



November 2011

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

## Educating Serving Communicating

Robert A. Mengerink  
*Superintendent*

Jennifer Felker  
*Assistant Superintendent*

Steve Rogaski  
*Director of Pupil Services*

Bruce G. Basalla  
*Treasurer*

### Governing Board

Carol Fortlage  
*President*

Tony Hocevar  
*Vice President*

Christine Krol

Frank Mahnic, Jr.

Anthony Miceli

### The Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County

5811 Canal Road  
Valley View, Ohio 44125  
(216) 524-3000  
Fax (216) 524-3683  
[www.esc-cc.org](http://www.esc-cc.org)

#### ESC Connection

Editor: Nadine Grimm

Associate Editors:  
Jennifer Dodd  
Paula Kucinic

with contributions by:  
ESC Staff



## North Coast Shared Services Alliance (NCSSA)

By **Dr. Robert A. Mengerink**, *Superintendent*

This past summer, the Educational Service Centers of Cuyahoga, Lorain and Medina Counties partnered together to create the North Coast Shared Services Alliance (NCSSA). The alliance was developed in an effort to provide expanded education-related services and enhance opportunities for districts in the region. Together, we have identified key services, programs and products unique to each ESC, and now we are making them available to school districts throughout the tri-county region. Other partners in the region that also have joined us in this collaborative alliance include the Greater Cleveland Schools Superintendents' Association (GCSSA), the Ohio Schools Council (OSC) and

WVIZ/PBS  
ideastream®.

As the ESC of Cuyahoga County, one of our main goals is to continuously work toward providing our districts with expanded educational programs and services, by making better use of scarce resources, while continuously exploring and developing partnerships throughout a multi-county area. To learn more about NCSSA and about the unique programs and services that are available to you through this alliance, please visit the ESC of Cuyahoga County's website at: [www.esc-cc.org](http://www.esc-cc.org).



## UGIVE.ORG: Encouraging Volunteerism Among High School Students

By **Kristen Grubbs** and **Jeramie Parker**,  
*UGIVE.ORG Coordinators*

This year the Cincinnati-based non-profit UGIVE.ORG sent two new AmeriCorps VISTA members to continue working with local non-profits and high schools. These VISTAs, Kristen Grubbs and Jeramie Parker, are excited to be in Cleveland for the year and are looking forward to expanding the UGIVE mission throughout the area.

Jeramie Parker grew up in Middletown, MD and attended

Allegheny College in Meadville, PA where he majored in Political Science. Before working for UGIVE.ORG, Jeramie spent two summers interning at the Department of Defense in the field of Intelligence.

Kristen Grubbs grew up in Cincinnati, OH and attended Bryn Mawr College,



## UGIVE.ORG: Encouraging Volunteerism Among High School Students

continued from page 1

located outside Philadelphia, PA, and majored in History of Art. Before working for UGIVE.ORG, Kristen served as an assistant art and art history teacher at Baldwin High School and worked as a curatorial assistant for the Bryn Mawr College Art and Archaeology Collections.

UGIVE.ORG is a free, non-profit website designed to connect high school students to volunteer opportunities in their neighborhoods. We post a variety of opportunities in the hopes that today's youth can discover those things that excite, inspire and ultimately, transform them into lifelong givers. This year, we plan on increasing the number of schools and non-profits associated with the site, establishing a student leadership group dedicated to service called UCREW, and promoting service learning in high school classrooms.

Want to get involved? Visit [www.UGIVE.ORG](http://www.UGIVE.ORG) to sign up or contact us directly. Stay connected. Volunteer!

### **Kristen Grubbs**

216-901-4228

[kristen@ugive.org](mailto:kristen@ugive.org)



## LNOCA and LEECA Merge to Form the Largest ITC in Ohio

Lakeshore Northeast Ohio Computer Association (LNOCA) and Lake Erie Educational Computer Association (LEECA) merged on August 1, 2011 to form the North Coast Council (NCC). This merger represents a pooling of the resources and expertise of two major information technology centers (ITCs) supporting over 200,000 students, teachers, and staff in K-12 schools, making it the largest ITC in Ohio.

As forerunners in the trend toward regionalization, LEECA and LNOCA are creating a stronger organization that is more financially efficient, with increased capacity, additional product offerings, and an expanded customer base. NCC is taking a proactive response to the governor's vision for consolidating services for schools and communities. The ESC of Cuyahoga County and the Lorain County Educational Service Center were instrumental in the early merger discussions, providing support to allow the merger to move forward.

