ESCCC Website: www.esc-cc.org

New and Improved Look for 2008-2009!

Welcome back! We hope you had a great summer break! While you were away, we have been working on a new look that will highlight work that is done throughout our organization to support student achievement and success.

Our new website has something for everyone! Education is our business and supporting school districts and helping students obtain an education that offers a core foundation for learning is paramount. If you are looking for the most current information on leadership; curriculum, instruction and assessment; student achievement; family and community involvement; special education and compliance check out our website. Or, if you would like to attend one of our professional development programs, participate in one of our many networks, or if you are looking for a customized service or the perfect meeting space, the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County (ESCCC) is sure to have the answer. Please take a moment to check out our website at www.esc-cc.org.

ESCCC Team Presents at 2007-08 Ohio Quality in Education Conference

On June 11, 2008 in Columbus, Ohio, Paul Pendleton and Leanne Long from the ESCC along with Donna Hensley, from the Orange City Schools, led a discussion on the “Quest for Quality” in the school office. The discussion circled around how the districts encompassing the North Coast Quality Collaborative came together to develop a rubric of quality services for each of the districts. In all, thirty-five administrative assistants from seven districts developed a rubric about how “quality services” can be improved on in their school offices. The seven districts that participated were Mayfield City Schools, Berea City Schools, Beachwood City Schools, Jackson Local Schools, Orange City Schools, ESCCC and Polaris Career Center.

Congratulations to Jennifer Felker

The Governing Board has named Jennifer Felker, Assistant Superintendent of Operations effective August 1, 2008. In addition, Jennifer is the Single Point of Contact (SPoC) for Region 3 State Support Team. Congratulations, Jennifer!
More than 150 administrative teams attended the ES CCC Annual Scholars Academy on August 7-8 at the Bertram Hotel and Conference Center in Aurora. The teams were from the following districts: Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, ESCCC, Fairview Park, Garfield Heights, Independence, North Royalton, and Warrensville Heights. Others in attendance were from Bedford, Cleveland Metropolitan, the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Lakeshore Northeast Ohio Computer Association, Positive Education Program, and the Parma City Schools.

Scott Taylor was the featured speaker on Thursday. He spoke to the audience about “Failure is Not an Option” and provided six principles that guide student achievement in high performing schools. After lunch and networking, district break-out sessions were held. Everyone enjoyed dinner and socializing to end the first day of the retreat.

On Friday, participants heard Stephen Peters, CEO of the Peters Group, discuss “Teaching to Capture and Inspire All Learners.”

The retreat was not only motivational but provided everyone with some new tools and ideas in preparation of the 2008-2009 school year.

Plan on attending our 2009 Scholars Academy at the Bertram Hotel and Conference Center on August 13 and 14.
Overview of the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP)

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) recognizes the value of planning in the continuous improvement process and for the past decade has provided guidance and support to districts and schools in this process. Several recent developments have caused the ODE to revisit its current guidance.

**Integrated, Research-Based Approach**

The Ohio Department of Education recognized that a more integrated approach was needed that is consistently implemented throughout the state and reflects development of a unified state system of support around a focused plan. This approach is the OIP. The OIP brings together all the data, resources, knowledge, and experience in planning and follows a four-stage cycle that will be guided by regional educational service system providers.

Stage 1: Identify Critical Needs of Districts and Schools

The process uses state and district data to identify the most pressing needs faced by the district. This stage primarily uses the Decision Framework Tool to look at data from four levels: student performance, instructional management, expectations and conditions, and resource management.

Stage 2: Develop a Focused Plan

Stakeholders, including the local school board, are involved in specific areas that require their engagement and direction. During Stage 2, focus areas are turned into two to three SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable and Achievable, Realistic and Relevant, and Timely) goals in two areas:

1. Student performance
2. Conditions and expectations

Strategies for improvement are grounded in research. The SMART goals are achieved through the creation of strategies that address the identified focused needs. Impact indicators for each strategy provide the measures of success. Actions are developed for each strategy and resources are aligned.

