

SUMMER 2018

THE ESC CONNECTION

A DIGITAL MAGAZINE FOR THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER OF NORTHEAST OHIO

SERVING THE NEEDS OF NORTHEAST OHIO'S EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



By Dr. Bob Mengerink, Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

It's unbelievable that another school year has come and gone. I hope each and every one of you has some well-deserved rest and relaxation over the summer months. During this time,

our ESC will be hosting numerous professional development opportunities, multi-day institutes, and various graduate courses from area universities. If you are looking for options for professional growth before the start of the new school year, please visit our [website](#) for our calendar of events.

During the summer months, our staff will be taking the opportunity to prepare for the start of a new school year. We work diligently to look ahead to better understand what challenges districts may

be facing to address student and educator needs or to respond to new legislation and policies. As we continue to expand our programs and services, your feedback will always be important to us. As administrators and teachers, you have even greater insight into ways in which our ESC can be most helpful to you. With this in mind, I want to remind you to never hesitate to reach out to any of us with an idea, a question, or a request for assistance. It is through these conversations that we can develop programs and services that meet the genuine needs of your districts.

Please know that you can reach any member of our leadership team throughout the entire summer. In the meantime, best wishes for a safe and peaceful summer.

Bob

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ESC TO PARTICIPATE IN CLEVELAND FOUNDATION “COMMON GROUND” EVENT

“What is the Place of Education in our Communities”

On **June 24**, the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Northeast Ohio is partnering with the Cleveland Foundation program, Common Ground, to bring together our community members to engage in a discussion about the “place” of education in our communities. Whether you are an educator, parent, student, civic official, business or community member, all are welcome to share a common conversation about education: Where has it been? Where is it now? Where is it going? Where should it be going? **Please join the conversation from 11:30 am - 1 pm at the ESC of Northeast Ohio.** Brunch will be served.

EventBrite Registration Link: http://bit.ly/CG2018_ESCNEO

ESSEX CONFERENCE CENTER . . . YOUR IDEAL SPACE TO MEET



Watch our New Video on the Essex Conference Center

Are you or someone you work with looking for the ideal space to collaborate, network, and celebrate in a wonderful meeting space? Watch the ESC’s latest video on why the Essex Conference Center may be the perfect solution for your meeting space and conference needs. [Click here](#) to watch.

ESC wellness FAIR

On May 7, the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Northeast Ohio held its 4th annual Wellness Fair for employees. “We had a great turnout and our employees enjoyed the day. Each year gets better,” 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 University Hospital, Brown Aveda, Cleveland Division of Water, Cuyahoga Valley Career Center 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. Employees also had the opportunity to make a custom sugar scrub. Seventy-six employees took advantage of onsite biometrics health screenings.

Christina Kowalski
Fiscal Specialist, Wellness Committee Chairman
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ESC EMPLOYEE



wellness FAIR



ESC HOSTS ODE REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING



The Cuyahoga County Regional Stakeholder Meeting took place on March 27 at the ESC of Northeast Ohio. Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction, led a discussion on the review of the Ohio Strategic Plan. Approximately 200 attendees interested in shaping the future of education in Ohio collaborated and provided input.

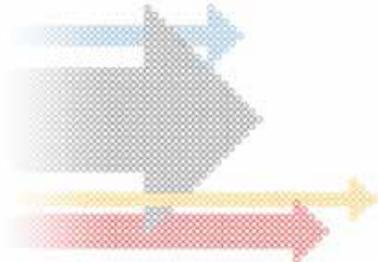
The purpose of the plan is to help each child become successful thanks to the guidance and support of caring adults who are empowered by an effective system. The plan is a tool to inform policy development at the Ohio Statehouse and education practice in Ohio's schools. More than 150 preK-12 educators, higher education representatives, parents and caregivers, employers, business leaders, philanthropic organizations worked collaboratively over the last six months to develop it.

This plan lays out a vision and goal for education, along with 15 supporting strategies. Ultimately, it seeks to put Ohio on a path to prepare the next generation of innovators and influencers who will go on to change the world.

[Click here](#) to read more about the Ohio Strategic Plan.

[Click here](#) for a full working draft.