While continuing to support over 450 educational facilities, a business development team is being formed to identify new markets for expansion, including local agencies and governments in need of technology services such as improved Internet connectivity, software services, network support and maintenance, consulting, and training. NCC also plans to collaborate with communities on ways to deliver computer literacy training to their residents.

LNOCA's executive director John Mitchell adds, "As local governments discuss shared services, one of the concerns raised is loss of community identity due to regionalism and shared services. Local governments, just as schools that currently utilize our shared services, will continue to maintain their unique identities while reducing operating costs."

For additional information, please contact:

### **John Mitchell**

216-520-6900, ext. 229

[john.mitchell@LNOCA.org](mailto:john.mitchell@LNOCA.org)

### **Lloyd Wright**

440-324-3185, ext. 1153

[wright@LEECA.org](mailto:wright@LEECA.org)

## The Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center – The Perfect Place to Hold Your Next Meeting or Event!

By **Paula Kucinic**, Director of Professional Development and Outreach

In 2011, the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center was nominated for “Best Traditional Venue” through the Cleveland Business Connections. Located at 5700 West Canal Road, Building B, Valley View, Ohio 44125, this state-of-the-art facility, with over 150 free parking spaces and adjacent parking available on Wall Street, is a handicapped-accessible building that features:

**Conference Rooms A and B** – Furnished with round tables and chairs with the capacity to hold 200 participants comfortably, a full kitchen, IVDL availability, wireless microphones, two drop-down screens and built-in ceiling projectors, internet access and wireless points

**Room A** – Seats 82 (12 rounds w/7 chairs each)

**Room B** – Seats 114 (16 rounds w/7 chairs each)

**Room C** – Furnished with rectangle tables and chairs for 20 participants, a kitchen station, portable computer lab, built-in ceiling LCD projector and drop-down screen

Whether your meeting or event is as few as 15 or as large as a conference of 200, the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center has many options for you to choose from. It is centrally located less than 12 miles from downtown Cleveland, in the heart of Cuyahoga County with convenient access to the turnpike and interstates I-71, I-77, I-90, I-271 and I-480.

For assistance in planning your next event, please contact:

**Christi Woolard**

216-642-7556

[cwoolard@esc-cc.org](mailto:cwoolard@esc-cc.org)



## Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald Speaks to Cuyahoga Valley Chamber at ESC Sponsored Breakfast

On October 5, more than 100 people attended the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce October networking breakfast hosted by the ESC of Cuyahoga County. The featured speaker, Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald, discussed his five year economic development plan.

This event helped raise more than \$1,000 for the chamber’s annual high school scholarships.



Ed FitzGerald



ESC Governing Board and Administrators with Justin Bibb

# Meet Our ESC Staff



## Susan Schraff

SST-3 Consultant

Susan Schraff joined the State Support Team-Region 3 as a consultant on a full time basis in August 2011. Her responsibilities include supporting districts with school improvement planning with a specific focus on improving results for students with disabilities. This includes targeted support with districts that have participated in Ohio Department of Education onsite reviews. In addition, Susan has assumed the management of the Advisory Council meetings.

Susan received her undergraduate degree in special education from Ohio University and her masters and educational specialist degrees in school psychology from Kent State University. She began her career as a classroom teacher with the Positive Education Program (PEP). During her 10 years with PEP, she also worked at the Early Intervention Center East and with a grant project that provided professional development and support to public school districts to build capacity for working with behaviorally challenging students. She left PEP to work with the Lakewood City Schools as a coordinator for three years before joining the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, where she remained for 22 years. While at CH-UH, Susan served as Coordinator of Special Education, Director of Special Education and Director of Student Services.



## Barbara Murphy

RttT Urban Regional Specialist

Barbara Murphy has spent her career as an urban educator dedicated to the belief that all students can achieve success. Recently, Murphy was an action team coach working with low achieving schools in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Murphy began her career as a language teacher in Cleveland and has served as a building administrator preK-12, curriculum director and federal programs coordinator in districts in northeast Ohio. She has always had a great interest in curriculum and professional development that will lead to systemic transformational change.

Murphy is the RttT Urban Regional Specialist for The Cleveland Metropolitan School District and the Akron Public Schools.