Stage 3: Implement the Focused Plan

This stage requires that all district employees know and understand their responsibilities for ensuring that the goals and strategies are achieved. In addition, each building will have an action plan that has been approved by the district and is aligned to the district goals and strategies.

Stage 4: Monitor the Improvement Process

The district and buildings are required to have a process for checking the implementation of each strategy and action taken toward reaching the goal. Formative and summative data will be part of on-going data collection to monitor the implementation of the plans. Impact is ultimately determined by instructional improvement and student performance.

Within each stage, there is a set of well-defined elements that when completed lead to the next stage. The OIP can be used at the district, school, or classroom level. For the purposes of this document, the stages will be described for district-level use.

The OIP is based on the most recent research about what causes districts to improve. This research states that:

- To improve teaching and learning on a large scale, the whole district must be involved, with strong lines of communication.
- The role of district and school administrators should be refocused, with the highest priority on improving teaching and learning where data are used as the vehicle for changing conversations in ways that allow the most critical problems the district faces to be identified and addressed.
- It is important to give equal focus to the “how” as well as to the “what” of improving teaching and learning, continuously using a cycle of monitoring and evaluating progress in order to constantly improve achievement.

**District Expectations**

Based on this research, the Ohio Leadership Advisory Council (OLAC) established common expectations for districts in the planning process.

- Collaborative structures and community engagement
- Culture and expectation for the use of data in decision making
- One plan with focused goals for achievement and instruction
- Board alignment and support of district goals and district alignment and support of school goals
- Monitoring goals for achievement and instruction
- Use of resources to support achievement and instruction, intentionally allocated to the district plan.

**State Support Team for Region 3 (SST3) (Cuyahoga County)**

The SST3 will facilitate this process with school districts within Cuyahoga County designated in school improvement. In addition to this role, SSTs provide high-quality technical assistance and professional development to school districts, educational service centers, community schools, and families in Region 3, Cuyahoga County, in four service areas: School Improvement - designed to improve educational outcomes for all students, including students with disabilities and at risk learners Special Education Compliance - with federal and state mandates for serving students with disabilities and students at risk for school failure Literacy - services that include coaching on high quality literacy planning, instruction, and assessment Early Learning and School Readiness - focusing on compliance and high-quality instruction through technical assistance and professional development.

Additional information can be found on the SST3 Web site: **www.sst3.org**. If you have any questions, you may contact the following personnel at (216) 524-2770 or by email:

**Shelly Gaski**, SST Consultant, Interim Single Point of Contact (michele.gaski@esc-cc.org)

**Jim Rohlik**, SST Consultant, Coordinator of Special Education (james.rohlik@sst3.org)
Local Innovative Teacher Grants

The ESCCC presented its annual Teacher Innovative Grants to the Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, and Richmond Heights School Districts. These funds will be used for new, innovative and creative ideas in the classroom. Each district receives the $1,500 grant annually.

At Cuyahoga Heights Schools, honors and advanced placement mathematics teacher, Christy Zawadzki, used the ESCCC grant funds towards the purchase of the NSpire calculators. As part of a pilot project for the 2008-09 school year, Christy will use the training and the calculator she received this year in her honors and AP classes for the first semester. During this time, she will train the other high school mathematics teachers on the NSpire calculator for implementation in their classes second semester. Trans Geometry teacher, Lauren Walko, used the ESCCC grant funds toward her goal of engaging lower level mathematics students in real-life mathematical situations.

At Independence Schools, the district will be using the grant to expand their Kinetic City program to the middle school in the 2008-09 school year. Kinetic City is a pre or post-school hours Science Club involving interested students in creative online scientific problem solving and research. Successful at Independence Primary School for a number of years, the middle school expansion will enhance students’ science learning in a new format. Fifth graders will be the focus though any student may join.

The Teacher Innovative Grant has been used by the Richmond Heights Local Schools to send Kari-Ellen Organiscak, one of its Intervention Specialists, to a five day TEACCH (Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication handicapped Children) training. The information and techniques taught at this intensive, hands-on training have been utilized by the teacher within her classroom and the general curriculum for many of her special education students. The concepts that she learned have benefited children with a variety of communication disabilities. The grant also allowed the district to purchase much needed materials to introduce a life skills curriculum in its new classroom for students with multiple disabilities.

