

The ESC Connection

Winter 2011

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

Educating Serving Communicating

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Focus on Leadership!

2011 Spring Leadership Series: Becoming a Learning Organization

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

Leadership Matters! It takes vision, great people skills and the ability to think strategically. During these turbulent times, it also takes great courage. For educational leaders, it means being equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to nurture talents, motivate others and, more importantly, improve student achievement. The ESC of Cuyahoga County, in partnership with the State Support Team-Region 3 was pleased to present our 2011 Leadership Series, Becoming a Learning Organization. Drawing from nationally recognized leaders in the field of school change, the series, that was held for the past three months, focused on three areas of need that impact schools of all types, sizes and student population. Sessions were held at the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center.

Session I: Closing the Achievement Gap, presented by Dr. Joseph Murphy, Frank W. Mayborn Chair of Education and Associate Dean at Peabody College, Vanderbilt University.

Session II: Continuous School Improvement, presented by Dr. Mark Smylie, Professor of Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Session III: Trust Matters: Leadership for Successful Schools, presented by Dr. Meghan Tschannen-Moran, Associate Professor in the College of William and Mary School of Education.

Session IV: From Research to Action, Dr. Sharon Kruse, University of Akron, synthesized the ideas presented by Drs. Murphy, Smylie and Tschannen-Moran and discussed how to make these ideas take action within the district.

The Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County

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ESC Connection

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The ESC Overcomes Both Snow and Flood

On Friday, February 25, 2011, the ESC of Cuyahoga County was closed because of a snowstorm. Three days later, the first floor of the main administration building at 5811 Canal Road was damaged due to flooding. Although not as extensive as the flood experienced in 2006, there was enough damage to temporarily close the office for a few days.

Offices have been relocated to the second floor and the administration is using one of the conference rooms. Our phone system is working and meetings/workshops are still being held. Unfortunately, we are still awaiting parts for the elevator.



The ESC staff appreciates your patience as we restore and refurbish our first floor offices. Our plan is to be back in "new" offices by May 1, 2011 or sooner.



OSBA Spring Leadership Academy

By **Paula Kucinic**, *Director of Professional Development and Outreach*

Strong leadership at all levels is vital in creating a strong learning organization. These innovative seminars are one of the best opportunities for superintendents and their board members to learn about their unique roles, responsibilities, and to sharpen their skills on effective governance, leadership, management, and teaching and learning. The ESC of Cuyahoga County, in collaboration with The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA), is pleased once again to provide four new leadership training opportunities for superintendents and school board members.

February 23, 2011 – Governance Toolbox: Board Ethics and Trust.

March 16, 2011 – Leadership Toolbox: Communication–Internal and External Best Practices.

April 4, 2011 – Management Toolbox: 21st Century Skills – What Does It Mean for Board Members?

May 10, 2011 – The Teaching and Learning Toolbox: Social Media – What We Need to Know and How We Can Work With It.

Participants may choose to register for individual sessions or for the entire academy. The sessions are held at the ESC of Cuyahoga County Administration Building, 5811 Canal Road, Valley View, Ohio, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. The programs are free. For information or to register, contact:

Bonnie Bertschinger

216-901-4229

bonnie.bertschinger@esc-cc.org.

Common Core State Standards

By **Aireane Curtis**, *SST-3 Consultant*

In June 2010, the State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics as well as the revisions to Ohio's academic content standards in science and social studies. The standards will be effective when newly aligned assessments are implemented in several years.

The revised standards show a reduction in content to provide teachers the ability to teach topics in depth and provide real world connections to the learning. Also, connections will be available to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students as well as 21st century learning skills. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is releasing a model curriculum with resources for teachers to utilize in their classrooms and help guide instruction and assessments. These items, along with a new assessment system are all part of the revised standards that will take affect for districts in just a few short years.

The ESC of Cuyahoga County is working with the ODE to provide professional development to administrators, teachers, parents and community members to update stakeholders on current information that will impact teaching and learning in the classroom.

Sessions were held in November and December to update stakeholders on what information ODE has currently released. Additional professional development sessions will be held in the spring for administrators, teachers, parents and community members. These sessions will be held at the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center. Dates will be posted on the ESC website as they are made.

