

SPRING 2021

THE ESC CONNECTION

A DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER OF NORTHEAST OHIO



Back in Our Classrooms



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dr. Bob Mengerink, Superintendent

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I can't recall another year that I have been more excited to see spring. I know this has been a daunting year for everyone and I hope that some of the seasonal changes, as well as the relief of educator vaccinations, brings some inspiration and motivation to us all. While we have continued to be busy at creating and serving, as you'll see in this newsletter, our entire team has been re-energized by having so many guests in our building throughout the vaccine clinics. This is only the start of a new beginning. Our conference center will soon be active with events and workshops. Our meetings will evolve from virtual to in-person or hybrid. While we look forward to being together, we have also learned new ways of connecting. We have fitted our conference center with cameras to allow for more attendance options for workshops. We have created new touchpoints like virtual "coffee hours" or "lunch breaks". We have launched many new online courses to offer flexibility in learning for educators. Just like all of you, the disruption this year has given us new ways to approach our work that we may never have thought of before.

While *how* we work will continue to change, *why* we work continues to be driven by meeting your needs. I hope every one of you can find time to truly relax this spring and summer and that the start of this next school year brings excitement and joy to all of you. Please don't hesitate to reach out at any time for anything you may need.

Sincerely,

Bob



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Cover photo courtesy of Warrensville Heights City Schools. Their preschool students enjoyed constructing their own beanstalks at the school's STEAM Fair this past winter.

thank you

The ESC Leadership Team would like to thank our friends at Giant Eagle and all of the volunteers from Giant Eagle, our ESC and other partners for helping with our educator vaccine clinic. Our staff, especially, is the heart of our ESC and we couldn't have supported this effort without them. We also wanted to thank our districts and schools for trusting us with this important work. We are so excited to be able to see everyone again very soon! Please stay well and be safe.



Disrupting poverty **IN OHIO NETWORK**

The Disrupting Poverty in Ohio Network is responding to district interests on social justice education and strategies for anti-bias education. Charesha Barrett, founder of CHARPED Consulting, on January 25 presented about the roles implicit bias, cultural competence, and racial equity play in understanding the sources and outcomes of Social Justice Education. Participants learned how to use the Social Justice Standards as a roadmap to create anti-bias lesson plans and activities. Ms. Barrett provided educators with resources to become self-reflective learners, to embrace diverse perspectives, and to create cultures of belonging.

On March 1, Disrupting Poverty Network participants learned about strategies for Anti-Bias Education from Alana Bandos, the Education Director for the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) Cleveland office which serves Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania. Participants

learned about the Pyramid of Hate, a sequence of accelerating incidents or circumstances that begin with biased attitudes and can culminate ultimately in genocide, and the strategies to reduce such behaviors. Ms. Bandos collaborates with principals, school administrators, and faculty at K-12 schools through the No Place for Hate initiative as well as custom anti-bias workshops for groups of staff and student leaders.

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YOUTH CHALLENGE FITNESS CENTER OFFERS RESOURCES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION

By Dana Lambacher, Special Education Supervisor



Youth Challenge Fitness Center in Westlake and Shaker Heights is a hidden gem. Their mission is to bring together young people with physical disabilities and teen volunteers who inspire each other through adapted sports, recreation and social growth activities. At Youth Challenge they believe that despite one's limitations, everyone has the right to play, learn, make friends, have fun and enjoy life in a safe, welcoming environment. No family is ever charged a fee for Youth Challenge services. It is a non-profit started in 1976 and funded through the support of corporations, foundations, and individual donors.

ESC/UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLABORATION

Supports Early IT Program

Businesses in Northeast Ohio are seeking to develop a diverse and highly-skilled workforce for job opportunities in health, manufacturing, and technology sectors. Information Technology, which underpins all of the growth industries in our region's economy, lacks skilled workers. The University of Cincinnati's Early IT Program offers a possible solution that can increase the quantity, quality, and diversity of IT talent.

On March 17, the ESC and the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation co-hosted a program describing the dual credit program providing high school students in grades 9-12 with the first year of college coursework in IT. Prof. Hazem Said, Director of the UC Early IT Program, provided an overview, curricular requirements, and outcomes for students. Districts may opt to collaborate with community colleges or the university to provide credit options for students through CCP, AP, CTAG, or bilateral agreement. Participants learned

about the university's program for high school teachers to become certified to teach the course in their district by successfully earning 18 graduate credits through the university's online competency-based model.

