

## Students Awarded for Making a Difference

The ESC of Cuyahoga County presents its annual Humanitarian Awards to students from Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, and Richmond Heights School Districts at the end of each school year. One student from each middle and high school received the award, presented by a member of the ESC Governing Board at each honoree's award assembly. Recipients are nominated by their own school's administration for demonstrating outstanding character and service to the community throughout the past school year. In addition to a cash award of \$500 at the high school level and \$200 for middle school, the six students each received a personalized plaque, starfish pin and starfish keychain. The starfish represents a short story about one person making a difference.

This year's "ESC Humanitarians" are:

Cuyahoga Heights Schools  
MarySarah Menkhous, Middle School  
Alisa Cubbison, High School

Independence Local Schools  
Sarah Andexler, Middle School  
Valerie Fletcher, High School

Richmond Heights Schools  
Alexander Vanek, Middle School  
Gabrielle Kisner, High School



## Chamber State of the Schools Luncheon Features Local Superintendents

Superintendent Bob Mengerink of the ESC of Cuyahoga County, addressed members of the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce this past May at the annual State of the Schools Luncheon. He was joined by Roscoe Schlachter, Superintendent of the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center; Peter Guerrero, Superintendent of Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools; and David Laurenzi, Superintendent of Independence Local Schools. More than 200 people attended the event.



# the ESC COMMUNITY Connection

Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County

SPRING 2010



## In the Community

### Ohio School Boards Association Honors ESC Board Members Frank Mahnic, Jr. and Tony Hocevar

This past March, the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) honored Frank Mahnic, Jr. and Tony Hocevar, members of the ESC of Cuyahoga County Governing Board, with the 2010 OSBA Award of Achievement as well as its "Master Board Member" Award at its spring conference in Warren, Ohio.

The OSBA "Master Board Member" Award was only presented to 20 out of 3,400 board members in Ohio this year. It is given to those board members who dedicate themselves to improving their boardsmanship skill and knowledge and is only awarded once to an individual and is recognized for life.

The OSBA Award of Achievement is also presented to a very select group each year. Of the more than 3,400 board members in Ohio, only 93 received the honor this year. Award recipients are rewarded for earning continuing education credits for attending seminars, workshops and conferences throughout the year. In addition, credits are awarded for leadership positions such as President, delegate, and serving on boards and state committees.

"Their efforts reflect a true commitment toward public education and the importance they attach to their roles on the ESC School Board," said Al Meloy, OSBA Deputy Director of Search Services and Board of Development.



ESC Board Member Frank Mahnic, Jr., Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools Board President Ken Perk, and ESC Board Member Tony Hocevar all received an award from OSBA.

## American History Comes To Life Through Sound

Approximately 70 teachers from 29 area school districts, including Independence Local Schools, benefited from the \$2 million "The Sounds of American History" grant—a collaboration between the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County and Cleveland State University. The grant was funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Teaching American History Program.

During the four-year program, teachers increased their history content knowledge and historical thinking skills, developed lesson plans and

curricular materials, and applied new methods and technical skills in the classroom.

"It has been inspiring to see the great success of this program. I believe it will continue in the hearts and souls of all the participating teachers and the students that have been touched. I am very proud that ESC and CSU were able to bring this experience to the Northeast Ohio area," said Bob Mengerink, Superintendent of the ESC of Cuyahoga County.

*"For the past three years, I have participated in workshops on the Civil War, World War I, 1920s, Great Depression, World War II, Cold War, Growth of Suburbs, Civil Rights, Vietnam, the Presidents, Blues, Jazz, and Rock and Roll. All of these workshops have introduced us to materials such as audio and video clips, along with letters, speeches, poems, and songs from those who lived during these events. I have been able to use all of these to bring history alive for the students at Independence High School. This grant also allowed me to purchase more than \$1,500 in teaching materials to enhance my curriculum.*

*I have also had the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from across Northeast Ohio at these workshops. We created lessons that we shared with each other and they are now available on a website for all to use. This has been an invaluable experience that has not only helped me expand my knowledge base and grow as a teacher, but has also helped the students gain a stronger appreciation for history."*

Jennifer Satola  
History Teacher, Independence High School



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Tony Hocevar  
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