



Spring 2013

An e-newsletter published by the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County

## Educating Serving Communicating

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### Superintendent's Message

By **Robert A. Mengerink**, *Superintendent*

As we watch the changing landscape of education unfold, I want to remind you that the ESC of Cuyahoga County continues to work closely

with administrators and teachers to ensure we are meeting your district's needs and providing high-quality services. We recognize districts are facing unprecedented challenges with ongoing education reform efforts, increased accountability and decreased funding. Our goal is to create innovative, cost-efficient solutions and resources to ease burdens and allow educators to focus their efforts on educating students.

Education and professional services have long been a priority of the ESC of Cuyahoga County. As we enhance these services, we are also developing additional services in management, technology, communication and in many other areas. We will also continue to facilitate collaborations with partners to increase our shared service opportunities and alignment between multiple youth-serving systems. As we develop these services, we will be seeking input from districts on needs and priorities.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our staff at the ESC when a need arises. We are always committed to problem-solving with you to efficiently address any challenge your district may be facing.

Sincerely,  
Bob Mengerink

### Simon Youth North Coast Academy Grateful to Warren and Zoann Little Dusenbury Charitable Trust for On-going Donations

Simon Youth North Coast Academy (NCA), located at the Richmond Town Square above Sears in Richmond Heights, is a school that provides an alternative high school setting where at-risk students may earn their high school diploma. The Simon Youth Foundation and the ESC of Cuyahoga County established a consortium of 13 schools to serve the needs of these students in 2001 with the opening of this school.

For the past five years, the Warren and Zoann Little Dusenbury Charitable Trust has donated more than \$100,000 towards scholarships to Simon Youth NCA graduates who may not have had the opportunity to attend post-secondary education

opportunities due to life's situations.

This year, the Dusenbury Trust will continue providing scholarship monies for post-secondary education opportunities, public bus transportation for economically challenged students, and field trips to area two- and four-year colleges and universities.



"We are deeply grateful for the Dusenbury's ongoing support of Simon Youth North Coast Academy," said Rena Wertheim, NCA director. "Acting in accordance to the intentions of the late founders of the trust, Warren and Zoann Little Dusenbury, the

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ESC Staff



## Grateful for On-going Donations continued

trustees continue to have made a significant difference in the lives of our students, and we thank them for their on-going support.”

Simon Youth NCA graduates who were recipients of scholarships have or continue to attend colleges and

universities such as Cleveland State University, the University of Akron, Marymount School of Practical Nursing, Kent State University, Cuyahoga Community College, Ursuline College, Hocking College, Lakeland Community College, and the New School of Jazz and Contemporary Music.

## North Coast Academy Students Give Back to the Community

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, the North Coast Academy (NCA) students went to the adult day program located on the campus of Park Synagogue Main in Cleveland Heights to celebrate the adults’ birthdays in the month of February. The students decorated and assisted with the party. This past winter, students also participated in a blood drive, volunteered in the kindergarten classroom at **Mercer Elementary School in Shaker Heights**, partnered with the Jewish Family Service Association to work with multi-handicapped children at **Brush High School in South Euclid-Lyndhurst City Schools**, and mentored students at **Memorial Junior High School in Lyndhurst**.

At Memorial, the NCA students explained to the seventh and eighth grade students the choices they had made earlier in their school experiences that led to the need to go to an alternative school. The NCA students encouraged the younger students to make better choices than they had made. The NCA students have also worked with students in **Orange High School’s** classroom for students with multiple disabilities acting as peer models to engage the students as they cook lunch together and converse about common interests of sports, music and movies.



North Coast Academy students celebrating adults' birthdays as part of the adult day program at Park Synagogue Main in Cleveland Heights.