The ESC is exploring possibilities of offering the UC Early IT pathway courses through the ESC's Ohio Online Program that will provide districts with small cohorts of students to offer the opportunity to their students.

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My visit was with an ESC of Northeast Ohio teacher of the visually impaired, Orientation and Mobility Specialist, and Life Skills Coordinator as they accompanied two blind high school boys on a field trip to this facility. They were not strangers to the place as both boys have participated on a team playing goal ball at the center. This time, however, they were there to explore volunteer and career opportunities with the support of their teachers, parents, and district. ESC teachers of the visually impaired and hearing impaired have acquainted many of their students to this wonderful program and facility where they learn independence through adaptive sports, recreation, art, and life-skills training. Check out their website to learn more. About Us - Youth Challenge (youthchallengesports.com)



AN E FOR ME *Opportunity Fair*

The ESC of Northeast Ohio offered “An E for Me Opportunity Fair” for high school students in the first ring school districts in the month of March. This virtual fair focused on education and training, employment, and enlistment and service careers. It was created by the Career Readiness Taskforce of the First Ring Schools Collaborative. There are more than 400 students that participated.

The first session on March 16 focused on education and training. Romona Robinson, TV journalist and motivational speaker, began the session talking to the students about “Building Communication Skills to Aid in Career Development.” Then, Youth Opportunities Unlimited gave a lecture on “Resume Writing Skills and Earning Credentials.” Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) representatives reviewed educational training opportunities and gave an overview of their campus. Finally, Amy Harker, Career and Innovation Specialist for the ESC explained the Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal.



On March 23, students learned more about employment opportunities. Ken Hannaman, the Division Vice President of Arby's talked about the journey from entry-level to vice president and why early employment opportunities begin to build

a person's resume. Then, Rich Thoma Area Supervisor for Inspired Brands (a multi-brand restaurant company) along with Hiring Manager for Cedar Point Kim Francesangelo talked about interviewing skills and tips. Following these speakers, 20 businesses were available to discuss summer opportunities for employment.

Attendees were encouraged to bring their digital resume and be prepared for interview opportunities to follow the employment discussion.

During this session there was a drawing for 30 students to meet with Jimmy Malone, radio personality with iHeart Radio, after the event to participate in a mentoring opportunity.

The final session took place on March 30 and covered the topic of enlistment and service careers. The event began with a service career



COMPANIES THAT WERE HIRING:

Arby's, Burger King, Burlington Stores, Cedar Point, CVS Health, Dominion Energy, Dunkin Donuts, Fast Track, FedEx, GetGo, Giant Eagle, Home Depot, Lowe's, McDonald's, Orlando Baking Company, Residence Inn Cleveland University Circle/Medical Center, RTA, Speedway, Target, YMCA

panel discussion with Cleveland EMS, firefighters, police, Ohio Highway Patrol and the Cuyahoga County Sheriff. A discussion followed about the Department of Defense's ASVAB Career Exploration Assessment. Also included in this session was a military panel discussion with the Air Force, Army, Marines, and Navy. Finally, there was information shared about the Military Enlistment Seal and military options for graduation requirements.

First Ring Districts that participated included Bedford, Berea, Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Cuyahoga Heights, Garfield Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid Lyndhurst, Parma and Warrensville Heights.

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OHIO ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAM EDUCATES MORE THAN 5,500 STUDENTS IN 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

The Ohio Online Learning Program (OOLP) will celebrate nine successful years serving Northeast Ohio school districts at the end of the 2020-21 school year. During this uncommon year, OOLP's scope went beyond Northeast Ohio and into school districts around the state to help fill the need of online education for their students during the pandemic. Ultimately, OOLP helped more than 5,500 students take online courses in the safety of their homes but remain students of their home districts.

The program continues to serve an integral part of the ESC of Northeast Ohio. As online education evolves so does OOLP, continuously searching for options that will benefit Ohio students. Outside of core and general electives, the program offers AP and honors courses, and with a growing interest in career technical electives, the program offers hundreds of courses, and one possible idea in the works. It is called the Early IT Program through the University of Cincinnati (U of C), and in partnership with the ESC, this opportunity would allow high school students to complete their first year of their undergraduate degree and obtain automatic admission to U of C. More information to come on this possible venture.

