

# The ESC CONNECTION

SUMMER 2017



**ACADEMIC  
CHALLENGE EVENT  
BRINGS STUDENTS TO THE ESC  
PAGE 14-15**



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# Superintendent's Message

By Dr. Bob Mengerink, *Superintendent*



Dear Colleagues,

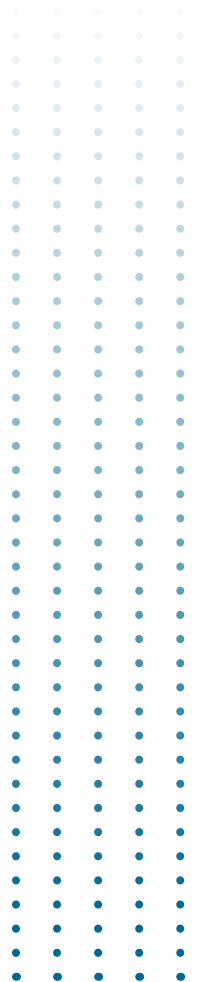
Now that we have finally reached the summer months, I hope each and every one of you finds some time for well-deserved rest and relaxation. That said, I know you will all be spending the summer thinking about what's next for your districts and your students. You and your teams will undoubtedly be spending hours planning, creating, learning and facilitating. Our summer work at the ESC will not be any different. It is during these months that we anticipate future needs of educators, accelerate our development of new services, and strategically increase our capacity.

We have also witnessed a continued growth in the use of summer for professional development. More and more educators are using this time to increase their understanding of new requirements, learn new and innovative approaches to teaching and learning, and hopefully find some inspiration and encouragement for beginning another year of hard work. We will be hosting many institutes, workshops and conferences during the summer months, which can be found at our [online calendar of events](#).

Please know that our team is as accessible as ever during the summer months for questions, concerns, and assistance. Knowing how much it is for you to accomplish during the limited summer months, we stand ready to help at any time.

Sincerely,

Bob



# Excellence in Education Awards



On May 15<sup>th</sup>, more than 200 people came together for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Excellence in Education Awards recognizing students with disabilities, peers, and educators, at Woodside Event Center at St. Michael's

in Broadview Heights, Ohio. The event is planned by the ESC of Cuyahoga County and the State Support Team – Region 3.

The recognition brunch is an opportunity for educators, teachers, students, and community members to celebrate the great things that are happening in special education today. Students, peers, and educators received awards.

The Outstanding Student Achievement Award acknowledges achievements of school-age children and youth with disabilities in Cuyahoga County.

The Outstanding Peer Achievement Award recognizes students without disabilities who have established positive relationships and who have assisted other students with disabilities, serving as exemplary role models.

The Outstanding Educator Achievement Award honors educators and educational teams who are the exemplars in designing instructional strategies and programs.

Diane Boylan, an Intervention Specialist in the Rocky River City School District, was recognized with the Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award. This award is

presented to one educator from each of Ohio's 16 State Support Team regions, who has made extraordinary contributions to the education of students with disabilities.

Malcolm Brightharp, a student in the Maple Heights City School District, was recognized with the R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award for a Student. This award is presented to one exemplary student receiving special education services and support from each of Ohio's 16 State Support Team regions. The award was established more than 25 years ago by the Ohio Department of Education.

Both Diane and Malcolm will be honored at the state level in Columbus.

This year's keynote speaker was Brian Polzner. Brian shared his personal story of growing up with a "hidden" disability and provided insight into the strategies he uses to cope with distractions and ultimately achieve his goals. Brian currently is the Operations Dietitian at LifeCare Alliance in Columbus, Ohio. He manages menu development and food safety in the Meals on Wheels kitchen, as well as client outcomes research.

This activity is funded by IDEA, Title IV-B Grants to States through the Ohio Department of Education grants to the ESC of Cuyahoga County, Fiscal Agent for the State Support Team-Region 3. Congratulations to all those who were recognized.





*outstanding*

# 2017 Outstanding Student Achievement Award:

Cameron Stryczny  
Columbus Intermediate School  
Bedford City School District

Alphonso Bates  
Heights High School  
Cleveland Heights-University Heights  
City School District

DeAngelo Tabor  
Heritage Middle School  
East Cleveland City School District

Jason Lowe  
Horace Mann Elementary School  
Lakewood City School District

Malcolm Brightharp  
Maple Heights High School  
Maple Heights City School District

Hanadi Khouri  
North Olmsted High School  
North Olmsted City School District

Heather Grant  
Olmsted Falls High School  
Olmsted Falls City School District

Lleyton Krakowiak  
Olmsted Falls Early Childhood Center  
Olmsted Falls City School District

Brandon Lewis  
Rocky River High School  
Rocky River City School District



# 2017 Outstanding Peer Achievement Award:

Nadia McGinnis  
 Chagrin Falls High School  
 Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools

Jalen Brown  
 Horace Mann Elementary School  
 Lakewood City School District

Taylor Crusoe  
 Arbor Elementary School  
 Euclid City School District

Anthony Kukura  
 Olmsted Falls High School  
 Olmsted Falls City School District

Maria Sagi  
 Independence High School  
 Independence Local Schools

Sebastian Maher  
 Goldwood Primary School  
 Rocky River City School District



# 2017 Outstanding Educator Achievement Award:

Joe Camardo  
Middleburg Heights Junior High School  
Berea City School District

Rosemary Allen, Deanna DiFranco, Susan Folta  
Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School  
Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District

Cheryl Perchinske  
Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School  
Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District

Sally Hanrahan  
Gearity Elementary School  
Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District

Mary Alice Conkey  
Mayfair Elementary School  
East Cleveland City School District