Ohio

Strategic Plan for Education

GLOBAL ARTS AND CULTURE: SPRINGTIME FESTIVALS IN JAPAN AND JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY



On April 18, the ESC of Northeast Ohio hosted educators from **Avon Local Schools, Central Catholic High School, Cleveland Metropolitan Schools, and North Olmsted City Schools** for a traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony to welcome the spring season. The tea ceremony was presented by Mr. Haruhide Osugi, the Japan Outreach Coordinator to Ohio. The ceremony is a meditative and meaningful practice, called Sado—the Way of Tea, which is practiced both formally for prestigious

guests and informally for families. During the ceremony, “thick” tea or “thin” tea (depending on the types of tea used) is offered to guests in decorated tea bowls that symbolize the importance of the occasion.

Mr. Osugi is one of four coordinators in the United States who represent Japan through outreach to educators, business persons, and to community groups. Mr. Osugi will return to Japan this summer. While in Ohio, he has taught Japanese language at Kent State University, and he has participated in cultural programs, including origami and calligraphy, at the ESC and in schools.

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MOZAMBIQUE EDUCATORS VISIT THE ESC

On June 8, five educators from Mozambique's Ministry of Education and three jurists from the country's judicial system visited the ESC of Northeast Ohio to learn about innovations in teacher professional development, parent engagement, and education reform and transformation. The group is part of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) who are visiting the United States under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to learn about practices in the U.S. that they might implement in their home country. Their program, "Challenges in Education: A Project for Mozambique" was arranged by the Institute of International Education. The ESC collaborated with the Cleveland Council on World Affairs for their visit to the ESC. They were accompanied by U.S. Department of State interpreters.

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HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

The ESC of Northeast Ohio participates in the activities of the Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland to support students in the Cleveland area for college preparation, access, transition, and completion. The Compact is led by College Now in collaboration with 26 area colleges and universities, as well as community network partners who support students with in-school, after school, or occasional programs. ESC staff and consultants directly support educators and students in several buildings in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District as well as those in the First Ring Collaborative.

College Now provides coordinators in high schools who assist students with college admission applications, FAFSA applications, as well as information about scholarship opportunities to increase the numbers of college-going students.

The Higher Education Compact network provides regular data and communications for partner organizations dedicated to supporting students throughout their education continuum. Through quarterly meetings and special events, partners share and learn best practices to support students. Network partners have the opportunity to participate in the Higher Education Compact Learning Circle book discussions. On May 3, Learning Circle participants gathered at the ESC of Northeast Ohio to discuss *Dream Hoarders: How the American Upper Middle Class is Leaving Everyone Else in the Dust, Why That is a Problem, and What to Do About It*. The book by Richard V. Reeves considers the consequences of a widening inequality gap between the top fifth of the population versus everyone else causing a fracturing of American society along class lines.

NEWS FROM BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

The Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities have jointly selected Bright Beginnings, as supported by the ESC of Northeast Ohio, as the new Help Me Grow Central Intake and Referral System vendor beginning July 1, 2018. Bright Beginnings possesses extensive history of facilitating both home visiting and early intervention services to support families in helping their young children grow, learn, and develop to their fullest potential.

The Help Me Grow Central Intake and Referral system serves as a single point of entry for access, assessment and referral of families to appropriate home visiting services and Part C Early Intervention (EI). A statewide, standardized Central Intake System affords the early-childhood community significant opportunities to collaborate and partner

in our shared vision of a brighter future for Ohio's Children. By providing a single point of entry, state partners can promote maximum access and utilization of available family



formerly Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga County

support programs and services for each community, while ensuring that families will be linked to the most appropriate services available based on their needs.

Bright Beginnings is pleased to assume this role and work with Ohio regional partners, as well as its existing partners in Cuyahoga County, to serve all of Ohio's youngest children and their families.

TEACHER-BASED TEAM COACHES

Building Collective Capacity and Collaboration through Teacher Coaches

Strongsville City Schools identified a core group of teachers that would build the capacity of their teacher-based teams (TBTs) through process coaching. These teachers, who have developed a deeper understanding of the purpose and function of teams, have in turn “coached” their building teams. They also developed many tools that supported the work of the teams.