Murphy completed her undergraduate degree at Howard University and has done graduate work at Kent State University and the University of Akron.



## Sally Levine

RttT Northeast Regional Specialist

Before joining the Race to the Top (RttT) Team through the Cuyahoga County Educational Service Center as a Regional Specialist, Sally Levine devoted 35 years in Northeast Ohio as special education teacher, curriculum specialist, elementary principal and central office administrator.

Most recently, Levine served 19 years in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District as both director of elementary education and principal of Roxboro Elementary School. Levine began her administrative career as a curriculum specialist in the East Cleveland City School District where she also served as a special education teacher. Prior to coming to the Cuyahoga County area, she taught in the Crestview Local School District in Columbiana County.

Levine completed coursework for her principal license at Cleveland State University. She received both a M.Ed. in Learning Disabilities and a B.S. in speech pathology and audiology from Kent State University.

## Student Artwork Displayed at ESC

By **Nina Stein**, *Administrative Assistant*

We have started an art display that will rotate several times a year at our main administration building and at the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center. Districts interested in featuring their students' work may submit up to three items from grades K-12. Artwork may consist of drawings, paintings, ceramics, metalwork and other art forms. We ask that the items be identified by the title, medium, size, student's name, grade and school district. Certificates will be provided to the students participating in the display.

Students from **Beachwood, Bedford, Brooklyn, Cleveland Metropolitan, Fairview Park, Orange, and South Euclid-Lyndhurst City Schools, Cuyahoga Valley Career Center** as well as **Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, and**



**Richmond Heights Local Schools** have submitted artwork that is on display at this time.

If your district would be interested in submitting some items, please contact:

**Nina Stein**  
216-901-4201  
[nina.stein@esc-cc.org](mailto:nina.stein@esc-cc.org)

## International Education Updates

By **Nadine Grimm**, *Program Manager*

The ESC of Cuyahoga County is offering a new four-part workshop series for professional development with a global focus aimed to cultivate 21st century skills of cultural competence and developing global awareness that are fundamental to understanding the similarities and differences among cultures. Internationalizing the Curriculum participants will have the opportunity to meet teachers from other cultures, will identify issues arising from global connections, and will create curriculum that explores and supports the informed and ethical decision-making required for cultural competence. Workshops begin in October 2011 and extend to April 2012. Sessions are open to all teachers and professional staff in public, community, private and parochial schools.

In a separate program for invited school districts, Developing Global Citizens for Northeast Ohio, the ESC is collaborating with other institutions of the Ohio Department of Education's International

Education Advisory Committee to identify best practices of school districts in our area that are leaders in globalizing the curriculum. The group seeks to better prepare Ohio students for life and work in our global environment by embedding international learning components in every discipline from the early grades. Efforts are under way to include community stakeholders and business leaders in partnership with the schools for optimal teacher and student preparation that focuses on international-mindedness.

For information, contact:

**Nadine Grimm**  
216-901-4243  
[nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org](mailto:nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org)

## Cuyahoga County Ninth Grade Summer Academy

By **Jennifer Dodd**, *Coordinator of Research and Planning*

Ninety-six students from 12 districts across Cuyahoga County including **Beachwood, Bedford, Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Cleveland Metropolitan, Euclid, Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, Mayfield, Parma, Shaker Heights, South Euclid-Lyndhurst, and Warrensville Heights**, participated in the regional Cuyahoga County Ninth Grade Summer Academy coordinated by the ESC of Cuyahoga County in response to the leadership and vision of Mayor Frank Jackson and Senator Nina Turner.

This five-week program held on the Metro Campus of Cuyahoga Community College offered opportunities for students entering ninth grade to experience a rigorous, project-based curriculum aligned to the state standards in English/Language Arts and Mathematics. Learning activities and enrichment opportunities in each of the five weeks was centered on themes relevant to students that included: Recreation and Pop Culture, Transportation, Sports, Education/Military, and Neighborhoods, Landmarks and Suburbs.

In addition to academic preparation for ninth grade, students participated in engaging enrichment opportunities with guest speakers to facilitate the development of financial literacy, college and career awareness, organizational and study skills, and critical thinking. Multiple organizations invested time, resources and financial support to ensure that this program, as well as food and transportation, could be offered at no cost to families and schools.

