

A photograph of two women, one with blonde hair and glasses, the other with dark hair, looking down at a science experiment. They are holding a glass of water with a lit candle inside, which is placed in a foil pan containing blue liquid. The background is a plain grey wall.

# The ESC CONNECTION

FALL 2016

**ESC'S NEW  
NORTHEAST OHIO SCIENCE  
SPECIALISTS NETWORK**

**PAGE 14**



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

# Superintendent's Message

By Dr. Bob Mengerink, *Superintendent*

## Building Relationships, Providing Resources, and Developing Services to Meet the Needs of our Districts



Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have had a wonderful start to this new school year. This year begins the process of some potentially significant changes for education with the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and a new state budget bill in the spring. In spite of these changes – as with all

of the other changes over the years – I know that your mission of serving students remains the same. As you will see in this issue of the *ESC Connection*, our ESC thrives on being at the forefront of change. Whether it's keeping educators updated on the changes or developing new

programs and services in response to these changes, our work is constantly evolving. However, just as your mission is unchanged, please know that the mission of our ESC will always be to serve you. Despite transition and change at the state level, the staff at the ESC that you have built relationships with will continue to be here to answer your questions, provide resources or develop services that you need. As I have indicated before, there is no “wrong door” to getting help at the ESC – simply reach out to anyone at any time for assistance or advice. Our work is your work. We take seriously the trust you have put into our organization and look forward to being at your service as you find your way through another school year.

Sincerely,  
Bob Mengerink

## ESSA Regional Meetings

Under the new [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#), Ohio will create a plan for how local, state and federal programs are aligned to help all students succeed. From August through October, the Ohio Department of Education held webinars and stakeholder meetings around the state to engage participants from every walk of life in discussion about the Student Success Plan. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, the ESC of Cuyahoga County and ODE co-hosted a stakeholder meeting at Cuyahoga Community College's Jerry Sue Thornton Center in downtown Cleveland. Superintendent of Instruction Paolo DeMaria attended the

event and thanked the large crowd of participants for their input about important issues affecting education today. ESC staff served as table facilitators and recorders for participant discussions about assessments, accountability, educator effectiveness, school improvement and student supports.

Information about ESSA is available at the ODE website at <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Every-Student-Succeeds-Act-ESSA>

# 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools

Education Secretary John B. King, Jr. has recognized 329 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2016. Schools are selected based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Among the Ohio schools honored are **St. Edward High School** in Lakewood, Leighton Elementary School of the **Aurora City Schools**, Grace L. Roxbury Elementary School of **Solon City Schools**, and Samuel Bissell Elementary School of **Twinsburg City Schools**. All were nominated in

the category of Exemplary High Performing Schools. National Blue Ribbon Schools buildings are awarded flags as symbols of exemplary teaching and learning. An awards ceremony was held in Arlington, Virginia on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to the schools and districts.

Information is available at <http://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/>



- 20% of youth ages 13-18 live with a mental health condition
- 10% of youth have a behavior or conduct disorder
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in youth in ages 10-24
- Approximately 50% of students age 14 and older with a mental illness drop out of high school

National Alliance of Mental Illnesses  
<http://www.nami.org/Learn-More/Fact-Sheet-Library>

Project AWARE OHIO is entering its third year of a five year grant awarded to the ESC of Cuyahoga County and partnering agencies and districts. The grant is funded from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Ohio Department of Education. Project AWARE supports several key strategies for addressing mental health and schools: (1) promoting mental wellness and combating stigma (2) building awareness indicators of mental health concerns and (3) intervening early with coordinated supports.

A System Navigator is available through the ESC to assist school districts, parent/guardians and youth-serving organizations working together to intervene early with coordinated supports for students who have multi-system needs. Contact System Navigator, Denise Pietrzak, LISW-S, at [denise.pietrzak@esc-cc.org](mailto:denise.pietrzak@esc-cc.org) or 216-525-2524.

**Youth Mental Health First Aid** is offered regularly through the ESC throughout the year for adults to promote mental wellness and strategies for addressing youth experiencing mental or behavior challenges. Agencies, districts and community organizations can coordinate trainings through the Project AWARE Coordinator, Mary P. Wise, MSCE, MSW at [mary.wise@esc-cc.org](mailto:mary.wise@esc-cc.org) or 216-901-4201.

