

The ESC CONNECTION



EXPLORING THE ARTS
STORY ON PAGE 12

SPRING 2014

The Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County

Governing Board

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Universities & Colleges • Students • Adult Learners
Families & Communities • Businesses



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Superintendent's Message

By Dr. Bob Mengerink, *Superintendent*

Make Yourself at Home at ESC's New Headquarters



I hope you have had an opportunity to visit the new home of the ESC of Cuyahoga County. In December 2013, we moved to our new facility, Essex Place, in Independence and we are eager to share it with you. As educators, you are charged with one of the most important tasks imaginable—

teaching and guiding new generations of students and their families into an unknown future that is full of opportunities. In light of this, we feel that you deserve to have access to well-designed spaces that encourage professional growth and district progress through meetings, workshops and other events in our first floor conference center. When you visit our staff on the third floor, our open concept was also created to make everyone

feel welcome and engaged with our whole team to inspire creative solutions to meet any of your needs. We also continue to invest in partnerships with agencies to share our space to increase access and promote collaborative support for districts. In addition, we have strategically planned the fiscal aspects of our transition so that our changes do not increase the costs of operating our facilities. More importantly, leasing our second floor space will offset all operating costs and generate additional revenue, allowing the ESC to invest even more resources into high-quality services to districts.

If you have not yet had a chance to visit, we look forward to seeing you soon. And, as always, if you need assistance or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our ESC team.



New Employee Spotlights

Kim Sperling



Kim Sperling is the Fiscal Services Officer for the ESC of Cuyahoga County. Kim's primary responsibility is accounting for the federal, state and local grants. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from University of Mount Union.

Kim has over 13 years experience working for governmental entities. Kim lives in Olmsted Township with her husband, Keith, and children Kyle and Kallie.

Christina Kowalski



Christina Kowalski is an Administrative Assistant/ Receptionist for the ESC of Cuyahoga County. Prior to working at the ESC, Christina served as the secretary for Taxpayer Advocate Services, a division of the Internal Revenue Service. She worked at the IRS for more than four years, including a position as a tax law customer service representative.

She and her family reside in North Royalton. She has been married to her husband for eight years. He is a seventh grade English and Language Arts teacher. She has a son (6 years old) and daughter (3 years old) who keep Christina very busy. She enjoys time with her family and leisurely days at home.

Ron Zybura



Ron Zybura is the career and technical education consultant for the Northeast and adjacent Regions. He has his M.Ed. and Ph.D. from Kent State University. He has served as a Career/Tech Job Training Coordinator, Special and Regular Education Teacher (elementary through

college), School Principal, and Group Home Director. Ron was a regular participant and presenter at the University of Chicago's Midwest Objective Measurement Seminar with the purpose of developing user friendly measurement processes to identify needs and assess growth. Ron and his wife Ginny live in the Middleburg Heights community as do Jeremy, Jenny, and Jessica, their adult children. They have recently become the proud grandparents of Breckan.

Ron is active in Faith and Light International, a support, faith-based group for parents, friends, and individuals with disabilities. Pastimes include gardening, swimming, cycling, and investing (American Association of Individual Investors).

Electronic Teacher – Principal Evaluation System (eTPES) Superintendent and Principal Trainings

Trainings for superintendents and principals were held in September and October 2013 and recently in February and March of 2014. These trainings focused on system set-up and calculating student growth measures that account for 50% of the teacher and principal evaluation ratings under the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) and the Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES) beginning in the 2013-2014 school year for many districts and schools. The information provided participants with an overview of the electronic system and its components. It offered a hands-on approach to learning so that there was minimal work for the administrators to complete once they returned to the district.

Under current legislation for the teacher and principal evaluation systems, an evaluation must be completed annually for each teacher and principal. This evaluation must be completed by May 1st and a written report provided to the teacher or principal by May 10th. Each evaluation consists of two formal observations of at least 30 minutes and classroom walkthroughs.

Data submissions for the 2013-2014 school year:

- eTPES data submission deadline is June 15th at 11:59 p.m.
- eTPES will be closed at 12:00 a.m. June 16th and users will not have access to it until the new eTPES school year begins in July, 2014 for the 2014-2015 school year.