Teacher Transition Programs Regional Resident Educator Information Session – Part I

By **Michele Shrefler**, Coordinator,
Teacher Transition Programs

The Ohio Resident Educator is a four-year program of support and mentoring scheduled to begin in August 2011. The residency program is designed to be research-based and adaptable to the diverse contexts of Ohio's districts, including rural, urban and suburban settings. The ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted one of the six Resident Educator Information Sessions scheduled regionally for district teams comprised of the Superintendent/designee, a principal and the RE program coordinator or lead mentor. The ESC session was held during morning or afternoon sessions on February 8, 2011 at the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center in Valley View. Registration was through STARS. Contact :

Michele Shrefler
at 216-901-4231
michele.shrefler@esc-cc.org.

Regional Master Teacher Training/Licensure Overview Meeting

By **Michele Shrefler**, Coordinator,
Teacher Transition Programs

This session provided an overview of the new licensure structure with focus on the senior and lead professional educator licenses and an update on the alignment of the master teacher program with the new licenses. The meeting was held on March 10, 2011 at the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center in Valley View.

UGIVE.org Update

By **Molly Dull**, UGIVE.org Coordinator

UGIVE.org, the free volunteer website especially for high school students, has really been taking Greater Cleveland by storm the past five months! We are currently an important resource for service learning and volunteer work in almost 50 schools across the area, and 400 students are on the site looking for new ways to engage in their communities every day.

The passionate and eager students of Northeast Ohio have committed 425 hours of service to 50+ organizations looking for helping hands in various communities. With 2011 bringing winter doldrums, the official "Semester of Service," and the Ohio High School Athletic Association's "March to a Million" campaign, UGIVE.org and its three Cleveland VISTAs are gearing up for a whole new wave of excited young volunteers ready to make a positive impact!

Thank you for all the support you, as educators and investors in the future, have shown. We look forward to continuing our mission of empowering, catalyzing, and exciting YOUR students in YOUR communities through a culture of service!

Ready to get involved, too? Visit UGIVE.org to sign up for free, or contact:

Molly Dull
216-901-4256
molly@ugive.org.



Meet Our ESC Staff



Sue Coughlin
Administrative Assistant

Sue Coughlin was born in Brooklyn, Ohio and was the youngest of four children. She attended St. Augustine Academy and after graduating worked as a bookkeeper for a downtown law firm.

With the arrival of her two sons and daughter, Sue became a “stay-at-home” mom. While her children attended school at St. Thomas More, Sue dedicated many hours to the school’s PTU as their treasurer. She started an aftercare program at the school through grants received from Catholic Charities. This program continues to support parents and students at St. Thomas More School today.

After leaving the aftercare program, Sue worked in the Office of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Cleveland. Sue was promoted to the position of Administrative Assistant for the Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools and the Finance Coordinator for the Diocese of Cleveland. One of the things that she enjoyed most about this role was the people with whom she worked and the variety of responsibilities that were a part of this position.

Sue came to the ESC of Cuyahoga County in 2007 as the Administrative Assistant for the Praxis III Center. With the introduction of the Transition Resident Educator program, Sue became Administrative Assistant for the ESC and State Support Team 3.

Sue is the proud grandmother to five-year old Madison and enjoys spending her free time with her. Sue is looking forward to the birth of her second granddaughter this May and the wedding of her youngest son in September.



Wayne Gibson
Coordinator of Gifted
and Talented Services

Wayne Gibson’s entire professional life has been influenced by aspects of education. He has worked as an educator from

preschool to secondary. His father was a secondary administrator so Wayne has a rich background in the needs and evolution of education. He received his undergraduate degree from Baldwin-Wallace College and his Masters in Administration and Supervision from Kent State University. He is also certified in Gifted Education.

Wayne developed an interest in gifted instruction during its infancy. He was a founding member of this department in the Parma City School District. He has received three different grants and initiated programs in Mathematics, Science and Test Preparation as a result of these grants. He has served as President and Treasurer of GCCG (Greater Cleveland Coordinators of the Gifted) and has been a presenter at the Ohio Council of the International Reading Association and the World Future Society conferences.

Wayne and his spouse, Cheryle, a Diagnostic Reading Specialist, reside in Broadview Heights. They spend a large part of their summer in Chautauqua, New York, where they enjoy water sports and the wonderful cultural atmosphere of the Chautauqua Institution.