OOLP is currently finalizing plans for summer

and the 2021-22 school year. Summer options will include credit recovery courses and booster courses to help 6-12 students gear up for the next school year. There may also be options for K-5 students who need English language arts and math remediation. This fall, districts will still be able to choose from two instructional models- content and instructional support or content only, and a large selection of course offerings for their students. As always, the entire OOLP team will be prepared to support districts, students and families!

Kajal Brazwell
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EDUCATOR QUALITY



Evaluation Systems Trainings

The Educator Quality department has been responsive to providing flexible options for professional learning due to COVID-19. All evaluation systems trainings (OTES 1.0, OPES, OSCES, OTES 2.0 New Evaluator and OTES 2.0 Bridge Trainings) have been transformed into primarily asynchronous self-paced coursework with synchronous collaboration/discussion supplemented using Zoom.

Evaluation Updates

OTES 2.0

Prior to implementation, all evaluators will need to complete OTES 2.0 Evaluator Training and pass an online assessment to earn their OTES 2.0 Credential. The trainings are differentiated based upon your experience with teacher evaluation. If you were credentialed as an evaluator under the OTES 1.0 model (need not be current) you are eligible for the OTES 2.0 Bridge Training. Those new to evaluation will enroll in the OTES 2.0 New

Evaluator Training. Registration for OTES 2.0 trainings is through the Training and Registration app of the OH|ID portal.

OPES 2.0

OPES 2.0 is currently working its way through the state approval process. It was reviewed by stakeholder groups in 2020-2021 with potential optional implementation in 2021-2022. Legislative code for the evaluation of principals states that the policies and procedures should align with those established for teacher evaluation. OPES 2.0 has revised its framework, levels of performance, model, and criteria for the use of HQSD to align with the OTES 2.0 model.

If you have any questions regarding educator evaluation or would like to review a copy of the OPES 2.0 Draft Model, please contact:

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NORTHEAST OHIO BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

On December 3, the ESC's Business Advisory Council members learned from Barb Dottore, Director of the Trinity High School Dr. Thomas M. Maher Pre-Professional Internship Program, about how students in grades 9-12 experience work-based learning opportunities. In grade 9, all students participate in career development courses providing them with business etiquette, skills development, CPR training, and Microsoft Suite training. In grades 10-12, 260 students spend one day weekly serving as interns in area businesses. The school offers three paths—Graphic Design, IT, and Healthcare—in addition to its College Prep program. Two alumnae shared their experiences as student-interns and the outcomes for their chosen careers in Healthcare.

The Business Advisory Council hosted two presenters for the March 4 program: Kristin Kerestman, Avery Dennison Leadership Development Program Specialist for the Early Career Sector, and Kelly Broscheid, Assistant Director of the University of Cincinnati's Early IT

Pathway program. Avery Dennison focuses on four business areas: Pressure Sensitive Labels, Retail Branding, Graphic Solutions, and Industrial Healthcare Materials. The company values corporate social responsibility, diversity and inclusion, and providing a safe workplace for employees. Avery provides summer internships for college students with mentors from senior management who help interns to set goals to promote their growth, performance and success. Employment areas include finance, sales, operations, R&D, IT, supply chain, marketing, and human resources. Ms. Broscheid presented an overview of the University of Cincinnati's Early IT Program for high school students, grades 9-12, that provides an accelerated IT pathway resulting in completion of first year college courses while in high school. The program provides dual credit options and COOP to fund college tuition. The program can be taught by high school teachers who earn 18 graduate credits and are authorized to teach the dual credit program.

ESC EXPANDS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Northeast Ohio has many strengths--it drives 40% of Ohio's economy, and it is the 15th largest market in the U.S. It has a regional workforce of two million. In an ongoing effort to support our districts and Northeast Ohio with its future workforce needs, the ESC of Northeast Ohio's Business Advisory Council (BAC) is partnering with Knowtion, Inc., to form the Northeast Ohio NextWork Consortium. The consortium currently is comprised of eight piloting districts including, Barberton City Schools, Chardon Local, Crestwood Local, East Cleveland City, Fairview Park City, Rocky River City, Streetsboro Local, and Wickliffe City Schools. NextWork is an experiential learning

platform that offers a virtual approach for connecting business with potential employees, resources, internships, externships, site visits, job shadowing opportunities and professional speakers.



