



SPRING 2016

The ESC CONNECTION

**BUILDING LEADERSHIP TEAMS
AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WORKSHOPS OFFERED BY ESC
PAGES 11-17**

The Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County



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We Build Bridges For . . .

Educators • Districts • Agencies • Organizations
 Universities & Colleges • Students • Adult Learners
 Families & Communities • Businesses



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Superintendent's Message

By Dr. Bob Mengerink, *Superintendent*

Leading the Way to a New Vision for Information Technology Centers



Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to share that Connect, formerly known as North Coast Council, is leading the way to a new vision for Information Technology Centers serving schools and other educational entities in Ohio. As the new governing Board of Directors, the Educational Service

Centers of Cuyahoga, Lorain and Medina County and the Ohio Schools Council have accepted the ownership, responsibility, accountability and liability of Connect in order to provide exemplary service to member districts.

As a true regional shared-service operation, Connect will build on the capacity of our four governing entities to expand services and respond quickly to district needs. Connect members will have greater access to a more diverse range of expertise and shared services through the partnership of these owner agencies. This will also increase the capacity of our ESC to offer a range of technology services to our client schools. Our new portfolio of services at the ESC of Cuyahoga County will include, but not be limited to, Information Technology, Educational Technology,

Cooperative Purchasing, Financial Services, HR Services, Professional Development and Curriculum, Research and Data Analysis.

This partnership will transform Connect into a service agency that is modeled after the philosophy of our ESC – districts have the right to receive high-quality service unconditionally and it is our obligation to provide those services effectively and efficiently. Connect members will experience an increased strength and unwavering service that can reduce costs and make their information technology more effective and efficient, with the ultimate benefit of providing the greatest educational experience possible for students.

Sincerely,
Bob Mengerink

Connect, formerly known as North Coast Council, is leading the way to a new vision for Information Technology Centers serving schools and other educational entities in Ohio.

Stay Connected...

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Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga County Announces New Director

Karen Mintzer Assumes Agency's Leadership

Dr. Robert Mengerink, superintendent of the ESC of Cuyahoga County announced the appointment of Karen Mintzer as the Director for Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga County. She will succeed Melissa Manos who is retiring at the end of this year. Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga County is a comprehensive system of services that promotes and supports the optimum health and development of all children prenatal to three and their families. Mintzer brings nearly two decades of leadership to the Help Me Grow program and has been an integral player in the initial development and implementation of high quality early intervention and home visiting services for pregnant women and parents with young children.

Mintzer began her career with Help Me Grow as the Interlink and Early Intervention Manager then moved into the role of Associate Director/Services Manager. She has an impressive background of attaining goals - such as a partnership with the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities to develop and implement teams providing evidence-based early intervention services to more than 2,000 children a year. Through this partnership and support from the Board of Developmental Disabilities, the teams have achieved a parent satisfaction rate of over 95%, and have exceeded the federal average standard for children exiting Help Me Grow at or above age expectations.

"I look forward to becoming the new Director and carrying on the work of Melissa Manos. My vision for Help Me Grow is to be a hub for families with young children to get the support they need to help their child get a great start in life," said Mintzer. "By collaborating with the community to understand the importance of the early years, Help Me Grow will have a positive impact on our families facing tough issues. Together, we can help all families see the potential in their children and help them to make that a reality."

"At the ESC of Cuyahoga County, our purpose is to support innovative educational efforts to raise expectations, build capacities, and improve results in programs and services such as Help Me Grow," said Bob Mengerink, superintendent of the ESC of Cuyahoga County. "With Karen's wealth of expertise and passion for making a difference to young families facing challenging

issues, I am certain that this organization will continue to ensure the well-being of all young children in Cuyahoga County under her direction."

Mintzer assumed her new role at Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga County in Cleveland, Ohio on January 1, 2016.



About Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga County

Help Me Grow is a statewide child development program, funded by the Ohio Department of Health that provides services and support to expectant parents, newborns, and infants and toddlers. The Educational ESC of Cuyahoga County is the administrative and fiscal entity for Help Me Grow. Additionally, Cuyahoga County is fortunate to have the Bright Beginnings Program that can serve children through kindergarten. This program, serving more than 900 children a year, is made possible with funding and support from Invest in Children and from the Family and Children First Council. All of these services are voluntary, at no cost to families, designed with the family's goals and concerns in mind, and ensure that infants and toddlers grow, learn, and develop to their fullest potential.

Help Me Grow believes all young children deserve the same opportunities to realize their full potential in life, regardless of economic, geographic, and demographic considerations. The parenting education and child development resources provided to families allows them to maximize this critical period of development in their child's life, providing a foundation for lasting success.

Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga County referrals may be made at 216-698-7500. To learn more about the services, go to www.helpmegrow.org or follow them on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn.

Connect's Executive Director Wins Spence White Service Award

Congratulations to John Mitchell for being recognized as the 2015 Spence White Service Award winner. John received the award at the INFOhio Users Council Meeting held at OETC in Columbus this winter.