Wayne is an avid sailor, power boater and sports enthusiast. His free time is spent doing cabinet making. At present, he is stringing a harpsichord that he is proud to have made from scratch.

Family and Civic Engagement Presentations at Ohio Conferences

By **Jennifer Dodd**, Coordinator of Research and Planning

The ESC of Cuyahoga County, in collaboration with the Family and Children First Council (FCFC) of Cuyahoga County, has been partnering with school districts across the county to implement Family and Civic Engagement (FCE) teams in response to House Bill 1. These teams bring together the schools, parents, community and business members, and health and human service partners. A team representing the ESC presented this work in Cuyahoga County at two statewide conferences during fall 2010. The team included FCE representatives from the ESC, FCFC, **Brooklyn City School District** and **Parma City School District**.

In October, the team was invited to join the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) in a panel discussion at the Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Programs (OAASFEP) Fall Conference. This panel presentation gave audiences an overview of the state FCE requirements, while providing a

comparison of county-level FCE work in Cuyahoga County and Hamilton County.

In addition, the team presented at the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Capital Conference in Columbus in November. This presentation, geared towards superintendents and board members, shared state FCE requirements and county-level partnership efforts, but also included more in-depth information on how two school districts, with different backgrounds and demographics, went about the practical implementation of family and civic engagement in their districts.

Both presentations were very well received, and using conference feedback, the county team is now looking at ways to expand partnerships across counties, develop additional resources and continue presenting Cuyahoga County's work in family and civic engagement to state and national audiences.

Advanced Course for Response to Intervention (Rtl): A Blueprint for Implementation (K-12)

By **Meghan Shelby**, SST-3 Consultant

Eight districts, including over 20 schools, are participating in an advanced course on Response to Intervention (Rtl) implementation offered through State Support Team 3 and the ESC of Cuyahoga County. The first two days of the series (October 19 and November 30, 2010), facilitated by SST-3 consultants Ross May and Meghan Shelby, Ph.D., focused on helping districts to design and implement Rtl models that will effectively address the academic and behavioral needs of all students. Guidance was provided on developing buy-in and consensus for Rtl, developing an infrastructure to support the model, as well as specific procedures for implementation at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. Two local school districts, **Euclid City Schools** and **Cuyahoga Falls City Schools**, presented and shared their own experiences in implementing a tiered system of supports, including lessons learned along the way.

On the third day of the series (February 22, 2011), Dr. Michael Rettig, the founder of School Scheduling Associates, presented models for developing master schedules that allow for team collaboration and intervention/enrichment time within the school day. Dr. Rettig has served as a consultant on scheduling issues with over 750 school districts across the nation. Teams participating in the series scheduled individual sessions with Dr. Rettig to create new master schedules to allow them to effectively implement Rtl.

School districts participating in this series include **Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Garfield Heights, Orange, Parma, Shaker Heights, South Euclid-Lyndhurst**, and **Strongsville City Schools** and **St. Mary's School** in Berea.

The ESC at eTech Ohio

By **Nadine Grimm**, Program Manager

A team from the ESC of Cuyahoga County attended eTech Ohio's annual educational technology conference held from January 31st through February 2nd at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. At the three-day conference, over 6,500 attendees had the opportunity to acquire resources, network with peers, and learn best practices about advancing learning through technology. Etech Ohio presentations focus on how technology is used across the educational spectrum, how technology can positively impact students' progress, bring together campus collaborations, and provide educators with professional development that emphasizes how technology serves as a resource for educators.