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ESC OF NORTHEAST OHIO RECOGNIZED AS THREE-STAR BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL BY OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria together with Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted recently recognized the ESC of Northeast Ohio's Business Advisory Council with a Three-Star Award. The award is for engaging with schools and collaboration about business and workforce needs, as well as educational programming that responds to those needs. The ESC joined nine other recognized organizations around the State of Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Education, in partnership with the Ohio Business Roundtable, Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Ohio chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business, Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio Manufacturers' Association, Ohio Excels, Ohio Restaurant Association and Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, developed Ohio's Business-Education Leader Awards for Excellent Business Advisory Councils. This application-based set of awards recognizes applicants that demonstrate excellence in the three Quality Practices:

- » Excellence in developing professional skills for future careers
- » Excellence in building partnerships
- » Excellence in coordinating career development experiences

"Ohio's Business Advisory Councils work with students, educators and business leaders to set students up for success," said Lt. Governor Husted. "This collaborative effort ensures that students have the tools they need to prepare for a future in-demand career through initiatives that promote career exploration, workforce development and work-based learning."

"We're so proud of the work these Business Advisory Councils are doing, together with their partner schools, to nurture leadership qualities and important workplace readiness skills in students and contribute to the talent pipeline for businesses. It's a real win-win proposition," said DeMaria.

PASSPORT **School Program**

Guiding Extraordinary Individuals Toward a Future of Hope

Students of The Passport Program, located in Chesterland, had a productive fall and winter of learning. Everyone is looking forward to spring as well as the program's graduation on May 28. Congratulations to Robert and Ky'Shawn who will be graduating and transitioning to an adult day provider.

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Ky'Shawn will be graduating on May 28 at 1:30 p.m. He came to the Passport school program in August 2007. He is an East Cleveland student and is in Rob's class. He enjoys toys that make noise and is often caught making funny noises to his classmates.

Cody works with Haley at the group home to sequence a sentence. Lisa models "I look at books" and Haley repeats the sentence.



Robert is also graduating on May 28. Robert joined the school program in August 2016. He is a Cleveland student and is in Brad's class. His favorite activities are bouncing on a therapy ball and splashing in the pool. Both Robert and Ky'shawn will be transitioning to an adult day provider after graduation.





Brad is reading Ryan a story, *Time to Sleep*. Ryan is using photo cards to answer questions and identify the main ideas of the story.



Civia (SLP) works with Rocketta to find and match the same colored item. Rocketta participates in weekly teletherapy with 1:1 assistance in her group home.



Brad models a four piece vocational packaging task. Cody provides 1:1 instruction to Kishan at the group home as he packages a plastic place setting (fork, knife, spoon and napkin).



Gabe works with Rob to recognize and spell his name. Gabe enjoys 1:1 time with his new teacher.



The plants from the horticulture garden outside the classroom window were brought inside. Gabe watered the plants with Rob while Rhonda (OTA), Delana, Pete (volunteer), Mary (TA) and Mark participated virtually.

CAPSTONE ACADEMY

The Capstone Academy students have been participating in weekly virtual specials classes in art, physical education taught by our art specialist, massage therapist and music specialist.

The Capstone Adapted Physical Activity (APA) program supports the students' understanding of fundamental motor skills and movement patterns as well as provides opportunities to engage in physical activities. During APA videos, students



Michael engaging in virtual art classes.

have been reviewing locomotor skills as well as components of physical fitness. Students have also been learning about the circulatory system and the role in physical activity.

Lessons end with videos from GoNoodle, an online educational platform designed to get students moving.

The Capstone Art program provides opportunities for students to explore a range of dance concepts, genres, and styles of movement. Students also learn about visual art concepts and produce art



Alontae engaging in virtual art classes.

using a range of media. Current art lessons are focusing on formal ballroom and line dancing as well style and form. Additionally, students are expressing personal style through hanging art creations. Students choose themes, color schemes, subject matter and décor for their unique pieces.

The Capstone Music program engages students through playing instruments, singing or moving to music from across genres. Students have opportunities to listen to music of various and contrasting styles, composers, and cultures. Students are exposed to a variety of musical elements such as tempo, rhythm and pitch. The younger students have been learning about counting, rhyming and sequencing using songs. The older students have been learning about songs related to travel, kindness and weather.