Sherrell Benton  
Director of Pupil Service  
Euclid City School District

Mary Bertoncin  
Independence High School  
Independence Local Schools

Patti Witri  
Garfield Middle School  
Lakewood City School District

Karen Lefelhoc  
Maple Heights High School  
Maple Heights City School District

Cheryl Fudale  
Early Childhood Center  
Olmsted Falls City School District

Christen Hawks  
Olmsted Falls High School  
Olmsted Falls City School District

James Tatman  
Director of Pupil Services  
Olmsted Falls City School District

Diane Boylan  
Rocky River High School  
Rocky River City School District







# Learning History Locally

Learning History Locally explores Ohio history of the Ohio-Erie Canal and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP), and their historical and economic significance for the development of Ohio and the nation. The program is offered jointly by the ESC of Cuyahoga County and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

On April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, fourth grade educators from **Akron, Cleveland, Maple Heights, Mogadore, and Revere** school districts and from **Cornerstone Community School** developed content knowledge and historical thinking skills to satisfy Ohio's Social Studies Learning

Standards for Ohio history. Participants operated a historic canal lock, walked the canal towpath, and were immersed in canal resources and activities, primary source documents, and model curriculum. They learned about canal life through music, photographs, and from "Digger Gallagher," a character portrayed by historical interpreter Foster Brown of the Cleveland Metroparks.

Teachers showcased curricular units they produced during a May follow-up session. Participants earned one graduate credit courtesy of CVNP.





# GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

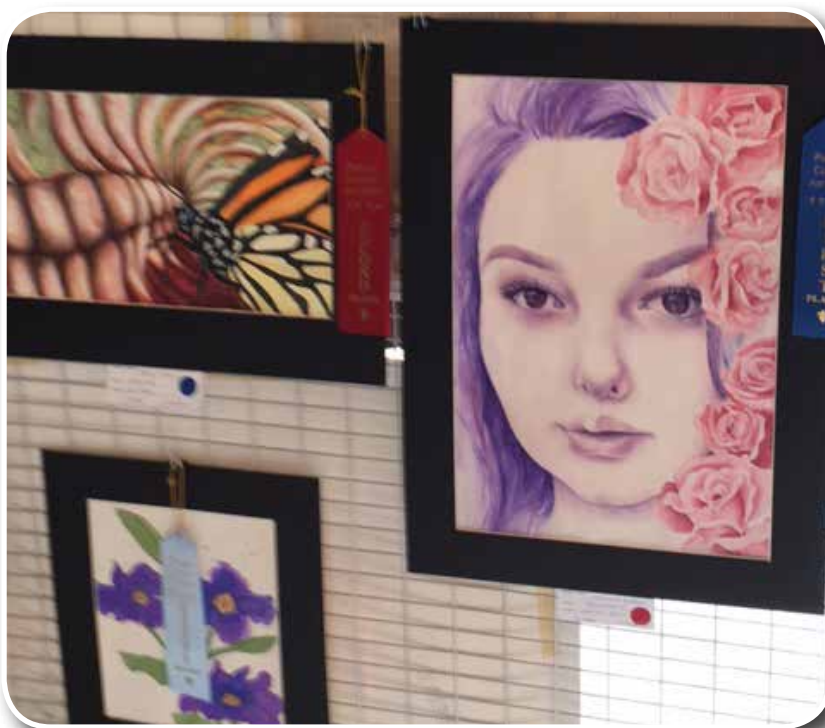
## 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Portage County Spring Art Show

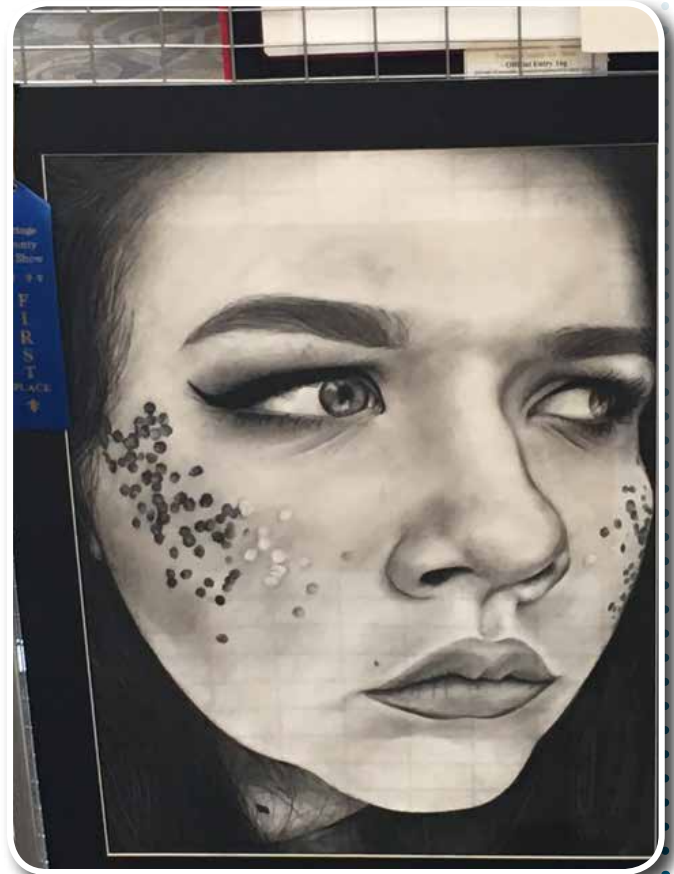
The 39<sup>th</sup> annual Portage County Art Show was held for one week beginning April 27<sup>th</sup> at the New Center, NEOMED in Rootstown. The artwork was displayed by students from both high schools and middle schools for **Field, Ravenna, Rootstown, Southeast, Waterloo** and **Windham**.

Nine judges, who are fine art professionals, donated their expertise, time and talents for the benefits of the young artists of Portage County.

The Best of Show award at the Grade 6-8 level went to Madison Billings from Rootstown. At the high school level, the Best of Show award went to Natalie Quarry from Ravenna. Best Senior Portfolio was Shelby LeBeau from Waterloo.