This year's theme of Learning through Innovation was an appropriate topic for a presentation about the use of innovative mobile applications for teaching American History being developed by teachers who are participating in a Teaching American History grant that is managed by the ESC. Nadine Grimm, ESC Program Manager for *Constructing, Consuming and Conserving America*, and Erin Bell, Technical Coordinator for Cleveland State University's Center for Public History and Digital Humanities, talked about the collaboration between their institutions and the Western Reserve Historical Society that is providing professional

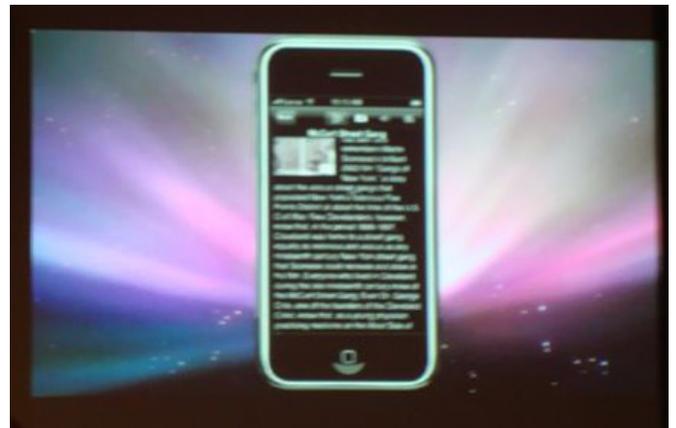
development for more than 60 teachers from 24 districts in Northeast Ohio. Their presentation, *Out of the Classroom and Into the Community: Mobile Applications for Teaching American History*, recounted how this professional development program is training teachers and their students to use digitized primary resources, such as historical photographs and Google maps of historic areas of a city, to create historical walking tours of their own neighborhoods. Teachers write narratives about historical sites accompanied by photographs or videos, and their students produce oral histories and provide links to websites that highlight the topics of the tours. The files are provided to the general public for walking tours or general interest via a free downloadable ClevelandHistorical mobile application that is under development through Cleveland State. Some additional uses for the applications may be to create educational games or scavenger hunts of museum collections. The presenters surveyed the audience at eTech Ohio to gather additional ideas for educational uses of such mobile applications.

If you are interested in exploring Web 2.0 and "smart technology" mobile applications for teaching and learning in the 21st century for social studies or other disciplines, contact:

Nadine Grimm

216-901-4243

nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org



Grants

Refugee School Impact Competitive Grant

By **Steve Rogaski**, Director of Special Education

The ESC of Cuyahoga County, **Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Lakewood City Schools** and **Parma City Schools** submitted a competitive federal grant application for federal monies to provide programs and services annually to their almost 500 school-aged refugee children and their families. We are pleased to announce that our efforts were rewarded with the announcement that our Refugee School Impact competitive grant application was selected and the award amount for

2010-2011 is **\$253,041.00**. The grant proposal was for a three-year period, withstanding any changes in federal funding. The total grant allocation amount for these school districts will be **\$759,123.00**, ending in 2012-2013.

Congratulations to Natividad Pagan (**Cleveland Metropolitan School District**), Kathe Stack (**Lakewood City Schools**), Lynn Brayler and Pam Edmonds (**Parma City Schools**) and Steve Rogaski (ESC) as the co-authors of this successful collaboration among school personnel and the children and families who are positively impacted.

CCC America Explores Environmental History

By **Nadine Grimm**, Program Manager

Constructing, Consuming and Conserving America, the Teaching American History grant administered by the ESC of Cuyahoga County, is in its third and final year of providing professional development for social studies teachers. During October 2010, teachers learned about the environmental history of the U.S. from a noted historian at the University of Cincinnati, Prof. David Stradling. His lecture about *The Burning River, Carl Stokes and the First Earth Day* focused on local and regional history. An all-day workshop included American landscape art that focused on themes of the natural environment, the impact of humans and industry on the environment, and political and environmental reform movements. From the Western Reserve Historical Society's archives, teachers read letters written by school children during the 1960s indicating their concerns

about pollution in the Cuyahoga River and other hazards to the environment. The themes of environmental history, the progressive era, and conservation continued during December's book discussion of *Down to Earth* by author David Steinberg. Teachers considered how they might introduce these environmental themes into their classroom curricula.

Spring workshops for CCC America will cover the topics of oral history and developing and using mobile applications and other smart technologies in the classroom. Contact:

Nadine Grimm

216-901-4243

nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org.

CCC America teachers reading letters at the Western Reserve Historical Society written by Cleveland school children about the first Earth Day.