# Gifted & Talented Consortium News

## Mr. President Competition

Students from **Richmond Heights, Rocky River** and **South Euclid-Lyndhurst** school districts participated in our third Mr. President Competition on January 23, 2013. Following competitions in 2005 and 2009, this year's competition featured presidential trivia questions for students to answer. Five point, three point and one point clues were given, and using research they had been accumulating since last September, students had to determine which president was being described. Fourth, fifth and sixth grade students participated in two rounds of competition. Students enjoyed a pizza lunch provided by the ESC of Cuyahoga County.

First, second, and third place awards were given in two divisions, and this year's competitors did a great job with the clues and their research. A special thank you to Sue Forbes of the Rocky River City Schools for co-chairing the event and to Meredith Muccio of Rocky River, Bob Bell of South Euclid-Lyndhurst and Bonnie Frye of Richmond Heights for all of their work preparing students and their assistance during the competition. We congratulate our winners and all the students for their hard work in preparing for this event. Great job !!!



SOUTH EUCLID - LYNDHURST



ROCKY RIVER



RICHMOND HEIGHTS

## Local Students Learn How to Master the Art of Public Speaking

Several school districts participated in a workshop at the ESC of Cuyahoga County on Tuesday, February 5, 2013. The workshop, "Speaking to Win: How Mastering the Art of Public Speaking Will Help You in School and in Life," featured keynote speaker Lisa Ryan, President of Grategy.

"The workshop encompassed fear reduction, preparation tips, presentation design, skill development and winning style. These topics were covered through examples and activities to enhance public



speaking skills," said Wayne Gibson, Director of Gifted Education for the ESC. The students will now be able to use these techniques in various projects in their high school settings.

The districts present were **Bedford, Cuyahoga Heights, East Cleveland, Orange, Richmond Heights** and **Warrensville Heights**.

## Equations Mathematics Game

Since the beginning of the school year, students in area districts have been practicing for the Equations competition which was held February 26<sup>th</sup> at the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center. Chaired by ESC gifted coordinator, Stephanie Cutlip, and assisted by Rocky River gifted coordinator, Susan Forbes, the event was attended by eight area districts and over 140 students in grades four through eight. Students were challenged to devise as many equations as possible to reach various goals. They had to use a set of numbers and operation signs that changed with each move of the game. After two hours of play, students were treated to a pizza lunch through the courtesy of Hyland Software sponsorship.

Thanks to the work of several ESC administrative assistants, the scores were tallied on a computer spreadsheet, and trophies and medals were awarded at the end of the competition. Awards were given to the highest scoring district as well as winning teams in each grade level division, and individual awards. Participating districts included: **Bedford, Brecksville-Broadview Heights, East Cleveland, Fairview Park, North Royalton, Rocky River, South Euclid-Lyndhurst and Westlake.**



## Beck Center Explore the Arts

"The Explore the Arts Workshop is a great experience for our young middle school artists to extend out of their comfort zones and try new areas of artistic expression. They get about a half hour of hands on training in seven different art forms with professionals in that field. Suddenly, I have 11 seventh graders who love improv, mime, or drumming, and have never tried these before! The information is presented to them in a way they can understand, and they are grouped with students who they do not know so they are less inhibited and get to hear or see some new ideas. The bus ride back is full of conversation about their favorite parts of the day, and what they want to do and be a part of now because of it. I have eighth graders who went last year telling the seventh graders they are going to love it, saying, 'Oh that was my favorite field trip!' I like to get in there and participate with the kids, and I learn something a little different each time I go, too!"

Gretchen Obrovac,  
Teacher, **Independence Middle School**



## Middle School Arts Workshop Beck Center for the Arts

Over 100 students participated in an arts workshop for seventh and eighth grade students on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Beck Center for the Arts. The students rotated through seven workshops including dance, clay, vocal music, improvisation, drawing, percussion, and mime and movement. The participants for this event included students from **Bedford, Fairview Park, Independence, Richmond Heights, Rocky River, South Euclid-Lyndhurst, Warrensville Heights** and **Westlake**.

