

The CONNECTION



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE...
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS**

Pages 14-19



6393 Oaktree Blvd.
Independence, OH 44131
(216) 524-3000
Fax (216) 524-3683
www.esc-cc.org

Robert A. Mengerink
Superintendent

Jennifer Dodd
Director of Operations and Development

Steve Rogaski
Director of Pupil Services

Bruce G. Basalla
Treasurer

Governing Board

Anthony Miceli
President

Carol Fortlage
Vice President

Tony Hocevar
Christine Krol
Frank Mahnic, Jr.

Editor:
Nadine Grimm

Contributors:
Jennifer Dodd
Paula Kucinic
Sharon Novak

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Superintendent’s Message - Page 3

ESC Board Members Receive Awards from OSBA - Page 3

Global Education - Migration in Global Context Summer Teaching Institute - Page 4

Career Connections - Page 4

Developing High School Writing Centers - Page 5

Green Ribbon Schools - Page 6

Innovation Lab Network - Page 7

Global Culture Cafe - Page 8

Teaching about Africa - Page 9

Middle School Students Explore Mayan Culture - Page 9

Rose-Mary Center School Updates - Pages 10-11

Hyland Software Gifted Program - Page 12

ESC 1st Ever Wellness Fair - Page 12

Robotics Competition - Page 13

Excellence in Education Awards - Pages 14-19

Cuyahoga County Transition Expo - Pages 20-21

Humanitarian Award Recipients - Pages 22-23

Summer Institutes and Workshops - Pages 24-26

Ohio Online Learning Program - Page 26

We Build Bridges For . . .

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



Facebook:
Cuyahoga County ESC



Twitter:
@CuyahogaESC

Superintendent's Message

By Dr. Bob Mengerink, *Superintendent*



As one of the largest Educational Service Centers in the State of Ohio, the ESC of Cuyahoga County recognizes the importance of providing high quality professional learning opportunities, programs and services to its constituents. We at the ESC of Cuyahoga County also understand that what separates a successful organization from

the others is their commitment to continuous improvement. Beginning in 2014, the ESC embarked on a year-long process of self-evaluation and reflection through AdvancED.

On March 9-10, 2015, the ESC underwent its five-year Accreditation Review with AdvancED. During the review, the AdvancEd External Review Team conducted interviews

with several groups of stakeholders, reviewed and analyzed data and documents, and conducted site visits with several of our partnering agencies and districts.

AdvancEd uses an innovative and state-of-the-art framework to measure institutional performance called The Index of Education Quality (IEQ). On March 11, 2015, with IEQ scores that ranked above the national norm, the ESC of Cuyahoga County was recommended for accreditation.

At this time, I would like to personally thank the ESC governing board, staff, and all of the individuals from our partnering districts, agencies and universities for their dedication and support in making the AdvancED re-accreditation process a success.

Sincerely,
Bob

ESC Board Members Receive Awards from OSBA

The 2015 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.

Global Education

Migration in Global Context Summer Teacher Institute

Twenty educators from around Ohio will participate in a Summer Teacher Institute in the Humanities from August 3rd to 5th at the ESC of Cuyahoga County. Migration in Global Context: History, Narrative and Project-based Learning is a collaborative program among humanities scholars from Cleveland State University's History Department, the ESC, and the Ohio Humanities. Participants will explore themes of migration in local, national and global contexts through lectures, field experiences, via media and online resources, and with hands-on activities. Master teachers will demonstrate interdisciplinary project-based learning methods for development of curricular units and materials.

Subsequent to the summer institute, programs during Fall and Spring will continue exploration of the migration themes through book discussion, film viewing, gallery walks, and a teacher symposium during which participants will share their new humanities-based content knowledge. Fall and Spring 2015-16 programs are open to the public.

For information, contact:

Nadine Grimm

Coordinator of 21st Century Learning

216-901-4243

Nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org



This program is made possible, in part, by the Ohio Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Read more about our Global Education programs on page 8-9

Career Connections

By: Ron Zybura, SST-3 Consultant

As districts support their students to become college and career ready, a number of students will select career and technical education (CTE) as a pathway during their middle and high school experiences. Career Connections is a new resource, mandated by legislation and developed by the Ohio Department of Education, to provide an integrated framework of curriculum strategies; career awareness, exploration, and planning; and the Ohio Means Jobs K-12 resource to strengthen students' college and career goal setting. Information and a toolkit are available online at the ODE website: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Career-Tech/Career-Connections>.