The Spence White Service Award, given at the discretion of the INFOhio Governing Advisory Board, recognizes an individual for notable accomplishments in promoting INFOhio's vision of equitable access to digital resources for all school children. The award is given in memory of Spence White, an Information Technology Center director who recognized early how the Ohio Education Computer Network could support INFOhio's mission. Today, his legacy is held as a standard of excellence as INFOhio moves forward. As Executive Director of Connect, John's day-to-day work ensures that the students in Northeast Ohio have access to the library services and to the digital content

they need for school research. As a member of INFOhio's Governing Advisory Board, he helps guide the services to meet the needs of students statewide. When John first joined the Governing Advisory Board, we had automated just 500 schools supporting 250,000 students. Today, those numbers have swelled to more than 1.2 million students in 524 school districts in 2,433 buildings. John, who encouraged and helped us to apply for LSTA grants to fund migrations, was instrumental in that growth. In addition, his gift for strategic planning has led INFOhio to introduce its current wide range of services beyond library automation, including digital content and professional development.



Vision 8 Meeting

Business and educational leaders from the Cuyahoga Valley region attended this year's **Cuyahoga Valley Career Center's** Vision 8 community meeting for the Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools. This year's event, held on November 17, was hosted by the ESC of Cuyahoga County at its Independence facility. CVCC Superintendent Dr. Celena Roebuck gave a presentation on the various program offerings, facilities, and expansion. The discussions centered on the needs of local businesses as they relate to training, internships, support and recruitment of a qualified workforce that the career center can provide.



NE Ohio Business Advisory Network on Manufacturing

The Northcoast Business Advisory Network met at the ESC on January 21st to discuss “Manufacturing in Northeast Ohio Equals Career Opportunities for Today’s Students.” Thank you to Dr. Ethan Karp, CEO

of MAGNET and Michael Neff, Vice President (Retired) of Swagelok and Justin Chesney, Swagelok, as well as moderator Rachel Abbey McCafferty of Crain’s Cleveland Business.



GLOBAL EDUCATION

Central Africa Workshop

Educators learned about the geography, cultures and arts of modern Africa through the ESC's fall 2015 workshops "Teaching About Africa for K-12 Educators" that explored the central, eastern and western geographic regions of sub-Saharan Africa. Attendees enhanced their content knowledge about non-Western countries and societies in response to Ohio's learning standards requirements. Pan-African scholars from Cleveland State and Kent State Universities led workshops and shared their experiences teaching, living and working on the continent of Africa. The December 2nd workshop featured Professor Kazadi Mukuna, Kent State University, Pan-African Studies Program, who explored Central Africa: Democratic Republic of The Congo and African Music Traditions.



ESC Culture Café Welcomes International Educators

The ESC of Cuyahoga County welcomes 19 international secondary teachers on April 13th for lunch and a program called “People on the Move” that explores migration from their personal, national and cultural perspectives. The educators from Brazil, Egypt, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, and Senegal participate in the International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP) through the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. They are studying about U.S. education at Kent State University and intern with local school districts during spring term.

The ESC has hosted the ILEP scholars and local teachers annually to exchange cultural knowledge and similarities and differences in our educational practices. Local educators interested in global

education and in meeting the international scholars to learn more about their cultures and educational experiences are invited to attend the lunch and program “People on the Move” from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. on April 13, 2016.

Register for the ESC’s Culture Café “People on the Move” at www.esc-cc.org, click on Professional Development, then Calendar of Events for April 13 and follow the registration prompts.

For information, contact Nadine Grimm, Coordinator of 21st Century Learning
216-901-4243

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[Click here](#) for flyer.



Teacher Symposium on Migration in Global Context Set for April 15

“Migration in Global Context: History, Narrative and Project-Based Learning” is a collaborative program between the ESC of Cuyahoga County and Cleveland State University’s Department of History that is funded in part by the Ohio Humanities. More than twenty teachers participated in the 2015 summer institute and have participated in fall and spring workshops with a variety of formats that highlight history, geography, arts, literature, and culture with applications for teaching and learning. Workshops have included gallery walks at the Cleveland Museum of Art, film and book studies. Teachers have developed project-based curricular units and co-teaching models. Students have engaged in service learning and community or school projects that enhance their understanding of immigration and migration in U.S. and global contexts. Educators will present their findings, project outcomes, and student work at a Teacher Symposium at Cleveland State University. Prof. Tiffany

Trimmer of the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, a world historian and expert on migration history, is the keynote presenter.

The symposium takes place on April 15, 2016, in the Student Center at CSU from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is free and open to the public but registration is required.

Register at Symposium URL: <http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/globalmigration>

Follow the conversations at #teachmigration

For information, contact

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[Click here](#) for flyer.



What Does it Take to Disrupt Poverty’s Adverse Influence on Student Learning?

On February 2-3, 2016, nearly 300 educators from across Ohio participated in a live and networked, state-wide Disrupting Poverty in Ohio Professional Learning Institute (PLI). This first of its kind PLI, and based on the ASCD book *Turning High Poverty Schools into High Performing Schools*, featured national experts and authors, William Parrett and Kathleen Budge.

During their two days together, authors Parrett and Budge provided participants with a framework for collaborative action, demonstrated how teachers, principals, central office personnel, and others from various vantage points can work together to create cultures of high expectations to support all students and learners. The program provided participants with the opportunity to network with

other participants from across the state. Through this new form of professional learning, educators from across Ohio could choose to either participate in the live, face-to-face session with authors Parrett and Budge or to participate in one of three broadcasted sites, facilitated by a Parrett and Budge Cadre member. A special thanks to our national partnering agency ASCD and all of our state-wide partnering districts and agencies including ESC of Central Ohio, Princeton City Schools, R.G. Drage Career Technical Center, South-Western Schools and the Stark County ESC.