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THE NEED FOR HIGH-QUALITY HOME VISITING HAS ONLY INCREASED

Early Childhood Home Visiting looks a little different right now, but is still helping families connect to resources, reduce stress, and prepare young children for school, all at no cost to families. In response to Ohio's stay-at-home order, Help Me Grow and its Home Visiting programs have moved services out of the home to videoconferencing and phone calls.

For families with young children or pregnant women, Home Visiting continues to provide tools

and resources to give children all across Ohio the best start in life. This is especially important for families that are vulnerable during this uncertain time. Bright Beginnings, as Help Me Grow's Central Intake and Referral, can connect families to programs and services that meet their needs.

Our outreach staff can provide Help Me Grow materials that can be included in your district's school lunch distributions. Email info@helpmegrow.org for more information.



ESC CLEVELAND PROJECT SEARCH

The Cleveland Project Search site recently established a relationship with MetroHealth Hospital System. The Nursing and Patient Transport Departments also have hosted our interns. Internships are coming to an end, and the Nursing Department decided to celebrate K'mone Bouldin's achievements by throwing him a going-away party! For 10 weeks, K'mone was responsible for clearing food trays and retrieving drinks for patients, maintaining the linens and laundry room, and sanitizing shared staff spaces. K'mone's going-away party was full of laughter, cake and pizza. A staff member even custom made K'mone a "champion" mask and shirt.





Bedford City Schools Spearheads Effort to Create Community Resource Room for Residents



In times of hardship caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic, it is imperative that we come together to serve and help one another. To that end, the Bedford City School District has set up a Community Resource Room at Bedford High School, which is stocked with supplies that families may need to help get through this difficult time. The district is grateful for its partnership with the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), who have generously donated a washer and dryer, clothes, shoes, school supplies, and toiletries to assist families in our community. These donations are now housed in the Community Resource Room. In addition, we received CARES Act funds this year, through a grant from the ESC of Northeast Ohio, earmarked to assist families in our community who are in need due to the pandemic. With the funds

from this grant, we were able to buy many other supplies for the resource room, such as canned foods, toiletries, breakfast items, laundry detergent, and additional clothes, shoes, and school supplies. These funds also enabled us to help out more than 50 families over the holidays with deliveries of food, toilet paper, paper towels, antibacterial wipes, toiletries, clothes, shoes and gift cards to Target, Giant Eagle, Sam's Club and Walmart.

Currently the district social workers will oversee this room to distribute supplies to our families. Should you find yourself in need of supplies or know of a family in the district who has a need, please do not hesitate to contact any of our schools and ask for the school social worker.

Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools Launches Technology Student Mentorship Program



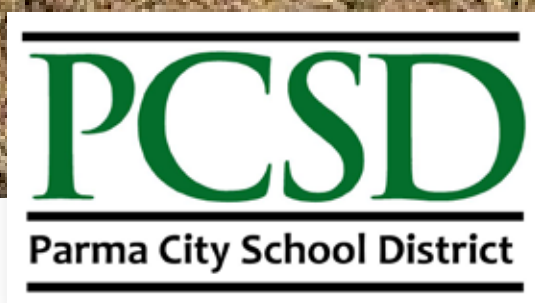
Thanks to the CTE Partnership funding from the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, Cuyahoga Heights Schools IT Department has launched a Technology Student Mentorship Program aimed at engaging students in AV applications and computer hardware and software support. From school plays to school help desk service, these students are contributing to school and community while building interest in Arts & Communication and Computer Networking.

Brooklyn City Schools Launches Digital Learning Academy



The Brooklyn City Schools is excited to announce the launch of the Brooklyn Digital Learning Academy (BDLA), an innovative hybrid learning option featuring both in-person and remote learning formats. Instruction will be delivered by certified Brooklyn City Schools educators and staff using the same curriculum offered to students in a traditional classroom setting. Students will have the opportunity to learn at their own pace with flexible schedule options in a physically safe environment. The BDLA is open to all District students entering

grades 10-12 for the 2021-22 school year, with options available for 9th graders receiving permission from the building principal. Interested families are asked to make a commitment to the BDLA for a full semester and submit their online application to the High School principal no later than April 15, 2021. For more information and to complete an application, please click here to visit the Brooklyn Digital Learning Academy page, located under the Schools tab on the District homepage.