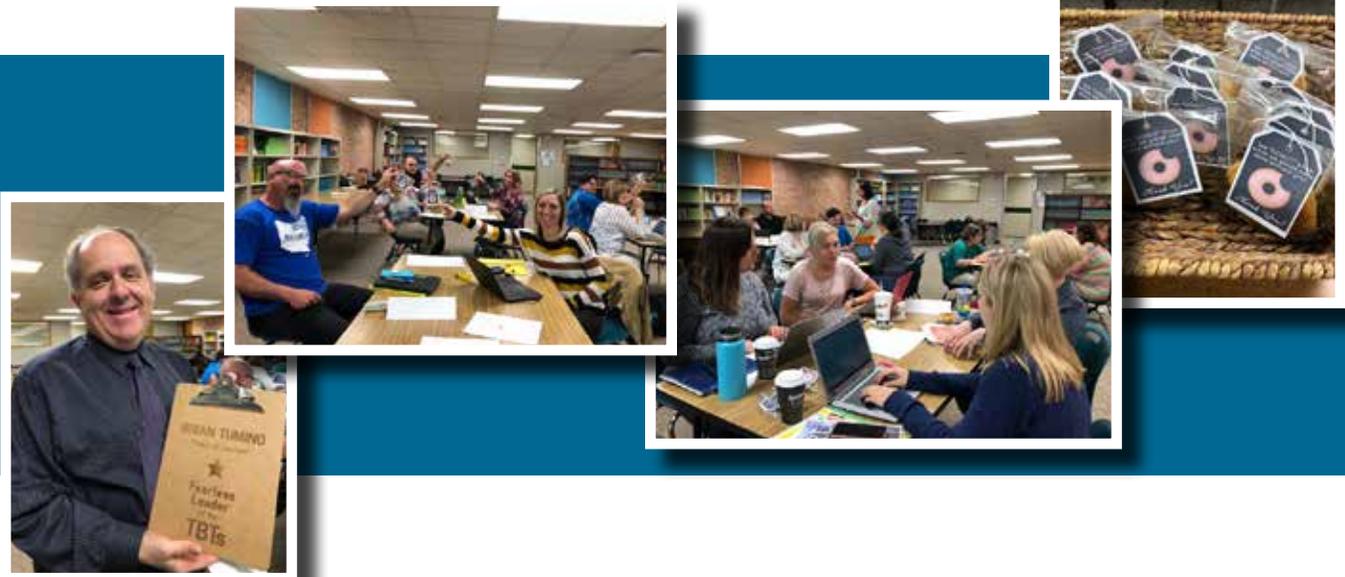
This began with approximately 30 K-12 teachers who volunteered to learn ways they could best support their teacher-based teams. Through five half-day sessions over a two year period, these teachers created their own “community of practice.” Each of the buildings was represented with an opportunity for teams to learn from each other. They examined topics such as the purpose of teacher-based teams, skills to implement to coach their colleagues, and relationship building. Teachers were “synergized” by the similar challenges they faced within their teams and

shared the desire to make TBTs meaningful. Finally, coaches learned how to effectively plan with their principals and work together to address areas of need and improvement within their building. This process has led teachers to use the time they have in a more productive way as guidelines and purpose are clear.

This professional development was customized to meet the needs of the district but more importantly, was planned and developed within the district’s Instructional Innovation Plan so that it was aligned and supported the work of the district. The ESC of Northeast Ohio is a provider of this type of professional development aligned to your district and building level plans on this topic, as well as others.

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EMIS MONTHLY SUPPORT WORKSHOPS CONTINUE

The Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio offers monthly EMIS support workshops through its new office of Online Programs and EMIS Data Support. As EMIS reporting has become much more complex, the ESC recognizes the need for information and support to be made available regionally. "We hope to provide guidance and support as well as a forum that fosters intelligent dialogue and exchange of ideas of current practices across Ohio," said EMIS Coordinator Mark Curtis.

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COLLABORATIVE TRANSITION PLANNING FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

By Angie Chapple-Wang, Consultant,
State Support Team—Region 3

Transition planning for youth with disabilities is required as part of IDEA to “ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education (FAPE) that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment and independent living.” Transition planning encompasses collaboration between school and post school providers in order to prepare graduating youth with disabilities and their families for a seamless transition into adult, post-secondary life.

Sometimes this transition can be a bit bumpy because rules, regulations and laws regarding the employment, education and training, and independent living are different from school aged services to post-secondary services. During the past two years, the State Support Team—Region 3 (SST-3) has brought together several schools and districts with the adult, post school agencies that youth and families will need to establish partnerships with in order to work toward a more seamless transition for these youth. We have had five school districts, representing nine high schools and middle schools, and four counselors from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and four from Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD) regularly meet

with the intent to create better planning teams to support youth with disabilities and their families as they navigate their transition from school to post-secondary services.