For information, contact: Paula Kucinic, Director of Professional Development and Instructional Technology
216-901-4244 | Paula.kucinic@esc-cc.org

Facing History and Ourselves

The ESC of Cuyahoga County sponsored a “Facing History and Ourselves” three part series that focused on three areas: the Holocaust and Human Behavior with *Violins of Hope*, Civil Rights Historical Investigations, and the Reconstruction Era and Fragility of Democracy.

Attendees discussed how history is shaped by hatred, indifference and denial, as well as by caring, compassion and responsibility. They examined the range of choices that led to the failure of democracy in Germany and ultimately to the persecution of millions of Jews and other targeted groups. Educators also learned how to engage students in the issues raised by the American civil rights movement. At the February workshop, the topic was how society rebuilds after extraordinary division and trauma and when the ideal and values of the democracy are most vulnerable. The Reconstruction era in the United States and the construction of American identity were highlighted.



HIGHLIGHTS

Winter Professional Development Sessions

ASCD - Building Teacher Capacity for Success

Thank you to all the educators who attended this important workshop on January 26th at the ESC of Cuyahoga County.



HIGHLIGHTS

Winter Professional Development Sessions

eTPES Student Growth and Final Rating Calculation

The eTPES Student Growth and Final Rating Calculation session provided on February 18th at the ESC of Cuyahoga County gave updates to the eTPES (electronic Teacher and Principal Evaluation System), including the updates as determined by changes regarding the use of student growth measures. The session was open to superintendents, superintendent designees, principals, and evaluators of educators. Thank you to all who attended.



Haberman Star Training

The Haberman Star Teacher Interview selects mature teachers who can build relationships with students. The Haberman Educational Foundation offers superintendents, principals, site-based teams, and teacher leaders research-based strategies to select teachers and principals who will be unequivocally successful with at-risk students. Thank you to all who attended this session on February 18th at the ESC of Cuyahoga County.



Advancing Math Instruction through the NEOMS Network

The Northeast Ohio Mathematical Specialists (NEOMS) Network met on January 22nd at the ESC. This network is for passionate math specialists, coaches and teachers who are interested in learning together for the sole purpose of advancing math instruction.



HIGHLIGHTS

Winter Professional Development Sessions

Passing Levies

Jerry Rampelt, from Support Ohio Schools, presented a one-day seminar on January 20th at the ESC of Cuyahoga County on “Effective and Practical Levy Strategies that are Based on Research.” Attendees learned about effective levy campaign planning, funding campaigns, expenditures that make a difference, polling, messaging, voter modeling, effective literature, Get out the Vote strategies, absentee voting and use of social media in campaigns.



Primary and Middle School Principal Meeting

The Primary and Middle School Principal Professional Learning Community (PLC) groups spent the afternoon of January 19th at the ESC. This new program is a great opportunity for principals to network with other colleagues and discuss relevant issues related to education and leadership.

This year, the group is exploring leadership at a deeper level and integrating this year’s theme and study book, *The Disney Way* by Bill Capodagli. The Disney Way is steeped in training and culture and focuses on four beliefs: Dream, Believe, Dare, and Do.

Please consider membership in this group. There is no cost for the Elementary, Middle, or High School PLC.



TALK

We believe in providing opportunities for all educational professionals in Northeast Ohio to collaborate, examine, and share effective practices and resources that support high quality educational leadership.

Formerly the Westside Collaborative and the Eastside-Westside Curriculum Group, the Teaching and Leading Knowledge (TALK) Network meets at the ESC.

The network has been established for individuals interested in networking with other educators on issues and topics as they relate to curriculum, instruction and assessment.

Thank you to those who attended the January 19th session.

For more info, contact Tracy Murphy at tracy.murphy@esc-cc.org.



Literacy Network

On January 14th, a group of dedicated ELA specialists, coaches and teacher leaders came together for the Literacy Network meeting. These educators are interested in learning and reflecting together to ensure that all students receive the highest quality ELA instruction possible.



HIGHLIGHTS

Winter Professional Development Sessions

New ESC Network – Blended Learning in Action

In 2015, the ESC of Cuyahoga County formed the Blended Learning in Action Network. The network is co-facilitated by Tracy Coleman, **Mentor Public Schools** and Mike Pennington, **Independence Local Schools**. The network is designed to provide practitioner-to-practitioner support through resources, strategies, and modeling of best practices for teachers and administrators integrating blended learning. In addition to meeting on a regular basis, the network also provides participants with an opportunity to discuss and see blended learning in action through district site visits. The next meeting of the Blended Learning in Action Network has been scheduled for May 19, 2016.

To learn more about the network, or to register for the next meeting, please see the ESC website at www.esc-cc.org, Professional Development, Calendar of Events.

[Click here](#) for the flyer.