Planning is underway to continue the Ninth Grade Summer Academy for summer 2012, with modifications and expansions based on feedback and data from multiple sources. For more information about the Cuyahoga County Ninth Grade Summer Academy, see the July 2011 *Plain Dealer* Press Release:

[http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/07/new\\_summer\\_school\\_mixes\\_city\\_a.html](http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/07/new_summer_school_mixes_city_a.html)



# Grants

## CCC America Goes to Washington, D.C.

By **Nadine Grimm**, Program Manager

The project directors for the ESC of Cuyahoga County's Teaching American History (TAH) Grant, Constructing, Consuming and Conserving America (CCC America), presented about the exemplary outcomes of the program on August 9th at the TAH Director's Conference in Washington, D.C. Academic Director Prof. Mark Tebeau of Cleveland State University and Nadine Grimm, Program Manager from the ESC, talked about the history of the project and the partnership between their organizations. They highlighted the professional development methods and training in digital humanities technologies that have resulted in new approaches to classroom teaching and learning. For example, CCC America teachers have created digital history exhibits using primary resources from the archives of the Western Reserve Historical Society, and they have created new mobile applications that "curate" local history sites (@CLEhistorical App). Students themselves have become historians as they work collaboratively to develop content for these virtual sites that tell the history of their own communities.

Rob Grossman, chair of the Social Studies Department at **Bay Village High School**, presented "Thoughts on the Frontier," a PowerPoint about his classroom project that illustrates the history of Bay Village from the early 1800s when it was part of the Western Reserve to the present day. He discussed how CCC America's professional development methods—from book discussions to archival research to creating mobile applications—influenced his research, changed his classroom teaching style, and transformed learning by his students, who have become actively engaged in learning American history but also preserving the history of their community.



Nadine Grimm, Jennifer Dodd, and Jennifer Felker with a statue of Abraham Lincoln at the Ford Theatre Museum in Washington, D.C.

Gail Greenberg, a **Cleveland Metropolitan School District** elementary media specialist, talked about her collaboration with Diane Rolfe, fourth grade teacher from **Lakewood City Schools**, on their project "What's for Lunch?" They researched the history of entrepreneurial companies in Cleveland's food industry—Schwebel Baking, J.M. Smucker, Dan Dee Pretzel & Potato Chip, Dairymen's Milk, and Pierre's Ice Cream—based on their young students' mutual interests in food. Gail commented on the project's impact in extending her professional learning community working with a teacher from another district and how it increased student, teacher and parental awareness of local Cleveland history, as well.

As a result of the positive outcomes of the CCC America grant, the ESC will present a series of workshops this academic year on Historical Thinking for the Common Core, to support the new Ohio and national standards in Historical Thinking required for Social Studies education. For information, contact:

**Nadine Grimm**  
216-901-4243  
nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org

## Rose-Mary Center Playground Installed

By **Lisa Adler**, *Special Education Supervisor*

Thanks to the generosity of many, an adaptive playground at the Educational Service Center Rose-Mary Center School was installed.

Pete Guinto, long-time volunteer at the Rose-Mary Center School, his family, friends and the following businesses donated many days of time, labor, equipment and materials. Terrace Construction did the initial excavation of the playground site, laid the gravel base and completed the backfilling of the surface. Independence Excavating donated the gravel, Down to Earth donated the use of their heavy equipment, and Davey Tree donated time, materials and labor for landscaping. Pete's efforts in securing these business partnerships, donations, and volunteers resulted in a savings of \$8,000.

On the afternoon of August 19th, Meyer Design, the playground vendor, supervised five volunteers including ESC personnel, school staff and friends

to dig footers for the structure posts. The next day, 19 volunteers, consisting of parents, school staff, ESC staff and RMC staff gathered to help install the playground. Under the supervision of Meyer Design, stations were set up to begin installation of the swings, slides, decks, ramps and picnic table. On August 21st, the 19 volunteers worked in the rain and mud to dig, landscape and finish installation of the structure.

Under the supervision of volunteers from Terrace Construction, on August 27th, five volunteers from the school came to lay the gravel base for the rubberized soft surfacing. The volunteers' time and hard work reduced the cost of the playground installation by another \$3,000. Ribbon cutting for the new playground will be on October 27th at 5:00 p.m.