As a result of the great work that we have begun in Region 3 (Cuyahoga County) we have been approached by The Ohio Department of Education (ODE), and the Center for Innovation in Transition and Employment (CITE) and the Center for Disability Studies (DSC) at Kent State University (KSU) to participate in a project aimed at creating systems that will increase the likelihood of a more seamless transition for these youth to adult environments through a) transition planning components and b) collaborative case management. The project, A Professional Development and Case Management (PDCM) Model for Seamless Transition Planning, is a five-year endeavor. Kent State has initiated a grant proposal including CITE, DSC, ODE, OOD, and SSTs 2, 3, 8 and 9 to create universal materials, supports and resources in the transition planning areas of person-centered planning, identifying the correct course of study, community experiences, evidence-based practices, and assessment practices, and to provide coaching and facilitation with transition teams in the four identified SST regions. We are very excited to continue with the work we have begun involving collaborative transition teams for youth with disabilities and to collaborate further with other nearby regions and KSU and the ODE.

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP SERIES

The Closing the Achievement Gap (CTAG) series, sponsored by State Support Team—Region 3 (SST-3), recently completed its second year. Between 100-150 educators over the last two years have participated in this series including district-level administrators, principals and teachers. Participating districts from Cuyahoga County included Cleveland Heights-University Heights, **Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Garfield Heights, Strongsville, and Warrensville Heights.** In addition, SST-5 (Youngstown/Warren area) participated with three school teams from Austintown-Fitch, Campbell and Conneaut. Community schools were also represented with teams from Hope Academy Northwest and Lorain Preparatory Academy.

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and equity in education were the foci for the first year of the CTAG series. For the 2017-18 school year, the series focused on identity development to increase adult understanding of how bias impacts student engagement, the opportunity gap, and learning. SST-3 has an ongoing commitment to supporting districts in closing the existing achievement gap for students who are typically marginalized by the educational system.

School and district teams were provided the opportunity to engage with educational professionals from across the country who focus shifting the work from a reactive, deficit-based system to proactive, asset based systems that support all students. Teams were given the opportunity to reflect on personal bias, identity development, Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and culturally relevant teaching practices. Teams also engaged in action planning to take these ideas back to their schools to put them into practice.

The year's presenters included the following:



Reaching and Teaching Students in Poverty: An Equity Literacy Approach

Paul Gorski
September 27, 2017



Exploring Personal Identity and the Impact on Student Engagement and Learning

Shannon Chavez-Korell
November 6, 2017



Inviting and Honoring Cultural Diversity through the UDL Framework

Joni Degner
January 23, 2018



Catalyst; A Docudrama that Takes on the Tough Questions of Student Engagement

Brooke Haycock
May 8, 2018



Deepening the Commitment to a Focus on Equity and Identity Development to Realign Staff and Students and Transform Teaching and Learning

Elise Frattura
May 8 & 9, 2018



Thinking, Creating, & Designing

OUTSIDE THE BOX

In collaboration with Cuyahoga Community College's Manufacturing Technology Center of Excellence Mobile Training Unit, the ESC of Northeast Ohio held a full-day series of workshops for more than 50 educators on "Thinking, Creating, and Designing Outside the Box! Mobile Learning Labs: Bringing Learning to Your Space" on May 16. Lee Gambol, Distance Learning Coordinator for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History gave the keynote address on bringing hands-on action into online science and history education via a simultaneous demonstration with distance learning combined with classroom use of educational kits by participating students.

The Cuyahoga Community College Manufacturing Technology Center of Excellence Mobile Training Unit, parked in the ESC's rear lot, enabled attendees to experience this portable classroom and lab space utilizing state-of-the-art technology and training in CNC machining, 3D printing, programmable logic controls, and virtual welding. The unit is used by companies to train employees as well as districts that do not have dedicated Fablabs to educate students in modern manufacturing technologies.

Other presentations included breakout sessions that focused on creativity and critical thinking while combining technical skills. COSI on Wheels presented Robotics for middle and high school students that included simple programming and robot competitions. The TinkerCad and 3D Printing

session and Watson for Classrooms introduced participants to cutting edge trends in education. The Creativity Can from Faber-Castell USA engaged participants in creating unusual creatures from a variety of readily-available materials that can contribute to oral and written literacy. Handmade papermaking with the Morgan Art of Papermaking Conservatory likewise engaged educators in development of materials to support literacy with students. StudioGo, the Cleveland Museum of Art's mobile unit, encouraged informal arts activities for creativity and inquiry.