## Beck Center Peaceful Solutions

This fall, high school students from **East Cleveland, Fairview Park, Lakewood, Richmond Heights, Rocky River and Westlake City Schools** learned how the arts could actually help young adults to get through life peacefully during a one-day workshop at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood. Through songwriting, playing instruments, painting, or molding with clay, everyone learned how cultural arts can have a positive impact.



# Programs

## Parmadale School

By **Kevin Wering**, *Special Education Supervisor*

Parmadale School has had a busy school year! The faculty has been dedicating significant time to professional development activities. Teachers and paraprofessionals have attended workshops that will benefit student learning. Teachers have attended training sessions on the core standards in order to prepare them for the upcoming school year. They are working hard developing a new pacing guide that aligns with the core standards. Joyce Huntz and Elizabeth Lansing are currently working on a technology grant that will be very beneficial to our students. With the assistance of consultant Peggy Klein from PEP Assist, the entire faculty has been able to refine the behavior management skills needed to work with students who have emotional and academic handicaps. Title 1 Graduation Coaches have been working with classroom teachers to develop a series of self-assessment and career investigation activities that will encourage our students on their paths toward high school graduation and beyond.

## Rose-Mary Center School News

By **Lisa Adler**, *Special Education Supervisor*

On Friday afternoons when the weather permits, Julie's class gathers all the recyclable trash throughout the school, loads it on the wagons, and walks over to the recycling bins located a few blocks from the school.



On Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> a Movie Night was held at the Rose-Mary Center School from 7-9 p.m. This event was a fundraiser for additional equipment and on-going maintenance for the adaptive playground, which was installed over a year ago. Many families and students attended. The movie *Brave* was free, but a fun pack could be purchased for \$5.00 and included a pop, popcorn, movie candy and a cookie. Hot dogs were available for \$1.50.

The annual school prom will be held on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The theme will be "Night in Paris" and will take place between 1-2 p.m. The afternoon begins with a formal lunch, complete with round tables in a decorated gym. Action DJ will provide the music for the dance. Students dress up in their formal wear and really enjoy the afternoon.

## The Achievement Center

By **Laurie Albright**, *Special Education Supervisor*

The classrooms for students with autism at the Achievement Centers for Children are creatively designed to help each student explore his/her talents and shine. This winter, at the Westlake location, student art work was showcased in the lobby area for all to enjoy at the Annual Art Show. This year's show included a display of the print-making process used to make note cards, which were offered for sale. They really are quite lovely, and a few packages are left.

If you have questions, please contact:

**Scott Gossett**  
Autism Manager  
216-292-9700

## Graduation at Rose-Mary Center School

By **Lisa Adler**,  
*Special Education Supervisor*



Robert Baytosh became a student at the ESC Rose-Mary Center School program in September of 2001. He is a resident at the Rose-Mary Center in Euclid, Ohio. Bobby transitioned from the school program to an Adult Activity Program. **Chardon Local Schools** presented Bobby with his diploma. Graduation took place on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Desserts and refreshments followed the ceremony.

Graduation ceremonies will take place for Cuddy Brown on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Cuddy is a **Euclid** student and entered the school program in April, 2011. Euclid will be presenting his diploma. He is in the process of transitioning to an Adult Activity Program. His teacher Kathy is preparing a slide show of Cuddy. The ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m. followed by refreshments.



# Professional Development



## 1:1 Symposium

Friday - May 3, 2013  
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Corporate College East  
4400 Rochmond Road  
Warrensville Heights, Ohio 44128

Considering a 1:1 to prepare your students for PARCC? Join us in this one-day symposium featuring hands-on demonstrations with mobile devices by Apple, Google, and Microsoft. In addition, a strand on Teaching and Learning and 1:1 Technology will be available. The symposium is provided by Northern Ohio Research and Training Technology Hub (NORT<sup>2</sup>H) and sponsored in part by the Educational Service Centers of Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties.