Innovation Lab Network

The Ohio Innovation Lab Network (ILN) welcomed three Northeast Ohio districts—**Chardon Local**, **Crestwood Local**, and **Wickliffe**—as members during Fall 2015. During site visits, the district leaders, teachers, students, and community members demonstrated their commitment to the principles of student-focused learning, acquisition of world-class knowledge and skills, integration of technology for anytime-anywhere learning, personalized and differentiated learning and instruction, project/problem or performance-based learning and assessments, and comprehensive systems of support. ILN districts demonstrate their innovative principles and practices in unique and distinct ways, but all are focused

on students and equitable opportunities and outcomes for teaching and learning. The statewide network provides support for leaders in their work of transforming education through innovative practices and policies. The ESC of Cuyahoga County will host a regional ILN meeting on April 19th for ILN districts and any district administrators or leaders interested in learning more about the ILN network.

For information, contact:

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216-901-4243

nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org

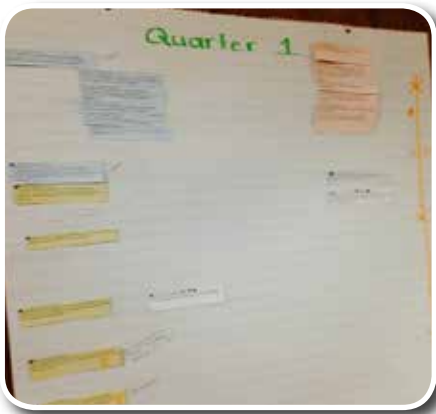
Competency-Based Education (CBE) Pilot

The ESC of Cuyahoga County was awarded one of five pilot grants statewide to lead a consortium of districts that are beginning the work of K-12 competency-based education in Ohio. **Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Kirtland, Maple Heights, Orange, Perry, and Springfield City** are districts participating in the Ohio Innovation Lab Network that are committed to student-focused deep learning and new pedagogical models of teaching and alternate assessments. For the CBE pilot, district leaders selected teams of 10 teachers from their elementary, middle and high school levels to begin professional development training for writing Performance-Based Tasks and Assessments (PBAs) that demonstrate academic rigor and provide deep learning opportunities for students through content and

competencies development. The consortium is working with content-area facilitators from Stanford University's Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity (SCALE). Teachers will engage in professional development through spring 2017, and then will train additional district teachers in the pedagogical methods. Project implementation continues through 2018-19. CBE awardees are collaborating with the Ohio Department of Education to help define student competencies that are aligned to standards and demonstrate the characteristics, knowledge and skills that students should demonstrate to be well prepared for their transitions from secondary to post-secondary careers, college, military, and for their future success.



The Curriculum consultants at the ESC of Cuyahoga County have been very busy this year supporting the good work of the districts who partner with the ESC. Area school districts are providing work time for teachers to ensure that their curricula are aligned to Ohio's Learning Standards along with their district and building goals. Most recently, Hope North West, Pearl, and Summit Academy are reviewing and aligning research-based instructional practices to Step 3 and 4 of the Teacher Based Team (TBT) process. Teachers spent a half-day reviewing Marzano's Nine Strategies and defining what activities support each of these strategies. Marybeth Harter and Bryan Drost of Firelands Local School District are providing ongoing release time for teachers in grades 3, 4, and 5 so that they can make sure all of their English Language Arts standards are unpacked within a useful curriculum document to be used for lesson planning.



Standards from the English Arts Blueprint are reviewed and laid out on charts by quarter.

Judy Myers and her staff at Revere Middle School

have taken time to refine their school mission, vision and core values. These documents will serve as a guide throughout the school year as decisions are made.



A teacher team's brainstorm of core values for their building.



A colleague sharing his teacher team's ideas for a building mission statement.

Steven Kofol and his Chardon K-12 teacher teams have spent time examining their Social Studies standards and making cross-curricular connections within their English Language Arts curriculum maps. These curriculum connections can help maximize instructional time and resources.



First grade teachers are hard at work reviewing Social Studies Government standards to determine what first grade mastery will look like across the district.

Contact:

Kelly Stukus, ESC Curriculum Consultant

Kelly.stukus@esc-cc.org

Bob Glavan, ESC Curriculum consultant, is working with mathematics and science teachers in **Berkshire, CMSD** (Collinwood High School), and **Sheffield Lake**. Bob facilitates mathematics curriculum mapping at Berkshire High School and will return to complete that process within the next month or so. In addition, he works with the Berkshire High School Science Department to help them incorporate literacy strategies, transition from Material Safety Data Sheets to Safety Data Sheets, etc. At Collinwood High School, he facilitated an all-day workshop focused on creating flexible (differentiated) lesson plans. The work in Sheffield Lake is challenging, helping a Grade 8 Science instructor determine how to prepare her Physical Science students to take the Grade 8 Ohio Science AIR Assessment. Bob will return to Sheffield Lake in May to help Grade 7 and 8 Science teachers complete the curriculum mapping process. He hopes to expand ESC work in districts devoted to mathematics and science curriculum and classroom coaching.