Ron Zybura, SST-3 consultant for Career and Technical Education, collaborates with SSTs 2, 4, and 8 to serve Career and Technical Planning Districts to support the

needs of districts, students and parents. Goals for 2015-16 are to support district staff by offering Ohio Means Jobs K-12 workshops and other resources for career advising for students, to develop student success plans for at-risk students, and to support high quality instruction.

Career Connections will help students make career education choices that are congruent with their strengths, preferences, needs, and skills. CTE provides a clear focus for students to reach career goals and to strengthen learning as they follow a preferred career pathway to prepare for and achieve 21st century jobs.

For information, contact:

Ron Zybura, SST-3 Consultant

Career-Technical Education

216-446-3833

Ron.zybura@esc-cc.org

Developing High School Writing Centers

During 2014-15, the high school English faculty in **Maple Heights, Olmsted Falls, Strongsville**, and Facing History New Tech and MC2STEM in the **Cleveland Metropolitan** district collaborated with Baldwin-Wallace and Cleveland State University faculty on a program that is Facilitating Students' Transition from High School to University Writing. The program was coordinated by the ESC of Cuyahoga County and funded by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation to provide excellence in teaching through extended professional development, and to support deep learning for students. High school and university faculty explored current pedagogical methods for writing, writing center models, online resources for writing, and writing across the curriculum. Through development of high school writing centers in the participating schools with mentoring by college-level writing tutors, high school students learned reading and writing strategies to improve comprehension, vocabulary, and writing methods. The project also contributed to students' college knowledge and preparedness for the transition to post-secondary education through discussion and college visits. Faculty participants presented about their experiences at board meetings, at the College English Association, and at professional meetings.

As a result of the foregoing project, the ESC is coordinating development of a writing center and faculty professional development at Collinwood High School in Cleveland. Initial accomplishments include establishment of the center and



writing lab in the school's library/media center, as well as small group sessions with students on close reading, using primary sources, and online research. During the first year, efforts focused on the needs of 9th and 12th grade students, with subsequent years to focus on 10th and 11th grade literacy development. In April, 27 AP students and faculty attended a Transition to College Writing program at Cleveland State University with presentations by first-year writing faculty, a research librarian, the CSU Writing Center director, and a panel of CSU students who advised high school students about the differences between the high school and university environments. A professional development session for 65 Collinwood faculty and staff took place on May 26th with roll out of a writing toolkit, and opportunities for discussion about benefits, expectations, and potential for the new Collinwood High School Writing Center.



U.S. Department of Education Announces Green Ribbon Schools



Only two school districts in Ohio were named a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School this year. They are **Berea City School District** (BCSD) in Berea and **Old Trail** in Bath.

BCSD has taken proactive steps to reduce environmental impact and operating costs; improve students' and staff members' health; and provide effective environmental and sustainability education through several focused initiatives related to operations, wellness, health, and environmental education.

The district has actively implemented strategies to reduce environmental impact, GHG emissions, waste production, and transportation energy use. Working with Cenergistic, the school district was recognized with the District Energy Stewardship Award for environmental stewardship including decreased carbon emissions and natural resource conservation. Grindstone Elementary School within the district has qualified for LEED Gold certification. The district has joined in the Clean Fuel Initiative, one of several steps that the transportation department has taken to use cleaner-burning, low-emissions high performance clean diesel. BCSD also had partnered with EcoChem Alternative Fuels to thoroughly clean its fuel storage tanks prior to the delivery of its supply of diesel. Other steps the transportation department has taken include more efficient bus routing and use of GPS monitoring system to increase efficiencies.

The district has instituted changes to reduce waste handling. The district separates out general recyclables from refuse, and all yard waste is shredded and composted for use in the community garden.

The district was recognized in the USDA HealthierUS Schools Challenge at the Bronze level. The district is a long-standing partner of the world-famous Cleveland Clinic for several of its health initiatives, such as Eat Right at School District and Be Food Safe School District. Recently,

BCSD launched a comprehensive wellness program that is incentivized through an online tool called Vitality, an interactive and personalized wellness program that makes it easy for staff to participate in health screenings, identify goals, and track wellness and fitness progress.

BCSD has developed educational programs and opportunities that promote conservation and environmental practices across grade levels. This includes specialized programs such as environmental clubs and environmental science courses. Camp Mi-Bro-Bri is a weeklong outdoor education program for all sixth graders. Coe Lake Outdoor Science Education is a Certified Wildlife Habitat and program through which high school students teach elementary students about the environment.