Cuyahoga County P-16 Council

Initially funded through a grant submitted by the ESCCC, the work of the Cuyahoga County P-16 Council represents the first-ever comprehensive attempt to examine educational outcomes and workforce readiness for residents of Cuyahoga County on a countywide basis. The Council is especially attuned to the educational attainment and workforce readiness needs of students and adult learners who are most frequently absent from higher education and workforce development initiatives.

The Council is convened by leaders from K-12 education, higher education, business, government, philanthropic and civic organizations, faith-based initiatives and economic development organizations to develop cross-cutting strategies for improving the economic future of Cuyahoga County. The Council continues to develop its membership, define its goals and scope of activities, and identify its structure to sustain its collaboration and capacity. As this work continues and is defined, additional information will be shared with our educational community.

For more information, please contact Bill Wendling, Director of Public-Private Partnerships at bill.wendling@esc-cc.org or Jennifer Dodd, Research and Development Specialist at jennifer.dodd@esc-cc.org for more information.
**Teaching American History**

**ESC Awarded Second Teaching American History Grant**

**Constructing, Consuming and Conserving America (CCC)** is a three-year collaborative project of the Educational Service Center, Cleveland State University, and the Western Reserve Historical Society, funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Teaching American History Grant Program. Each year of the program focuses on different political, social, and cultural themes by examining national and regional historical events. It provides extensive professional development for Cuyahoga County public school teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools who teach American history. Project goals are to improve content knowledge, historical thinking, and approaches to teaching history. Cleveland State historian, Mark Tebeau, Ph.D, is the academic content director.

A cohort of 75 teachers—25 teams of three teachers from the different grade levels—will engage in active, research-based learning about social and political events from American history. Teachers will explore primary sources from the Western Reserve Historical Society’s collections to develop digital resources, exhibits and curricular materials. They will interact with renowned historians at lectures, workshops, and summer institutes, and benefit from mentoring by master teachers. These activities aim to increase content knowledge, but also to improve historical thinking and the ability to teach effectively with improved skill sets and via new technical media.

Interested? Visit [http://tristero.typepad.com/ccc](http://tristero.typepad.com/ccc) to view a PowerPoint outlining the benefits for teachers, school districts, and students. Contact CCC America Program Manager Nadine Grimm at the ESCCC for information about the program: nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org or (216) 901-4243.

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**Sounds of History**

The **Sounds of History** grant that the ESCCC received is in the last year of a three year cycle. The kick off program for “Sounds” participants was held September 24 and 25. Dr. Mark Smith from the University of South Carolina explored the history of sound, through the lens of the American Civil War. Workshop activities focused on how the aural experience of Americans from the North and South diverged in the years leading up to the Civil War. Simply by listening to the past, participants heard the roots of the Civil War as the North became increasingly industrial and U.S. slavery became a more fundamental aspect of Southern life. As everyone worked with and closely read printed primary source documents, they “heard” the past and worked to bring that aural experience back to life. Participants in the workshop developed PowerPoints and lesson plans base on the presentation.

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**Project Jumpstart**

Twenty-two educators from Maple Heights City Schools and Bedford City Schools attended a workshop for Project Jumpstart: Fueling Student Achievement with EPAS at the ESCCC. Project Jumpstart is a grant funded by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation designed to improve student achievement scores on the EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT. Ultimately, it is hoped that more students will become aware of their college potential and will attend college after completing high school. Teachers, counselors and administrators participated in the professional development opportunity conducted by Laura Beach from ACT.
“On the Horizon” events are for students in the ESCCC consortium districts. The districts participating in the consortium are Bay Village, Beachwood, Bedford, Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Brooklyn, Cuyahoga Heights, Fairview Park, Garfield Heights, Independence, Lakewood, North Olmsted, North Royalton, Olmsted Falls, Orange, Richmond Heights, Rocky River, Westlake, and Warrensville Heights. For more information on any of these events, please contact Nina Stein at (216) 901-4201.