A Lunch and Learn presentation by Natalie Fior, Curriculum Director at **Avon Lake City Schools**, described the three-year journey of that district in the design and implementation of their transformed media and library spaces into areas for making and flexible learning. She discussed the experience of transformation from the perspective of district leaders, educators, students, parents, business and community stakeholders.

The ESC will present a series on design and implementation of Flexible Learning Environments during academic year 2018-2019.

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FIRST RING SUPERINTENDENTS' COLLABORATIVE

The First Ring Leadership Academy celebrated its 13th graduating class on Wednesday, May 16 at the Gemini Center in Fairview Park. Eighteen 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 are to increase student achievement, enrich teaching, and/or enhance community engagement. Cohort members must also identify the data that were 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:

Duane Keeton, Warrensville Heights City Schools
Paul Glazer, Garfield Heights City Schools
Bill Wingler, Brooklyn City Schools
Project: Student Leadership

Amelia Heard, Bedford City Schools
Peter Carnabuci, Berea City Schools
Project: Accessible Preschool Initiative

Bridgette Firstenberger, Lakewood City Schools
Bridget Lambright, Cleveland Heights-University Heights City Schools
Amanda Prok, Berea City Schools
Rob Atwood, South Euclid-Lyndhurst City Schools
Shaun Lodge, Richmond Heights Local Schools
Project: Just Breathe (Wellness)

Mandy McDevitt, Fairview Park City Schools
Megan Frenz, Fairview Park City Schools
Takisha Jackson, Euclid City Schools
Pete Pruitt, Euclid City Schools
Project: New Student Welcome

Regina Bajzer, Lakewood City Schools
Ryan Beaumont, Shaker Heights City Schools
Matt Bryan, Maple Heights City Schools
Matt Young, Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools
Project: Vertical Alignment

All projects are aligned with the First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative 2017-19 Strategic Plan -- Essential Supports



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATION





NORTHCOAST BUSINESS ADVISORY NETWORK

The ESC of Northeast Ohio’s Northcoast Business Advisory Network met on April 18 to discuss “Looking to the Future for Career Readiness and Career Pathways from Those in the Know.”

Dr. Steve Gratz is senior executive director of the Center for Student Support and Education at the Ohio Department of Education where he oversees creative ways to help students achieve success in school. In this role, he provides leadership to the office of Career and Technical Education and he will

share his vision for the future of career readiness and career pathways.

Brianna Schultz is the Director of Youth Programs for WIRE-net, a non-profit organization to accelerate Cleveland area manufacturing by finding solutions for workforce challenges including incumbent workers, upgrading skills, entry-level worker training and apprentice and internship programs.





THE PASSPORT SCHOOL PROGRAM

GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Passport School Program graduation was held on June 1 at the program's new location on Cedar Road in Chesterland. Congratulations to these graduates: Dorian Barkley, Carlos Andre Collins, and Kristen McGlaughlin.

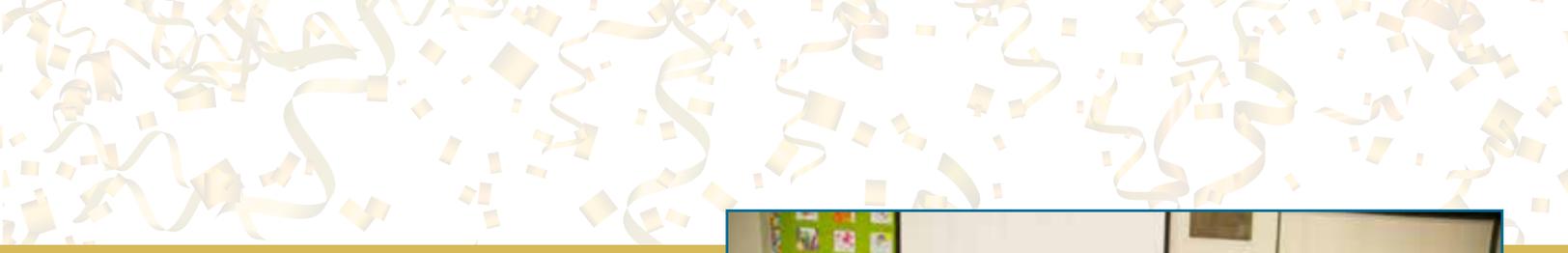
Following the ceremony, a reception was held for parents, district representatives, ESC board members, and staff. All the students are transitioning to an adult provider service after graduation.



