

The ESC Connection

Fall 2010

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

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Race to the Top

By Dr. Robert A. Mengerink, Superintendent



On August 24, 2010, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that Ohio is one of 10 states to receive a grant award in round two of the Race to the Top competition. The competition is designed to reward states that are leading the way in statewide education reform, and it emphasizes the following four key areas:

- *developing and adopting high quality common standards and assessments that build and support college and career readiness, and include assessments that are designed to measure critical knowledge and higher-order thinking skills;*
- *supporting and building data systems that measure students' growth and success, inform decisions and improve instruction;*
- *recruiting, developing, retaining and providing high-quality pathways for teachers and principals; and*
- *intervening with innovative and effective approaches to turn around low performing schools.*

Districts that agreed to participate in Race to the Top will submit a scope of work in late October to the Ohio Department of Education. Ohio has proposed 15 strategies to support and implement its four-year \$400 million plan. The Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County is one of the largest agencies of its kind in the State of Ohio, servicing 31 school districts, two joint vocational school districts, 64 community schools, and partnering with numerous agencies and universities. On behalf of the ESC and our staff, I would like to extend our congratulations and offer our continued support to the Ohio Department of Education, our school districts, and to the educational community.



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Fifth  First:
Ohio's Race to the Top



ESC Connection

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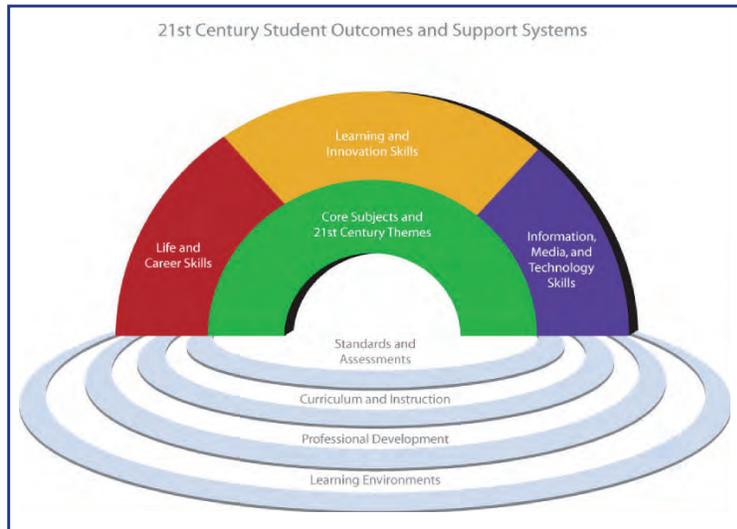
ESC Staff

Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County Becomes a 21st Century Skills Professional Development Affiliate

By Paula Kucinic,
Director of Professional Development & Outreach

During Fall of 2009, Ohio joined the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, a national advocacy organization promoting 21st century readiness for every student. The partnership focuses on integrating critical thinking, problem solving, and higher order skills into core curricula to improve educational outcomes.

During the past year, individuals from the ESC of Cuyahoga County participated in the Professional Development Affiliate Program hosted by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. The objective of the affiliate program is to ensure 21st century readiness for every student by establishing a network of professional development experts. During training, our ESC team acquired a firm understanding of *The Framework for 21st Century Learning* and learned how to fuse the 3Rs (reading, writing, mathematics) and the 4Cs (critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration and creativity) into our own professional development work.



The *Framework for 21st Century Learning*, which describes the knowledge, skills and expertise students must master to succeed in work and life, presents a holistic view of 21st century teaching and learning. The key elements of 21st century teaching and learning are portrayed in the accompanying graphic: strong educational support systems (represented by the pools at the bottom) provide the foundation for successful student learning, skills and outcomes (represented by the arches of the rainbow). Learn more about the Partnership and the *Framework for 21st Century Learning* at <http://p21.org/>.

Teacher Transition Program

By Michele Shrefler, Coordinator, Teacher Transition Programs

The ESC of Cuyahoga County provides resources and support to 87 beginning teachers and their mentors from 14 districts and five community schools through the 2010-2011 Transition Resident Educator Program. This program also assists beginning teachers in satisfying state licensure requirements for advancing to a five-year professional license.

Beginning teachers and their mentors use formative assessment tools focusing on professional growth over time as well as strengthening problem solving skills used within the classroom. Beginning teachers meet five times during the school year to analyze student data, review lesson plans collaboratively, and discuss instructional practices that work. Related professional development and book study are also provided as a component of the program. Mentors meet three times a year to review

program guidelines, discuss and practice mentoring skills, and plan next steps with the beginning teachers their support.