For more information, contact

**Dave Miller**  
NORT<sup>2</sup>H Director  
[miller@nor2h.org](mailto:miller@nor2h.org)

To register, please visit  
[www.1to1plan.org](http://www.1to1plan.org)

## Battelle for Kids "Powerful Practices Workshop for Teachers"

Teachers were invited to attend a workshop hosted by Battelle for Kids to learn about how to implement powerful teaching practices promoting high levels of student teaching practices that contribute to high levels of student academic growth. Since 2007, Battelle for Kids has been studying the practices of highly effective teachers (HETs) across the country to learn more about what they do to promote student success.

For further information contact:

**Bonnie Bertschinger**  
[bonnie.bertschinger@esc-cc.org](mailto:bonnie.bertschinger@esc-cc.org)  
216-901-4229



## Northern Ohio's 3rd Annual Early Learners Institute

Thursday, August 15 & Friday, August 16, 2013  
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.)  
FREE Pre-Conference - Wednesday, August 14, 2013  
The Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center  
5700 West Canal Road, Valley View, Ohio 44125  
Cost: Conference - \$85.00 (includes materials & light lunch)  
Preconference - FREE (lunch on your own)  
Professional Development  
Credit: 14 Hours - 2 day conference  
4 Hours - preconference

Join us at our "3rd Annual Early Learners Institute" where participants will hear from national experts, learn about the latest research-based early learning strategies and be provided with opportunities to explore proven practices that create and support a successful early learning environment.

Register on-line at  
[www.esc-cc.org](http://www.esc-cc.org)

Registration for preconference separate (also on-line)



For registration questions please contact:

**Bonnie Bertschinger**  
[bonnie.bertschinger@esc-cc.org](mailto:bonnie.bertschinger@esc-cc.org)  
216-901-4229

**Sue Coughlin**  
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216-901-4230

For more information go to [www.esc-cc.org](http://www.esc-cc.org)



# Programs

## The Ohio Online Learning Program

The Ohio Online Learning Program is now taking enrollment for fall semester. The program currently has 24 participating school districts and enrollment is growing. This program allows districts to offer a full-time or part-time online curriculum with over 250 courses using the award winning Lincoln Interactive curriculum. Full-time students receive both a laptop computer and printer/scanner/copier combination.

With assistance from Student Learning Advocates, students and parents are provided academic and technical support to ensure success. Onsite training is also provided for all district-based personnel in enrollment and course navigation.

You may visit the website at [www.ohionlinelearning.org](http://www.ohionlinelearning.org) to learn more about this wonderful opportunity.

Contact:

**Mark Curtis**

[mark.curtis@sc-cc.org](mailto:mark.curtis@sc-cc.org)

216-901-4238

**Angela Love**

[angela.love@esc-cc.org](mailto:angela.love@esc-cc.org)

216-901-4239



## Northeast Ohio Quality Matters (QM) Consortium



Session I: June 10 - July 1, 2013 - Online (limit 60 registrants)  
Session II: July 8-19, 2013 - Online (limit 60 registrants)  
Session III: July 15 - August 5, 2013 - Online (limit 40 registrants)  
*Orientation for online sessions will be conducted online*  
Blended Session IV: August 5, 2013 - face-to-face  
(AM or PM - limit 20 registrants each)  
August 5-26, 2013 - Online

*Orientation will be conducted face-to-face at:*

ESC of Cuyahoga County

5811 Canal Road, Valley View, Ohio 44125

Professional Development Contact Hours: 15

Quality Matters (QM) is a faculty-centered, peer review process that is designed to certify the quality of online and blended courses. QM is a leader in quality assurance for online education and has received national recognition for its peer-based approach and continuous improvement in online education and student learning. Building on the foundation and the strength of existing relationships developed across educational services centers, agencies and school districts, the Northeast QM Consortium is a strategic partnership between the ESC of Cuyahoga County, the Geauga, Lake and Lorain Counties Educational Service Centers, Ashland University, the Northern Ohio Research and Training Technology Hub (NORT<sup>2</sup>H) and WVIZ/PBS ideastream<sup>®</sup>. It was developed to increase the awareness and expansion of quality online and blended learning in schools. In February 2013, the ESC and the Northeast QM Consortium were awarded a grant by eTech Ohio and the Ohio Department of Education to offer and deliver training in the QM standards and rubric to the schools and educators in the northeast region. During summer 2013, educators will participate in the *Applying the Grades 6-12 Quality Matters Rubric Course*. Additional information about upcoming summer workshops will be made available in early May.