For information about Portage County Gifted and Talented programs, contact:  
Shelley Cassese and Marty Dragelevich  
[portageprograms@gmail.com](mailto:portageprograms@gmail.com)





# GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

## ESC's Academic Olympics Challenge Area Students



The gifted student division of the ESC of Cuyahoga County sponsored an Academic Olympics for students from **Lakewood, Richmond Heights, Rocky River, and South Euclid-Lyndhurst** schools on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Eight teams comprised of seventh and eighth graders competed in five rounds of competition highlighting their knowledge in a range of subject areas. Four buzzer rounds, four timed rounds and a collaborative round allowed students to answer questions and earn points for their team. At the conclusion of rounds one through five, the top three teams competed in the final round of competition. Points were tallied and the following teams were awarded medals:

- 1st place      South Euclid-Lyndhurst Team 'G'
- 2nd place      Rocky River Team 'A'
- 3rd place      Rocky River Team 'B'

The school with the most earned points that received the winning trophy was South Euclid-Lyndhurst.

Schools interested in participating in the ESC Gifted Activity Consortium may contact:

Jim Buzzanco, Activity Coordinator

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

216-524-3000



# Third Annual ESC Wellness Fair

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, the ESC of Cuyahoga County held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Wellness Fair for employees. “We had a great turnout and our employees enjoyed the day,” said Christina Kowalski, ESC employee and chair of the Wellness Committee. “They had an opportunity to interact with 30 vendors.” Vendors participating in the health fair included GNC, Brown Aveda, Cleveland Division of Water, Ohio State University Extension and many more. Employees could purchase delicious foods and smoothies from two food trucks that attended: Green Machine and Smooth Rider. There was also an opportunity to be active by playing games outdoors and/or dance on a Wii game console or make a bamboo desk planter. Seventy-six employees took advantage of onsite biometrics health screenings.

Christina Kowalski, Fiscal Specialist  
Wellness Committee Chairman  
[christina.kowalski@esc-cc.org](mailto:christina.kowalski@esc-cc.org)  
216-901-4207







# HIGHLIGHTS

## Spring Professional Development Events

### “Mixtape” Your Curriculum

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, a “Mixtape” Your Curriculum workshop was held at the ESC, where educators learned about a number of Open Educational Resources (OERs) available to them in all content areas and grade levels. OERs fuel collaboration, encourage the improvement of available

materials, and keep educational materials relevant, customizable and inexpensive. Participants explored best resources for their curriculum and left having created their own “mixtape” lesson from a variety of sources.



### Competency-Based Education

The ESC of Cuyahoga County’s district consortium continues training with Stanford University facilitators for the Ohio Department of Education’s Competency-Based Education (CBE) pilot. Seventy-five educators from **Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Kirtland, Maple Heights, Orange, Perry-Lake County, and Springfield City Schools** participated in the first cohort to learn about the quality criteria required for development of authentic performance-based tasks and assessments. Training with a second cohort of 40+ teachers continues into the 2017-18 academic year. Teachers will implement performance-based tasks and assessments within and across districts in specific content areas as the CBE pilot continues. Tasks and assessments are designed to incorporate depth of knowledge, skills, and competencies at deeper levels than typical state assessments that test only content knowledge.



# Curriculum Directors' Luncheon

School districts today are charged with keeping our students engaged in an ever-changing educational climate where curricular expectations continue to become more rigorous. The life of curriculum directors is not easy as there are many tasks on their plates.

On Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, curriculum directors from 13 districts gathered together at the ESC of Cuyahoga County for a luncheon to network with colleagues, explore workshop offerings, and to leverage resources among districts to further curricular work.

The ESC is able to support districts in a variety of ways in order to maximize time and supports. Professional development offerings can take place within districts, workshops at the ESC, ongoing job embedded options, and shared learning opportunities with other districts.

Currently, the ESC is partnering with Jay McTighe and Associates to present information on curriculum design. This is one of several opportunities that was presented to participants as a way to collaborate and defray cost. The curriculum directors' luncheon concluded with time for feedback to the ESC related to what supports are most helpful to them, and the need for a specific Curriculum Directors Network.

For information, contact:  
Lynn Hruschak, Director of Curriculum  
[lynn.hruschak@esc-cc.org](mailto:lynn.hruschak@esc-cc.org)  
216-446-3824



# HIGHLIGHTS

## *Spring Professional Development Events*



### Aligning Competency-Based Education

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, educators in K-12 districts and higher education met at the ESC of Cuyahoga County to discuss implementing competency-based education (CBE) pilots and programs designed to prepare students

for college, the workforce, and for lifelong success. Many ideas and potential alignments and collaborations were shared by all who participated.



# Becoming Effective Advocates for Students

The Northeast Ohio Regional Schlechty Center's School Board Conference was held at the ESC of Cuyahoga County on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. School board members and their superintendents explored both what it means to be and what it requires to be effective advocates for youth in the community. John Tanner, author of "The Pitfalls of Reform" was the guest speaker. He shared the conclusions of his study of A-F accountability systems across the country.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Spring Professional Development Events

### Developing Pathways and Competencies

The Medical Muse pilot project at Maple Heights City Schools provides an opportunity for seventh grade science students to visit the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) campus while they learn from faculty and medical students about anatomy and the history of medicine. Students consider future career pathways and the skills and competencies necessary to achieve their goals. The pilot is one component of the district's developing pathways that focus on health, STEM, the arts and humanities, and trending career opportunities.

Students visited the CWRU Medical School Anatomy Department during February to learn about anatomy as they applied close observation skills to identify and draw bones of the skeleton. They examined the body's organs and observed a 3-dimensional digitized body on the "anatomage" equipment. At the NEO STREAM conference in March, students participated in hands-on activities with STEM-related subjects, including maker lab and drone demonstrations. During April, students visited the Dittrick Medical History Museum at Case Western Reserve University to learn about the history of medicine, to view artifacts and rare books, and to consider the essential knowledge and skills required to design a museum exhibit. They met with pre-medical students who talked about their pathways to college and their plans for medical school.