The ESC also offers Instructional Mentor training regionally to Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain and Geauga Counties. This training provides an overview of Ohio's Formative Assessment System for beginning teachers and the Transition Resident Educator Program requirements. This training also focuses on the needs of beginning teachers, mentoring skills, and language and practical application of the tools used with beginning teachers in Ohio.

For more information, contact **Michele Shrefler**, at 216-901-4231 or michele.shrefler@esc-cc.org.

First Annual Response to Intervention (Rtl) Summer Institute

By Meghan Shelby, SST-3 Consultant

The first annual Response to Intervention (Rtl) Summer Institute was held at the Wolstein Center at Cleveland State University (CSU) from August 3rd to August 5th. The Institute was a collaborative effort by the ESC of Cuyahoga County, State Support Team-Region 3 and Cleveland State University in order to better support district teams in Cuyahoga County as they implement Rtl. Over 250 people attended, including many teams from school districts in this region, and the response from participants was very positive.

During the event, three nationally recognized researchers gave keynote presentations—Dr. Douglas Reeves, founder of The Leadership and Learning Center; Dr. Anthony Muhammad, president of New Frontier 21 Consulting; and Dr. Edward S. Shapiro, professor at Lehigh University. Dr. Reeves shared his current research on the importance of leadership for building and sustaining systems change. Dr. Muhammad spoke about the importance of understanding the dynamics of school cultures in order to ensure a positive environment that

supports all students. Dr. Shapiro shared information about a partnership among several universities in Pennsylvania, the U.S. Department of Education, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and local school districts as they developed and implemented a statewide framework for Rtl.

Dr. Cynthia Lemmerman, associate superintendent for the Center of School Improvement at the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) presented new information on federal and state school improvement efforts. Dr. Stan Heffner, associate superintendent for the Center for Curriculum and Assessment at ODE led breakout sessions on Ohio's revised academic content standards. There were breakout sessions on the basic components of Rtl including assessment, positive behavior supports, and leadership. Several sessions, demonstrating the link between research and practice, were co-presented by CSU faculty and school personnel from local districts. Four school-based teams from local districts shared their experiences in implementing Rtl.



State Support Team Region 3

Family and Community Involvement Consultants Offer Technical Assistance

by Terri McIntee, SST-3 Consultant

Family and Community Involvement Consultants from State Support Team-Region 3 (SST-3) are available to answer questions, offer technical assistance and provide trainings for families of students with disabilities, ages 3 through 21, in Cuyahoga County. The SST-3 staff helps families develop the skills needed to ask questions, work through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process and build on-going working relationships with their school districts. Free monthly evening trainings are available to assist in building these relationships and fostering positive parent engagement.

Also, the SST-3 facilitates a monthly Family Council that meets the third Friday morning of the month. This council is made up of local parent mentors and family representatives. Any parent in the region is welcome to attend. The meetings host a monthly speaker. Please check the calendar of events for upcoming programs and trainings available to families at <http://esc-cc.org/public/calendar/index.cfm>.

For more information, phone 216-524-3000 and ask to speak with one of the Family and Community Involvement Consultants.

New Services Offered by the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County

By Michele Gaski, Director of School Improvement, State Support Team-Region 3

In survey data compiled from school district personnel within Cuyahoga County, respondents consistently expressed the need for support in areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. In response, a new department has been established at the ESC of Cuyahoga County comprised of two educational consultants who will provide services in those areas. The new consultants who have joined the ESC and State Support Team-Region 3 (SST-3) this fall are Aireane Curtis and Andrew Pinney. Both consultants are available to provide educators within Cuyahoga County high quality professional development opportunities and resources in the areas of new Ohio content standards, pedagogy, and formative assessment.

Aireane and Andrew also will serve with other SST-3 team members as external Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) facilitators. For the 2010-2011 school year, these facilitators will continue the work of the OIP-Stage 3 Implementation and Monitoring, as well as provide additional professional development for district and building leadership teams in establishing Teacher-Based-Teams. Also, SST-3 consultants have obtained extensive professional development in Stage 4-Evaluation of the OIP plan. Finally, facilitators can assist districts to align their OIP work with the expectations outlined in the Race to the Top scope of work.

SST-3 Consultant services are offered to:

- facilitate improvement of instruction and assessment in the classroom;
- develop curricula;
- assist with the selection of textbooks and other materials;
- facilitate professional development sessions with teachers and/or administrators;
- assess educational programs for quality and for adherence to the Ohio core standards;
- assist in implementing new technology in the classroom;
- provide support in analyzing and interpreting district data (i.e., report card, measure-up, state performance plans [SPPs], achievement data, value added, etc.).

For services available, contact:

Michele Gaski: 216-446-3812 or michele.gaski@esc-cc.org or
James Rohlik: 216-466-3816 or james.rohlik@esc-cc.org.