## **Youth Mental Health First Aid Responders Training Dates at the ESC**

September 29 & October 6 (8-noon)  
November 12 (Saturday, 8-4 pm)  
December 9 (8-4 pm)  
March 2 & 9 (8-noon)  
June 15 (8-4 pm)

Graduate Credits available through Ashland



# Ohio History Day



Students learn history by doing history. Schools and districts are invited to participate in National History Day and Ohio History Day Events. Ohio History Connection helps prepare students during a year-long program in which students learn

about history topics, use primary resources, and visit museums and historical sites. During fall, students research a topic or question in history, resulting in papers, websites, or exhibits. During spring, they create a final project and compete in regional, state and national competitions.



[Click here](#) to watch a video.

For information, contact the state coordinator at [historyday@ohiohistory.org](mailto:historyday@ohiohistory.org)  
614-297-2526

## Cuyahoga Valley Career Center's Vision 8 Fall Meeting



On November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center's Vision 8 meeting for Independence Local Schools and Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools was held at the ESC of Cuyahoga County. The Cuyahoga Valley Career Center provided an update on happenings at the school.

## Octavofest 2016

Octavofest is an annual celebration of book and paper arts that occurs in Northeast Ohio each fall, mostly in the month of October. More than 20 community organizations and institutions present a variety of lectures, readings, demonstrations of papermaking and bookmaking, stenciling and exhibits. This year's events include international presenter, Mr. Rickey Tax, head librarian and director of the Meermanno Museum of the Book from The Hague, Netherlands, who discussed the history and future of the book and publishing in traditional and digital formats. [Click here to download the PDF brochure.](#)

The ESC of Cuyahoga County is a sponsoring partner for Octavofest and serves as the fiscal agent for the group through a grant from Ohio Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, that supports this year's events, including school programming.

Octavofest event information is available at <http://www.octavofest.com/>

### *Art of Origami*

This year, art students from **Central Catholic High School** are creating paper artifacts using the Japanese art of origami. Social studies teacher Ralph Wroblewski and art teacher Mary Nichols-Brondfield taught students about Japanese history, culture and art forms. They shared traditional artifacts from Japan such as kimonos, paper cranes, and a Samurai helmet, as well as contemporary manga comic books and other items. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, students participated in an origami workshop at the Akron Summit Public Library led by Michele Wilson of Global Ties Akron, where they made paper cranes that are considered symbols of peace in a world of conflict.





## *History of the Book and Shakespeare's First Folio*

An octavo is a traditional book made of one full sheet folded to produce eight leaves on which 16 pages of text are printed. Other common book formats are folios and quartos, used by early writers and playwrights. On October 12<sup>th</sup>, 70 British literature students at Strongsville High School learned about the history of papermaking in China and about papyrus and vellum used by the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. They learned to fold a simple book, the folio, used in early manuscripts. During November, the students participated in a First Folio program at Cleveland State University commemorating the First Folio edition of Shakespeare's plays published after his death 400 years ago. They viewed exhibits about Shakespeare and First Folio artifacts at CSU and Cleveland Public Library, learned about online resources for research, and performed readings from Shakespeare's plays to deepen their knowledge about his literary contributions.

## *International Baccalaureate*

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, the ESC of Cuyahoga will host an information session with representatives from IB Americas for districts interested in the International Baccalaureate Programmes. Participants will learn about the Primary Years, Middle Years, Diploma and Career-Related Programmes, and a round robin segment will provide an opportunity for participants to speak with Ohio educators who have implemented the various IB programs in their districts.

To register, go to [www.esc-cc.org](http://www.esc-cc.org), Professional Development, Calendar of Events, and select the date and event. For information, contact:

Nadine Grimm, Coordinator of 21st Century Learning  
[nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org](mailto:nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org)  
216-901-4243



# Innovation Lab Network

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, ESC curriculum consultant Sonya Gordon conducted a one-day interactive Introduction to Project-Based Learning Workshop. This PBL workshop was supported in part by a Martha Holden Jennings Foundation grant to support excellence in teaching.

Project Based Learning (PBL) uses the curriculum to extend the process of inquiry by engaging students through the use of meaningful questioning to explore engagement in real-world problem solving or design challenges. Students are taught to work with other students to inquire about issues raised. Through the PBL process, students learn content, skills, and develop answers or solutions as they create high-quality products or present their work to other people.

PBL motivates students to know, understand, and demonstrate what they have learned.

