage of the programs offered to your students by the ESC of Cuyahoga County?

For more information or to register for upcoming events, contact:  
Wayne Gibson, Director of Gifted Education and Transportation Services  
216-901-4205 • [wayne.gibson@esc-cc.org](mailto:wayne.gibson@esc-cc.org)





## GPS Workshop at Look About Lodge in the Chagrin Reservation





# GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAMS

## Hyland Software Offers Tour to High School Students

Special thanks to **Fairview Park** and **Warrensville Heights School Districts** who attended the Hyland Software field trip on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Students toured the Westlake

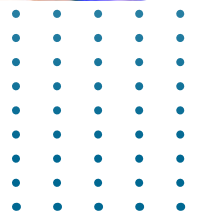
company and shadowed employees responsible for either software development or quality assurance.





# Leadership Workshop for High School Students

On Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> students from **East Cleveland, Garfield Heights, Richmond Heights, Strongsville** and **Warrensville Heights** took part in a Leadership Workshop presented by Paul Pendleton, Director of Leadership Services for the ESC of Cuyahoga County. The workshop encompassed areas such as Leadership Styles, Importance of Vision, Reaching Consensus, Team Building and Creating Positive Environments for Success. Examples and various activities were used to help the students develop techniques to use in school projects.



# STUDENT PROGRAMS

## Collinwood Archival and Oral History Project

Students at **Cleveland Metropolitan School District's** Collinwood High School are learning about the history of their school and community under the direction of their media specialist and librarian, Ms. Gail Greenberg.

Archival records date from the school's construction in 1926 and include yearbooks, newspapers, photographs, documents, and historical artifacts. Students are learning to research and use primary sources and conduct oral histories of Collinwood High School graduates. Prominent alumni include a former Ohio governor, council representatives,

community members, veterans, and current teachers, among others.

For the project, students will conduct research and interviews, write articles, and publish their work at a website. During October, students met with archivists and viewed the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's exhibit on "Propaganda and Patriotism: The Art of Financing America's Wars" to learn about the history of war bonds. During World War II, students at Collinwood participated in the war bond drives.

This interdisciplinary educational opportunity promotes project-based learning and real life applications as students conduct their work as historians. Ms. Greenberg is sharing the knowledge she gained while participating in a Teaching American History grant managed by the ESC of Cuyahoga County in collaboration with Cleveland State's History Department.

The project was recently covered in the *Collinwood Observer*.

## The Collinwood Observer

### "Investing" in Collinwood High School's Archival and Oral History Project

by Gail Greenberg

Almost ninety years of rich Railroader history is about to come alive in a year-long 21st century interdisciplinary learning project at Collinwood High School, in partnership with the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County (ESC).

Under the leadership of media specialist Gail Greenberg, in collaboration with Dr. Regennia Williams, Associate Professor of History at Cleveland State University, technical consultant Michael Rotman, and ESC coordinator, Nadine Grimm, students will have the opportunity to think historically – locating, organizing, researching and digitizing images from the school's extensive archives. Students will also interview alumni, family and Collinwood community members to create and preserve oral histories of their neighborhood and school. All of these print, electronic and digital resources will become part of an online database and Collinwood High School history website.

If you or someone you know would like to participate or assist with this project, contact Gail Greenberg at [Gail.Greenberg@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:Gail.Greenberg@clevelandmetroschools.org). Your support is welcome and appreciated.

Gail Greenberg is the library media specialist at Collinwood High School.



Ready to share her school reminiscences. Charlotte Lafellece (left), retired CMSD teacher and graduate of Collinwood High School gets acquainted with Maria Carlson, CHS head principal, at the recent community meet and greet.



# Richmond Heights Art Students Promote Renewable Energy Sources

Six **Richmond Heights** Secondary Art Students volunteered to run a craft booth on a rainy Saturday at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Richmond Heights Fall Festival held at the historic Greenwood Farm in Richmond Heights. Students helped children paint recycled water bottles with recycled papers and turned the bottles into spinning wind socks to learn about renewable sources of energy. The students also exhibited a mural they are designing about renewable energy sources that will be completed with paints and recycled bottle caps during their art classes in Fall term. The mural project was created by their art teacher, Mary Nichols Brondfield, with a mini-grant funded by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation that she developed after attending the Flip Your World! innovation conference in April that was co-hosted by the ESC of Cuyahoga County and the Baldwin Wallace Center for Innovation & Growth.