Old Trail School has created a model for school environmental sustainability programs, focusing on five major components: facility, food, operations, recycling and water. Each of these is continuously evaluated by our administration with a goal of improvement and direct connection to curriculum. They are striving to reduce its carbon footprint while introducing students to their natural world through hands-on, collaborative science lessons, gardening, and habitat restoration.

Its 62-acre campus allows us to focus on location-based education. The school takes advantage of its unique surroundings by encouraging our students, families, faculty, and staff to take time to examine and explore the outdoors, using the campus as an environmental learning center.

Old Trail School has formed partnerships with a number of different organizations including: Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Countryside Conservancy, Hattie Larlham Services for Adults and Children with Developmental Disabilities, Eco Schools, and shortly Energy Star Portfolio Manager.

Innovation Lab Network

Several districts in Northeast Ohio became members of the Innovation Lab Network (ILN) during 2014-15, including **Northwestern Local**, **Kirtland Local**, and **Perry-Lake County Schools**. A site visit preliminary to ILN membership was recently completed at **Chagrin Falls Schools**. ILN districts promote the principles and practices to transform education through imparting world class knowledge and skills, performance-based learning, personalized learning, anytime/everywhere opportunities, student agency, and comprehensive systems of support. Several districts throughout the state recently submitted waivers to the Ohio Department of Education for alternate assessment and evaluations that will be reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education for possible approval.

On May 18th, 65 educators attended the ILN-inspired conference *Generating Pathways for Success: Competencies, Innovations and Opportunities* at the ESC of Cuyahoga County. Keynote speaker, Sasheen Phillips, challenged attendees through her presentation “Ignite and Increase Student Success Through Innovation.” Morning sessions focused on education pathways with topics on The ILN and Competency-Based Pathways, Skills Acquisition for Success: Social-Emotional Learning, and Educating for Global Success: Ohio and Beyond. Afternoon sessions focused on career readiness, highlighting the top three trends in career opportunities for Northeast Ohio:



Advanced Manufacturing, Data Analysis, and Healthcare Education.

The Ohio ILN conference is an annual June event. This year, educators from Colorado, Wisconsin and Kentucky shared their experiences transitioning to personalized learning and bringing it to scale districtwide.

The Ohio ILN continues to expand its network of district members.

For information, contact
Nadine Grimm
Coordinator of 21st Century Learning
216-901-4243
Nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org





Global Culture Café

The ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted 16 international secondary teachers during a Global Culture Café on April 14th. Teachers from Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, the Philippines, and Senegal joined a group of local educators to exchange cultural information and to share their knowledge of pop culture in our respective countries. Everyone found things we share in common and also some differences that are unique to the various cultures.

The international educators teach English, science, mathematics, technology and other disciplines in their

home countries. They participate in the International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP) of the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to learn about advancements in educational methodology and policy, and to develop the leadership skills necessary to implement and promote change within their schools and home communities. Locally, they are hosted at Kent State University Gerald H. Read Center for International and Intercultural Education in KSU's College of Education. The ESC has hosted the international scholars for several years and looks forward to future opportunities for cultural exchange.

Teaching About Africa

On April 22nd, 26 teachers and professionals participated in a workshop at the Cleveland Museum of Art coordinated by the ESC of Cuyahoga County in collaboration with the museum's Teacher Resource Center. Participants engaged in a guided tour of the exhibit *Senufo: Art and Identity in West Africa* that highlighted sculpture, masks, figures, and other decorative art labeled as Senufo. Through such decorative objects and artifacts in diverse styles and mediums, the exhibit introduced visitors to the *poro* and *sandogo* societies, the primary social settings for the production and use of works of art in the Senufo-speaking regions of northern Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Burkina Faso in sub-Saharan Africa. Lecturer and author Carol Spindel recounted her experiences in Cote d'Ivoire as she learned to distinguish cultural, linguistic, and geographic differences

in West Africa. Educators visited the Teacher Resource Center to learn about the resources available for teaching and learning about Africa and its cultures.

The ESC will offer a series of teacher workshops on *Teaching About Africa* during Fall and Spring 2015-16. An initial event takes place on September 2nd at Cleveland State University, when the ESC will co-host a reception with the CSU Department of History for its symposium, *The Public Humanities and Modern Africa*.