Register on-line at [www.esc-cc.org](http://www.esc-cc.org)

For additional information about QM, please contact:

**Paula Kucinic**

Director of Professional Development & Instructional Technology

[paula.kucinicesc-cc.org](mailto:paula.kucinicesc-cc.org)

216-901-4244



Rachel Wixey & Associates has joined in partnership with the **Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County**, the **Educational Service Center of Lorain County** and **Medina County Educational Service Center**, to deliver Substitute Management Services to the respective region.

Our collaboration is the first of its kind in our state as three wide-ranging ESCs partner with the most respected, private sector substitute provider to deliver the best of all worlds for districts in Northeast Ohio. This service is brought to you through the **North Coast Shared Services Alliance**—where you find Shared Services – In Action.

If you are an administrator in this region, you'll want to pass this along to your colleagues (yes, we're talking about HR). And of course, we'll be sharing the experiences and benefits of this collaboration model statewide as we progress.

We love our work in this region and are looking forward to continued growth in Northeast Ohio and throughout the state.

Interested in learning more firsthand? Contact:  
**Krishna McCollins**  
 Director of Regional Development, Northeast Region  
 419-410-2223

## Fair Showcases Programs and Activities for Children with Disabilities for Summer and Beyond

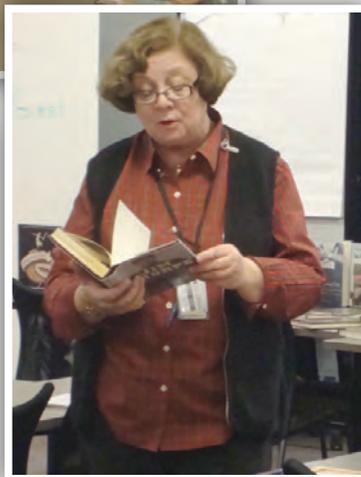
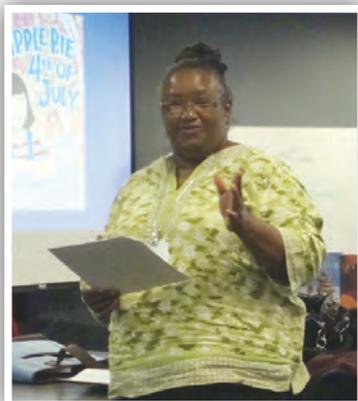
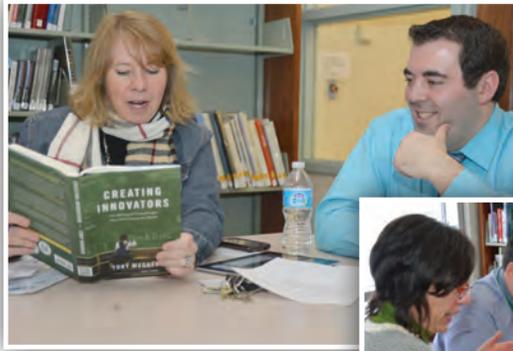
The ESC of Cuyahoga County sponsored the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Summer and Beyond Fair on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at St. Michael's Woodside Party Center in Broadview Heights. Families were able to explore summer camps and activities for children and youth with disabilities. Free fingerprinting ID cards were available, as well as the popular "2013 Summer and Beyond Directory" that lists hundreds of opportunities for children. The directory also is available on-line at [www.esc-cc.org](http://www.esc-cc.org).