# Gifted & Talented Consortium News

## Highlighting Gifted and Talented Events

By **Wayne Gibson**, Director of Gifted Education

We are looking at another exciting year of activities for the gifted and talented students in our consortium districts. Our first event was a Global Positioning System (GPS) workshop for seventh and eighth grade students on September 22nd at Look About Lodge in the Chagrin Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks. Students from **Bedford, Fairview Park, Rocky River, South Euclid-Lyndhurst** and **Westlake City Schools** attended this event. A second workshop will be held on November 3rd for those on the waiting list.

Our first Technology Workshop experience is scheduled for October 25th. This workshop is for high school students who have an interest in a possible career in technology. Students are given a tour of the Hyland Software facility and then shadow programmers and/or software testers. A working lunch will provide time for students to ask questions as well as get answers. There will be two more workshops available later this year.

On November 17th our high school students will have the opportunity to attend our Peaceful Solutions XVI Workshop at the Beck Center for the

Arts. This is the sixteenth year of this very worthwhile event. The students work with a professional artist from the Beck Center, and at the end of the work session, students will present their experience to a full audience.

Our Leadership Development Workshop for high school students will be held on December 1st. Dr. Sharon Kruse will present the workshop that encompasses Leadership Styles, Importance of Vision, Team Building, Reaching Consensus, and Creating Positive Environments for Success.

For more information regarding these workshops or our gifted program, please contact:

**Wayne Gibson**

216-901-4205

[wayne.gibson@esc-cc.org](mailto:wayne.gibson@esc-cc.org)



## 1st Annual Early Learners Conference is a Success!

By **Paula Kucinic**, Director of Professional Development and Outreach

At the ESC of Cuyahoga County we believe that the early learning years for a child are critical in developing and building a solid foundation that will support a child all the way through adulthood. On August 2-3, 2011, the ESC, in partnership with the Lorain County Educational Service Center, held the 1st Annual Early Learners Conference. Participants heard from national expert Lisa Murphy, The Ooey Goey Lady, as she shared the powerful story of her first day of school and how and why that day solidified her decision to become a teacher. In addition, Lisa spent the afternoon sharing over 25 tried and true suggestions for how to create a meaningful gathering time, all while reinforcing the importance of authentic enthusiasm on the part of the teacher. On day two of the conference, participants heard from

local experts on a variety of topics including The ABC's of Positive Behavior Support, What to Do When a Child Doesn't Play, Critical Transitions, Making Connections to Technology, Literacy and Universal Design and Supporting Young Children in Community Settings. A pre-conference was also held on Monday, August 1, 2011 for educators interested in obtaining hours in first-aid training, communicable diseases, and safety and violence prevention. Planning is already underway for next year's conference.



## Regional Standards Rollouts Phase II: Digging Deeper

By **Paula Kucinic**, *Director of Professional Development*

The Educational Service Centers of Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake Counties, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the SMART Consortium, hosted four regional rollout sessions this past July for educators interested in learning more about the Mathematics, English/Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science Content Standards. Content area consultants from ODE provided participants with an overview of Ohio's enhanced comprehensive educational system, newly revised standards, model curriculum and the next generation of assessments. Local area consultants and State Support Team consultants from Regions 3 and 4 provided content area presentations and modeling demonstrations. Participants who would like to view segments of the sessions or obtain resources that were shared at the workshops can do so by visiting the ESC website at [www.esc-cc.org](http://www.esc-cc.org).



## 2nd Annual Response to Intervention (RtI) Institute

By Paula Kucinic, Director of Professional Development

The 2nd Annual Response to Intervention (RtI) Institute was held August 8-10, 2011 at the Embassy Suites in Independence. Participants attending the RtI institute heard from national, state and local educators. On Monday, August 8th, Dr. Joseph Murphy, Vanderbilt University, provided the first inspirational keynote address, "Closing the Achievement Gap," followed by Dr. George Batsche, University of Southern Florida, and the "Problem Solving Model." On Tuesday, Dr. Terry Scott, University of Louisville, Kentucky, greeted the crowd with "Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS)." Throughout the Institute, participants were also provided with a national update from Dr. Alexa Posney from The United States Department of Education and heard state updates from Sasheen Phillips, Dr. Cynthia Lemmerman and Pam VanHorn from the Ohio Department of Education. In addition to the national and Ohio updates, participants had several opportunities to attend breakout sessions and hear from local educators and colleagues from the **Avon Lake, Lakewood, North Olmsted, North Royalton, Parma** and **Strongsville City Schools**.