Please check out www.ohiotpes.com for the latest updates and required forms list for the 2013-2014 school year. For further information about eTPES implementation and training support for your district/school provided through the ESC of Cuyahoga County, please contact:

Sharon Novak
216-446-3808
sharon.novak@esc-cc.org

ESC Board Members Receive Award of Achievement

On March 5th, ESC of Cuyahoga County Board Member Tony Hocevar received his fifth Ohio Award of Achievement from the Ohio School Board Association (OSBA). ESC Board Member Frank Mahnic, Jr. received his seventh Ohio Award of Achievement. Out of some 3,300 school board members statewide, only 58 received this award this year. In addition, Mahnic received his 15-year award of service as a school board member.

OSBA's annual Award of Achievement program recognizes Ohio public school board members who work hard to become better board members. They earn credits toward the award by enrolling

and participating in workshops and conferences, volunteering for service to their association and working on behalf of their own board.



Frank Mahnic, Jr.



Tony Hocevar

Global Education

The ESC hosted the fourth Ohio Global Teacher Institute in August attended by 125 K-12 and university educators, community members, and presenters from business and non-profits with global connections. The purposes of the Institute were to enhance global content knowledge and cultural competencies to foster excellence in teaching. Teachers who attended the Institute applied for mini-grants to enhance teaching about global issues or developing global competencies among their students. In December, six teachers presented about their classroom projects at a Global Teacher Showcase. **Orange High School** teachers and students presented about their Denmark exchange and language project and the impact the project has made on students' firsthand experiences in another country and culture. **Collinwood High School** students are developing an Oral History and Archives project focusing on alumni of the school and their neighborhood's changing immigrant populations. At **Richmond Heights Secondary School**, art students created a mural with environmental themes illustrating Lake Erie, wind energy, and the lake as an international boundary that is a shared natural resource between Ohio and its Canadian neighbors. In **Cleveland Heights-University Heights**, middle school students participated in a communitywide arts program, as well as a project providing potable water to countries in Africa. Programs were supported by The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation.



Recently, Asia Society, and the Longview Foundation held a webinar illustrating Mapping the Nation, an interactive data and infographics repository showing how each state and county compares to the rest of the world in certain categories. With nearly one million data points related to economics, demographics, and education, it demonstrates how prepared states and local communities are to operate effectively in an increasingly interconnected world. On the Ohio page, the ESC of Cuyahoga County is recognized as a leader in Ohio's GlobalEd Network supporting preparation of Ohio's K-12 students and educators as global citizens: www.mappingthenation.net/state-ohio.html.

Local School Districts Continue to Integrate Technology with Curriculum with Help of New Partnership

The ESC of Cuyahoga County has partnered with NORT2H in a pilot project aimed at helping local school districts integrate technology with curriculum and help teachers stay current with new technology. NORT2H is a unique organization within the Lorain County Educational Service Center that provides consultation and professional development to help schools make technology transitions required by the Ohio Board of Education. The main focus is helping schools create dynamic, technology-enhanced lessons using mobile learning devices.

Recently, NORT2H worked with the technology staffs of **Richmond Heights**, **Independence**, and **Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools** in their pursuit of meaningful technology integration.

In **Richmond Heights**, NORT2H trainer Mike Pennington facilitated a three-day “Google Groundbreakers Academy” for administrators and select staff, including discussing how Google can engage students with curriculum. Now Richmond Heights Schools have begun to use Chromebook carts and Google Apps for Education.

In **Independence**, NORT2H Director Dave Miller and Pennington met with Technology Coordinator Carrie Ciofani and the technology team, including teachers. Great things are happening already, and in April, Pennington will host a series of Google Evening Academies for teachers.

Cuyahoga Heights is also a district with a progressive eye on technology in the classroom. With Google Apps for Education already in place throughout the district, Director of Administrative Services Tom Burton and Superintendent Joe Bergant recognize the need to prepare students for a world integrated with technology. Meeting agendas, homework assignments, and the majority of other “paperwork” is now shared digitally in the Google Cloud. The district is working with NORT2H to provide additional professional development that encourages teachers to continue their growth.



Summer and Beyond Fair

The ESC of Cuyahoga County sponsored the 16th annual Summer and Beyond Fair on Feb. 22nd at its new headquarters in Essex Place in Independence.

Hundreds of families explored summer camps and activities for children and youth with disabilities. There were more than 50 booths to explore. Free fingerprinting ID cards were available as well as numerous hands-on activities for the children. The “2014 Summer and Beyond Directory” that lists numerous opportunities for children also was available. The directory is available online at www.esc-cc.org under Newsletters and Publications.



Embrace Your Difference...