# Global Education

## Book Talks

A series of three book discussions hosted by high schools in our area focused on innovations in global education. Educational reform in Finland, Singapore, Ontario, Brazil and other areas of the globe that have resulted in high student achievement rates are the result of applying international benchmarking, deep learning, and other education innovations. As Ohio and other states in the U.S. move to new Common Core standards, the ESC of Cuyahoga County coordinated a book discussion series at high schools in **Berea** and **Aurora** and at Collinwood High School in **Cleveland** in which participants considered how creativity and innovation contribute to enhanced teaching and learning. Books by authors Yong Zhao, Sir Ken Robinson, and Tony Wagner were on the reading list and sparked discussions that continued at an April 15<sup>th</sup> conference on the themes of creativity and innovation.



## Multicultural Literature Series

During fall and winter, the ESC of Cuyahoga County offered a series of four workshops centered around award-winning multicultural literature for children. **Cleveland Metropolitan School District** media specialist Gail Greenberg featured award-winning books and innovative curricular approaches to integrating them into classroom teaching. Pre-school through high school teachers created lesson plans that integrated pre- and post-reading activities, research and discussion, and project-based learning using the stories and fables of diverse cultures that teach universal truths. Award-winning books exploring Asian/Pacific, Arab, Hispanic, African-American and other cultures were featured in the series, *Lift Every Voice and Read: Choosing and Using Award-Winning Multicultural Literature*, promoting literacy and cultural competencies.

## Ohio-Ontario Cultural Exchange Project

**Richmond Heights Local Schools** secondary art teacher Mary Nichols-Bronfield and her students are participating in a cultural exchange with Walkerville Collegiate School for the Arts in Windsor, Ontario. Richmond Heights students have participated in two handmade papermaking workshops at the Morgan Papermaking Conservatory in downtown Cleveland. They are using their handmade papers to make journals in which they are writing about diversity and equity, and they are illustrating their journals with their personal works of art. They will exchange their books with art students in Canada, who are also creating handmade books with recycled materials for the exchange. Drama students at the Walkerville Collegiate School will create skits about culture and diversity to be enacted from the writings of students from both schools. Photos and videos recording the creative processes also will be shared among the students from both countries. Their books will be exhibited and shared with members of the school and community. Kent State University's Gerald H. Read Center for International and Intercultural Education is providing a mini-grant from its Ohio-Ontario educational exchange project funded by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation.



## Richmond Heights Art Students Create a Cultural Mural

**Richmond Heights** Secondary Schools art students—Isabella Gorjanc, Patricia Molina and Malik Hayes—were recognized on March 11<sup>th</sup> by the Richmond Heights Board of Education for their outstanding art achievements. They took the opportunity to present Board members and Superintendent Dr. Robert Moore with a cultural mural that was created by their art classes this school year. The cultural mural's design reflects their identities and their community's diversity. They identify themselves as students of the **Richmond Heights Local Schools**, members of

their community, and citizens of the state of Ohio and of the United States. Their teacher, Mary Nichols-Bronfield, participated in a Summer Teacher Institute at the ESC of Cuyahoga County that was funded by the Ohio Humanities Council to explore cultural diversity and the ways that clothing and personal adornment reflect our personalities and cultural development. The students were inspired to design, draw and paint this mural reflecting the cultural values of their generation.



## Flip Your World! Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Without Borders Conference Brings International Business Leaders, Teachers, Students Together

The first annual "Flip Your World! Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Without Borders" Conference was held Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Baldwin-Wallace University Center for Innovation & Growth.

More than 100 students and educators from elementary through college joined leaders from Northeast Ohio's business, non-profit, cultural, and community organizations at the conference to network and discuss the importance of preparing and enhancing our youth in cultural and global competencies required for success in current and future careers.

"While other nations have improved their educational outcomes through Common Core and other reform methods, experts recognize that creativity and innovation are areas that still need additional emphasis in order to foster those critical thinking and problem solving skills needed for employment and success in the global market," said Dr. Bob Mengerink, Superintendent of the ESC of Cuyahoga County, one of the organizations coordinating and hosting this conference.