Educators from ILN districts including **Chagrin Falls Exempted Village, Chardon Local, and Maple Heights, Orange, and Wickliffe City Schools** participated with teams of educators from around the region to develop project designs, assessments, and management tools for use in their classrooms. Teams will implement their PBL units throughout the academic year.



**MARTHA HOLDEN  
JENNINGS FOUNDATION**

## ASCD: Learn, Teach, Lead

### Leading Your Instructional Coaches

May 23-24, 2017

In 2013, the ESC of Cuyahoga County and ASCD formed a national partnership, known to many as ASCD Midwest. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and through our national partnership with ASCD, the ESC of Cuyahoga County will be hosting the two-day institute, Leading Your Instructional Coaches: Getting the Best Results. During this two-day ASCD/ESC-CC institute, veteran instructional coaches Carol O'Connor and Patricia Reynolds will share leadership strategies for unlocking the power of instructional coaching to improve teacher practice in K-12 schools. The

presenters will advocate for instructional coaching for all teachers, as the foundation of strategic and differentiated professional development plan. This institute will help leaders identify coaching talent, organize a coaching program and focus the work of the coach.

For more information, contact  
Paula Kucinic, Director of Professional Development and  
Instructional Technology  
[paula.kucinci@esc-cc.org](mailto:paula.kucinci@esc-cc.org)  
216-901-4244



# Competency-Based Education

The ESC of Cuyahoga County coordinates a Competency-Based Education (CBE) pilot funded by the Ohio Department of Education to enhance personalized learning for students. Pilot districts in the consortium include **Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Kirtland, Maple Heights, Orange, Perry Local, and Springfield City**. Facilitators from Stanford University SCALE guide teacher leaders as they develop Performance-Based Tasks and Assessments that will be implemented in classrooms during this second year of the project. District teams also will design and develop Capstone and Portfolio Assessment systems for their districts.

CBE project goals are to enhance deep learning through student-centered, competency-based models of personalized learning and skills enhancement. Educators are further developing their understanding of innovative practices for assessment and accountability system design. Teams refine and fine-tune their work in consultation with facilitators and the broader professional learning community.

For information, contact  
Nadine Grimm, Coordinator of 21st Century Learning  
[Nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org](mailto:Nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org)  
216-901-4243

# Principals' Academy



Approximately 40 new and experienced administrators participated in the first annual summer Principals' Academy this July. This three-day academy focused on the curricular responsibilities building principals are expected to understand, but often are not explicitly taught. Topics were focused into three areas: being evidence-centered leaders, leading for Ohio's Standards, and collaboration. Specific sessions included curriculum mapping, instructional shifts and assessments, professional learning communities, leading with a focus, data analysis, and EMIS. Through an interactive format, principals were able to explore these topics in-depth and enhance their ability to be instructional leaders within their buildings. At the end of day three, principals also participated in an un-conference and were able to specifically focus on the area of their choice. Principals left refreshed, recharged and ready to begin their school year with a strong curricular focus.

To continue this curricular focus and collegiality, we will be holding four additional sessions for building leaders through a lunch and leadership program. These half-day Friday afternoon sessions will focus on how to build strong cultures from the inside out by bringing a shared vision to life. Meetings will be held December 9<sup>th</sup>, February 10<sup>th</sup>, and March 10<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Please contact Roni Staimpel at  
[Roni.staimpel@esc-cc.org](mailto:Roni.staimpel@esc-cc.org) to register.

Heather Miller, Consultant  
ESC of Cuyahoga County/SST3  
[heather.miller@esc-cc.org](mailto:heather.miller@esc-cc.org)  
216-524-3000, ext. 4291

# Regional Early Literacy Specialists

In order to improve early literacy and development and outcomes for children in preschool through grade three, a variety of resources are needed to support teachers, early learning professionals, educational leaders and families. House Bill 64 provides funding to assist in these resources, which includes funding regional early literacy specialists. Funds through the Office for Exceptional Children to implement Ohio's Early Literacy Plan also provide additional support for this effort. The early literacy specialists will provide and support high quality professional development, technical assistance, and early literacy information and resources to teachers, school leaders, and family members for the purpose of positively impacting the literacy outcomes of children in preschool through grade three. In addition, this work will be integrated into the application of leadership structures and 5-step process of the Ohio Improvement Process as implemented by districts with the support of the State Support Teams.