For information, contact
Nadine Grimm
Coordinator of 21st Century Learning
216-901-4243
Nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org

Middle School Students Explore Mayan Culture and Textiles

In a program coordinated through the ESC of Cuyahoga County, Shaker Heights Middle School teacher Francine Lasley invited cultural expert and linguist Prof. Laura Martin to present about the ancient and contemporary Mayans living in the highlands of Guatemala. Students have been studying about ancient cultures and learning about textiles made by different cultures. During the Spring program, students in the International Club learned about the geography, languages, culture, and arts of the Mayans. They tried on clothing worn by males and females in the culture, and they learned that the textile designs and colors symbolize cultural values. Different towns in the highlands have their own distinct designs worn by the indigenous populations. Students also put on a puppet play of a Mayan fable of "How the Hummingbird Got Her Feathers."



Stroll & Roll

The third annual “Stroll & Roll” fundraising event was held on a sunny afternoon on April 24th. The playground fundraising committee planned a well-organized, weather-cooperating event. For a \$15 donation, a student was sponsored and the donor received a very smart looking ESC-RMC Stroll & Roll 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 a picture video of last year’s walk. The stroll raised approximately \$350 for continued adaptive playground maintenance.





Spring Formal

The annual spring formal, "Land of Oz" was held on the afternoon of May 8th. A formal lunch was held in the gym for the students. Tables and gym were decorated to the theme. Music was by Action DJ. Dancing and fun were had by many parents and families as well as staff. Thank you again to Art Therapist Mary Alice who took the students' hard work and turned it into the "Land of Oz" in the gym. Malissa was crowned prom queen and Jimmy was crowned prom king. Both Malissa and Jimmy are graduating seniors.



Graduation

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.



GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAMS

Hyland Software Offers Tour to High School Students

Special thanks to **Warrensville Heights School District** students who attended the Hyland Software field trip on April 24th. Students toured the Westlake company and shadowed employees responsible for either software development or quality assurance.

Is your school district interested in attending this outstanding field trip next year?

For information contact

Steve Rogaski

Director of Human Resources and Pupil Services

216-901-4210

Steve.rogaski@esc-cc.org



Highlights of ESC's 1st Ever Wellness Fair - April 29, 2015



Robotics Competition

The Buckeye Regional FIRST Robotics Competition was held on March 25-27 at the Cleveland State University Wolstein Center in downtown Cleveland. More than 50 teams and 1,350 students from Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Virginia, Illinois, New Jersey, and California competed in the Aerial AssistSM robotic game. The NorthCoast Business Advisory Council hosted a luncheon for its members who were able to experience the event firsthand.



Excellence in Education Awards

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, 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, parents, educators, paraprofessional and educational aides, as well as community partners, 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 with or without disabilities who have established positive relationships and who have assisted other students with disabilities and have been exemplary role models.

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

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

This activity is funded by IDEA, Title VI-B Grants to states through the Ohio Department of Education grant to the ESC of Cuyahoga County, Fiscal Agent for the State Support Team–Region 3.

Special thanks to the staff of the ESC of Cuyahoga County and the State Support Team–Region 3 for their efforts and work in making the Awards Ceremony possible.



2015 Outstanding Student Achievement Award:

Ella Baciak, Cuyahoga Heights Elementary
Cuyahoga Heights City School District



Ryan Baxter, Fairview Park High School
Fairview Park City School District



Rachel Davis, Columbus School
Bedford City School District

Alayna Howell, Central School
Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District



Harrison Howell, Central School
Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District

Sophie Hudson, Rocky River High School
Rocky River City School District



Marqua Morgan, Bedford High School
Bedford City School District

Cashius Parker, Solon High School
Solon City School District

Jalen Sandvick, Albion Elementary
North Royalton City School District



Triston Thompson, Olmsted Falls High School
Olmsted Falls City School District

Rasheen Wilder, J & G Snow School
Olmsted Falls City School District



Michael Rashawn Williams, Shaw High School
East Cleveland City School District

Sierra Walsh,
Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School
Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District



2015 Outstanding Peer Achievement Award:

Lydia Duluk

Lakewood High School
Lakewood City School District



Katherine Gallagher

Dover Intermediate School
Westlake City School District



Kylee Grady

Fairview Park High School
Fairview Park City School District



Sophia Krall

Falls-Lenox Primary School
Olmsted Falls City School District



Lauren Mahoney

Chagrin Falls High School
Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools



Mia Marsico

Olmsted Falls Middle School
Olmsted Falls City School District



Carly Neely

Olmsted Falls High School
Olmsted Falls City School District

Kate O'Malley

Strongsville High School
Strongsville City School District

Julia Peabody

Grindstone Elementary School
Berea City School District

Katya Tawasha

Lakewood High School
Lakewood City School District

Ciarra Zeleznik

Grindstone Elementary School
Berea City School District

Summer Zeleznik

Grindstone Elementary School
Berea City School District

2015 Outstanding Educator Achievement Award:

*Rosemary Allen, Susan Folta,
Karen Labyk, Judy Wright*
Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School
Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District

Matt DeMooy
Goldwood Primary School
Rocky River City School District

Mary McCool-Berry
Emerson Elementary School
Lakewood City School District

Martha Candow & Franca DeMuth
Falls-Lenox Primary School
Olmsted Falls City School District

Mary Jane Crosley
Shiloh Middle School
Parma City School District

Kelly Fissel
Olmsted Falls Early Childhood Center
Olmsted Falls City School District

Kim Humphrey
Glendale Primary School
Bedford City School District

Morgan McKeller
Warrensville Heights Middle School
Warrensville Heights City School District

Dr. Hollis Munoz
Cleveland Heights—University Heights
City School District

Tasha Nance
Shaker Heights High School
Shaker Heights School District

David Pope
Caledonia Elementary
East Cleveland City School District

Debbi Puthoff
Cuyahoga Heights Elementary
Cuyahoga Heights City School District

Samantha Salzwimmer
Solon High School
Solon City School District

Megan Wellman
Early Education Center & Gilles-Sweet
Fairview Park City School District

Mike Yurmanovich
Olmsted Falls High School
Olmsted Falls City School District



Excellence in Education Awards

2015 Outstanding Educator Achievement Award:



2015 Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award



Morgan McKeller, an Intervention Specialist at Warrensville Heights Middle School, in **Warrensville Heights City Schools**, was recognized with the Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award. This award is presented to one educator who has made extraordinary contributions to the education of students with disabilities from each of Ohio's 16 State Support Team regions.

2015 R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award



Sophie Hudson, a student at Rocky River High School in the **Rocky River City Schools**, was recognized with the R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award for a Student. This award is presented to one exemplary special education student from each of Ohio's 16 State Support Team regions. The award was established 24 years ago by the Ohio Department of Education.

Both Morgan and Sophie will be honored at the state level in Columbus.



Congratulations to all the recipients!
Thank you for making a difference.

Cuyahoga County Transition Expo

The 2015 Cuyahoga County Transition Expo was held on Saturday, April 18th at Regina Hall on the campus of Notre Dame College in South Euclid. More than 320 participants, of all ages, listened to an opening panel of young adults describe their transition to adult life focusing on the Expo's theme "Learning, Earning, and Living." There was a powerful message to students and families alike, and was a great kickoff to the expo.

For the remainder of the day, attendees met with representatives from more than 70 organizations, agencies, institutions of higher education, financial planners, and more to learn about services and supports associated with learning, earning, and living. Participants left the exhibition hall with bags of useful information and contacts for further exploration.

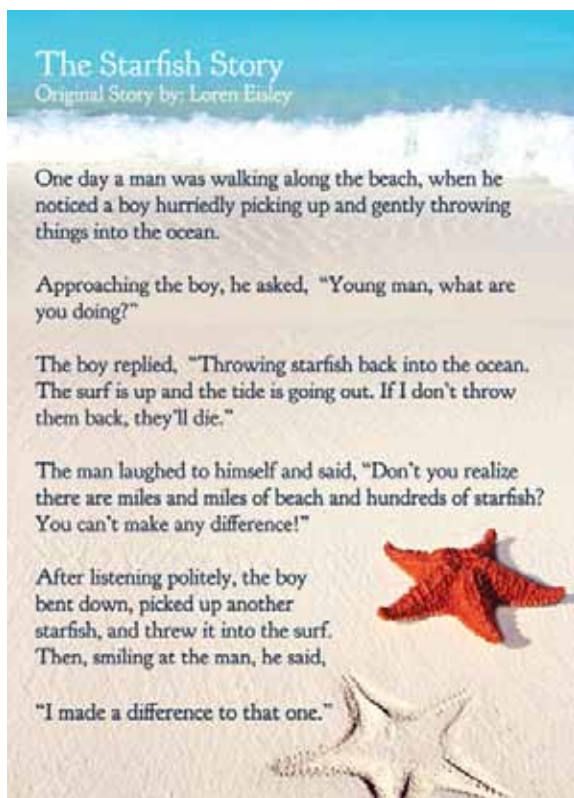
Included in the Transition Expo were 16 breakout sessions, which offered a wide range of topics appropriate for the event's theme, including available transition services through agencies, OhioMeansJobs links, preparing for college, financial strategies for families and young adults, skills needed for employment and job search skills, self-advocacy, specialized college programs, emotional wellness, guardianship, and more. Many of these sessions were geared to young adults as they develop their self-determination skills entering adult life. Many of the sessions were presented by young adults who provided first-person insight into challenges faced and met leading to a successful transition.