With the Inner Muse program, Maple Heights junior-level honors students participate in educational opportunities focused on the arts and sciences that may help them to discover interests and talents for post-secondary study, future careers, and lifelong learning. Students are creating personal journals using handmade papers and simple books made at the Morgan Art of Papermaking Conservatory. They participated in a focused tour of Cleveland Museum of Art treasures highlighting historic and contemporary themes of “the muse.” They attended “Violins of Hope,” an inspiring Cleveland Orchestra concert to honor the memory of Jewish violinists who were prisoners killed in World

War II concentration camps. Students discovered the history and development of downtown Cleveland by researching and visiting historic sites of architectural significance. Students were awarded a grant to combine art and scientific discovery within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park for which they created poetry and nature photographs and essays for their personal journals. A culminating arts and science elective course project combines their enhanced content knowledge, research, and experiences, as they produce their personal journals, essays, posters, video, and oral presentations that are shared with peers, faculty, and with the broader community.



Inner Muse students from Maple Heights make handmade journals.



Inner Muse students from Maple Heights attended a Cleveland Orchestra concert, Violins of Hope, in March.

# CSU Pre-Service Teachers Tour ESC and Ohio Online Learning Program



On April 13<sup>th</sup>, Cleveland State University (CSU) pre-service teachers toured the ESC of Cuyahoga County and also learned about the Ohio Online Learning Program. The ESC values its partnership with CSU and looks forward to seeing all who attended in classrooms teaching and attending our professional development workshops in the near future.



## Professional Learning Community: Administrative Assistants

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted its final session for the academic year for the Professional Learning Community of Administrative Assistants with study of the customer service book, "Dealing with Difficult People" by Brinkman and Kirschner. They looked at the 10 types of problem people and how to influence them to adopt a more positive attitude.





# Lakewood Catholic Academy Recognized as National Green Ribbon School

An Ohio school is among 45 schools, nine districts and nine postsecondary institutions nationally honored for their exemplary efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective environmental education, including civics and green career pathways.

Lakewood Catholic Academy in Lakewood was honored as a Green Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education for its comprehensive approach to being green in learning and operations.

“Healthy and engaged students come to school each day ready to learn more,” said Paolo DeMaria, superintendent of public instruction. “Lakewood Catholic Academy should be proud of its efforts to conserve our planet’s resources. Not only has the school reduced its ecological footprint, it has done it in a way that gets students excited to learn more and become healthier.”

Lakewood Catholic Academy is taking several actions to conserve the Earth’s resources. The school began a recycling program and was the first in the city to

participate in the curbside recycling program. Students are committed to reducing waste and they host waste-free lunch days in the dining hall.

The school partners with the Cleveland Metroparks to help students learn about monarch butterfly migration, monarch waystations and native plants that are butterfly food sources. Cleveland Metroparks even awarded the school a grant to build a monarch waystation onsite.

Lakewood Catholic Academy takes several steps to ensure its students develop healthy habits. The school no longer fries any food and all food is made from scratch every day. The school contracts with Lago Dining Services to provide daily a fresh salad bar and fruit bar. Elementary students also engage in physical education and outdoor time for six and a half hours per week.



# *F*irst Ring Superintendents' Collaborative Update

## News from Leadership Groups

### Leadership Academy Graduation

The First Ring Leadership Academy celebrated its twelfth graduating class on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Gemini Center in Fairview Park. Twenty-one cohort members presented their final projects to their fellow leaders and the First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative.

The First Ring Leadership Academy is a professional development program for teacher leaders. The program promotes collaboration with learners, provides opportunities for learners to utilize communication and problem-solving skills, encourages self-directed learning, and provides learners with the skills and processes of leadership.

The Leadership Project requirements include: increase student achievement, enrich teaching, and/or enhance community engagement. Cohort members must also identify the data that was used, identify the stakeholders that were involved, and identify the standard from the Ohio Department of Education "Teacher Leaders Endorsement Standards" as well as identify the SMART goals for the project and how they will assess the progress/impact of the project. The project must also be accepted by the district's superintendent or designee.

The following individuals completed their respective projects and celebrated their graduation from the First Ring Leadership Academy:

#### **Alison Brennan, Bedford: "Catapulting Seniors to Success Through Senior Project"**

Ms. Brennan developed an "exit strategy" for seniors and facilitated seminars for seniors during spring testing week. Students engaged in discussions on college/military life, financial responsibility, healthy eating habits, and other relevant topics.

#### **Lauren Terzigni and Carrie Rice, Berea: "The Happiness Project"**

The district implemented the "Agents of Happiness" initiative to create a culture of customer service within the district in order to make every parent and community member feel comfortable and welcome at their schools.

#### **Michael Symanski, Brooklyn: "Daily Living Classroom District-wide Cafe"**

Mr. Symanski developed a cafe delivery service. Students operated the cafe and gained employability and life skills. He applied for and received a \$500 grant from Medical Mutual, through the district's workplace wellness program, to help support the program.

#### **Karen Heinsbergen, Cleveland Heights-University Heights: "Building Equity in our Schools Through Shared Curricula"**

Ms. Heinsbergen developed curriculum maps and grade-level expectations with intended learning outcomes so students are on the same path, district-wide.

#### **Melissa Garcar, Cuyahoga Heights-University Heights: "Increasing IB Communication"**

Ms. Garcar conducted a survey among International Baccalaureate parents and discovered they preferred to be communicated with flyers in backpacks. The district implemented a monthly newsletter with IB news and happenings to go home with students.

#### **Barb Curry, Cuyahoga Heights "STEM Coding Club"**

Ms. Curry received a grant for sphero robots and a 3-D printer, as well as teaching students to code.

#### **Lawrence Perry, East Cleveland: "Effects of Differentiated Instruction with Students with Disabilities"**

Mr. Perry conducted interviews and observations, resulting in an overarching theme of teachers who say they do not have enough collaboration time in the classroom.

**Chanelle McCloud, Euclid: “Respect and Support Matrix: A Tool for Improving School Climate”**

Ms. McCloud started with this illusion: imagine your dream house. Now imagine it with a big hole in the roof. That’s where her district was in terms of respect. After surveys and research, it was clear what parents, staff, students desire most is clear and direct communication and to feel valued.