In Region 3 (Cuyahoga County), Garfield Heights City Schools accepted the invitation to join the first group of districts to implement Ohio's Early Literacy Plan. The specialist hired through State Support Team to provide

these services is Colleen Longo. During FY17, the early literacy specialist's primary focus will be on coaching in classrooms, with building coaches, and within teacher-based teams. This coaching will support evidence-based literacy practices that are emphasized in the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) professional development models. The work of the early literacy specialists will inform how Ohio can support a broader network of early literacy district coaches in FY17 and beyond. In addition to Colleen Longo, Kelly Stukus (ESC Consultant) and Dr. Lynn Hruschak (ESC/SST Curriculum Coordinator) will take part in the professional development required to facilitate this plan.

At this time, only one district from each region is involved in this work. However, consultants from the ESC of Cuyahoga County and State Support Team will offer professional development opportunities in the area of literacy for districts to send participants.

Contact:

Colleen Longo, SST-3 Early Literacy Consultant  
[colleen.longo@esc-cc.org](mailto:colleen.longo@esc-cc.org)

## EMIS Data Support

EMIS state reporting has become more complex for many school districts through Ohio due to the ever changing educational landscape of funding and accountability. In response, EMIS Data Support Services was launched in the fall of 2016 offering a full range of services to assist school districts with their EMIS reporting responsibilities. Services such as data audits, technical assistance, full-time and interim support and training are now being offered. In addition to these services, monthly meetings and workshops have also been offered in response to issues that arise throughout EMIS reporting periods established by the Ohio Department of Education.

For more information, contact:

Mark Curtis, Director of Online Services  
[mark.curtis@esc-cc.org](mailto:mark.curtis@esc-cc.org)  
216-901-4238

# Educator Quality Programs

Welcome back and wishing you the best in the 2016-2017 school year. We will continue support of districts and schools in the areas of the Resident Educator Program which includes certified mentor training, mentor support and related professional development offerings, Ohio Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems training and implementation support, continued support with student growth measures, SLOs as well as training focusing specifically on assessment literacy.

The latest initiative is the addition of the Ohio School Counselor Evaluation System (OSCES). The Ohio School Counselor Evaluation System is a standards-based evaluation tool. Ohio school counselors, members of the Ohio School Counselor Association (OSCA), higher education, school administrators, and

staff members from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) worked collaboratively to develop this evaluation system. Implementation will begin during the 2016-2017 school year and the policy becomes effective at the expiration of any collective bargaining agreement covering school counselors employed by the board that is in effect September 29, 2015, and shall be included in any renewal or extension of an agreement. At this time the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County has trained over 500 administrators and school counselors in this evaluation system.

If you are in need of any support with the OSCES or any of the evaluation systems, please contact:  
Michele Shrefler, Director, Educator Quality  
[Michele.shrefler@esc-cc.org](mailto:Michele.shrefler@esc-cc.org)  
216.901.4231

## Leadership Services: The ESC/Schlechty Partnership

During the fall of 2015, the ESC of Cuyahoga County developed a partnership with the Schlechty Center in order to provide districts with high quality leadership services. In October, more than 100 teachers, central office administrators, and principals participated in a three day Working on the Work conference. As a result of the success of this conference as well as expressed needs from our districts, this partnership has expanded and continues to grow.

A Northeast Ohio Innovative School District Network, comprised of six districts, has been established for the 2016-2017 school year. The districts include **Alliance, Berea, Kenston, Maple Heights, Olmsted Falls,** and

**North Olmsted.** This customized network will include Taking Stock sessions, Mini Leadership Institutes, a Regional Teacher Leadership Academy, a Regional Principals Leadership Academy, as well as access to the Principals Leadership Network.

For more information, please contact any of the Directors of Leadership Services at the ESC:  
Russ Bennett, David Laurenzi, Paul Pendleton.  
[russ.bennett@esc-cc.org](mailto:russ.bennett@esc-cc.org)  
[david.laurenzi@esc-cc.org](mailto:david.laurenzi@esc-cc.org)  
[paul.pendleton@esc-cc.org](mailto:paul.pendleton@esc-cc.org)  
216-524-3000



# HIGHLIGHTS

## *Fall Professional Development Events*

### Northeast Ohio Science Specialists Network (NEOSS)

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, science educators, instructional coach, curriculum directors, and administrators came together for the inaugural meeting of the ESC's Northeast Ohio Science Specialists Network (NEOSS). Today, Science specialists engaged in grade-band discussions about Ohio's Science Learning Standards (OSLS) and connections to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). They analyzed vertical articulation and science learning progressions and how to proactively track the OSLS revision process beginning in 2016. There will be three more meetings throughout the course of the school year.