Two Richmond Heights elementary students and their father visit the Richmond Heights Secondary School Art Booth at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Richmond Heights Fall Festival.



Six Richmond Heights Secondary Art Students grades 7-12 pose with their art teacher in front of a mural they are designing about renewable energy sources.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## ESC Hosts 4<sup>th</sup> Ohio Global Teacher Institute

More than 100 teachers from throughout Ohio attended the Ohio Global Teacher Institute—*Fostering Innovation in Education*—at the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center on August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to consider ways to enhance global competencies for teaching and learning. The program was a collaboration among the ESC of Cuyahoga County, Kent State University, and The Ohio State University. Keynote speakers included Dr. Brad Mitchell, Senior Director of Leadership at Battelle for Kids, who spoke about five of the world’s highest-performing school systems and how they support teachers and students in acquiring global content knowledge and cultivate 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills. Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia, Jurček Žmauc, discussed the relationship between Slovenia and the U.S. in broadening “Global Education and Economic and Cultural Development.” Students, as well as K-12 and higher education faculty, were presenters for the breakout sessions on diverse topics about multicultural literature, education exchange opportunities, International Baccalaureate,

study abroad, and community resources, among others. A follow-up webinar was led by Dr. Linda Robertson of Kent State University on “Teaching for Global Competencies.” Mini-grants for educators will allow them to implement action plans during Fall to enhance global knowledge, and they will present their achievements at a Global Teacher Showcase on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the ESC. We are grateful to the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation for support of this program.

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# Blended-Learning: Pilot Courses Developed

In the spring of 2013, the ESC of Cuyahoga County in partnership with the National Network of Digital Schools (NNDS) established the Blended-Learning Advisory Committee. The committee is currently comprised of representatives from NNDS, the ESC, technology design experts, content area specialist, curriculum directors, assessment specialists and high school classroom teachers from

**Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Brooklyn and North Royalton school districts.**

The advisory council is currently meeting on a bi-monthly basis to review and provide guidance and feedback on the development of courses and the targeted professional development that is being developed. The new blended-learning courses, Algebra 1, Biology, Civics and English 9, are scheduled to be piloted in the winter of 2013.

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# Quality Matters: 2013 Summer Online Workshops

In February, 2013, the ESC of Cuyahoga County and the Northeast Quality Matters (QM) Consortium [Ashland University; the ESCs of Cuyahoga, Geauga, and Lake Counties; Northern Ohio Research Training Technology Hub (NORT<sup>2</sup>H); and WVIZ/PBSideastream®] were awarded a grant by eTech Ohio to deliver training in the QM standards and rubric to educators in the Northeast Ohio region. QM is a faculty-centered peer review process that is designed to certify the quality of online and blended courses. The three-week online course was offered during June, July and August with 74 educators completing training.

## 2013-2014 Networks

In response to national, state and local needs, networks have been developed to allow professionals to gather together to solve common problems, confront issues and concerns, and share ideas and solutions with others while providing mutual assistance and support.

- Beginning Principals Network
- Federal Programs Network
- Lead Mentor Network
- Literacy Network
- North Coast Quality Collaborative Administrative Assistants Network
- Northeast Ohio Association of School Personnel Administrators (NEOASPA)
- Northeast Ohio English Language Learners (NOELL) Network
- Northeast Ohio Regional Legal Update Network
- Professional Learning Community (PLC) for School Superintendents Network
- Regional Technology Network
- Teaching and Leading Knowledge (TALK) Network
- SST Region 3: Flexible and Assistive Technology Network

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## ESC Hosts 3rd Annual Early Learners Institute

On August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, preschool and elementary school teachers, special education teachers, and other educators participated in the Third Annual Early Learners Institute sponsored by the ESC of Cuyahoga and the State Support Team Region 3 in partnership with the ESC of Lorain County and State Support Team Region 2.