"The conference featured the exchange of ideas and dialogue through keynotes, presentations, breakout sessions, and informal discussion in order for conference participants to gain knowledge and further develop those essential 21st century skills of inquiry and innovative and creative thinking that are needed in the classrooms today," said Professor Alan Kolp, Interim Director of Baldwin-Wallace University's Center for Innovation & Growth.

One of the highlights of the conference was the morning keynote presentation by Ramanath Ramakrishnan, Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Eaton. He emphasized the need for preparation of globally/culturally competent, innovative, creative, and problem-solving thinkers and the important role innovation and technology play in Eaton's continued growth. Eaton has eight Cleveland-area locations and is a global technology leader in diversified power management solutions that make electrical, hydraulic and mechanical power operate more efficiently, effectively, safely and sustainably.

The afternoon keynote presenter was Dr. Jane Piirto, Ashland University Trustees' Distinguished Professor and Director of Talent Development Education and author of *Creativity for 21st Century Skills: How to Embed Creativity into the Curriculum*.

A sampling of the breakout session topics included Global Business and Cultural Factors, Economics and International Development, Multicultural Literature and Writing, The Arts:

Culture and Community, Career Paths: Technical Skills and Beyond, Social Networking and Digital Citizenship, and From Dreamer to Entrepreneur.

Educators attending the conference now have the opportunity to apply for mini-grants to implement their innovative ideas in their classrooms.

Flip Your World! was co-hosted by the ESC of Cuyahoga County, the Developing Global Citizens for Northeast Ohio committee, and the Baldwin-Wallace University's Center for Innovation & Growth. Educational organizations involved included the Berea City Schools, Cleveland Clinic Office of Civic Education, Cleveland Council on World Affairs, Cleveland State University, Kent State University's Gerald H. Read Center for International and Intercultural Education, and the Lake County Educational Service Center. The program also was supported through a grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation.



# March into KINDERGARTEN



## Now is the Time to “March into Kindergarten” Public Information Campaign Continues to Urge Parents to Register their Child for Kindergarten

The first day of kindergarten can be both exciting and overwhelming for students, parents, and the teacher. A public information campaign is underway, called “March into Kindergarten,” to inform and urge all parents in Cuyahoga County that they should register their child for kindergarten as early as March. Registration provides their child with a smooth transition and helps schools be adequately prepared to educate all children and understand each child’s strengths and needs before the first day of school.

The campaign is a collaborative partnership among the ESC of Cuyahoga County, Invest in Children, Starting Point, United Way 2-1-1, Family & Children First Council of Cuyahoga County, MyCom, and the State Support Team for Region 3.

While we want to prepare children to be as ready as possible for kindergarten, it is just as important for schools to be ready for all children. From screenings, parent information and feedback from early childhood settings, educators spend time before school starts learning about their incoming kindergarteners to ensure their classroom instruction is designed to reach all students’ needs. In addition, schools need to know how many students to expect on the first day of school within each building for the proper assignment of teachers, establishment of class sizes, and ordering of classroom materials and supplies.

For families, early registration allows them to prepare their child and themselves for the specific school he/she will be attending—its building, people, programs, and protocols. The family has a chance to learn the building, become familiar with where everything is, and also obtain policies, procedures, and schedules. Most importantly, the child will be able to meet the kindergarten teacher and other staff. A

child’s transition to kindergarten is much more positive when they know what to expect and who is there to help as they venture into a brand new environment.

“Early elementary educators play a vital role in shaping the experiences of our youngest students,” said ESC Superintendent Bob Mengerink. “In Cuyahoga County, our schools educate a very diverse population of students. Recognizing this diversity, it is even more important for teachers to have as much information as possible about each child at the outset so their classroom and teaching can effectively address the multiple strengths and challenges students will bring to the first day of school.”