# Professional Learning Communities

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, the ESC of Cuyahoga County was filled with elementary, middle and high school principals, as well as superintendents, of our area school districts, all coming together as part of the ESC's monthly Professional Learning Communities (PLC). It is an opportunity to network with other educational leaders, find personal/individual development, and learn leadership ideas and best practices. These educational leaders are also participating in a study of Urban Meyer's book, *Above the Line*.





# HIGHLIGHTS

## *Fall Professional Development Events*

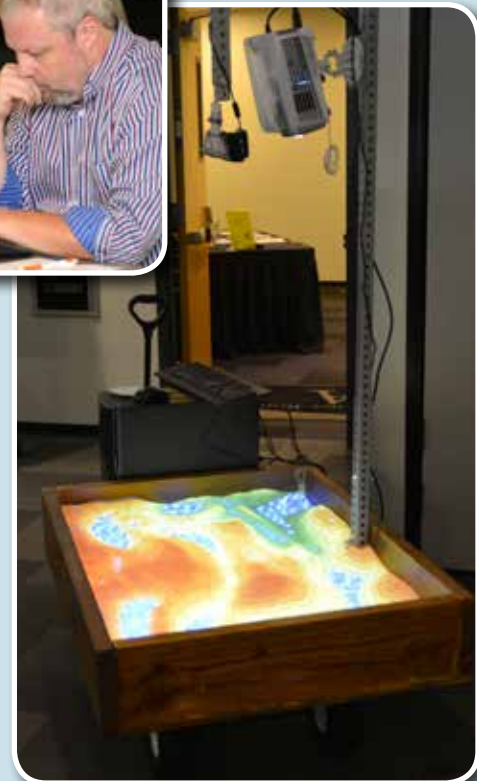
### Northeast Ohio Mathematical Specialists (NEOMS)

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mike Lipnos, Math Instructional Coach, led a discussion at the ESC with the Northeast Ohio Mathematical Specialists (NEOMS) Network. This network is for passionate math specialists, coaches and teachers who are interested in learning together for the sole purpose of advancing mathematics instruction.



### Regional Technology Network

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, Dave Miller of NORT2H and Vicki Turner of Strongsville City Schools presented to the Regional Technology Network meeting for technology directors. This network is for technology, curriculum and instruction directors, teachers and other interested educators who would like to discuss current topics and share resources as they relate to educational uses and applications for instructional technology. The primary focus of the network will emphasize the integration of technology into the curriculum.





## Teaching and Learning Network (TALK)

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, the Teaching & Learning Knowledge (TALK) Network conducted their first session of the new school year. Presenters were Moira Erwine, Director of PD & Curriculum Instruction and Paula Kucinic, Director of PD & Instructional Technology for the ESC of Cuyahoga County.

The TALK Network believes in providing opportunities for all educational professionals in Northeast Ohio to

collaborate, examine, and share effective practices and resources that support high quality educational leadership. Formerly the Westside Collaborative and the Eastside-Westside Curriculum Group, this network has been established for individuals interested in networking with other educators on issues and topics as they relate to curriculum, instruction and assessment.



# *H* HIGHLIGHTS

## *Fall Professional Development Events*

### Emerging Leaders

The Emerging Leaders Program is designed to improve and enhance the leadership capacity of both school personnel and school districts. They held their first meeting of the year on September 20<sup>th</sup>. These leaders were provided with the tools, training experiences, research, networking, as well as the opportunity to examine their personal and professional beliefs and values in a setting that provides practical approaches to leadership.

This program is designed to enhance the leadership of prospective leaders, department heads, teacher or grade level leaders, and also can provide growth experiences for newly named administrators. Participants will meet for seven sessions throughout the school year. They will explore leadership styles of various individuals within the educational ranks as well as leaders from other walks of life. We will do a number of book studies, which will further emerging leaders' perspectives on leadership. We hope that at the end of the sessions participants will have a greater self perception and greater understanding of leadership.





## Northeast Ohio English Language Learners Collaborative

Northeast Ohio English Language Learners (NOELL) Collaborative met on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the ESC of Cuyahoga County to discuss changes and updates from the State of Ohio for the 2016-2017 school year. This network is for English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers, tutors, central office administrators and other educators interested in networking and discussing issues and topics as they relate to the English Language Learner.





