ESC Recognizes Students 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:
- Kathleen Ellen Behra, High School, Cuyahoga Heights
- Alana Lloyd, Middle School, Cuyahoga Heights
- Rio Vincz, High School, Independence
- Erin Luciano, Middle School, Independence
- Kayla Evans, High School, Richmond Heights
- Victoria Eder, Middle School, Richmond Heights

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:
- Kathleen Ellen Behra, High School, Cuyahoga Heights
- Alana Lloyd, Middle School, Cuyahoga Heights
- Rio Vincz, High School, Independence
- Erin Luciano, Middle School, Independence
- Kayla Evans, High School, Richmond Heights
- Victoria Eder, Middle School, Richmond Heights

ESC Board Members Receive the 2009 OSBA Award of Achievement

This past March, the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) honored ESC of Cuyahoga County Board President Frank Mahovic, Jr. and Board Member Tony Hocewar with the 2009 OSBA Award of Achievement.

This award is presented to a very select group each year. Of the more than 3,400 board members in Ohio, only 74 received the honor in 2009. Award recipients are rewarded for continuing education credits which are received 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.

Rokakis Speaks at ESC-Sponsored Breakfast

Cuyahoga County Treasurer Jim Rokakis addressed the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce at a Breakfast Networking Meeting this past April at the ESC of Cuyahoga County Professional Development Center. Approximately 100 people attended the breakfast and listened to Rokakis speak about the foreclosure crisis in Cuyahoga County and his plans to help bring economic vitality back to Cleveland.

In the Community

Local Students Attend Chamber Functions

Thanks to the ESC of Cuyahoga County, students from Independence and Cuyahoga Heights High Schools have the opportunity to attend the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce luncheons. Students from Richmond Heights High School will be invited to attend the Heights Chamber of Commerce breakfasts starting this fall.

Welcome to the first edition of The ESC Connection newsletter. You will be receiving this newsletter twice a year in order to provide you, our community stakeholders, with a better understanding of the ESC of Cuyahoga County, its purpose and impact on the quality of education in Northeast Ohio.

The ESC of Cuyahoga County is one of the largest educational service agencies of its type in the State of Ohio, employing personnel for Northeast Ohio school districts and offering programs, grants, educational resources and leadership training, as well as supporting special education, curriculum, literacy, technology and more. We partner with local administrators, teachers and other professionals in education as they endeavor to impact their students and families through a high-quality education.

The ESC directly serves Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, and Richmond Heights Local School Districts, but also provides programs and services to the other 28 school districts in Cuyahoga County, as well as many districts outside the county.

The ESC Administration Building is located on the east side of Canal Road in Valley View, just north of the Cinemark Theater. It is home to our superintendent and administrators, professional development, and those professionals who coordinate professional development, special education and gifted programs throughout the school districts.

Also located on the ESC campus is the Lakeshore Northeast Ohio Computer Association (LNOCA) building, easily seen on the west side of Canal Road. LNOCA provides technology services and training/technical assistance for various schools. Services include everything from accounting, payroll and equipment inventory to student report cards, scheduling and attendance. The building also accommodates small and mid-size meetings, workshops and conferences.

The ESC Professional Development Center, located behind the LNOCA building, offers a variety of meeting spaces that may be rented out for special events, workshops, conferences or meetings by educators as well as local businesses and organizations for educational programs.

Educators are challenged to provide students the best tools and knowledge needed to help them chart their course through an increasingly complex and confusing world. At the ESC of Cuyahoga County, we strive to bridge the gap between the educational needs and educational visions where all schools and students can succeed.
Meet The New Superintendent

Dr. Bob Mengerink is the new superintendent of the ESC of Cuyahoga County. He started on August 1st and looks forward to furthering the quality of education in Cuyahoga County.

What are some of your goals as the new superintendent? My goal is to continue to see that the ESC makes a difference in education. I will be visible in the community, meeting with superintendents and administrators regularly, to listen to their needs in order to find ways to provide the services they need.