Gifted & Talented Consortium News



Highlighting Gifted and Talented Events

By **Wayne Gibson**, Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Services

The school districts of the gifted consortium have thus far participated in the GPS workshop (Chagrin Reservation), Leadership Workshop, Hyland Software Shadowing Experience and Peaceful Solutions (Beck Center). On January 11, 2011, students from

Cuyahoga Heights and **Richmond Heights Local Schools, Bedford,** and **East Cleveland City Schools**

participated in a Public Speaking Workshop held at the Independence Branch of the Cuyahoga County Library. Lisa Ryan from Appreciation Strategies conducted this workshop for the 39 high school students who attended.



Over 160 students from seven districts participated in the EQUATIONS competition at the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center on February 3, 2011. Students from grades four through eight had been developing their skills since last winter preparing for this competition. Students from **Bedford, Garfield Heights, North Royalton, Rocky River, South Euclid-Lyndhurst** and **Westlake City Schools** competed for awards provided by Hyland Software. **Bedford** was the first place district followed by **North Royalton** and **South Euclid-Lyndhurst City Schools**.



In addition, high school students from **Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools, East Cleveland,** and **Rocky River City Schools** shadowed at Hyland Software in February. There will be an additional opportunity in April or May. Middle school students will be attending a seminar on the fine arts at the Beck Center in Lakewood on March 23, 2011.

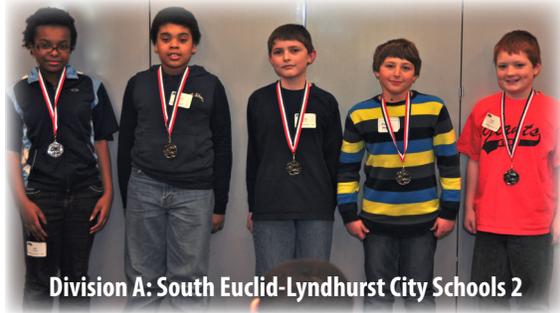
More photos from Equations and Hyland Software can be found on page 9.

Gifted & Talented Consortium News

Division Winners of EQUATIONS



Division A: Bedford City Schools 1



Division A: South Euclid-Lyndhurst City Schools 2



Division B: North Royalton City Schools 3



Division B: North Royalton City Schools 4



Division C: Bedford City Schools 4



Division C: Westlake City Schools 2

Hyland Software Shadow Experience



**Districts
Represented:**
Cuyahoga Heights
East Cleveland
Rocky River

Itinerant Preschool Program

By **Kim Haupt**, Special Education Supervisor

Preschool is the place where we learn all we need to know to get along in life. Be nice, share your toys, making friends is a wonderful thing, and it is a toss-up as to whether recess or snack is the best time of the day. In addition to those life lessons, teachers manage to squeeze in the ABCs, the 123s and a myriad of other skills that lead to success in kindergarten and beyond. What happens though when a child just doesn't make friends, can't share toys, doesn't develop in the same way as others of the same age? Often times, following interventions and an evaluation, a child will begin to receive special education services. Notice that the student receives special education services, not that the child is placed in a special education classroom.

We, as educators, have often heard the mantra: special education is a service not a place. Special education services can be delivered and must be delivered in the Least Restrictive Environment. When a preschool child is qualified for special education services the IEP team must consider where those services will be delivered. A child doesn't necessarily need to be placed in a center-based program if the same services can be delivered in the child's current setting. The Itinerant Preschool Teacher can provide

services in the home, in a preschool program administered by a public school, or in a community-based preschool or child care program. This includes Head Start programs.

Many districts provide center-based programs but few are able to manage the programmatic challenge of providing special education services on an itinerant basis. The ESC of Cuyahoga County can assist districts in meeting this challenge. Districts may contract with the ESC to provide a certified and experienced Preschool Intervention Specialist. This Intervention Specialist can provide instruction, develop IEPs, intervene in behavior issues, consult with center staff and develop modifications and adaptations to assist the student in learning the lessons of preschool. Modeled after the current Itinerant Programs for students with Hearing and Visual Impairments, a district may make a referral to the Itinerant Preschool Program by contacting:

Kim Haupt

216-524-3000, ext. 4236
kim.haupt@esc-cc.org

2011: Recognizing Excellence in Education for Students with Disabilities

"Don't Dis My Abilities"

May 6, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**St. Michael's Woodside
5025 Mill Road
Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147**



Photos are from the 2010 event.



Imagine It! Build It! Teach It!

