

ESC Board Members Receive Awards from Ohio School Board Association

The 2015 Ohio School Board Association (OSBA) Award of Achievement is presented to a very select group of board members. Of the more than 3,400 board members in Ohio, only 58 received the award and 12 were from the Northeast Region. ESC Board Member Frank Mahnic, Jr. received his 8th Ohio Award of Achievement. He was honored for his dedication and commitment to public education. He earned credits toward the award by enrolling and participating in workshops and conferences, volunteering for service to their association and working on behalf of their own board.

ESC Board President Tony Miceli also received an award for 20 years of service.



Local Independence Educator Attends Early Learners Institute

This past summer, educators from Independence Local Schools attended the 5th Annual Early Learners Institute at the ESC of Cuyahoga County. Numerous speakers, workshops, and opportunities to network all provided inspiration for these dedicated early learner educators during this summer institute. Lorrie Ramm, a paraprofessional in the preschool class at Independence Primary School enjoyed the "Mind in the Making" seminar. "I learned how to help children understand why they are angry and how to relate to their feelings," said Ramm. "Most importantly, to always reinforce the positive behavior."



Cuyahoga Heights Student and Educator Receive Excellence in Education Award

On May 15, 2015, more than 200 people came together for the 36th recognition of excellence in education for students with disabilities awards program at the Essex Place in Independence. The event is planned by the ESC of Cuyahoga County and the State Support Team-Region 3.

odds and life-changing circumstances. She shared with the audience how to live life in the face of adversity and struggles. After overcoming unbelievable physical challenges, Chrissy recently graduated with an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education and is planning to continue her education to receive a Bachelor's Degree so she can become an Intervention Specialist and help other young people with different abilities.

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, parents, educators, paraprofessional and educational aides, as well as community partners, received awards. Among the award winners were a student and educator from the Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools.



The Outstanding Student Achievement Award acknowledges achievements of school-age children and youth with disabilities in Cuyahoga County. An award was presented to Ella Baciak of Cuyahoga Heights Elementary. The Outstanding Educator Achievement Award honors educators and educational teams who are the exemplars in designing instructional strategies and programs. An award was presented to Debbi Puthoff of Cuyahoga Heights Elementary.

This year's keynote speaker was Chrissy Aitken. Chrissy is a 24 year-old burn survivor who has overcome incredible



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Fall 2015

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Humanitarian Award Recipients

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 2014-15 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

Recipients from Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools



Kyel Wolff, eighth grader at Cuyahoga Heights Middle School
 Kyel's spirit of kindness has greatly benefited their school. He is an outstanding role model with an encouraging attitude that is contagious to those around him. Kyel's random acts of kindness are performed continuously with students, staff and the community. He naturally seeks to improve the lives of others, offering assistance and encouragement. ESC Board member Frank Mahnic, Jr. presented the award.

presented by ESC board members 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.

This year's ESC Humanitarians include:



Samantha Kochis, Class of 2015, Cuyahoga Heights High School
 Samantha is a dedicated and compassionate young lady who wants to make a difference. She is well-liked by both the faculty and student body and can often be found helping someone, whether it be a student needing assistance with schoolwork or a friend needing someone to talk to. Sam always thinks of others first and is willing to help in any way possible. She also is involved in the life of this community, organizing events and various other activities that benefit the students of this school. Cuyahoga Heights Board Member Holly Thacker presented the award.

Recipients from Independence Local Schools



Hannah Fleming, eighth grader at Independence Middle School
 Hannah exhibits herself with grace and moral fortitude in every class, school club, or athletic team she participates. Teachers describe Hannah as conscientious, respectful and kind, and willing to help others at any time. She has a sensitivity and type of innocence that is remarkable. ESC Board Vice President Carol Fortlage presented this award.



Jennifer Wisniewski, Class of 2015, Independence High School
 Jennifer has more than 458 service hours, which is 10 times more than the high school's requirement. She has earned the respect of her peers and the staff, always putting the needs of others ahead of her own. ESC Board Member Christine Krol presented the award.

Recipients from Richmond Heights Local Schools



Mique'la Reed, eighth grader at Richmond Heights Middle School
 Mique'la consistently demonstrates kindness and compassion towards others. She is a positive, motivated and confident young lady who always seems to see the good in everything. She promotes good will among her peers by treating everyone with dignity and respect. She ignores those who participate in teasing or making fun of others and displays empathy, patience and understanding. ESC Board President Tony Miceli presented this award.



Zainab Kazeem, Class of 2015, Richmond Heights High School
 Zainab is the exemplar of a humanitarian. She is a person who loves life and excels at helping others. She is a person who is willing to fight for others, even if it is one that is not close to her heart. She tries to satisfy the needs of others before worrying about herself. Her willingness to donate her time and spread compassion have made her a leader that other students strive to mimic. ESC Board Member Tony Hocevar presented this award.

Making Campus Connections at the ESC

The ESC of Cuyahoga County, in partnership with area universities, provides area educators with a variety of opportunities to participate in graduate credit programs as well as to obtain graduate credit hours for workshops occurring at the ESC's Independence facility.



Ashland University's Telego Center for Educational Improvement offers curriculum studies, professional development, grant evaluation services, and school safety training. Their College of Education's four master's level programs integrate academics and field-based elements. The Ashland Treasurer Leadership Academy (ATLAS) responds to issues in public education for treasurer and business offices.

education, and networking for educators doing farm-to-school programming, an approach that connects the classroom, cafeteria, and community to improve health and well-being.

Cleveland State University's Center for Educational Leadership partners with the ESC to house their Inspired Leaders Principal Licensure Program. This is an alternative pathway to receiving principal licensure in 16 months.

Youngstown State University partners with the ESC for their Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership. Instruction is online via YSU's online learning management system and monthly face-to-face meetings at the ESC.

The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, with the ESC and Cuyahoga County Board of Health, partner on the Farm to School and Early Childhood Network. Partners provide technical assistance,

The University of Phoenix partners with the ESC to offer classes designed for busy, working learners. This academic alliance allows participants to receive continuing education credits or bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from more than 20 programs and 50 concentrations.

Rose-Mary Center School Celebrates Graduation of Six Students

Six students graduated from the ESC Rose-Mary Center school program this year on Friday May 29th. Zach, Jimmy, Anastasia, Deja, Malissa and Raynisha all received diplomas from their districts' representatives who attended the ceremony. Coralise Terwilliger from Cleveland Metropolitan Schools, Lori Riley from Ashtabula Area Schools, Aaron Newman from Maple Heights City

Schools and Sherrell Benton from Euclid represented the districts to hand the students their diplomas. Steve Rogaski, Director of Pupil Services from the ESC of Cuyahoga County awarded the graduates their Certificate of Completion. Tony Miceli, President of the ESC Governing Board, also was on hand to congratulate the graduates and their families.