A Leadership Workshop for Juniors & Seniors
Presented by Dr. Harry E. Eastridge
October 28, 2008
ESC Conference Room

Superintendent Dr. Harry E. Eastridge will present a Leadership Workshop for high school juniors and seniors hosted by the Gifted & Talented Consortium on October 28. To date, six consortium districts have expressed their desire to participate. Students will be given examples and activities designed to promote quality leadership so they may be able to take these various techniques back to their own high schools. The workshop covers leadership styles, developing personal relationships, reaching consensus, team building and organizational skills. This four hour workshop includes a continental breakfast and lunch for students and teachers.

The Arts: Peaceful Solutions XIII
November 12, 2008
Beck Center for the Arts, Lakewood

Groups of students will work with artists in experiential breakout sessions in the morning followed by lunch and then a whole group sharing of experiences in the afternoon. The purpose of the seminar is to provide high school students an opportunity to experience communication through artistic expression from various art perspectives. In an ever-expanding world, quality communication is essential to understanding, cooperation, and optimal problem solving for peaceful human existence.

Town Hall Series
Town Hall, offered in conjunction with grants from the Town Hall Lecture Series, gives students the opportunity to attend lectures on various Monday evenings from September 22 - March 9 at the Ohio Theatre in downtown, Cleveland. For more information on the series, please log on to www.townhallseries.org. For seats, please contact Nina Stein at (216) 901-4201.

“Presidents” Academic Challenge
Each year the ESC sponsors an academic game for gifted students. This year we will be playing ‘Presidents,’ a game of presidential facts requiring independent research and the development of a reference file with information about each president. Students in grades 4 - 8 will compete on January 28, 2008 at the Brooklyn High School. To date, 11 school systems have signed on as participants in this exciting educational game. For more information, please contact Jim Buzzanco at jbuzzanco@embarqmail.com or Sue Forbes at forbes@wlake.org.

Lost (& Found) in Space Adventure
“Lost (& Found) in Space Adventure”...GPS Strategies, a Middle School Seminar for Gifted and Talented Eighth Grade Students, was a workshop given by ESCCC on September 24 and 25. The seminar gave the students a chance to develop skills in using a GPS and strengthen their logical reasoning strategies. It was held at the Cleveland Metroparks Look About Lodge at the South Chagrin Reservation in Chagrin Falls. Districts that participated included Bay Village, Bedford, Fairview Park, Garfield Heights, Warrensville Heights, and Westlake.
The ESCCC is working hard to provide our districts with a menu of programs, products and services that support educators and result in improved academic performance for every student. Our fall 2008 professional development workshops and networks focus on a variety of areas including, curriculum, data, technology, special education and the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP). To view our calendar of events and to register for a specific workshop, please visit our calendar of events at: www.esc-cc.org or contact Paula Kucinic, Professional Development Coordinator, at (216) 901-4244.

HOT! Meetings and Programs You Won’t Want to Miss!

October 15, 2008  D3A2 Facilitator Academy
October 16, 2008  Understanding the Ohio Improvement Process featuring Dr. Anthony Muhammad, New Frontier 21
October 22, 2008  Integrating Literacy across the Curriculum – (Continues November 19, 2008)

For a full listing of all of our programs and networks please visit the ESC calendar of professional development offerings at: www.esc-cc.org or contact Paula Kucinic, Professional Development Coordinator, (216) 901-4244.

Indicator Ladders!!
Are you familiar with the vertical progression of Ohio’s Academic Content Standards? The Muskingum Valley ESCCC and Jamie Meade have designed a tool called “Indicator Ladders” which helps educators quickly identify how the grade-level indicators of Ohio’s Academic Content Standards build upon one another from grade to grade level by instructional topic. The Indicator Ladders are designed to help teachers differentiate instruction by showing them which prerequisite, knowledge and skills are needed for the current, previous and future grade level. Don’t miss the opportunity to participate in these one-day workshops!