By **Paula Kucinic**, Director,
Professional Development and Outreach

On January 25, 2011, educators attended an “Introduction to Robotics” workshop, sponsored by LEGO Education. During the session, teachers discovered how to teach science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts by using models of real-life robots that enhance student creativity, logic, and problem-solving skills to meet challenges with today’s technologies. In addition, while mastering STEM concepts, participants designed and built fully-functional autonomous robots while working in teams to solve real-world engineering challenges.

Educators came from:

Ashtabula County Educational Service Center,
Cleveland Metropolitan School District,
Gibsonburg Exempted Village Schools,
Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio,
Hope Academy University,
Horizon Science Academy,
Lake Local Schools,
Lorain Preparatory,
Mound Street Academies,
Nardon Hills Schools,
Old Trail School, Piqua City Schools,
Pymatuning Valley Schools,
Rocky River City Schools,
St. Martin de Porres High School and
Wooster Christian School.



WOS: Workforce Opportunity Services

By **Dr. Robert A. Mengerink**, Superintendent,
ESC of Cuyahoga County and
Jessica Miller, Program Coordinator,
Workforce Opportunity Services



Workforce Opportunity Services (WOS) is a registered, 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation that affords young adults in America's inner-cities, rural, and underserved areas an opportunity to chart their own paths to personal, professional and financial independence. WOS accomplishes this by placing talented, driven young adults in scholarship programs that teach them practical information technology (IT) skills as well as interpersonal skills.

On December 1, 2010, the ESC of Cuyahoga County, in collaboration with WOS, hosted an informational open-house at the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center. The open house was for current high school seniors, recent high school graduates and their parents, and provided them with an opportunity to hear more about WOS and the program.

WOS held a six-week pre-certification program attended by 29 students. Out of those 29, the following top 10 students were selected to continue with the program:

Now that the students have been chosen, the first semester of classes has begun. Classes will be held for 13 weeks on Wednesday and Friday evenings from February 9 to May 20 at Max S. Hayes High School in Cleveland. The focus of the first semester is on academic potential and performance. During this term WOS works closely with students to prepare them for the transformation into the workplace. Students attend classes twice a week and are taught business etiquette, and work and technology skills. By their second semester, beginning in June 2011, WOS will place students in part-time jobs with Eaton Corporation and other corporate sponsors, where they can apply the skills learned in a real world setting. Students become acclimated to the business environment during this semester by working three full days per week and attending classes two evenings per week. Their technology courses relate to work development to further sharpen the students' core skills.

NAME	SCHOOL	DISTRICT
Isaiah Allums	Bedford High School	Bedford City
Reymond Chamorro	Max S. Hayes High School	Cleveland Metropolitan
Derek Ecolano	Lincoln West High School	Cleveland Metropolitan
Michael Green	Max S. Hayes High School	Cleveland Metropolitan
DeVana Jackson	Cleveland Heights High School	Cleveland Heights/University Heights
Mark Konkola	Alumnus: St. Martin de Porres High School	Cleveland Catholic Diocese
Michael Konkola	Alumnus: St. Martin de Porres High School	Cleveland Catholic Diocese
Jeffrey Simms	Alumnus: St. Martin de Porres High School	Cleveland Catholic Diocese
Shanice Simms	Garfield Heights High School	Garfield Heights
Jeremy Southgate	Lincoln West High School	Cleveland Metropolitan

The last semester focuses on advanced skills development and building the students' corporate portfolio. Students broaden the competencies and skills they acquired through WOS and begin working on projects for the company in the first few months on the job. In this phase they continue to work full time three days each week and attend classes two days a week. They attend advanced technology courses in preparation for completion of the certification. Students create a final project representing their mastery of the content of the certification. Upon successful completion, students work full time. Some attend college courses paid by WOS.

The University of Akron has partnered with WOS in Northeast Ohio to serve students who aspire to succeed. Students in the program receive a

certificate of completion in computer technician technologies from the University of Akron. The WOS mission and commitment to employers is to provide them with exceptional IT services. Through the training and mentoring of these young adults, WOS is uniquely poised to offer the services of highly-skilled professional IT consultants to companies. WOS is currently training Cleveland students to provide help desk operations services for Eaton Corporation and other corporate sponsors.