**Robert Richardson, Euclid: “The Science of Positivity”**

Mr. Richardson utilized current research to help students and teachers integrate the power of positivity into their daily work.

**Colleen Nagy, Fairview Park: “Summit Learning Program”**

Mrs. Nagy discussed the implementation of the Summit Learning Program, a personalized learning platform introduced into the 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year. The program also incorporates one-to-one student/teacher mentoring.

**Jill Frimel, Garfield Heights: “Word Journeys”**

This initiative focused on enhancing phonics, vocabulary, and spelling.

**Chris Wooley, Garfield Heights: “Pancakes with Principals”**

Students of the week joined teachers, parents, and community members for a special breakfast with the school principals. Students experienced service learning through preparing for the event.

**April Patton, Lakewood: “Closing the Achievement Gap: Which Strategies Work?”**

Making informed, instructional decisions and building relationships with students were at the forefront of Ms. Patton’s research.

**Justin Harnist, Maple Heights: “Non Nonsense Nurturing”**

This was originally an attempt to lessen the amount of referrals to the office for classroom disruption, and

now, the district has begun to coach teachers through a positive narration and give in-the-moment feedback to students.

**Nia Davis, Richmond Heights: “Cultivate a Culture of High Expectations”**

This integrated the districts’ CBS2 program (College Bound Spartan Scholars) and made sure each student knows college can be a viable option for them.

**Maria Baker, Shaker Heights: “Self-Regulation through Emotional Literacy and Mindfulness: Implementing Some 7 Habits of Highly Effective People”**

Ms. Baker combined the IB Learner profile, attributes, and action cycle with support from a mindfulness coach to help curate optimal student performance.

**David Peake, Shaker Heights: “Welcome Home”**

New-to-the-district students are welcomed with an ice cream social, transition resources, and school “swag” to feel more connected to their peers and teachers. Throughout the year the group follows up with the new students.

**Sylvia Marshall, South-Euclid Lyndhurst: “Celebrate Moms 5K”**

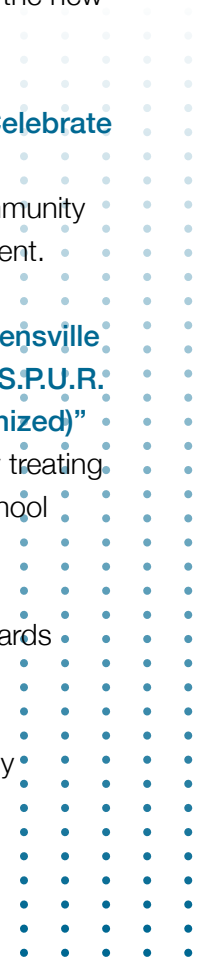
Ms. Marshall worked with PTAs and other community support groups to create the inaugural race event.

**Kim Boyd and Shawn Jones-Williams, Warrensville Heights: “Student Recognition through the S.P.U.R. (Scholars Progressing and Uniquely Recognized)”**

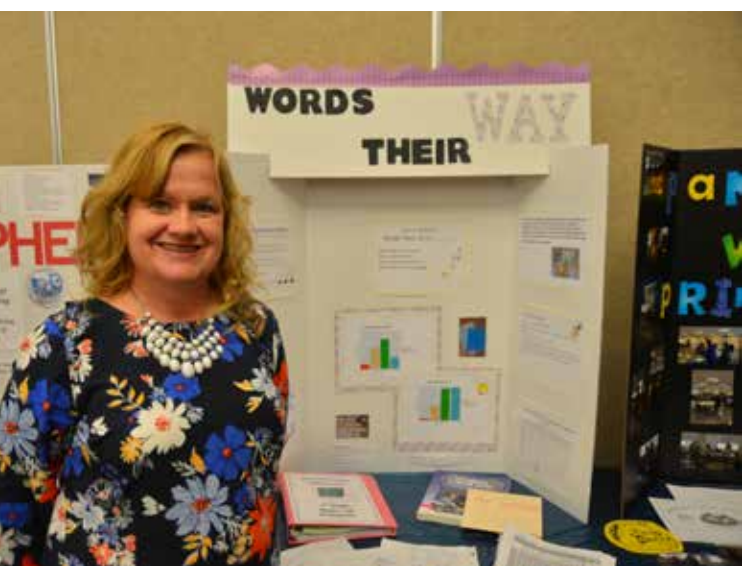
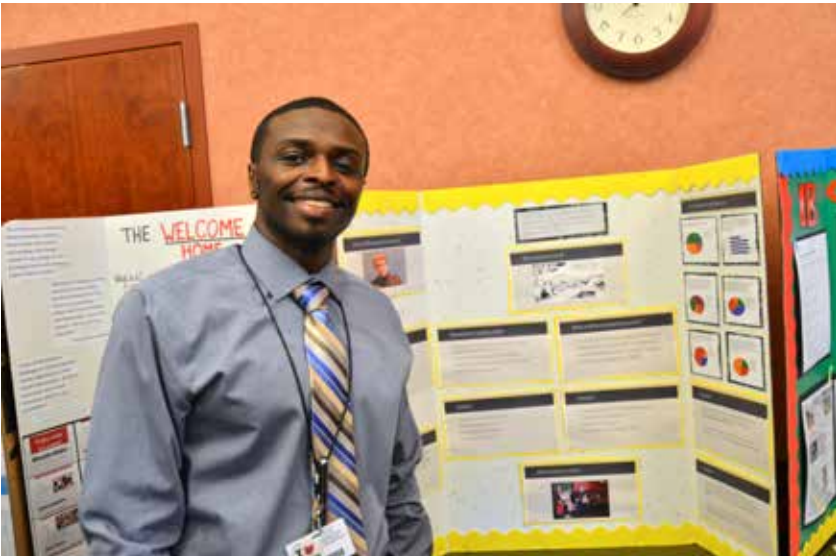
This program celebrates academic success by treating students to a special day of fun outside the school building.