Participants heard from national experts and learned about the latest research-based early learning strategies. They were provided with opportunities to explore proven practices that create and support a successful early learning environment.

Day one of the conference featured Dr. Dan Gartell, Emeritus Professor of Early Childhood

and Foundations Education for Bemidji State University in Minnesota. For our society to be more civil and forward looking, children need the social, emotional, and cognitive capacities to function as productive citizens and healthy individuals. Dr. Gartell discussed life skills needed to make it into the next century.

Day two of the Early Learners Institute featured Erin Ramsey, Senior Program Director of Mind in the Making Families and Work Institute. Mind in the Making identifies and groups research into seven critical areas that children need most: focus and self control, perspective taking, communicating, making connections, critical thinking, taking on challenges, and self-directed engaged learning.





In the afternoon, there were a variety of breakout sessions.

- Early Childhood and Positive Behavior Intervention Support was presented by Helene Stacho, Consultant for State Support Team Region 11.
- iTechnologies and Early Learning Books for Social and Emotional Development was presented by Patti Porto, a Consultant for ESC of Cuyahoga County and the State Support Team Region 3.

- Creating and Supporting the Early Learners Environment: Minds in the Making was presented by Gail Nelson, Early Learning Specialist for Starting Point.

- Natural Environments and their Impact on Social/Emotional Learning was presented by Kyle G. Priestly, Early Childhood Program Specialist for Starting Point.

Educators left the conference feeling inspired as they help their young students instill a life-long love for reading, writing, language, and math. They are ready to build a solid foundation for future academic and creative pursuits.



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## High School-Higher Education Alignment

For the past two years, the ESC of Cuyahoga County has led a consortium of four universities (Baldwin Wallace, Cleveland State, Cuyahoga Community College, and Ursuline), five school districts (**Beachwood, Hudson, Olmsted Falls, Solon and Strongsville**) and the **Cuyahoga Valley Career Center** to alleviate remediation in mathematics and English education for entering freshmen in higher education institutions. Faculty in math and English and K-12 administrators are collaborating on vertical alignment projects to help students better prepare in the content areas, but also to have a better understanding of expectations for achievement at the higher education level. Participants have learned about admissions, placement policies and testing at

our local higher education institutions and also have worked in their district teams to align curriculum for the new Common Core standards. This year, faculty will partner on activities such as co-teaching, classroom exchanges, syllabi exchange and other methods for enhancing deeper learning for students. Participating districts are retrieving test scores earlier and creating interventions to improve student preparation and testing. Benefits for students and parents have included districts' enhanced and earlier communications about resources for financial aid and college and career paths. Another goal for the third and final year of the project is to enhance teacher preparation for the new Common Core standards in math and English.

## Educator Quality Program

### Rolls out eTPES for the State of Ohio

In a pairing of Educator Quality and State Support Team members, several employees were trained over the summer by ODE on The Electronic Teacher and Principal Evaluation System (eTPES). ESC of Cuyahoga County Coordinator Sharon Novak has taken the lead on this initiative. The eTPES is an online educator evaluation system for statewide use by Ohio districts and schools. To date, the training team has completed two portions of the agenda. Agenda item number one was to assist superintendents and/or their designees as they set up their Local Education Agency in the system. So far 105 superintendents or their designees were trained in August and September, touching many Northeast Ohio counties. The team then trained over 280 local principals in the system. Principals completed building set up while the team prepared them in the process of guiding their teaching staff through the training process.

and issues, and we have found this system to be a user-friendly evaluation management system which is offered at no cost to our districts. The State of Ohio has offered many resources that can be found at <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Educator-Evaluation-System/District-Educator-Evaluation-Systems/eTPES-Help>.

The team will be back in Columbus in early February to be trained on the process of entering Student Growth Measures into the system and the format in which the Summative Ratings will be calculated. Please look for future trainings posted on STARS which will be offered by the ESC during February and March.

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The State has responded quickly to user concerns