Contact:

Bob Glavan, ESC Curriculum Consultant

bob.glavan@esc-cc.org

Maple Heights Students Develop the 4Cs

The Inner Muse pilot project at **Maple Heights High School** engages 18 honors students in an opportunity to enhance their critical thinking, communications, collaboration, and creativity skills as they explore the region's cultural institutions and engage in hands-on activities that apply their new knowledge and skills, and provides opportunities to learn about potential careers. An art teacher and social studies teacher collaboratively lead the program integrating creativity with academic content. Students have made handmade paper and simple book bindings, and they created posters working an antique letterpress at the Morgan Art of Papermaking Conservatory and Educational Institution. They visited the galleries of the Cleveland Museum of Art and handled ancient art objects to learn about art history and observational skills, and they gathered information about the education and skills required for careers as artists, art docents and educators, curators, and art librarians. In April, students will tour the main

branch of the Cleveland Public Library to learn about its history, architecture, special collections, rare books, and digital holdings, book and archival preservation, and the library's significance as a major research library while it provides the latest technology in its new maker space. After each session, students reflect on their newly acquired knowledge via observations, writing, and drawing in their handmade journals or artistic collage. The group will develop an art and history project with a Metroparks ranger highlighting park resources that will appeal to younger students, parents, and members of the community about the significance of preserving and conserving our region's natural resources for future generations. In a final 20-day elective course, students will engage in personalized research, writing, internships, or in an artistic or creative multi-media project to demonstrate to school and community audiences the content knowledge, skills and competencies acquired during the pilot.



The Inner Muse Project teachers/11th grade honors students applied for the National Parks Centennial competition for “Kids in the Park Day” and have been awarded \$1000 to support their project. It is part of their 20-day elective course as a result of the Inner Muse project the ESC is helping to coordinate this academic year. They will be visiting the MetroParks during their 20-day course in May to learn about our watershed area, meeting with park rangers, and conduct service learning from which they will create a mural about sustainability of our natural environment and our Metroparks and Cuyahoga Valley National Park. They will display the mural to share with students at the high school, and with young students in their district at other schools and with their community. Great News for Maple Heights Inner Muse project students!



P Resident Educator

The ESC of Cuyahoga County's Resident Educator program provides assistance for surrounding districts and charter/community schools in supporting their beginning teachers participating in the Ohio Resident Educator Program. Regular program meetings and formal mentor and district-level support provide beginning teachers with the framework to enhance teaching and learning within their classrooms, supporting student achievement and the teacher's professional growth. Regular meetings are designed to help new teachers develop deeper understandings of the fundamental concepts and skills which are part of the teaching and learning cycle, and to provide opportunities for guided practice in the application of these concepts within their current teaching context.

Recent meetings for teachers in Years 1 and 2 focused on supporting teacher growth in the areas of differentiating instruction and analyzing student work

by inviting resident educators to integrate specific best practices into their unique classroom environment. Teachers engaged in critical analysis of their individual class profile and collaboratively studied student work samples for the purpose of gaining useful insights to inform their instruction and enhance student growth. Year 3 and 4 meetings provided conceptual and logistical support for teachers participating in the Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA) this year. Upcoming meetings include additional tailored support for resident educators and a spring meeting for program coordinators (April 28th) to develop additional ways to support the districts in their work with their mentors and new teachers.

For information contact:
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Kathleen.scott@esc-cc.org

F First Ring Collaborative

The First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative (FRSC) is an association of 16 superintendents of school districts that surround the city of Cleveland, Ohio. The FRSC was established in the year 2000 to help districts address the interrelated challenges related to poverty, mobility, diversity, and the achievement gap. This year the FRSC, through shared commitment and thoughtful planning, developed a strategic plan to determine how it can best leverage its collective power and influence to have the most impact on its students' education.

The new strategic plan has become the foundation for the focus of the FRSC by establishing the following:

- The continuation of the existing programs that are making the most difference.
- The identification and prioritization of twelve new strategies that span three direct-impact goal areas (essential support, advocacy and awareness, and collaboration) and one internally-directed goal area (governance).
- A framework (mission statement, vision statement, guiding principles) that defines the boundaries for the issues in which it will choose to engage.

The FRSC recognizes that there are many stakeholders involved in education and that school districts have the primary responsibility for the delivery of quality education. However, the FRSC also recognizes the special opportunity, and responsibility, it has to leverage its capability to enable First Ring districts to accelerate results. The strategic plan will help the FRSC maximize its impact.

With everyone's active involvement and support, we can fulfill our mission and continue to help improve student learning each and every year. You are invited to visit our website www.esc-cc.org/FirstRingSuperintendentsCollaborative.aspx to view the strategic plan. None of this can happen without strong relationships among all members of the FRSC. It is our clear expectation that all adults work together as positive partners in helping our most precious gift, our children.

For information contact:
Joe Bergant
Director, First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative
216-901-4245
Joe.bergant@esc-cc.org

Parent-Teacher Partnerships Model State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) of Ohio

State Support Teams have partnered with school districts to receive professional development for the implementation of the Parent Teacher Partnerships Model supported by Ohio's State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). Parents of children with disabilities and teachers meet together in a small group to learn how to strengthen their partnership to support student success. Parent and teacher co-facilitators lead discussions and interactive activities aimed at building parent and teacher confidence and understanding of effective strategies for partnering. In addition, Building and District Leadership Teams learn how they can improve and sustain their partnership practices.

Session topics are based on:

Six key areas of the School, Family and Community Partnerships Framework from Johns Hopkins University: parenting, communicating, learning at home, volunteering, decision-making, collaborating with the community and;

Seven principles of partnerships from the work of Ann and Rud Turnbull of the University of Kansas: communication, competence, respect, commitment, equality, advocacy, and trust.

Outcomes include:

- increased trust between schools and families
- higher and realistic parental expectations
- providing the first step to other types of parent involvement to follow
- higher degrees of parents' commitment to helping their students improve
- putting everyone on the "same page"
- decreased barriers for successful two-way communication.