The meeting was closed with lunch and an awards ceremony.

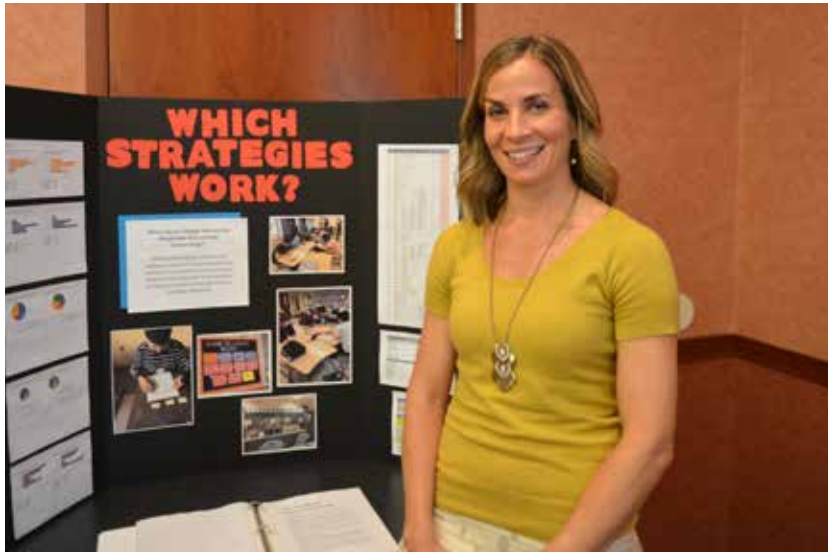
Congratulations First Ring Leadership Academy Graduates!



# First Ring Leadership Acc



# Academy Graduation Highlights



# *F*irst Ring Superintendents' Collaborative Update

## **First Ring Safety & Security Meeting**

The Safety & Security Personnel group of the First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative conducted its bi-monthly meeting, hosted by Lakewood City Schools on May 11<sup>th</sup> with much of the focus on school safety plans.

Tim DeVecchio of Ohio Homeland Security was a guest at the meeting. He was there to give an update on school safety plan requirements and safety drill requirements.

DeVecchio reminded the group that districts' safety plans for each building need to be filed with the state by July 1<sup>st</sup>. He added that directors should update the Contacts page of the plans and refile in September once summer hiring has been complete. He also recommended that each district's security director be designated the coordinator of school emergency plans so that he/she can make those updates quickly and be on top of any further updates.

Directors were also reminded that Emergency Management Tests for each building in a district must be complete by the end of 2017. Every district-owned building must conduct the test, not just school buildings. DeVecchio offered his services to help facilitate completing these tests.

DeVecchio also informed the group that a requirement for a mental health after-care plan following a traumatic incident involving students and/or staff is in the works.

The group concluded its meeting suggesting topics members would like to see introduced at meetings beginning next school year. There was a lot of interest in bringing in a speaker to address current trends and topics related to gang activity. Also suggested were an update on the evolving landscape of transgender policies and a visit from a member of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office.

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## **Curriculum Directors Meeting**

The Curriculum Directors group of the First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative met on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Lakewood City Schools and discussed a number of important topics of interest to those responsible for the teaching and learning aspects of their districts.

Lakewood's Christie Palumbo led off the roundtable with a question about a bi-literacy seal being an option now on Ohio high school diplomas. She asked whether anyone was incorporating the seal and how are they determining the level of literacy. Of those in attendance, none of the districts are using the seal. It was suggested directors review the policy that can be found with NEOLA.

Cleveland Metropolitan School District Stem Content Manager Timothy Sisson gave a presentation on CS for All, a program that CMSD is trying to expand into other districts. CS for All focuses on providing more computer science opportunities at the high school level. CMSD, in

conjunction with Northeast Ohio STEM Ecosystem and Cleveland State, is offering two summer professional development opportunities for teachers to become trained to teach "Exploring Computer Science" for grades 9 and 10 and/or AP Computer Science Principles for students able to take this college-level course.

In regards to having more trained computer science teachers, there was discussion about pending legislation that would allow computer science teachers to also teach math. The legislation is meeting some tough resistance from math proponents.

The ESC's Karen Rhode gave a presentation on College & Career Pathways. She shared a PowerPoint presentation that she will make available for all districts to use that gives a thorough picture of college and career trends and lays out the many pathways students now have to reach their educational and career goals. She also shared where guidance counselors can find other career and college resources on the ESC web site as well as outside sources such as Prep to Practice.

# 15th Annual Milestones Autism Spectrum Disorder Conference

The Milestones Annual Autism Conference is a forum to serve the needs of families and individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and professionals serving the autism community. Over the years, the conference has grown to over 1,000 attendees with more than 80 workshops and 50 exhibitors.

This year's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, to be held June 15-16<sup>th</sup> at the Cleveland I-X Center, is the region's must-attend event for family members, educators, therapists, clinicians and individuals with ASD. Attendees will have opportunities to learn evidence-based strategies for all ages, stages and abilities; network with leading experts; connect with high-quality exhibitors; and earn professional development credits in more than eight disciplines.

"Last fall I had contacted the Milestones team about presenting to our District Autism Teams on parent engagement," says Patti Porto, ESC Consultant for State Support Team—Region 3. "At each meeting we provide networking and sharing opportunities as

well as professional development on topics the group has identified. Last year Beth Thompson, Milestones' Program Director, addressed the teams around the area of transition and students with autism. They LOVED her presentation."

Milestones is proud to kick off the conference with A Special Evening with Temple Grandin, Ph.D. on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Playhouse Square. Dr. Grandin will inform and inspire us to help individuals with autism reach their full potential.

Register for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Milestones Autism Spectrum Disorder Conference at [milestones.org](http://milestones.org). Purchase tickets to A Special Evening with Temple Grandin, Ph.D. at [www.playhousesquare.org](http://www.playhousesquare.org) or call 216-241-6000.