Meet Our ESC Staff



Aireane Curtis
SST-3 Consultant

The ESC of Cuyahoga County welcomes Aireane Curtis as a new consultant for State Support Team-Region 3 (SST-3). Her areas of concentration include value added, as well as services in curriculum,

instruction and assessment. She has experience leading districts through curriculum mapping, pacing, textbook review, and curriculum audits.

Aireane graduated from Otterbein College with a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1999. She received her master's degree as a Mathematics Specialist in December of 2002 from Kent State University. Additional coursework was taken at Salem International University, and she was awarded the Educational Leadership Certificate in June, 2008. Currently, Aireane holds licensure in Ohio as a teacher in grades 1-8, as well as licensure in curriculum, principal K-12, and superintendent.

She began her teaching career in the South-Western City Schools in central Ohio before relocating to Northeast Ohio. Aireane has taught in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and in the Streetsboro City Schools. Prior to her current position at the ESC of Cuyahoga County, Aireane worked for four years as a curriculum consultant for the Portage County Educational Service Center. As a district's federal programs director, she has experience writing Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plans (CCIP). Aireane teaches value added courses to the Evaluation and Measurement cohort at Kent State University.

In her spare time, Aireane enjoys spending time with her husband Clay and three kids, Mitchell, Reilly and Mallory, as well as playing tennis and scrapbooking.



Andrew Pinney
SST-3 Consultant

Andrew Pinney has joined State Support Team-Region 3 (SST-3) at the ESC of Cuyahoga County. In this new position, Andrew is responsible for facilitating school districts through the Ohio Improvement Process

(OIP) and for developing and delivering professional development and technical assistance for school personnel. Andrew's areas of educational expertise are content area literacy, formative assessment, higher-order thinking skills, and other research-based classroom practices. His expertise also includes curriculum mapping and development of common assessments.

School districts and teachers should call upon Andrew for support in any area of curriculum, instruction, or assessment. Such support might include selection of textbooks, facilitation of professional development sessions, assessment of educational programs for adherence to the Ohio core standards, or mentoring of teachers.

Prior to joining the SST-3, Andrew worked as a social studies teacher, department chair, and instructional coach for Solon City Schools and at Highland High School in Medina County. He currently consults for MAX Teaching, a staff development company focusing on school and student improvement. The ESC and SST-3 welcome Andrew Pinney to the staff.



Field Experiences Highlight Local History

By Nadine Grimm, Program Manager

During *Constructing, Consuming, and Conserving America's* second Summer Institute, 38 teachers considered topics of consumerism and American life, the expansion of Cleveland from urban to suburban settings, and landscape as history. Professor Mark Tebeau of Cleveland State University's (CSU) Department of History and historians from the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) presented workshops on immigration and industrialization, and consumerism and commercial life from the early settlement of Cleveland through the present day. In this Teaching American History project, participants are exploring national themes and applying them locally. For example, teachers participated in field experiences that emphasized the industrial history of Cleveland in the Flats area and at the Arcelor-Mittal Steel Mill, while considering immigration, neighborhood expansion, and regentrification during walking tours of Ohio City and Cleveland's Near West Side.

Teachers conducted research of primary resources in the archives of the WRHS and CSU's Special Collections to further develop their web-based history exhibits

and digital posters for classroom use. As a result of the teachers' participation, their students are learning to use primary resources, such as historic photographs, letters, documents, census data, and other archival materials, and historical thinking skills to "discover" history. Projects cover a broad spectrum of topics that respond to Ohio Social Studies standards for different grade levels focusing on national and local history: for example, the history of transportation in Cleveland, urban to suburban expansion, the public square and public consumerism, industrialization and the immigrant labor force, among others. Exhibits are posted at CSU's Teaching and Learning Cleveland website for use by educators: <http://csudigitalhumanities.org/exhibits/exhibits>.

The program is entering its third and final year with 63 teachers participating from 24 school districts in six counties. For information, contact **Nadine Grimm**, at 216-901-4243 or nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org.



Gifted & Talented Consortium News

Student Seminars 2010-2011

By Wayne Gibson, Director of Gifted Education

The Gifted and Talented Consortium of the ESC of Cuyahoga County has scheduled its student seminars for this school year. Along with the "favorites" is a new offering to high school students. On January 11, 2011 Lisa Ryan will be conducting a workshop on public speaking at the Independence Library. Additional sessions at Hyland Software in Westlake will be scheduled after the first of the year. The consortium is looking forward to providing these experiences to the students of Greater Cleveland.