For information, contact:

Kris Balestra, Consultant, State Support Team Region 3
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Family Engagement Matters!

- Improved academic performance
- Positive attitudes toward school
- Improved behavior
- School readiness
- Academic perseverance
- Lower dropout rates and fewer suspensions
- Study skills and homework completion rates
- School attendance rates
- Successful transitions to adulthood
- Increased pursuit of higher education



Many families consist of grandparents who are caregivers. An ice-breaker assists members in getting to know one another.

Milkovich Middle School members learning about the PTP model.



Maple Heights Partnership members discuss ways that Milkovich Middle School can be more welcoming to families visiting the school.



Learning History Locally . . . In the Cuyahoga Valley Region

The ESC of Cuyahoga County and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Environmental Education Center collaborated to present workshops for “Learning History Locally” that explored the history of the Ohio-Erie Canal and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Fourth grade teachers from **Black River, Cleveland, Maple Heights, Olmsted Falls, PEP, Waterloo,** and **Woodridge** districts discovered the historical and economic significance of the canal for the development of Ohio and the nation. Participants were immersed in canal resources and activities, primary source documents, and model curriculum. Park ranger Pam Barnes and historian Rich Horton engaged teachers in history and historical thinking skills, while naturalist Foster Brown led teachers

in song and role play through his interpretation of “Digger Gallagher,” an Irish immigrant character who helped dig the canal. Educators enjoyed a day-long visit to the Canal Exploration Center, where they viewed exhibits and saw the operation of the canal lock. Teachers are developing project-based curricular units that will be showcased in a follow-up session on May 4th.

For information:

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18th Annual Summer & Beyond Fair Draws More than 300 People

The ESC of Cuyahoga County's State Support Team Region 3 in collaboration with The Arc of Greater Cleveland, the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities and the Cuyahoga County Parent Mentor Project hosted the "18th Annual Summer and Beyond Fair" for families of students with disabilities in the Greater Cleveland area on Saturday, February 27th at the ESC building in Independence.

The familiar task of planning support activities throughout the school year and summer is often challenging for families of children with disabilities. "Families want their children to experience all aspects of childhood," states Terri McIntee, a Family and Community Involvement Specialist with the State

Support Team for Region 3 at the ESC of Cuyahoga County. "The Summer and Beyond Fair offers opportunities for community integration of children with various abilities which helps develop their independent living skills as well as their academic and social/emotional awareness."

More than 300 attendees enjoyed visiting the more than 45 booths, watching a performance by Dancing Wheels, receiving specialized face painting by Dixie by Design or laughing with Petals the Clown, and taking pictures with the Cleveland Indians' mascot Slider.

The 2016 Summer and Beyond Family Directory can be found at www.esc-cc.org.





Program for Area Teens with Hearing Loss

On March 11th, high school students with hearing loss had the opportunity to come together during a school-sanctioned program designed for meeting, mingling and learning. This program, held at the ESC of Cuyahoga County, was dedicated to teens grades 9-12 who have plans to move on to an independent lifestyle as they prepare to pursue higher education, vocational training, employment and independent living. The program included fun activities and presentations to foster

advocacy, knowledge and social well-being as students prepare to transition to life after high school.

This program was made possible by the ESC of Cuyahoga County and the Friends of the Society for the Deaf.



Partnering with Connecting for Kids



On Saturday, March 12th, in a “Connecting for Kids” program at the Westlake Porter Library, Lea Travis, curriculum consultant with the ESC of Cuyahoga County, presented information on Ohio’s new assessments and the accommodations available to students with special needs. She also provided general information on how parents can support students in acquiring test content and technology skills. Lea also shared websites with the group as a resource for both parents and students. “Connecting for Kids” offers education and support for families with questions or concerns about their child, with a focus on children from birth through age 12.

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Preschool and Special Education – Portage County

The ESC of Cuyahoga County has increased its footprint into Portage County and is currently serving six districts in the area. The ESC provides direct support and supervision of preschool and special education classrooms in three districts. One of our Portage County district partners, **James A Garfield**, has two full-time preschool classrooms serving students with and without disabilities. Students aged 3-5 explore, investigate, and manipulate their surroundings for a wide variety of learning opportunities. Young children learn through play and the preschool classroom provides the perfect environment for students to acquire new skills. Children enjoy recurring themes and familiar activities and teachers use these to effectively promote learning.



Students engage in pretend and symbolic play at the kitchen center.



Students color pictures of items that begin with the letter A to reinforce their understanding of the letter sound.



Shredded paper in the sensory table with students' names and pictures to be found as well as other objects to be sorted into bowls.

Students regularly engage in gross motor development through both structured and free play activities.



Students create turkey hats as they learn about Thanksgiving.

Cooking is an important component of instruction allowing children to explore various textures and materials, follow directions, make predictions, and evaluate their predictions afterward.

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Happy Day School Preschool Classrooms

The ESC preschool classrooms at Happy Day School in Ravenna serve children ages 3-5 from schools in Portage County.

Bobby is four years old and has made so much progress since the beginning of the year. He has progressed from sitting up unsupported to standing in a mobile stander and moving around the classroom independently. Bobby loves being around his peers and is learning to use a communication device to say good morning to his friends, and let us know when he is all done with an activity.