For information, please contact:  
Leslie Rotsky, Conference Director  
[lrotsky@milestones.org](mailto:lrotsky@milestones.org)  
216-464-7600, ext. 103

15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**MILESTONES**  
**AUTISM** Spectrum Disorder  
**CONFERENCE**

June 14-16, 2017 ★ Cleveland, Ohio

*Featuring World-Renowned Autism Experts*

<b>PETER GERHARDT, EdD</b>	<b>BRIDGET TAYLOR, PsyD, BCBA-D</b>	<b>FRED VOLKMAR, MD</b>
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Special Evening Kick-off with



**TEMPLE GRANDIN, PhD**

Milestones **AUTISM** Resources

# Humanitarian Award Recipients: 2016-17 School Year

The ESC of Cuyahoga County recently named several area students as recipients of their annual Humanitarian Awards. Recipients were nominated by administrators in their schools for showing leadership and community service as well as possessing great character during the 2016-17 school year. One student from each middle and high school in the communities of **Cuyahoga Heights, Independence,** and **Richmond Heights Local Schools** received the

scholarships and awards. The awards were presented by ESC board members and administration during their individual schools' award assemblies during the months of May and June. In addition to a cash award, students receive a personalized plaque, starfish pin, and starfish bookmarker. The starfish is the symbol of a story of the impact one person can make in a community

## Recipients from Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools



**Monica Menkhaus, eighth grader at Cuyahoga Heights Middle School**

Monica continuously looks out for the welfare of her classmates and is always offering a helping hand to her teachers. Her acts of kindness are always unsolicited; Monica sees a need and does not think twice about stepping in and offering help. She has a natural ability to shun pettiness and gossip and encourage generosity and friendship. Monica is the epitome of a wonderful humanitarian and a concerned citizen.

ESC Board Member Frank Mahnic, Jr. presented the award.



**Hannah Michalski, senior at Cuyahoga Heights High School**

Hannah has unwavering compassion for students, adults, and animals, especially dogs and reptiles, and the environment. Hannah completed 624.75 hours of community service. Many of those hours were spent volunteering with the Girl Scouts, the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Crew, and the Blue Wave Swim Team. She won the Silver President's Award during her junior year for outstanding service to her community. Hannah selflessly gives of her personal time and can often be found heading up committees collecting non-perishables for a food drive or donation items for the animal shelter. She is a calm, gentle voice of caring and concern toward her peers and is always ready with a comforting hug. Hannah does not seek attention for herself, but celebrates others who are in the spotlight. She is a young woman who is a friend to everyone, grades 9-12.

Cuyahoga Heights Board Member Dr. Holly Thacker presented the award.



## Recipients from Independence Local Schools



### **Alyssa Pallini, eighth grader at Independence Middle School**

Alyssa exhibits herself with grace and moral fortitude in every class, school club or athletic team in which she participates. These values include understanding, respect and support the pivotal points in the lives of her peers, teachers and coaches. She exhibits respect and responsibility while working cooperatively with the other members of the end-of-year committee. Alyssa is the constant and always honors her responsibilities in a timely and polite manner. She is a leader. Other teachers describe her as being conscientious, respectful and kind, and willing to help others at any time. Yet, she is willing to offer her opinion at a moment's notice, but that comment is never hurtful or mean. She has sensitivity, a type of innocence that is remarkable.

ESC Board Member Carol Fortlage presented the award.



### **Jesse Belitz, senior at Independence High School**

Jesse is a true leader who others look up to. He has more than 700 hours of community service and is also class president. Jesse is a distinguished student and outstanding musician. He is a great representative of Independence Local Schools and the City of Independence.

ESC Vice President Christine Krol presented the award.



# *H*umanitarian Award Recipients Continued

## Recipients from Richmond Heights Local Schools



**Rayna Williamson, eighth grader at Richmond Heights Middle School**

Rayna is an outstanding student who shows promise inside and outside of the classroom. She is always willing to help others during class time. Every first period, she makes it a habit to help escort a student around the building. She is the president of the middle school student council and a member of our volleyball and track team at Richmond Heights. She volunteers at the homeless shelter to help other people in need. She is a leader and a true definition of a humanitarian.

ESC Board Member Tony Hocevar presented the award.



**Yasmine Thornton, senior at Richmond Heights Secondary School**

Yasmine is a well-rounded young lady who always thinks of others first before herself. She is a part of the Excel Tech program consortium where she studies early childhood education in hopes of teaching young children. Yasmine served as the Secretary of her Senior Class providing a whole new outlook on the role of an officer. Yasmine travels to the elementary school a few days a week to read to them. This not only allows Yasmine to fulfill her passion of teaching young children but it thrusts her unknowingly into the position of a role model.

Yasmine has been an honor/merit roll student her entire academic career, is a member of the prestigious National Honor Society, as well as College Bound Spartan Students. She gives of herself tirelessly to her classmates by offering to tutor them to successfully complete course requirements.

ESC Board President Tony Miceli presented the award.



20% of youth ages 13-18 live with a mental health condition

10% of youth have a behavior or conduct disorder

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in youth in ages 10-24

Approximately 50% of students age 14 and older with a mental illness drop out of high school

Youth Mental Health First Aid is offered regularly through the ESC of Cuyahoga County throughout the year for any adults who interact with youth to learn the signs and symptoms of mental health behaviors and the five-step process for addressing youth experiencing challenges. The program also provides participants with local resources. As one of the pilot Project AWARE Ohio grant recipients, the ESC has trained 585 First Aid Responders.

Agencies, districts and community organizations can coordinate trainings through the Project AWARE Coordinator:

Mary P. Wise, MSCE, MSW  
[mary.wise@esc-cc.org](mailto:mary.wise@esc-cc.org)  
216-901-4201

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training  
1 class; 8am-4pm  
Class size is limited.

