



The Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County
The Bridge to Educational Excellence



ESC Board Member Receives Award from Ohio School Boards Association

The 2016 Ohio School Boards 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 9th 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.

Rose-Mary Center School Stroll & Roll

The third annual "Stroll & Roll" fundraising event for Rose-Mary Center School, located in Tremont, was held last spring. The Rose-Mary Center School education program is operated by the ESC of Cuyahoga County. The school serves students ages 5-22 with multiple disabilities and significant medical needs in a separate facility providing intensive educational and medical programming. Specialists certified to work with multiple handicapped children staff six classrooms. Each classroom can have up to eight students and is staffed with a minimum of one teacher and two assistants. An Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) is developed for each child and reviewed quarterly. The curriculum also incorporates community training.

For a \$15 donation, a student was sponsored and the donor received a t-shirt. Staff, families and friends walked with the students through familiar sights in the Tremont area. They included community-based training destinations, such as the library, recycle center, ice cream shop, "Civilizations" coffee shop and numerous other sights. After the stroll, everyone was invited to the gym for snacks and to view a picture video of last year's walk. The stroll raises money for maintenance on the newly installed, fully accessible adaptive playground. For more information on the Rose-Mary Center School, call 216-621-3451.



Richmond Heights Local Schools Begins School Year with Back-to-School Fair

More than 500 students, parents and community members attended the Richmond Heights Local Schools Back-to-School Fair on August 11th. The event was promoted as a community unity day and the district was pleased to see attendance exceed their expectations. A live jazz band performed and there were family activities such as face painting, balloon animals, tours of the school buildings, and booths that featured community organizations, Salvation Army, and the city's fire and police departments.

Many of the district's new and continuing programs and clubs were also on display for families. Some of these included a Culinary Club, English Language program, Excel TECC, and summer sports and arts camps.

Richmond 2.0 also was featured at the fair. This program, which is through the Ohio Online Learning Program sponsored

by the ESC of Cuyahoga County, allows students to complete coursework online, while still being able to participate in all district offerings, from sports and clubs to extra-curricular activities.

"The district's new vision statement is that we are a 'first choice school district,'" said Richmond Heights Local Schools Superintendent Renee Willis. "We hope this Back-to-School Fair showed not only our school families, but the entire community, that we have so much to offer to our students and will always strive to provide those students with the highest quality education, activities, and programs possible."

City of Richmond Heights Mayor David Roche, along with the Richmond Heights Education Foundation, collaborated with the district to plan this successful event.



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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 2015-16 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

Recipients from Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools



Kyle Calvey, eighth grader at Cuyahoga Heights Middle School

Kyle's spirit of kindness is demonstrated daily in his interactions with everyone in his school community. Performing random acts of kindness is part of his nature. He is a kind and considerate young man. Kyle's positive attitude is

contagious; students are inspired by his generosity and friendship. Kyle consistently helps others and expects nothing in return. Kyle Calvey is a true humanitarian. ESC Treasurer Bruce Basalla presented the award.

awards. The awards were presented by ESC board members and administrators 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 bookmark. The starfish is the symbol of a story of the impact one person can make in a community.



Jacob Miller, senior at Cuyahoga Heights High School

Jacob is a person who exemplifies the philosophies of the Starfish story. Jacob relentlessly does the right thing for others, not because he wants recognition, but because he is a kind spirit and naturally generous. Jacob

is quick to lend a word of encouragement to a peer struggling with a difficult problem. He knows that everyone has tough times and understands that he can talk to people about his own experiences to help them through theirs. Jacob also thinks a lot about what is fair and right. He wants everyone to have an equal opportunity to get all that they can out of their time in high school. As a student and a person, Jacob Miller is a tremendous example of the power of kindness. Cuyahoga Heights Board Member Tim Oden presented the award.

Recipients from Independence Local Schools



Olivia Michota, eighth grader at Independence Middle School

Olivia is a leader amongst her peers who works to, and above, her potential in all academic classes. She is involved in Student Council, WEB, Leadership Corps, Builder's Club, Drama Club, Marching Band, Show Choir, and Girls on the Run. She is kind, compassionate,

friendly, caring to everyone, students and teacher alike, and always has a smile on her face. The school can count on her to be respectful and helpful to any adult or student in need. Her conscientious and empathetic nature makes her wise beyond her years. Over the past four years, she has shown tremendous strength and courage in and out of the classroom. ESC Board Member Christine Krol presented this award.



Elena Paparizos, senior at Independence High School

Elena always puts the needs of others above herself and has had a tremendous impact on both her school and community. She has touched the lives of countless individuals and has made a huge impact on the lives of many of our special education students, which speaks volumes about

her character. There has never been a student that was so driven to give his/her own time and talent to help students and individuals with special needs. She is always involved in one good cause or another, as she has a limitless supply of energy and good will. Elena is personally responsible for reorganizing the STAND club, promoting the value of making positive life choices. This club was dormant until Elena came along and would have faded away completely without Elena's efforts. She truly has a heart of gold and has left a permanent, positive impact at Independence High School, and she will never be forgotten. ESC Director of Leadership Services David Laurenzi presented the award.

Recipients from Richmond Heights Local Schools



Kelsie Randolph, eighth grader at Richmond Heights Middle School

Kelsie is the Vice President of the Middle School Student Council as well as a student ambassador/mentor to sixth grade students. She is a starter on the Middle School Volleyball team and plays basketball for both Richmond Heights and her AAU team. During track

and field season, she recently broke her own record for the discus by throwing 71.5 ft. She attends Emmanuel Apostolic Church where she sings in the choir and has participated in community service projects throughout her community and with the elderly. She has received the scholar/athlete award for each sport in which she participates and is currently on the merit roll. ESC Board Member Christine Krol presented this award.



Sandy Vasquez-Garcia, senior at Richmond Heights High School

Sandy is an outstanding student and her sense of responsibility, conscientious attitude, and strong leadership skills are apparent in her academic goals as well. She has aspirations of attending John Carroll University in the fall to pursue a career as a

doctor in a neonatal intensive care unit. She had some experience as she completed a NICU internship at the Cleveland Clinic last year. With Sandy at the helm, the Environmental Club is a culturally diverse group of students volunteering their time to make our schools, our city, and our world a better place. In her own words, the mission of the Environmental Club is to give back to the school, the teachers, the community, and the planet, by being a little greener, and putting those recycled papers to good use. ESC Board President Tony Miceli presented this award.

Recognizing Excellence in Education for Students with Disabilities

On May 13th, more than 200 people came together for the 37th Recognition of Excellence in Education for Students with Disabilities Awards Program at St. Michael's Woodside 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. Receiving awards were Andrew Borsuk from Cuyahoga Heights Middle School and Michael Coseriu from Independence High School.

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

instructional strategies and programs. Receiving awards were Shirley Boyers from Cuyahoga Heights Middle School and Honey McGhee from Independence High School.

This year's keynote speaker was Dana Sims, a 2005 graduate of Warrensville Heights High School. At the age of 11, Dana was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome. However, Dana has never let anything define her or hold her back. She knows the challenges of relationships and has found some internal inspiration that she hopes helps others find their inner peace along their own journey with living along the ever undefined spectrum known as autism. Dana talked candidly about her feelings, hopes and dreams for herself and others. She has come to understand the importance of communication and relationships that are often very difficult for her, and yet, through her inspirational outreach she has opened doors for other readers of her blog which she calls "Breakers." She enjoys a fulfilling personal life that includes blogging, meditating, drawing, exercising, and writing poetry.