Paitynn is four years old and loves being around other peers and adults, and smiles when you interact with her. Paitynn is working on standing in a stander and sitting independently with support from staff. She likes the swing on the indoor playground.

Jack is four years old and has an amazing personality. Within the last three weeks, he has been walking independently without the support of his walker. Jack is learning to try new foods such as Cheez-its, crackers and peanut butter, and veggie straws. Jack has begun putting his face in the water while swimming. He also is excellent at reading and math problems.

Jocelyn is four years old and has made substantial progress this year. Since Thanksgiving, she has been walking independently without the use of a walker, and going through doors and into the gym with no issues with the help of verbal and visual prompts. She has learned to transition with little distress. She is working on walking up and down steps, and continued communication of her wants and needs. She loves music, the swing and books.



Gavin is enjoying the swimming Pool with Mrs. Diana Harrod. The classes that are located at Happy Day school get to participate in aquatic therapy twice per week. This improves their muscle tone and encourages peer interaction.



Noah is holding the bean sprout that room 6 started growing while working on the Wall-E theme. The students picked out their favorite beans, "planted" them, and are watching them grow. This bean sprout has been growing for almost two weeks now.



Students Kimberly, Jazmin, and Gavin from room 6, participate in morning activities that include music, calendar, weather and the letter of the week.



Jazmin playing adaptive PE. she handles a ball and move the par



When the activities for the month are completed, the students are given the opportunity to build their social skills by interacting with other classrooms. In this picture, the community students of Room 5 & Room 6 are watching a movie that address the theme for the month. Listed Left to right: Oscar, Kenny, Chloe, and Jolienne.



Gavin is using an adaptive trampoline during PE. This is a major accomplishment for him as he is non-mobile. He is able to use his gross motor skills to bounce up and down with adult assistance.



g with a parachute in She is holding on to nd helping the class achute.



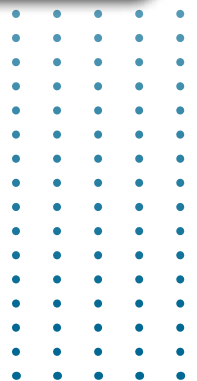
Kenny is learning different expressions in creative play. In this picture he is pretending to be a Ninja that was surprising the class. Room 6 tries to focus on expression, emotions, self-awareness and problem solving throughout the school day.



Paxton is enjoying the sensory room that is located at Happy Day School. The sensory room has a light wall, fiber-optics ropes (pictured above), water bubblers, adapted hammock swings, disco lights, and a swinging ladder.



Paitynn, in room 5 at Happy Day, explores a tactile switch with recorded phrases.



GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

Exploring the Arts at Beck Center

On February 10th, the Explore the Arts Workshop was held at the Beck Center for the Arts. Students from **Bedford, Richmond Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Rocky River, and South Euclid-Lyndhurst** Schools attended. The annual event allows middle school students to express themselves in several forms of artistic expression. Whether it was improv, mime, drumming, clay, or sculpture, professional artists helped students explore their passions.



Public Speaking Workshop

On January 26th and 27th, the ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted high school students from **Bedford, Independence, Lakewood, South Euclid, Richmond Heights, and Westlake** Schools for a public speaking workshop. “Speaking to Win: How Mastering the Art of Public Speaking will Help You in School and Life” was led by Lisa Ryan of Grategy, Inc. She taught the students fear reduction, skill development, preparation tips, winning style, and presentation design. The students will now be able to use these techniques in various projects in their high school settings.

On February 24th, more than 120 fourth through eighth graders and their coaches came from seven districts in Portage County for the Math 24 tournament. It was held at the Maplewood Career Center in Ravenna.



GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

Academic Olympics

On March 16th, **Lakewood, Rocky River, Richmond Heights, South Euclid-Lyndhurst**, and **Westlake** Schools attended the “Academic Olympics” at the ESC of Cuyahoga County. This competition is based upon the instant recall of general knowledge in the fields of math, science, social studies, English, the arts, sports, current events and critical thinking.

Each school is allowed two teams of five with four players and one alternate. Teams may be composed of seventh and/or eighth graders or a combination of both grades. Students compete in Head to Head Rounds with ‘toss up’ questions. First to hit the buzzer gets the question.

There is a Timed Round where questions are read and a team spokesperson answers after the team reaches consensus and there is a Collaborative Round where the teams receive 30 written questions to answer on paper as a group. Students earn point for correct answers and points are deducted for incorrect answers. The top scoring teams compete at the end in a final round competition to determine (medal winning) first, second and third place team winners and overall scores are then added to determine school (trophy) winners.

Congratulations to all of the students and the following team and school winners:

- 1st Place Team: Westlake - Team C
- 2nd Place Team: Lakewood - Team J
- 3rd Place Team - Westlake - Team F

- 1st Place School - Westlake
- 2nd Place School - Lakewood
- 3rd Place School - South Euclid-Lyndhurst





Westlake



Lakewood



South Euclid-Lyndhurst



Math 24 Competition in Portage County

Students use special cards with numbers on them, using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division to make mathematical computations using the numbers on a card to make "24." The tournament consisted of five rounds of play. Students competed against other peers in the same grade from each of the districts represented. Most had already competed at their building and placed in the top three or four at that level. Those competing at Maplewood were already winners in their district.