Recognition Program to be Held May 16th

The Annual “Recognizing Outstanding Excellence in Education for Students with Disabilities, Peers, and Educators Awards Brunch” will take place on Friday, May 16th from 9-11 a.m. at the ESC of Cuyahoga County’s headquarters in Independence. The program is coordinated by the State Support Team-Region 3 (SST-3), in partnership with the ESC.

There are three categories of nominees who will be recognized:

Outstanding Student Achievement Award - This award recognizes and celebrates students with disabilities and acknowledges their outstanding achievements.

Outstanding Peer Achievement Award - This award recognizes and celebrates the special peer relationship developed by a student with disabilities and their general education peer.

Outstanding Educator Achievement Award - This award recognizes and celebrates the special accomplishments of educators, including teachers, paraprofessionals, educational aides, and their involvement with school-age students with disabilities in Cuyahoga County.

Guest speaker for the program is Justin Bachman. Justin is an 11th grader at Solon High School. Justin knows first hand what it is like to be different. He has Tourette Syndrome, a

neurological disorder that causes his body to make strange movements and noises that he cannot control. He also deals with severe ADHD and dysgraphia, which is a fine motor skills disorder resulting in an inability to write legibly.



Throughout his life, he has faced many challenges. Through great strength and courage, Justin has used his experiences to rise above his differences. Justin’s most noted accomplishment has been the creation of an event called the Tolerance Fair. The event brings together non-profit and resource organizations to help people learn how they can get involved in community service or find resources to help them deal with their differences.

Justin has received numerous awards including the inaugural Peace First Fellowship Prize, Clark-Reliance Youth Philanthropy award, Kohl’s Kids Who Care, and the President’s Volunteer Service Award from President Barack Obama and the Council on Service and Civic Participation, and several others.

Justin has recently created a YouTube talk show called Everyday Differences. This weekly program features people who are different.

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

Equations Math Competition

On February 12th, nine area schools (**Bedford, Brecksville-Broadview Heights, East Cleveland, Fairview Park, North Royalton, Richmond Heights, Rocky River, South Euclid-Lyndhurst, and Westlake**) brought more than 150 students to the ESC of Cuyahoga County's "Equations" math competition. The event took place at St. Michael's Woodside Party Center in Broadview Heights and featured some of the brightest 8-14 year-olds in the region.

"Equations" is a challenging mathematics game played in classrooms around the country that teaches students the critical problem-solving skills needed to recognize and apply fundamental concepts. Awards were given to individuals, winning teams in each grade level division, and to the highest scoring district.



Is your district taking advantage of the programs offered to your students by the ESC of Cuyahoga County?

For more information or to register for upcoming events, contact:
Wayne Gibson, Director of Gifted Education and Transportation Services
216-901-4205 • wayne.gibson@esc-cc.org



Brecksville-Broadview Heights



North Royalton - 1st Place District



Fairview Park & Rocky River



Bedford - 2nd Place District



East Cleveland



Westlake - 3rd Place District



South Euclid-Lyndhurst



Richmond Heights

Exploring the Arts

On March 5th, The Explore the Arts Workshop was held at the Beck Center for the Arts. Students from **Bedford, Cuyahoga Heights, East Cleveland, Independence, Richmond Heights, Rocky River, South-Euclid Lyndhurst, and Warrensville Heights Schools** attended. The annual event allows middle school students to express themselves in several forms of artistic expression. Whether it was improv, mime, drumming, clay, or sculpture, professional artists helped students explore their passions.





Richmond Heights



Rocky River



Bedford



Warrensville Heights



Independence



East Cleveland



Cuyahoga Heights

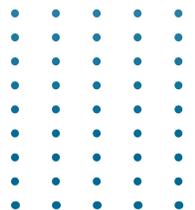
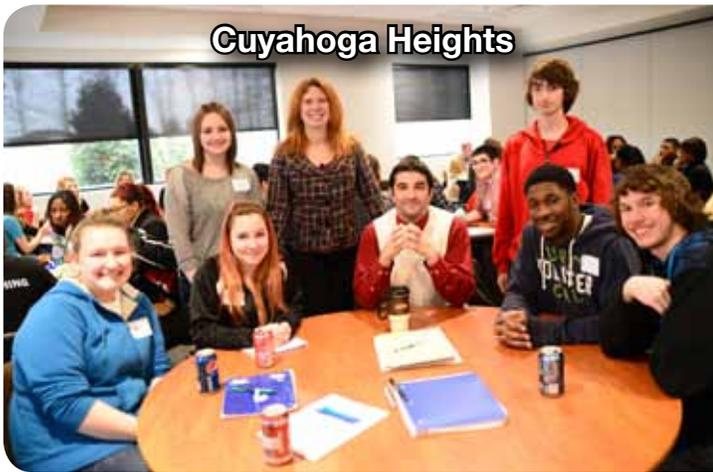
GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