PASSPORT

School Program

Guiding Extraordinary Individuals Toward a Future of Hope



CAPSTONE ACADEMY

GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTS

On June 4, Capstone Academy held its graduation ceremony. Congratulations to Jacob Maier, Victoria Rapaport, and Shane Wallace. All three graduates transitioned into the Hattie Larlham adult day program, ACHIEVE. This program offers opportunities to enhance vocational, social, and leisure skills.





EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Recognizing students, peers & educators

On May 4, students and staff gathered for the 39th 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 Northeast Ohio 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 Northeast Ohio.

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 who are the exemplars in designing instructional strategies and programs.

Neil Rupright from **Lakewood 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.

April Hedrick, a student in the **Cuyahoga Heights 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.





EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION... CONTINUED

Recognizing students, peers & educators

This year's keynote speaker was Lynn Bango. After a misdiagnosis in high school and a failed attempt at attending Ohio State University, she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder at the age of 19. As time passed, she also developed generalized anxiety disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, and social anxiety. She spoke about her determination, hope she gained from those around her, and love from furry friends. Animals such as her Australian Shepherd and Standardbred mare have played a large part in her wellness. She has spent 12 years working with elderly as a Life Enrichment professional and volunteering for the National Alliance on Mental Illness. She is currently working on finishing her Activity Director Certification while researching the best route to finish her degree in political science.

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





EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Recognizing students, peers & educators

2018 OUTSTANDING **STUDENT** ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Brennan Drew
Early Childhood Center
Olmsted Falls City Schools

A.J. Gallucci
Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School
Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools

April Hedrick
Cuyahoga Heights High School
Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools

Johnesha Johnson
Lakewood High School
Lakewood City Schools

Colin McAuliffe
Goldwood Elementary
Rocky River City Schools

Kristopher Mounts
Albion Elementary
North Royalton City Schools

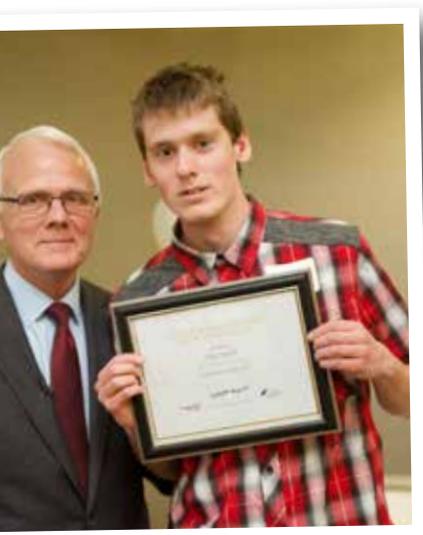
Donald Robinson
Richmond Heights Secondary School
Richmond Heights Local Schools

Joseph Rowe
Central Middle School
Euclid City Schools

Peter Smith
Fairview High School
Fairview Park City Schools

Marc Snell
Shaw High School
East Cleveland City Schools





EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Recognizing students, peers & educators

2018 OUTSTANDING **PEER** ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dejanique Blake
Richmond Heights Secondary School
Richmond Heights Local Schools

Matt Conners
Cuyahoga Heights High School
Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools

Marissa Fogg
Independence High School
Independence Local Schools

Tegan Hopkins
Kensington Intermediate School
Rocky River City Schools

Declan Markling
Garfield School
Lakewood City Schools

Brianna Matelski
Strongsville High School
Strongsville City Schools

Morgan Rinas
Olmsted Falls High School
Olmsted Falls City Schools





EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Recognizing students, peers & educators

2018 OUTSTANDING **EDUCATOR** ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Elaine Atkinson
Early Childhood Center
Olmsted Falls City School District

Dania Beard
Rocky River High Early Childhood
Center at Beach School
Rocky River City Schools

Nicole Enold
Big Creek Elementary
Berea City Schools

Dionne Fontenelle
Central Middle School
Euclid City Schools

Scott Gossett
Virtual Intervention Project
ESC of Northeast Ohio

Kenneth Lane
Richmond Heights High School
Richmond Heights Local Schools

Jacki Palumbo
Cuyahoga Heights Middle School
Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools

Christine Potts
Parma Community School
Constellation Schools

Neil Rupright
Garfield Middle School
Lakewood City Schools

Eileen Sadowsky
Woodbury Elementary
Shaker Heights City Schools

Heidi Schelien
Brush High School
South Euclid-Lyndhurst City Schools

Ruth Speer
Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School
Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools

Dina Taylor
Milkovich Middle School
Maple Heights City Schools

Ricardo Torres
Louis Muñoz Marín Middle School
Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Rachel Williams
Westwood Elementary
Warrensville Heights City Schools

Nancy Wygonski
Independence Primary School
Independence Local Schools





EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
Recognizing students, peers & educators

2018 OUTSTANDING **EDUCATOR** ACHIEVEMENT AWARD





April Hedrick, a student in the Cuyahoga Heights School District, was recognized with the R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award for a Student.



Neil Rupright from Lakewood City School District was recognized with the Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award.



THE ESC OF NORTHEAST OHIO HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Educational Service Center (ESC) of Northeast Ohio recently named several 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 2017-18 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' awards 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 in a community.

Cuyahoga Heights School District **Jacob Artino, 8th grade**



He demonstrates kindness no matter the circumstances. He treats all people with respect and is mindful of the needs of those around him. Jacob always opens doors for others and his friendliness shows when he greets people with a smile and hello. He does not hesitate to reach out to any classmate when they need help or if they just seem to need a friend. While some people are kind because they want others to view them in a positive light, Jacob is kind because he genuinely cares and wants to help people. He continually makes a positive difference in the lives of so many people in so many ways; he is a true humanitarian.

Cuyahoga Heights School District **Kayla Haag, Senior**



From the moment you meet her, you know that Kayla is a determined individual. She is resolute in her process and kind in her communication. She has completed 144.25 hours of community service, many being spent with Brooklyn Heights' Men's Club leaf raking project, at the Cuyahoga Heights concessions stand during football and track season, as an after-school tutor, caroling at Eliza Jennings Nursing Home, and as a camp counselor. She is responsible, organized and thorough. She handles pressure in school or on the field and court with consistent resolve. She has been a founding member of the Art Club and is the current president. She is a vital team member of the Lady Redskins volleyball and softball teams. Her many activities show her time management skills, commitment, and enthusiasm for high school.

RECIPIENTS: 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

Independence Middle School **Ashleigh Porter, 8th grade**



Ashleigh presents herself with grace and moral fortitude in every class, school club or athletic team in which she participates. She is caring, compassionate, and conscientious. Ashleigh also includes the values of understanding, respect, and support in her interactions with students and faculty. She is always upbeat and willing to encourage her peers and lend a helping hand. She is an avid softball player and participates in basketball, choir, and student council at Independence Middle School as well. She has participated in the Special Olympics Run and donates toys each year for the Toys for Tots program. Ashleigh presents herself with the emotional decorum of a mature academican and citizen. She is a humanitarian at school and in her life.

Independence High School **Madeline Fichter, Senior**



Madeline has participated in 600 hours of community service. She and her classmates in the Teaching Professions Program at CVCC created a children's book and earned first place in the K-3 category for children's literature at the Ohio Educators Rising State Conference in Orlando. Her volunteer experience includes Independence Safety Town, Autism Society of Greater Cleveland, TMAD at Independence High School, Cuyahoga County Public Library, New Beginnings Cat Shelter, City of Independence After-School program, a mission trip, Cuyahoga Valley Railroad Polar Express, and a mission to Appalachia. Her principal, William McGuinness said, "I cannot think of a more worthwhile candidate for this honor."

HUMANITARIAN AWARD RECIPIENTS

Richmond Heights Secondary School Tracy Tanner, 8th grade



Tracy is an honor roll student who always values her learning, while also understanding the need to help her fellow classmates when needed. She is a member of the Rise Up After-School Program where tutoring and clubs take place. There, students engage in discussions surrounding social issues and learn the importance of advocacy. Tracy leads these discussions and looks for a connection for engagement activities for peers. She was a driving force in organizing the student body for the National School Walkout Day protesting gun violence in March. She helped to develop slogans and took on the role of poster creator for the cause so students would be walking billboards.

She is a member of student council and is the “go-to” contact for new registering members. Tracy leads tours for new families and connects students to activities and programming throughout the school. Her extracurriculars include singing in the school choir and for district sponsored events.