At the end of the tournament, there was a winner at each grade level. Students who were finalists in

the tournament each received a special Math 24 wristband and the grade level winners each received a medal. Every student who attended received a T-shirt designed by Gideon Kaine, a fifth grader from Kent-Longcoy. He was the winner of the T-Shirt design contest.

Districts represented included **Aurora, Kent, Southeast, Crestwood, James A. Garfield, Streetsboro** and **Field**.





(Left to right) Grade 4 & 5 winners:
 Grade 4: Thomas Subodosh from Aurora
 Grade 5: Duncan Bryk from Kent



(Left to right) Grade 6-8 winners:
 Grade 6 Grand Winners: Lauren Lowden from Field and Seema Dhaher from Field
 Grade 7 Grand Winner: Kevin Jin from Harmon
 Grade 8 Grand Winner: Noah Frato-Sweeney from James A. Garfield Middle School



Portage County Spelling Bee

On January 27th, the annual Portage County Spelling Bee was held at Maplewood Career Center.

More than 100 people attended to watch the 22 spellers (grades 6-8) from nine districts compete. The bee went 13 rounds. Districts included **Crestwood, Field, Streetsboro, James A. Garfield, Mogadore, Rootstown, St. Patrick Elementary, Southeast, Streetsboro,** and **Waterloo.**

Special thanks to the pronouncer Lorna Fleming and judges Jackie Lovelace and Derek Hatcher.

Left to right and also from 1st to 5th place are the following students:

1. Julie Pham grade 6, St. Patrick School in Kent
2. Allison Sabol grade 7, Crestwood Middle School
3. Evan Schmitt grade 7, Crestwood Middle School
4. Jacob Benjamin grade 8, Streetsboro Middle School
5. Raeann Quiggle grade 7, Crestwood Middle School



*P*roject Aware: Local Educators Trained in Youth Mental Health

On March 15, educators from various school districts attended a training session, “Youth Mental Health First Aid Training.” They learned how to become a First Aid Responder and learn skills to identify, understand and respond to youth with signs of behavioral/mental health concerns or crisis and develop an action plan for next steps. They will join the the National Council of Behavior Health in their goal to increase First Aid Responders to one million citizens across the country this year.

Attendees learned that they should:

- Assess for risk of suicide or harm
- Listen nonjudgmentally
- Give reassurance and information
- Encourage appropriate professional help
- Encourage self-help and other support strategies

These eight-hour training sessions, held throughout the school year, are fully funded through the Ohio Department of Education Project AWARE grant. There is no cost to the district for attending.

Upcoming training sessions include April 12, May 10 and June 14.

For information:

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North Royalton's Ryan Chester Wins \$400,000 Award through Junior Breakthrough International Challenge



North Royalton High School senior Ryan Chester has had quite a start to his senior year. First, achieving a perfect score on his ACT and now winning the international Junior Breakthrough Challenge competition and accepting his award live on TV on the National Geographic Channel's 3rd Annual Breakthrough Prize

Awards Ceremony in Silicon Valley.

The Breakthrough Junior Challenge – funded by a grant from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg's fund at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and a grant from Milner Global Foundation, and presented in partnership with the Khan Academy – invited young people, ages 13-to-18, to create short videos that communicated big ideas in the life sciences, physics and math. The contest received more than 2,000 applications from 86 countries.

"Mark and I are incredibly committed to investing in science," said Dr. Priscilla Chan, Zuckerberg's wife. "With the Breakthrough Prize and Junior Challenge, we want to inspire more young people to study science and math, and pursue careers that change all our lives."

Priscilla Chan and Sal Khan announced that Ryan Chester had won the inaugural Breakthrough Junior Challenge. They presented him with a \$250,000 educational scholarship for his winning video depiction of Einstein's theory of special relativity. His teacher, Richard Nestoff, will be presented an award of \$50,000. North Royalton High School will receive a state-of-the-art science lab valued at \$100,000. The lab will be designed by and in partnership with the school and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, which

has shaped contemporary biomedical research and education, and is home to more than 600 researchers and technicians.

"Ryan, your curiosity and intellect was obvious since the first day of class," said Mr. Nestoff, Ryan's AP Physics teacher on stage in front of millions of people watching from all over the world during the award show. "What a privilege it is to pass along knowledge of the universe to people eager to learn. I'm proud of you, Ryan, and proud to be your teacher." Two huge video monitors on both sides of the stage showed the NRHS Science Department teachers clapping and cheering for this North Royalton student as Ryan was introduced and stepped forward among the greatest scientists, mathematicians, and Hollywood celebrities to give his acceptance speech.

"Going into my senior year of high school, I never would have expected I would be standing here," said Ryan. "It means so much to me that winning this award not only helps me out, but also everyone back in my high school. I've always loved science and making films so for me, entering this challenge was rewarding in itself. This trophy is going to look pretty awesome in my dorm next year!"

Ryan's winning video can be viewed at www.breakthroughjuniorchallenge.org/finalists. His acceptance speech can be found on the North Royalton City Schools Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/North-Royalton-City-Schools-166213086732032/>.

More information on the Breakthrough Junior Challenge can be found at www.breakthroughjuniorchallenge.org.

The story that appeared in USA Today can be found here: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2015/11/08/breakthrough-junior-prize-mark-zuckerberg-priscilla-chan/75325460/>

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