# HIGHLIGHTS

## *Fall Professional Development Events*

### Northeast Ohio School Counselors Network

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, the Northeast Ohio School Counselors Network met at the ESC to discuss issues related to advocating for students at all grade levels. Elementary, Middle and High School Counselors, along with school social workers, came together to share ideas under lead facilitators Kendra Quinlan of Revere Middle School and Michelle Pruchnicki of Hillcrest Elementary School.



## Lunch and Leadership

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, principals, assistant principals, and aspiring principals attended a “Lunch and Leadership” event at the ESC. This is part of a series of four Friday afternoon workshops scheduled throughout the school year. Building leaders discuss how to start a movement within their schools by building a school culture from the inside out and bringing shared vision to life.



## Don't Miss our Upcoming Events . . .

The ESC of Cuyahoga County lists all of its professional development workshops and events on the homepage of [www.esc-cc.org](http://www.esc-cc.org).

Be sure to check often as new events are continually being added.

If you have an idea for a future event, please contact Paula Kucinic, Director of Professional Development and Instructional Technology at [paula.kucinic@esc-cc.org](mailto:paula.kucinic@esc-cc.org).



# HIGHLIGHTS

## *Fall Professional Development Events*

### Content Literacy Through Google: Using Technology to Enhance Learning

The research supporting content literacy-based instruction and the use of the timely feedback are undisputed. Many educators are looking to integrate Google into their instruction for creating and distributing assignments and providing feedback to their students in a timely fashion.

In the workshop held October 19<sup>th</sup> at the ESC called “Content Literacy Through Google: Using Technology to Enhance Learning,” participants integrated reading and writing strategies with Google technology. The instructors, Amy Moore and Andrew Pinney, also modeled several literacy-based strategies using Google in a way that enhances student engagement and incorporates timely and specific feedback.





## E.A.R.S.: Education, Advocacy, Relationships, Success - A Program for Teens with Hearing Loss

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the ESC of Cuyahoga County welcomed high school students with hearing loss to come together during a school-sanctioned program designed for meeting, mingling and learning. E.A.R.S.: Education, Advocacy, Relationships, Success - A Program for Teens with Hearing Loss.

The program session included fun activities and presentations to foster advocacy, knowledge and social well-being as students prepare to transition to life after high school. There was a presentation of home alerting systems for independence by Kellie Frantz of the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center and also a presentation on driving instructions, rules and tips from Arie Parfel of New Direction Driving School.

Thank you to program partner “The Friends of the Society of the Deaf.”





# Ohio Online Learning Program

*WHERE STUDENTS GET THE BEST OF  
BOTH WORLDS*

The Ohio Online Learning Program welcomes Shannon McCreary to the team for the 2016 – 2017 school year. Shannon brings a wealth of experience in online curriculum expertise as well as providing support to students, families, and school district personnel. With enrollment growth to over 600 students, Shannon's addition provides needed depth in curriculum support and program outreach.

Entering its fourth year of operation, the Ohio Online Learning Program offers innovative, effective educational experiences in various formats, utilizing state-of-the-art technology, the rigorous, engaging curriculum, and the guidance and support of highly qualified, certified instructors and student learning advocates. In partnership with Lincoln Learning Solutions and Apex Learning, the Ohio Online Learning Program is a K-12 multi-option learning program designed to provide school districts the ability to retain students by making available a variety of quality instructional options and, in most instances, reducing district costs.

For more information, contact:

Mark Curtis, Ohio Online Learning Director  
216-901-4239

or visit our website at [www.OhioOnlineLearning.org](http://www.OhioOnlineLearning.org)



## Totally Online

This fully online program allows students to remain in the district where they reside, fully participate in sports and other extracurricular activities, and receive a district diploma pursued on a full-time or part-time basis and allows the student a greater variety of instructional models and student involvement than enrolling in an exclusively online school.

The program is available for students K-12 and provides over 250 courses in math, language arts, science, and social studies, along with a variety of interesting, and challenging electives.

This option allows students to take all class work required for graduation online through their district of residence or select single courses as electives, to avoid scheduling conflicts or simply gain the experience of learning online.

## Blended Learning

The blended classroom gives students the opportunity to participate in face-to-face instruction that accommodates different types of learning styles. Teachers interact with students using either individual or small group interaction to reach students that most need the additional instruction. Ultimately, blended courses should improve student performance.