Richmond Heights Secondary School Ramir Williams, Senior



Ramir is a member of the Excel Tech program and has dedicated his efforts to improving the student experience, engaging the community, and empowering others. He graduated from the “Look Up to Cleveland” program, a year-long civic engagement program created by the Cleveland Leadership Center to expose high school juniors from Northeast Ohio to Cleveland and the people, places and projects moving it forward. He was chosen for this program out of hundreds of applicants because he demonstrated a notable degree of leadership ability, academic success, volunteerism, and initiative.

Ramir has also received the 2017 Allen Waddle Leadership Award, that recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills, ambition, integrity, teamwork, and an exceptional work ethic. He has been honored by the OABSE for his commitment to school and student leadership. He has acted as the Athletic Manager for the 2017-18 Boys’ Basketball team and is president of student council. He is a member of Marcia Fudge’s Student Advisory Council, whose focus is social justice. Finally, he has been featured in *Who’s Who* for 2018.

gifted and talented student programs – Portage County Updates

40th Annual Portage County Spring Art Show

Beginning April 20, the 40th annual Portage County Art Show was held for one week at the New Center, NEOMED in Rootstown. The artwork was displayed by students from both high schools and middle schools for Windham, Field, **Ravenna**, Rootstown, Southeast, and **Waterloo**.

Fifteen 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 Jennifer Vogt from Rootstown.

At the high school level, the Best of Show award went to Alea Abbuhl from Southeast. Best Senior Portfolio was Natalie Quarry from Ravenna.



For information about Portage County Gifted and Talented programs, contact:

**Shelley Cassese and
Marty Dragelevich**
portageprograms@gmail.com

gifted and talented student programs

Exploring the Arts at the Beck Center for the Arts

On March 22, the Explore the Arts Workshop was held at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood. Students from **Richmond Heights** and **South-Euclid Lyndhurst** Schools attended.

The annual event allows middle school students to express themselves in several forms of artistic expression. Whether it was improv, mime, drumming, clay, or sculpture, professional artists helped students explore their passions.





gifted and talented student programs

Financial Literacy Workshop

On March 13, seventh and eighth-grade students from **Richmond Heights Local Schools, South Euclid-Lyndhurst City Schools, and Rocky River City Schools** attended a Financial Literacy Workshop at the ESC of Northeast Ohio. The presenter was Kriss Plumer, a communications coordinator in Education & Museum Outreach at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. The learning program focused on financial education and economics with hands-on, interactive activities.

For information, contact:

Steve Rogaski, Director of Human Resources and Pupil Services

Steve.rogaski@escneo.org

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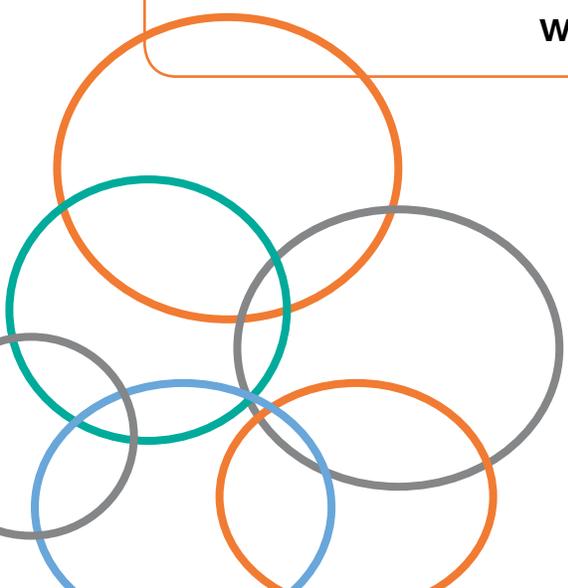
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- Algebra 1 Part 1
- Algebra 1 Part 2
- Algebra 2 Part 1
- Algebra 2 Part 2
- American History Part 1
- American History Part 2
- American Literature Part 1
- American Literature Part 2
- Biology Part 1
- Biology Part 2
- Business Math Part 1
- Business 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
- Algebra I Prescriptive Sem 2
- Algebra II Prescriptive Sem 1
- Algebra II Prescriptive Sem 2
- Biology Prescriptive Sem 1
- Biology Prescriptive Sem 2
- Chemistry Prescriptive Sem 1
- 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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