Thursday, June 15, 2017  
Thursday, September 14, 2017  
Thursday, October 12, 2017  
Thursday, November 9, 2017  
Thursday, December 14, 2017  
Thursday, January 11, 2018  
Thursday, February 8, 2018  
Thursday, March 8, 2018  
Thursday, April 12, 2018  
Thursday, May 10, 2018  
Thursday, June 14, 2018

STAFF REGISTER at: [www.esc-cc.org](http://www.esc-cc.org); Professional Development; Calendar of Events; click on date  
Questions call Mary Wise @ 216-901-4201

Grant Funded Training provided through ODE and SAMHSA; Certificate of Attendance provided.  
No CEU's.

# Update from the ESC School Program

ESC School Program (formerly known as the Rose-Mary Center School) students had a wonderful time at their Polynesian Paradise Spring Formal on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Action Disc Jockeys provided the music. Students enjoyed lunch in the Polynesian-style decorated gym. Students and staff dressed in formal wear. A fun afternoon was had by all.



# Graduation

ESC School Program graduation was held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Congratulations to these graduates: Brianna, Diane, Areej, Charneshia, and Joshua. Following the ceremony, a reception was held for parents, district representatives, ESC board members and staff. All the students are transitioning to an adult provider service after graduation.



Charneshia has been a student since August 2014. East Cleveland Schools presented her diploma.



Diane has been a student since January 2007. Richmond Local Schools presented her diploma.



Areej has been a student since August 2013. Lakewood City Schools presented her diploma.



Brianna has been a student since August 2006. Euclid City Schools presented her diploma.

Josh ( not pictured) has been a student since October 2001. Parma City Schools presented his diploma.

# Poverty Simulation Held at Bedford High School

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, a Poverty Simulation was held at Bedford High School to help educators answer the question, “What does it take to disrupt poverty’s adverse influence on student learning?”

Approximately 80 educators from six school districts participated in this first tier of training that was coordinated through the ESC of Cuyahoga County, in partnership with Lakeland Community College, Nonprofit and Public Service Center. Funding was provided by a Disrupting Poverty grant through the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation. Participating school districts included **Bedford, Orange, North Olmsted, Painesville, Waterloo** and **Wickliffe**.

Stations were set up around the gym staffed by some of the participants who role-played service providers, such as a hospital, school, grocery store, bank, and a daycare center. Other participants were assigned “family groups” who faced a variety of challenging, but typical circumstances as they tried to live successfully on a limited amount of resources for one month. The simulation was broken into four 15-minute weeks in which the families worked, went to school, paid their utilities, bought groceries, went to the doctor as needed, and faced other circumstances that raised stress and anxiety.

These included such scenarios as:

1. A single parent with limited resources and no transportation must find a way to get to work and get his/her child to daycare.
2. An elderly person must find a way to pay for both utilities and medication.

3. A young adult must care for siblings while his/her parent is incarcerated.

4. An elderly couple must raise their grandchildren and deal with their own health and employment issues.

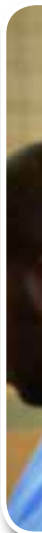
This poverty simulation is designed to help participants rethink challenges that millions of Americans must face each and every day, so they are better able to identify areas of change that can directly impact the effects of poverty on individuals, families and communities.

After the simulation, there was a large group debriefing during which participants expressed what they learned during the experience.

The next stages of training that follow the poverty simulation will focus on the 16 Strategies for Disrupting Poverty as presented in the book *Turning High Poverty Schools into High Performing Schools*, by William Parrett and Kathleen Budge. Additional training with author Kathleen Budge will follow during the academic year 2017-18.

poverty

malnutrition



HE



jobless

depression



poor housing conditions



no transportation



HEALTH ISSUES



anxiety



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- Algebra 2 Part 2
- American History Part 1
- American History Part 2
- American Literature Part 1
- American Literature Part 2
- Biology Part 1
- Biology Part 2
- Business Math Part 1
- Business Math Part 2
- Chemistry Part 1
- Chemistry Part 2
- Consumer Mathematics Part 1
- Consumer Mathematics Part 2
- Earth Science Part 1
- Earth Science Part 2
- English 9 Part 1
- English 9 Part 2
- English 10 Part 1
- English 10 Part 2
- Environmental Science
- Fundamentals of Ecology
- Geometry Part 1
- Geometry Part 2
- Introduction to Short Stories
- Physical Science Part 1
- Physical Science Part 2

- Practical Math Part 1
- Practical Math Part 2
- Pre-Algebra Part 1
- Pre-Algebra Part 2
- World Cultures Part 1
- World Cultures Part 2
- World History Part 1
- World History Part 2

### APEX LEARNING PRESCRIPTIVE COURSES

- Algebra I Prescriptive Sem 1
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- Algebra II Prescriptive Sem 1
- Algebra II Prescriptive Sem 2
- Biology Prescriptive Sem 1
- Biology Prescriptive Sem 2
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- Chemistry Prescriptive Sem 2
- English 9 Prescriptive Sem 1
- English 9 Prescriptive Sem 2
- English 10 Prescriptive Sem 1
- English 10 Prescriptive Sem 2
- English 11 Prescriptive Sem 1
- English 11 Prescriptive Sem 2
- English 12 Prescriptive Sem 1
- English 12 Prescriptive Sem 2
- Environmental Science Prescriptive Sem 1
- Environmental Science Prescriptive Sem 2
- Geometry Prescriptive Sem 1

- Geometry Prescriptive Sem 2
- Health Prescriptive
- Mathematics I Prescriptive Sem 1
- Mathematics I Prescriptive Sem 2
- Mathematics II Prescriptive Sem 1
- Mathematics II Prescriptive Sem 2
- Mathematics III Prescriptive Sem 1
- Mathematics III Prescriptive Sem 2
- Physical Science Prescriptive Sem 1
- Physical Science Prescriptive Sem 2
- Physics Prescriptive Sem 1
- Physics Prescriptive Sem 2
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- U.S. Government and Politics Prescriptive
- U.S. History Prescriptive Sem 1
- U.S. History Prescriptive Sem 2
- U.S. History since the Civil War Prescriptive Sem 1
- U.S. History since the Civil War Prescriptive Sem 2
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