What is the one thing the public may not realize about the ESC of Cuyahoga County? The ESC makes a difference in education. I will be visible in the community, meeting with superintendents and administrators regularly, to listen to their needs in order to find ways to provide the services they need.

Where is your hometown? My roots are in Cuyahoga County. I was one of five children who grew up in Parma. I met my wife, Karen, at Parma Senior High. We have four children—a teacher, an artist, and two musicians—and three grandchildren. We also have many relatives who live in Cleveland. It’s good to be back home!

Words to live by? “Seek first to understand and then to be understood.”

Where is your hometown? My roots are in Cuyahoga County. I was one of five children who grew up in Parma. I met my wife, Karen, at Parma Senior High. We have four children—a teacher, an artist, and two musicians—and three grandchildren. We also have many relatives who live in Cleveland. It’s good to be back home!

“Seek first to understand and then to be understood.”

What is one of the greatest benefits of being a part of education? Being around students who often teach us more than we teach them.

Beck Center for the Arts

In an ever-expanding world, quality communication is essential to understanding, cooperation, and problem-solving for a more peaceful society. In November, the ESC planned a day at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood to provide high school students an opportunity to experience communication through artistic expression from various art perspectives. This past March, the Beck Center for the Arts again hosted more than 100 arts-motivated seventh graders who explored a variety of cultural arts experiences such as mime, dance, clay, television production, and improvisation.

Channel Stress, Handle It! Workshop

Learning how to handle stress as a high school student was the topic of the Channel Stress, Handle It! Workshop sponsored by the ESC this past spring. The full-day workshop was completely planned by students. High school students met faithfully with Cleveland Museum of Natural History and ESC personnel to plan the event. More than 100 students attended and participated in sessions such as yoga, nutrition, massage therapy, dream school, drum circle, improvisation, laughing, aromatherapy, and hip hop dancing.

Mr. Presidents’ Competition

With the inauguration of our 44th President this past year, United States Presidents were top of mind for local students. This past February, the ESC hosted more than 135 students in grades 4 to 8 from 10 different school districts for the Mr. Presidents’ Competition. Students prepared data on the Presidents of the 20th and 21st centuries in their classrooms and were tested at the competition. There was also a special appearance by Theodore Roosevelt, played by a local actor, who assisted at the awards ceremony.

Lost (& Found) in Space Adventure: GPS Strategies

Students also had an opportunity to participate in workshops at the Cleveland Metroparks in Strongsville and at the South Chagrin Reservation in Chagrin Falls. The Orienteering workshop provided activities for seventh grade students in using a compass and in developing logical reasoning skills. Eighth grade students used a GPS unit to find their way while using problem solving skills.

Student Programs

Throughout the year, the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County provides numerous opportunities for students in all our surrounding school districts to attend various programs and events to enrich their classroom learning.

Hyland Software

Three times a year, high school students tour and “work” at Hyland Software, an international software company in Westlake. Students are exposed to experiences in software development and quality assurance from the personnel at Hyland Software and learn what makes businesses successful in today’s global economy.

Beck Center for the Arts

In an ever-expanding world, quality communication is essential to understanding, cooperation, and problem-solving for a more peaceful society. In November, the ESC planned a day at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood to provide high school students an opportunity to experience communication through artistic expression from various art perspectives. This past March, the Beck Center for the Arts again hosted more than 100 arts-motivated seventh graders who explored a variety of cultural arts experiences such as mime, dance, clay, television production, and improvisation.

Channel Stress, Handle It! Workshop

Learning how to handle stress as a high school student was the topic of the Channel Stress, Handle It! Workshop sponsored by the ESC this past spring. The full-day workshop was completely planned by students. High school students met faithfully with Cleveland Museum of Natural History and ESC personnel to plan the event. More than 100 students attended and participated in sessions such as yoga, nutrition, massage therapy, dream school, drum circle, improvisation, laughing, aromatherapy, and hip hop dancing.