October 28, 2008  Using Reading Indicator Ladders and Vocabulary Guides to Increase Student Learning, K-8
December 5, 2008  Using Mathematics Indicator Ladders and Vocabulary Guides to Increase Student Learning, K-8

Understanding Literacy across the Curriculum!
Please plan to join us on October 22, 2008 and then again on November 19, 2008 as Bill Bintz, Associate Professor in the Department of Teaching, Leadership, and Curriculum Studies at Kent State University helps us discover a variety of “Text Sets,” examines a variety of research-based best practices to integrate literacy across the curriculum. Return to your classroom, building or district with ready-to-use methods and engaging activities. For more information or to register for this workshop please visit our calendar of events at www.esc-cc.org or call Bonnie Bertschinger at (216) 901-4229.

TEACCH Fundamentals
With one in 150 children nationally diagnosed with autism each year, autism has reached epidemic proportions. ESCCC continues to address this need by offering “TEACCH Fundamentals: Treatment and Education of Autistic and other related Communication handicapped Children. This highly interactive workshop will provide participants with a basic working knowledge of TEACCH methodology and its role in working with student students with autism spectrum disorders and other disabilities. For further information about this workshop please visit our website at www.esc-cc.org or call Cindy Kodek at (216) 524-2770.

Technology Courses
Visit our Calendar of Events at www.esc-cc.org to find out more about all of the Technology courses being offered this year!

October 21, 2008  SMARTBOARD
October 30, 2008  A Digital Camera Workshop
November 4, 2008  WOW Your Class with a Digital Microscope
Value-Added Analysis

The ESCCC, in partnership with Battelle for Kids, will be providing a three-tiered level system of support for districts interested in Value-Added.

Level I - Introductory Level – This level of support, a one-day training is for new administrators, principals and school leaders who are not familiar with value-added.

Level II – Value-Added and School Improvement – This level of support is designed for all currently trained District Value-Added Specialists (DVAS) elementary and middle school principals plus lead teachers and new DVAS that are replacing retired DVAS.

Level III – Advanced Value-Added and School Improvement – This level of support will focus on the use of the school improvement funnel that will be available in an interactive online tool called “FOCUS.” The target audience is district and building administrators, school leaders, trained DVAS and new DVAS who are replacing those that have retired. Attendees will be asked to bring relevant data with them to make this training more valuable.

The ESCCC is currently in the planning stages and will be rolling out menu choices beginning in October. Look for additional information to be posted on our website at: www.esc-cc.org or contact Paula Kucinic at (216) 901-4244.

Educating Ohio’s Students for Global Citizenship

The ESCCC has taken the lead in hosting a number of programs for students and educators to raise awareness about global issues (see “The North Coast Quality Collaborative” article in our Summer 2008 edition). Such programs respond to concerns from our governor and State Board of Education that Ohio’s economy depends on the state’s ability to develop a world-class workforce through K-12 education. To that end, two separate but coordinated initiatives are underway at the state level to consider solutions to the challenges facing educators and students.

The State Board of Education’s subcommittee for Education in the New Global Economy (EDGE) is holding meetings around Ohio, including one that was held in Cleveland on Sept. 16, to report on its study about the skills, knowledge and behaviors Ohio students must acquire to be successful in the global economy. In addition, the Ohio Department of Education has established an International Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) that is hosting five regional symposia to raise awareness about education and global issues. Nadine Grimm, Program Manager at the ESCCC, serves on the IEAC and is helping to plan the Northeast Ohio Regional International Education Summit, scheduled for Oct. 30. See page 9 for more details.

Carrying the Torch of Dreams

Wendy Rapport, facilitator at North Coast Academy has been accepted as a presenter at the 20th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference, Carrying the Torch of Dreams: Every Student Graduates, November 16-19, 2008, at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia in Atlanta, GA.

Her topic is The Good, The Great, and the Discarded: An Exploration of Programs, Tried and Tested at North Coast Academy. Wendy’s trip is being sponsored by The Simon Youth Foundation, a partner of North Coast Academy and the ESCCC.