Parma City Schools Nutrition Services Earn State Recognition

Parma City School District's Nutrition Services Department takes pride in providing high-quality meals for families during this difficult time, and their hard work has not gone unnoticed. Recently, the department was named the Children's Hunger Alliance Summer Meal Program District of the Year.

"It's wonderful to receive this recognition," said Nutrition Services Supervisor Robert Gorman. "The staff has done an outstanding job in the pouring rain, extreme heat and now the freezing cold snow. And it's not just my team, it's been a collective group effort of administrators and volunteers of the Parma City School District working together."

Founded in 1970, Children's Hunger Alliance is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to ending childhood hunger, according to information from their website. They partner with organizations throughout Ohio to provide nutritious meals to at-risk children who need them most.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nutrition Services has been providing seven breakfasts and seven lunches to over 1,500 children a week. As they approach the one-year mark of food distribution, they are closing in on providing one million meals. "I really like how we have been able to implement a lot of local companies, local foods and local produce into these meal distributions. We are not only helping our families, but we are also supporting our local businesses in our community and local farmers," said Gorman.

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank has been instrumental in the twice-a-week distribution program, as well as local businesses like Dough Go's, Perla Pierogies and Spice Field Kitchen. Nutrition Services gives out hundreds of gallons

of milk each week and receives 35 to 40 pallets of food from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

"At the beginning of the pandemic, believe it or not, food was very hard to come by. So, a lot of our partners were really able to help us out," said Gorman.

There is an educational aspect to the meal distribution program, such as sending out recipes, teaching students where their food is coming from, and how to grow their own food. For example, the program partnered with the Parma Council of PTAs in the summer to provide families with tomato plants to grow their own tomatoes. "All summer long I would get photos and emails of students growing their own tomatoes and harvesting their tomatoes," said Gorman.

Farm to table initiatives have always been important to Gorman, and he continues to find ways to implement them not only in schools but also at home. "Students should know where their food comes from, how it is grown, how it is harvested, and what it looks like before it is made into something," said Gorman. "When kids know how it's produced, where it came from and if they even grow it themselves, they are more likely to eat it."

Looking to the future, when students are back in the buildings full time and it is safe to do so, Gorman said he will be happy to see the salad bars back for students to enjoy. "Something else I am really proud of is working with Oberlin Food Hub to offer hydroponic lettuce, heirloom cherry tomatoes, multi colored carrots, whole watermelons and multicolor beans," he shared. "The more excitement you can generate over fruits and vegetables, the more likely students are going to want to learn more about them and want to try them."

Bay Village Schools Launches Diversity Champion Certificate Program with Tri-C's Corporate College

By Karen Utthe Semancik, Communications Director, Bay Village City Schools



When Dr. Holly Schafer was hired as Bay Village City School District's first-ever director of human resources in June 2019, one of her first goals was to create a more holistic approach in developing faculty and staff in the areas of culture, diversity and hiring. Schafer soon reached out to Cuyahoga Community College and its Corporate College team to inquire about professional development honoring diversity.

After developing an understanding of Schafer's goals for the district's nearly 500 employees, Tri-C's team of Westshore Dean of Academic Affairs Bob Searson, along with Tri-C's Corporate College's Jody Wheaton and Geraldine Weiser, got to work in developing a diversity and inclusion training program where both Bay Village Schools' certified and classified employees could earn certification.

Next, Schafer applied for grant money for the diversity certification program via Corporate College's TechCred process so as many faculty and staff members as possible could participate in the program. "We were excited to receive funding for two of the four grants that Bay Village Schools applied for," said Schafer. "We appreciated all the support Corporate College provided throughout the TechCred application process."

Launched on November 18, 2020, the partnership offers a live, six-hour virtual Diversity Champion

Certificate Program, "focusing on developing the skills necessary to lead by example as inclusive colleagues, and to create inclusive and equitable learning environments for students," said Wheaton, Corporate College's executive director of client solutions and programs.