Public Speaking Workshop

Students from **Bedford, Brooklyn, Cuyahoga Heights, East Cleveland, Lakewood, Orange, Richmond Heights, Rocky River, and Warrensville Heights Schools** participated in a public speaking workshop at the ESC of Cuyahoga County on February 4th.

The workshop “Speaking to Win: Mastering the Art of Public Speaking Will Help You in School and in Life” featured keynote speaker Lisa Ryan, President of Grategy. Fear reduction, preparation tips, presentation design, skill development, and winning style were all topics covered in the workshop. The students are now able to use these techniques in various projects in their high school settings and beyond.





Artwork Displayed at ESC Headquarters

The ESC of Cuyahoga County has reinstated our student artwork display in our new building. Currently, we have artwork from **Fairview Park, Independence** and **Orange Schools**. We welcome all districts in Cuyahoga County to contribute to our display.

For further information, please contact:

Nina Stein, Administrative Assistant
216-901-4201
nina.stein@esc-cc.org



Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)

Maryland and Ohio were awarded Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grants in the amount of \$50 million and \$69.9 million respectively, over four years, to support a partnership to revise and enhance both states' kindergarten entry assessment, develop pre-K and kindergarten formative assessments, and to conduct a rigorous review of existing screening tools for young children. These efforts culminated in a new comprehensive early childhood assessment system supported by a statewide technology infrastructure and a professional development system.

The KRA is one component of the new Early Childhood Comprehensive Assessment System (EC-CAS). The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) will replace the KRA-L currently used, and it extends our knowledge of the child because it assesses all six domains and utilizes three different components: observational, direct response, and performance. The KRA includes a technology component that will allow teachers to manage their class and results online. All kindergarten teachers must be trained and pass the simulation test before they can administer the KRA that will be administered between the first day of school or August 18th through November 1st. The SST and ESC of Cuyahoga County have four personnel who are teacher trainers for this program. Several sessions are planned with registration via STARS. Variations of the training include two days face-to-face, two days completely online, or a hybrid version that is one day face-to-face with an online component. These trainings began April 3rd. For information, contact:

Candace Muetzel, SST-3
Early Language Literacy Specialist
216-446-3827
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Third Grade Reading Guarantee Boot Camp

The ESC of Cuyahoga County held a reading “boot camp” for teachers of grades K-3. The two-day workshop concentrated on best instructional practices teachers can use in their classrooms to reinforce phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing. Teachers were made aware of the law requiring the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and how it pertains to decisions regarding retention and teacher qualifications.

Dr. Tim Rasinski, from Kent State University and author of *The Fluent Reader*, spoke about teaching vocabulary and fluency. Teachers explored the use of song to teach fluency and participated in a Reader’s Theatre activity. Teachers learned about research on effective use of “fun” strategies to aid in teaching fluency and realized the power of authentic read-aloud experiences for students that naturally lead to repeated readings that strengthen fluency. Other experts from Kent State included Dr. Belinda Zimmerman and Lisa Baum, who presented strategies, such as the six-word memoir, for teaching of reading and writing. Teachers practiced and reflected on strategies for five areas of reading—phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.



SST-Region 3 Consultant Angie Chapple-Wang shared information about the legislation requiring the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. An important requirement is that students cannot be promoted to fourth grade unless they can read at grade level. Beginning at kindergarten, as students progress through the grades and if they are not reading at grade level, they must be placed on a Reading Improvement Monitoring Plan (RIMP) within 60 days after the diagnostic results indicate that the child has a specific reading difficulty and is in need of support. Other features of the law require that teachers have certain credentials to teach students who struggle as readers. This aspect of the law is being slowly phased in until all teachers have certain credentials by the 2015-16 school year.