North Coast Academy Moves

North Coast Academy is pleased to announce our relocation to Richmond Town Square above the Sears. School began on time August 25, 2008 thanks to the amazing efforts of the Dalad Property Group project management team of Keith Masters and Robert Tomjako. Special thanks must also go to Dr. Eastridge, Steve Rogaski, Kevin Staller of the ESCCC and Chris Chalker of the Simon Youth Foundation who never said “no” during the renovations. The new facility is beautiful! Simon Youth Foundation in partnership with the ESCCC has created a warm and welcoming environment that will serve 80 at-risk high school students from 13 school districts. The facility has room for expansion. Discussions are taking place with the Cleveland Scholarship Program to open an office within the new facility. For information about joining this consortium and the referral process contact Rena Wertheim, Director at (216) 901-8068.

Please join us for our Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony. It will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 16, 2008. An Open House will follow the ceremony until 5:30 p.m. To RSVP contact Myisha Godfrey at (216) 901-8068.
Ohio students will soon be adults seeking opportunities in the global marketplace where they will interact with people on a daily basis, and collaborate with them to meet challenges in the economy, health care, the environment and national security.

Join Ohio’s International Education Advisory Committee and educators, business and community leaders for a meeting designed to discover the best use of local resources to ensure that Ohio students are prepared for the global economy.

Date: Thursday, October 30, 2008
Venue: Intercontinental Hotel, E. 100th & Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio
Time: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

For information/to register please visit: [http://www.ccwa.org/schoolprograms.php](http://www.ccwa.org/schoolprograms.php)
OR contact Shannon Hopkins at (216) 781-3730 ext. 107

Hosted by the Cleveland Council on World Affairs, Cleveland Clinic, Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, and Ohio Department of Education

Planning Committee:
Betty Bonder, Ph.D., Dean, College of Science, Cleveland State University
Nadine Grimm, Program Manager, Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County
William Hiller, Ph.D., Executive Director, Martha Holder Jennings Foundation
Linda Robertson, Ph.D., Director, Gerald H. Read Center for International and Intercultural Education, Kent State University
Rosalind Strickland, Senior Director, Office of Civic Initiatives, Cleveland Clinic
Educational Office Professionals of Ohio Update

In June 2008, the Educational Office Professionals of Ohio held their Spring Conference in Columbus, Ohio. This is an annual professional development conference for all educational office professionals in Ohio.

At the annual June conference, two scholarships were awarded. The winner of the Lila VanSweringen Student Scholarship was Katy Schroeder from Miller High School in Ottawa, Ohio. Katy is pursuing a degree as an office professional. The Martha Leach Scholarship was given to a member to assist them in furthering their studies. Our Controller, Michele Newton, was the recipient of this scholarship.

Also selected were an Administrator of the Year and Office Professional of the Year. We were very pleased to announce that Jennifer Felker, Director of Operations, was selected as the Administrator of the Year and Cindy Goga, our administrative assistant was named as the Office Professional of the Year.

As you can see the ESCCC was well represented at the conference.

The next conference will be on October 17 at Great Oaks Institute of Technology. This will be a hands-on training session of various Microsoft applications. More information can get obtained at the EOPO website www.eopo-oh.org.

What’s New at ESC?

New Conference Room Opens at ESCCC

We have opened our new second floor conference room in our administration building. It can accommodate up to 70 people and has built-in AV equipment. All you need to bring is your laptop for presentations. To schedule a meeting, please call (216) 524-3000.

Also, the LNOCA building is being refaced to match our Professional Development Center. Windows have also been added to our conference room that is available for use for meetings.

Jennifer Felker Expecting Triplets

Jennifer Felker, Assistant Superintendent, is expecting triplets! The staff of the ESC had a shower to celebrate the upcoming birth of Jennifer’s three babies (two boys and a girl)! We wish her well as the October “delivery date” fast approaches.

We are currently upgrading the signage here at the ESCCC. Large ESC letters have been placed on the corners of the building to make us more visible from afar. A sign is being constructed on the front lawn to indicate that we are the ESC of Cuyahoga County.