For further information about Workforce Opportunity Services, please visit their website at: www.wforce.org, or contact:

Jessica Miller
Program Coordinator-WOS
513-310-5275
Jessica.miller@wforce.org

A Tribute to our Retiring Superintendents



Dr. Christine Krol, ESC Board Member; Tony Hocevar, ESC Board Vice President; Peter Guerrero, Spt., Cuyahoga Heights Schools; David Laurenzi, Spt., Independence Schools; Roscoe Schlachter, Spt., CVCC; Tony Miceli, ESC Board Member; Dr. Bob Mengerink, Spt., ESC; Carol Fortlage, ESC Board President

Two of the three local school districts that the ESC of Cuyahoga County serves will be saying goodbye to their superintendents who have decided to retire this year. In addition, the superintendent of the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (CVCC) is also retiring.

At the recent Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Capital Conference in Columbus, the ESC of Cuyahoga County honored these three superintendents—Peter Guerrero, **Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools**; David Laurenzi, **Independence Local Schools**; and Roscoe Schlachter, **CVCC**—for their years of service to our local communities.

“These three great leaders have certainly made a significant difference in education,” said ESC Superintendent Dr. Bob Mengerink. “We wish them well. Their work, and indeed their presence, has enriched the lives of students and serves as an example for all.”

Four Graduate From Rose-Mary Center School

By **Lisa Adler**, Special Education Supervisor
Rose-Mary Center

Four students graduated from the ESC Rose-Mary Center School program on Friday, January 14, 2011. Catherine, Ronald, Nicholas and Kendra received diplomas from their districts and Certificates of Completion from the ESC.



Director of Pupil Services Steve Rogaski, Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Felker and two ESC Board Members, Christine Krol and Carol Fortlage, families, friends, RMC staff, bus drivers and many more were in attendance.

Supervisor Lisa Adler welcomed guests and introduced the 2011 winter graduates to their districts and the audience. Kendra's diploma was presented by Judith Wiseman, **Berea City Schools**. Catherine's was presented by Dr. John Opperman, **Highland Local Schools**. Nicholas' was presented by Odessa Johnson, **Richmond Heights Local Schools** and Ronald's by Judy Dell'Aquila, **Cleveland Heights/University Heights City Schools**.



Shelly Benson, teacher of two of the graduates, and her classroom staff worked very hard on a slide presentation of each graduate. Everyone in the audience enjoyed viewing these special pictures of each graduate's activities in school, community and at home with their families. What a great way to celebrate their accomplishments! Kathy Tiedman, teacher of two graduates, helped with planning the event. Part of her commencement speech is included in the quote to the right.

For the past several weeks, all four students began transitioning to their respective Adult Activity Centers (AAC). They visited their new classrooms and met their new staff. They will begin working at the Euclid AAC, the East Cleveland AAC and at United Cerebral Palsy centers.

Congratulations and best of luck to them. We will miss them!

*"If you can't fly then run,
if you can't run then walk,
if you can't walk then crawl, but
whatever you do you have to keep
moving."*
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Summer and Beyond Fair Provides Multitude of Ideas for Summertime Activities for Students with Disabilities

The long winter months leave parents and students yearning for the summer and activities. This familiar task is often a little more challenging for families of children with disabilities. The ESC of Cuyahoga County, in collaboration with The Arc of Greater Cleveland and the Northeast Ohio Parent Mentor Project, hosted "The 13th Annual Summer and Beyond Fair" for families of students with disabilities on Saturday, February 19 at the St. Michael's Woodside Party Center in Broadview Heights.

"Families want their children to experience all aspects of childhood," said Terri McIntee, ESC Family and Community Involvement Consultant. "Many local and regional agencies and organizations offer not only recreational opportunities but also

academic and therapeutic choices throughout the year for students with disabilities," she added.

For some students, nine months of learning is not enough for them to close the achievement gap and sometimes additional academic and therapeutic choices help level the playing field when they return to school in the fall. The fair has become so popular, that parents and educators begin calling ESC in the fall to find out when the fair is being held.

More than 50 representatives from area camps and organizations were available to answer questions and share information. Families browsed the information tables and picked up their free copy of the "2011 Summer and Beyond Directory" booklet.