Mr. Presidents’ Competition

With the inauguration of our 44th President this past year, United States Presidents were top of mind for local students. This past February, the ESC hosted more than 135 students in grades 4 to 8 from 10 different school districts for the Mr. Presidents’ Competition. Students prepared data on the Presidents of the 20th and 21st centuries in their classrooms and were tested at the competition. There was also a special appearance by Theodore Roosevelt, played by a local actor, who assisted at the awards ceremony.

Lost (& Found) in Space Adventure: GPS Strategies

Students also had an opportunity to participate in workshops at the Cleveland Metroparks in Strongsville and at the South Chagrin Reservation in Chagrin Falls. The Orienteering workshop provided activities for seventh grade students in using a compass and in developing logical reasoning skills. Eighth grade students used a GPS unit to find their way while using problem solving skills.

Meet The New Superintendent

Dr. Bob Mengerink is the new superintendent of the ESC of Cuyahoga County. He started on August 1st and looks forward to furthering the quality of education in Cuyahoga County.

What are some of your goals as the new superintendent? My goal is to continue to see that the ESC makes a difference in education. I will be visible in the community, meeting with superintendents and administrators regularly, to listen to their needs in order to find ways to provide the services they need.

What is the one thing the public may not realize about the ESC of Cuyahoga County? The ESC makes a difference in education. I will be visible in the community, meeting with superintendents and administrators regularly, to listen to their needs in order to find ways to provide the services they need.

Where is your hometown? My roots are in Cuyahoga County. I was one of five children who grew up in Parma. I met my wife, Karen, at Parma Senior High. We have four children—a teacher, an artist, and two musicians—and three grandchildren. We also have many relatives who live in Cleveland. It’s good to be back home!

Words to live by? “Seek first to understand and then to be understood.”

Where is your hometown? My roots are in Cuyahoga County. I was one of five children who grew up in Parma. I met my wife, Karen, at Parma Senior High. We have four children—a teacher, an artist, and two musicians—and three grandchildren. We also have many relatives who live in Cleveland. It’s good to be back home!

“Seek first to understand and then to be understood.”

What is one of the greatest benefits of being a part of education? Being around students who often teach us more than we teach them.

Beck Center for the Arts

In an ever-expanding world, quality communication is essential to understanding, cooperation, and problem-solving for a more peaceful society. In November, the ESC planned a day at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood to provide high school students an opportunity to experience communication through artistic expression from various art perspectives. This past March, the Beck Center for the Arts again hosted more than 100 arts-motivated seventh graders who explored a variety of cultural arts experiences such as mime, dance, clay, television production, and improvisation.

Channel Stress, Handle It! Workshop

Learning how to handle stress as a high school student was the topic of the Channel Stress, Handle It! Workshop sponsored by the ESC this past spring. The full-day workshop was completely planned by students. High school students met faithfully with Cleveland Museum of Natural History and ESC personnel to plan the event. More than 100 students attended and participated in sessions such as yoga, nutrition, massage therapy, dream school, drum circle, improvisation, laughing, aromatherapy, and hip hop dancing.

Mr. Presidents’ Competition

With the inauguration of our 44th President this past year, United States Presidents were top of mind for local students. This past February, the ESC hosted more than 135 students in grades 4 to 8 from 10 different school districts for the Mr. Presidents’ Competition. Students prepared data on the Presidents of the 20th and 21st centuries in their classrooms and were tested at the competition. There was also a special appearance by Theodore Roosevelt, played by a local actor, who assisted at the awards ceremony.

Lost (& Found) in Space Adventure: GPS Strategies

Students also had an opportunity to participate in workshops at the Cleveland Metroparks in Strongsville and at the South Chagrin Reservation in Chagrin Falls. The Orienteering workshop provided activities for seventh grade students in using a compass and in developing logical reasoning skills. Eighth grade students used a GPS unit to find their way while using problem solving skills.