This version of the Online Learning Program blends technology-assisted learning with traditional face-to-face classroom instruction.

The student is expected to complete reading and other homework assignments online and participate in face-to-face classroom instruction two or three times per week.

*The Ohio Online Learning Program offers innovative, effective educational experiences in various formats, utilizing state-of-the-art technology, rigorous curriculum, and engaging guidance and support from highly qualified, certified instructors.*



The ESC of Cuyahoga County is pleased to announce the launch of a new, multiple option learning program with Lincoln Learning Solutions and Apex Learning. This multiple program option is designed to provide school districts the ability to retain students by making available a variety of quality instructional options and, in some instances, reducing districts costs.

The Ohio Online Learning Program provides districts with more than 250 fully online courses for fulltime online students or single course students, newly developed “blended” courses incorporating the best elements of both online and traditional classroom instruction, and more rigorous credit recovery courses.


## Credit Recovery

One of the essential aspects of any district curriculum program is providing opportunities for students to earn credit for courses previously taken but, for a variety of reasons, they were unable to obtain credit.

The Ohio Online Learning Program provides a variety of online credit recovery courses, more than 70 in all.

Those courses recently updated by Lincoln Learning Solutions and Apex Learning, provide the same quality of content, interactivity, and instructional oversight as the districts’ regular courses, but with an adjusted learning standard.

## Contact Us Today

-  (216) 901-4213
-  [www.OhioOnlineLearning.org](http://www.OhioOnlineLearning.org)
-  Ohio Online Learning Program
-  @oh\_learn
-  Ohio Online Learning Program  
Essex Place  
6393 Oak Tree Blvd.  
Independence, OH 44131



[www.OhioOnlineLearning.org](http://www.OhioOnlineLearning.org)



# GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

## GPS Workshop

Students from **Bedford, South Euclid** and **Richmond Heights** Schools attended a middle school student seminar at Look About Lodge in the Chagrin Reservation on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Students were instructed by a naturalist at the park on the theory and use of a handheld GPS unit. After the instruction on the GPS, students in teams of four and five searched for eight different waypoints in the woods. They also completed an exercise in triangulation. This is an annual event for districts that are a part of the Gifted Consortium of the ESC of Cuyahoga County.

For information about Gifted and Talented programs, contact:

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# GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

## Beck Center for the Arts: Peaceful Solutions

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, high school students from **Bedford, Rocky River, Richmond Heights** and **South-Euclid Lyndhurst** learned how to create peaceful solutions through the arts. This one-day workshop at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood, included opportunities for students to write songs, play instruments, paint, mold with clay, and learn how cultural arts can have a positive impact on their lives and society









# GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAMS

The ESC's Portage Student Programs are off to a great beginning. Teen board representatives gather together monthly to choose the Senior of the Month for Portage County. Each high school representative nominates one girl and one boy. In May, the Portage County Teens of the Month are celebrated at the Honors Breakfast. Teens of the Month for October and November are Lexie (Aurora H.S.), Brett (Field H.S.), Olivia (Crestwood H.S.), and Ja'mario (Windham H.S.).



# HIGHLIGHTS OF OPEN HOUSE & FESTIVAL *at the Rose-Mary Center School*

Students, staff and families enjoyed the Rose-Mary Center School's Fall Festival on October 13<sup>th</sup>. There were special treats, a bounce house, games, and refreshments. The school's annual Open House/Basket Raffle was held on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds from the fundraiser are used throughout the year for community-based activities for all of its students.





# CONNECT

*Connecting you with Technology*

**Connect**, formerly known as North Coast Council, is **leading the way to a new vision for Information Technology Centers** serving schools and other educational entities in Ohio.

**The new governing Board of Directors**, the Educational Service Centers of Cuyahoga, Lorain and Medina County and the Ohio Schools Council, have accepted the ownership, responsibility and liability of Connect in order to provide exemplary service to member districts.

**As a true regional shared-service operation**, Connect will build on the capacity of the four governing entities to expand services and respond quickly to district needs. Connect members will have greater access to a more diverse range of expertise and shared services through the partnership of these owner agencies.

**There are many benefits** to Connect being led by trusted service agencies such as the Educational Service Centers and Ohio Schools Council. Most importantly, Connect members will experience an increased strength and unwavering service that can reduce costs and make their information technology more effective and efficient, with the ultimate benefit of providing the greatest educational experience possible for students.

## Stay Connected...


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