The schedule of events for this year are:

Activity	Grade Level	Date
GPS Workshop	Grades 7-8	September 23 & 24
Hyland Software (1)	Grades 11-12	October 26
Leadership	Grades 9-12	October 27
Peaceful Solutions	Grades 9-12	November 17
Public Speaking	Grades 9-12	January 11
Equations	Grades 4-8	February 2
Fine Arts	Grades 7-8	March 23

Also, districts that are members of the consortium are invited to attend the 2010-2011 Town Hall Speaker Series. Programs begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Ohio Theatre on Playhouse Square. For more information and reservations contact **Nina Stein**, at 216-901-4201 or nina.stein@esc-cc.org.

September 27	<i>Ending America's Dependence on OPEC Oil</i> (T. Boone Pickens)
October 25	<i>Too Big to Fail</i> (Andrew Ross Sorkin)
November 8	<i>Business Sense and Sensibility</i> (Mireille Guiliano)
December 13	<i>Living Life to the Fullest</i> (Ronan Tynan)
January 24	<i>The Art of Leadership and the Business of Social Change</i> (Bill Strickland)
February 7	<i>Electronic Medical Records</i> (John Halamka, M.D.)
March 14	<i>Success Story: A Modern Tale of Love, Neurons and Fulfillment</i> (David Brooks)

For information about the Gifted and Talented Consortium, contact **Wayne Gibson**, at 216-901-4205 or wayne.gibson@esc-cc.org.

GPS Strategies Taught to Local Students

Each fall, eighth grade students from area school districts have the opportunity to go to the South Chagrin Reservation in Chagrin Falls and learn about using a GPS. The program, in its third year, helps students use a GPS to find their way while using problem solving skills. Schools that participated included **Westlake, South Euclid-Lyndhurst, and Cuyahoga Heights**. Each waypoint found earned them ice cream, a bowl, spoon, and different toppings for a sundae.



The Cleveland First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative

By Marty Motsco, Facilitator

The Cleveland First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative and the ESC of Cuyahoga County have entered into a new partnership that will enhance the goals and effectiveness of each organization. In 2000, 12 superintendents from school districts surrounding the city of Cleveland formed the collaborative to address the unique challenges of first ring school districts, such as poverty, mobility, changing demographics, and other factors that impact the achievement gap. By 2007, three additional districts joined the collaborative, bringing the total to 15.

The collaborative's core purpose is to strengthen the leadership capacity of superintendents through networking and peer support, professional development, advocacy, and strategic initiatives. Superintendents meet monthly to discuss common issues,

share best practices, and develop action plans that address the needs of their students and families. Another goal of the collaborative is to enhance the networks of colleagues in similar roles, such as curriculum directors and pupil services directors, within districts to address issues of mutual concern.

The collaborative oversees several major projects including the First Ring Leadership Academy, a student wellness initiative, a welcoming project, and more! These efforts are supported by the Cleveland and Gund Foundations, the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, participating school districts, and the ESC of Cuyahoga County.

For information, contact **Marty Motsco**, at 216-901-4245 or marty.motsco@esc-cc.org.

Members of the Cleveland First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative:

Bedford
Berea
Brooklyn
Cleveland Hts.-University Hts.
Cuyahoga Heights
East Cleveland
Euclid
Fairview Park
Garfield Heights
Lakewood
Maple Heights
Parma
Shaker Heights
South Euclid-Lyndhurst
Warrensville Heights

UGIVE.org: High School Service Made Easy

By Molly Dull, UGIVE.org Coordinator

This August, Cincinnati-based UGIVE.org, a non-profit organization that seeks to make philanthropy and volunteerism relevant to students, sent three AmeriCorps VISTA members to work out of the ESC of Cuyahoga County. Since then, the three young women—Katie Brahaney, Kristina Mielke, and Molly Dull—have been reaching out to nonprofit organizations and schools in Northeast Ohio to promote a culture of service to the community.

UGIVE.org is a free website that connects high school students with nonprofits and aims to promote meaningful volunteer opportunities that empower and excite youth to become life-long givers. On the website, nonprofits are able to post opportunities for which they need volunteers and the students are able to choose the ones that meet their interests, requirements, or curiosity. This enables students to get the most out of their philanthropy while also providing enthusiastic, interested volunteers for the

organizations doing great things for greater Cleveland.

It is easy and free for school administrators, high school students, and charities to sign up! Visit <http://www.ugive.org/>, click on the button that best describes you, and fill out the requested contact information. Then, you can begin browsing events or posting opportunities to volunteer. UGIVE also keeps track of volunteer hours, making it easier to manage student volunteer hours or to use that information for grants or school requirements. UGIVE.org is endorsed by the Ohio Department of Education for its ability to promote service-learning and community engagement. For information, contact **Molly Dull**, at 216-901-4256 or molly@ugive.org.



AmeriCorps VISTA members: Katie Brahaney, Kristina Mielke, and Molly Dull.