The 2016 Cuyahoga County Transition Expo is scheduled for the spring of 2016 and will again be held at Notre Dame College. So mark your calendars and do not miss the opportunity to gather current information, make contacts, and be prepared for your future of "Learning, Earning, and Living."





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 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:

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.

Samantha Kochis, senior at 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, senior at 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, senior at 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.

Summer Institutes and Workshops

Academic Language Therapy Association Certification Courses (ALTA)

Expert teaching strategies for the Five Essential Components of scientifically-based reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension) to prepare teachers to work with language-based learning disabilities such as dyslexia and dysgraphia.

Monday, July 6, 2015 from 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Monday, July 20, 2015 from 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location:

ESC of Cuyahoga County, 6393 Oak Tree Blvd.,
Independence, OH 44131

Registration is done online at www.keystoneliteracy.com.

Bullying and Peer Mistreatment

What can young people tell us about bullying? This course will explore new and insightful evidence that changes the way we deal with bullying. The course emphasizes the effects bullying has on the victim and suggests important life saving strategies to help youth cope with this problem. Participants will explore methods for handling bullying behaviors and will discover many practical ways to create schools where everyone feels safe and respected.

1 Graduate Credit will be available for an additional cost from Ashland University or University of Dayton

Series of dates between July 15 - August 5, 2015

Location:

ESC of Cuyahoga County, 6393 Oak Tree Blvd.,
Independence, OH 44131

Registration is done online at www.esc-cc.org.

The Importance of Social and Emotional Learning in the Classroom

This workshop will address the need for developing students' social and emotional learning to enhance academic achievement. Through a variety of media and

discussion, participants will learn about teaching social skills in the classroom that will enable students to become lifelong learners and develop positive character qualities. The use of social media and the effects of bullying will also be addressed.

1 Graduate Credit will be available for an additional cost from Ashland University or University of Dayton

Series of dates between July 15 - August 5, 2015

Location:

ESC of Cuyahoga County, 6393 Oak Tree Blvd.,
Independence, OH 44131

Registration is done online at www.esc-cc.org.

Connecting with the ADHD Student From an Educator's Perspective

This course covers the basic elements that will allow participants to differentiate between the various forms of ADD/ADHD. Whether you are a classroom teacher, special education teacher, counselor, intervention specialist, administrator, parent or adult student, the information, techniques and strategies will be valuable. The course addresses the specific needs of ADD/ADHD students but the strategies are also appropriate for all students with attention, learning, and underachieving problems.

1 Graduate Credit will be available for an additional cost from Ashland University or University of Dayton

Location:

ESC of Cuyahoga County, 6393 Oak Tree Blvd.,
Independence, OH 44131

Series of dates between July 27 - August 21, 2015

Registration is done online at www.esc-cc.org.

Teaching Reading with Complex Text

Timothy Shanahan is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of urban education at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he was Founding Director of the Center for Literacy and chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. He is also visiting research professor at Queens University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. He is principal investigator of the National Title I Study of Implementation and Outcomes: Early Childhood Language Development. Professor Shanahan was director of reading for the Chicago Public Schools. His research emphasizes reading-writing relationships, reading assessment, and improving reading achievement. He is past president of the International Reading Association. In 2006, he received a presidential appointment to serve on the Advisory Board of the National Institute for Literacy. He was inducted to the Reading Hall of Fame in 2007. He is a former first-grade teacher.

This presentation will explore whether it is better to teach students to read with texts at their “instructional level” as teachers have long been told to do or with texts at the levels of difficulty required by the Ohio state standards. On the one hand, we want to make sure students make the biggest learning gains possible and that they come to love reading, but on the other we are required to teach students to read particular levels of text. Find out what the research has to say on the issue and what kinds of instructional routines should successfully allow students to reach the new standards. Participants will learn the elements of text complexity, and how to teach reading effectively with such text.