Fifteen Bay Village Schools' faculty and staff signed on for and completed the inaugural certification program, ranging from social studies teachers to the district's superintendent, Jodie Hausmann. The newly minted team was recognized at the January 25, 2021 Bay Village Board of Education meeting, with Board Vice President Dave Vegh honoring each employee with a certificate. "Once our students gain both perspective and empathy, then change can begin," said Vegh.

It didn't take long for that to happen. Shortly after receiving their certifications, the 15 honorees were part of a team that created a robust initiative for Black History Month called the 28-Day Challenge. Faculty, staff, students, parents and community members were encouraged to participate in a month-long series of assignments and events that included virtual museum visits to places like the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia, to reading books and poems by Black authors, to volunteering for local nonprofits. Those completing the 28-Day Challenge earned a digital badge for their efforts.

“We had created an internal Diversity and Equity Committee last summer, which includes faculty, staff, students and community members, but we knew we wanted to do more,” said Schafer. “With our newly launched Diversity Champion Certificate Program, we can.”



“We already have our second group registered for the next six-week program. I’m so proud of the commitment our faculty and staff have made to honor an equitable and inclusive culture within Bay Village Schools.

**- Jodie Hausmann,
Superintendent, Bay
Village Schools**



Bay Village Board of Education Vice President Dave Vegh honors Bay High School Social Studies Teacher Kelly McCrone with a certificate after completing the district's new Diversity Champion Certificate Program with Tri-C's Corporate College



Bay Village Board of Education Vice President Dave Vegh honors Bay Village Schools' Superintendent Jodie Hausmann with a certificate after completing the district's new Diversity Champion Certificate Program with Tri-C's Corporate College

Photos courtesy of Bay Village Schools

South Euclid-Lyndhurst City Schools' Renovations Continue During Pandemic

While most of the students at Charles F. Brush High School were being forced to learn remotely, there was still plenty of activity going on around the building. South Euclid-Lyndhurst City Schools was in the process of renovating several areas around the campus when the pandemic hit, but the construction never stalled.

These improvements were intended to provide collaborative spaces for students from diverse and rich backgrounds in the district to interact. The installation of an innovative Maker Space in a rehabbed Woodshop, the addition of locker rooms and an enhanced field house closer to the athletic field, sweeping renovations to the Media Center and surrounding hallways, a redesign of the cafeteria, as well as the opening of a student-run “Wifi Cafe” are among the highlights of the project.

A few of the new additions are intended to complement the school's STEM program and award-winning Robotics Club, while others were

aimed at improving the overall function of the building. They will all enhance the students' physical experience in the building. Brush High School's Maker Space and pioneering Innovation Lab provide a unique learning opportunity, so that students have the chance to develop real-world skills such as problem-solving and critical thinking with hands-on experiences with new technology such as 3D printers, laser engravers, gaming computers and more!

A goal of the project was to keep the heritage of the school intact, while creatively integrating areas with state-of-the-art design and technology; the cafeteria now presents itself more as a food court than a serving line, and the hallways have collaborative spaces directly built in where there used to be banks of unused lockers. The district is proud of the progress and excited now for the students to be able to experience all of the changes that have taken place while they were gone!







We build bridges for ...

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

CURRENT CLIENT DISTRICTS:

Akron Public Schools
Aurora City Schools
Barberton City Schools
Bay Village City Schools
Beachwood City Schools
Bedford City Schools
Berea City Schools
Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools
Brooklyn City Schools
Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools
Chardon Local Schools
Cleveland Heights-University Heights
City Schools
Cleveland Metropolitan Schools
Crestwood Local
Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools

East Cleveland City Schools
Euclid City Schools
Fairview Park City Schools
Garfield Heights City Schools
Independence Local Schools
James A. Garfield Local Schools
Kenston Local Schools
Kent City Schools
Kirtland Local Schools
Lakewood City Schools
Maple Heights City Schools
Mayfield City Schools
Mentor Exempted Village Schools
North Olmsted City Schools
North Royalton City Schools
Olmsted Falls City Schools

Orange City Schools
Parma City Schools
Ravenna City Schools
Revere Local Schools
Richmond Heights Local Schools
Rocky River City Schools
Shaker Heights City Schools
Solon City Schools
South Euclid-Lyndhurst City Schools
Streetsboro City Schools
Strongsville City Schools
Twinsburg City Schools
Warrensville Heights City Schools
Westlake City Schools
Wickliffe City Schools
Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools

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