## ESC Board Members Receive OSBA Award

ESC Board Member Frank Mahnic, Jr. received his sixth OSBA Award of Achievement Honor. ESC Board Member Tony Hocevar received his fourth OSBA Award of Achievement Honor. Of the more than 3,300 board members in Ohio, only 77 received this honor in 2013. Pictured with them are OSBA Northeast Regional President Julie Schafer and OSBA State President Charlie Wilson.



Frank Mahnic, Jr.



Tony Hocevar

## State Support Team-Region 3 Implementing Teacher-Based Teams (TBTs)

Shared accountability and distributed leadership also extend to the work of teacher-based teams at the school level. Data teams, which are teacher-based grade level/content area teams, are a natural extension of the work of the district leadership team and building leadership teams.

Collaboration within and across teams is the highest level of functioning on a continuum of how information, knowledge and working together operate in any organization. The goal is for collaborative teams at the district, building and classroom levels to operate at a high level of effectiveness with the ability to do the following:

- Implement procedures for the effective use of data to assess the impact on student learning and to make decisions about teaching and learning;
- Organize and present data in ways that identify gaps and trends in student performance and require intentional decisions regarding curriculum, instruction, assessment, interventions and professional development; and
- Use data to monitor progress in meeting indicators for the building and at each grade level that are designed to close achievement gaps and contribute to the success of all children.

In order for TBTs to be effective, the following conditions must be present: prepare teachers to work collaboratively, use of protocols to structure conversations, create schedules that support collaboration, make TBT meetings purposeful, define roles and responsibilities, and communicate data.

This work has been the focus of the State Support Team during this school year.

For additional information, please contact:

**Michele Gaski**

SST-3 Director of School Improvement  
Curriculum and Assessment

[michele.gaski@esc-cc.org](mailto:michele.gaski@esc-cc.org)



## NorthCoast Business Advisory Council (NCBAC)

The NorthCoast Business Advisory Council (NCBAC) held their March 7, 2013 meeting at the Ahuja Medical Center at University Hospitals in Beachwood. Bobbie Lindenbaum, NCBAC Coordinator, welcomed nearly 30 guests to the meeting. Sam Lucarelli provided an orientation to the medical center and tour of the facilities. The agenda also included engaging presentations by Jim Weisman, Vice-President at BioEnterprise, and Dr. Daniel Ducoff, Associate Dean, School of Engineering, Case Western Reserve University.

For more information about the NCBAC and its programs, please contact:

**Bobbie Lindenbaum**

NCBAC Coordinator

[bobbie.lindenbaum@esc-cc.org](mailto:bobbie.lindenbaum@esc-cc.org)

216-407-2902



## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual FIRST Buckeye Regional Robotics Competition

The Wolstein Center at Cleveland State University was once again the site for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual FIRST Buckeye Regional Robotics Competition, March 28<sup>th</sup>-March 30<sup>th</sup>. The Buckeye Regional is a spectacular student robotics competition that promotes the STEM fields: science, technology, engineering and math and adds the soft skills of teamwork, sportsmanship and gracious professionalism.

The ESC's NorthCoast Business Advisory Council and the FIRST Buckeye Regional Competition Planning Team came together on Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> for a VIP luncheon to celebrate this competition. Guests were able to view the competition from the loge and were invited into the "pit" and the competition floor.

The robots are designed and built in six weeks (from a common set of parts) by teams of high school students and mentors. The students program and remotely control the robots in competition rounds. Fifty-two high school teams from Northeast Ohio and around the country participated in this year's challenge entitled "Ultimate Ascent." The Buckeye Regional is one of 50 regionals that are hosted in the United States and in foreign countries.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is the vision of Dean Kamen, an inventor, entrepreneur and tireless advocate for science and technology. His passion and determination to help young people discover the excitement and rewards of science and technology are the cornerstones of FIRST.

The Buckeye Regional Planning Team is chaired by Ann Heyward, Vice President of Ohio Aerospace. The Team works diligently year round to secure the funding, volunteers and sponsors necessary to host an event of such a large magnitude.

For more information about FIRST, go to:  
[www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)

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