Tuesday, August 4, 2015 from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location:

ESC of Cuyahoga County, 6393 Oak Tree Blvd.,
Independence, OH 44131

Registration is done online at www.esc-cc.org.

Project AWARE Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

Mental health issues in young people are quite common. One in five adolescents will develop a mental health problem at some point during their school-age years. The understanding and assistance of a supportive adult can impact if and how quickly a young person receives appropriate professional help. In most cases, an adult with little or no background in mental health is most likely to be a student's first responder.

Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) (<http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org>) is an 8-hour public education program designed to teach adults who regularly interact with youth (ages 12-24) how to help a person who is experiencing a mental health or addiction challenge, or is in crisis. The course teaches adults with little-to-no knowledge of mental health disorders the tools they need to feel more confident and comfortable recognizing the signs of emotional distress. Rather than teach individuals to diagnose, the course provides participants with the necessary tools to support a young person in crisis until professional help arrives.

Participants learn about the early warning signs and risk factors common to mental health disorders, typical adolescent behavior and an evidence-based 5-steps action plan to assist a young person in crisis and no-crisis situations. Topics include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders. The training is presented in an interactive format utilizing scenarios, activities, videos and written materials.

For information, contact:

Mary P. Wise, MSCE, MSW
Project AWARE Coordinator
216-901-4201
mary.wise@esc-cc.org

Thursday, August 6, 2015 from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location:

ESC of Cuyahoga County, 6393 Oak Tree Blvd.,
Independence, OH 44131

Registration is done online at www.esc-cc.org.

Summer Institutes and Workshops

Northern Ohio's 5th Annual Early Learners Institute: Creating Connections for Kids!

The State Support Team–Region 3 (SST3) and the ESC of Cuyahoga County, in partnership with State Support Teams 2 and 4, believe the early learning years for a child are critical in developing a solid foundation that will support a child all the way through adulthood.

With the onset of many new Initiatives, communication and collaboration move even more intentionally to the forefront of our work. In order to strengthen outcomes for the children we serve, please join us at our 5th Annual Early Learners Institute: Creating Connections for Kids!

Our goals are as follows:

- To provide comprehensive topics that include all members of a child's education team including paraprofessionals, teachers, related services and leadership/administrators.
- To link state, regional and local initiatives and best practices to meaningful professional development for all partners.
- To acknowledge the importance of creating and maintaining connections to achieve successful outcomes for our young learners.

National Keynote: Nancy Tarshis, Teaching Social Thinking

FREE Preconference August 12

Full Conference Aug 13-14, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SUTQ/Ohio Approved Credit Pending

Reduced rates for teacher/para partners

Location:

ESC of Cuyahoga County, 6393 Oak Tree Blvd.,
Independence, OH 44131

Registration is done online at www.esc-cc.org.

Ohio Online Learning Program

The ESC of Cuyahoga County is pleased to make the Ohio Online Learning Program available to all Ohio school districts so that they can provide multiple learning options, retain many students who might otherwise leave the district and reduce district costs. The Ohio Online Learning Program was successfully launched in 2011 and now serves close to 500 students throughout Ohio.

The Ohio Online Learning Program (OOLP) offers effective, innovative educational experiences in various formats, utilizing state of the art technology, such as a recently installed learning management system that provides easier access and greater flexibility. OOLP offers recently revised, aligned and rigorous Lincoln Interactive curriculum, and the guidance and support of highly qualified, certified instructors and Student Learning Advocates (SLA).

The program is available for students K-12 and provides over 250 courses aligned to Ohio's new learning standards in math, language arts, science, and social studies, along with a variety of interesting, challenging electives.

The Ohio Online Learning Program (OOLP) allows districts to access courses for fulltime online students, single course students, credit recovery, newly developed "blended" models incorporating the best elements of both online and traditional classroom instruction, and more rigorous targeted curriculum courses. District teachers can also be trained to utilize OOLP's regular online curriculum to develop a variety of online and face-to-face learning experiences.

The Ohio Online Learning Program can be customized to meet your district's specific needs. **Contact us today!**

Toll free:	855-491-9660
Mark Curtis	216-901-4238
Angela Carpenter	216-901-4239
Web	www.ohioonlinelearning.org