Teachers Align High School with Higher Education

The High School-Higher Education (HS-HE) Alignment Program is a collaboration among four universities, five school districts, and a career center to prepare students for college and career readiness, and to alleviate remediation in Mathematics and English for freshmen entering Ohio's public universities. High school teachers participating in the project from **Strongsville**, **Olmsted Falls**, and **Beachwood** districts recently took placement exams in Math and English at Cuyahoga Community College's Eastern Campus Testing Center to better understand what their students need to know when taking college placement exams. As a result of this project, English faculty from Strongsville High School and Baldwin Wallace University are collaborating in a professional development exchange, while the University's students are helping to tutor students at the high school's Writing Center. Beachwood mathematics students are taking placement exams at CCC to identify areas of intervention necessary to better prepare them for college-level coursework. On

April 10th, district and university collaborators presented about their alignment projects at a HS-HE Showcase at the ESC of Cuyahoga County. Rebecca Watts, Associate Vice Chancellor at the Ohio Board of Regents, was a featured speaker updating educators about Ohio's education transformation initiatives.



Carole Katz, Beachwood High School mathematics teacher, and Idrissa Aidara, Cuyahoga Community College – Eastern Campus mathematics professor

TeachOhio

Approximately 50 teachers are in their final term in the TeachOhio program that supports districts with their future staffing needs. Most are studying at Notre Dame College toward their Reading Endorsement certification to satisfy district needs for literacy specialists to support the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Students at Cleveland State University are in the Intervention Specialists program, Math, or Gifted programs. TeachOhio participants recently attended a professional

development workshop at the ESC of Cuyahoga County on the topic of literacy that was presented by Patricia Hines, adjunct faculty instructor at Notre Dame and former literacy specialist in the Warrensville Heights district. Participants learned about specific strategies to help students develop vocabulary and reading skills and received resources to enhance teaching and learning.

Looking for a method to improve the design of your online or blended learning courses? Look no further than this *Quality Matters* Workshop!

K-12 Applying QM Certificate

This class is the pre-requisite to additional QM online trainings which can lead to QM evaluator and QM facilitator certification.

Participants will receive 15 hours of training for **\$50.00! Including One Semester Hour of Graduate Credit** through **Ashland University**

2 Sessions to Choose From!

Session I:

Online Dates—April 29, 2014—May 20, 2014
Face-to-Face Date: May 1, 2014 (4:30 PM—6:00 PM)
Registration begins at 4:00 PM
(limited to 10 participants)

Session II:

Online Dates: May 6, 2014—May 27, 2014
Face-to-Face Date: May 5, 2014 (4:30 PM—6:00 PM)
Registration begins at 4:00 PM
(limited to 10 participants)

The face-to-face dates MUST BE ATTENDED and will be held at the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County, Essex Place, 6393 Oak Tree Boulevard, Independence, Ohio

Audience

Administrators, Curriculum Directors and Teachers, grades K-12, who are interested in exploring how to develop, or who are already using online or blended-learning instruction.

Teams are strongly encouraged! Individual registrations accepted!

Instructor:

Ann Ebersole, WVIZ/ PBS ideastream

Research shows blended and online learning works, but of course, Quality Matters! In this blended workshop, one-day face-to-face and three weeks online, participants will:

- Learn key factors to creating a quality online or blended course
- Know what are the mistakes most teachers make—and how to avoid them—when creating an online or blended course
- See how to spot quality—or the lack of it—in courses which you might be considering for use
- Understand how to evaluate your own course
- Learn how to maintain student interest **and more!**

Registration—\$50.00

To Register, go to www.esc-cc.org

Click on Professional Development, Click on Calendar of Events and then Click on the session dates you would like to attend!



Questions?

Email Tracy Murphy at tracy.murphy@esc-cc.org or call (216) 901-4229

The New Normal: Focused Leadership for Instructional Improvement

ASCD and ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted 2014 Northeast Ohio Regional Leadership Forum

On February 28th, nearly 100 educators from around the county and region participated in a one-day forum featuring ASCD Faculty Member Dr. Patricia Reynolds who spoke on the topic of *The New Normal: Focused Leadership for Instructional Improvement*. Dr. Reynolds is a former principal of an inner city middle school in the Bronx, New York. Under her leadership, her school moved from being a long-term failing school to an exemplary school. She is a frequent coach and mentor for districts and administrators throughout the United States. The books she used as a focus for this session were ASCD's *Principal Evaluation: Standards, Rubrics, and Tools for Effective Performance* by James Stronge and *Turning High-Poverty Schools into High-Performing Schools* by

William Parrett and Kathleen Budge. Attendees received copies of these books.

During this forum, Dr. Reynolds worked closely with the group regarding tools needed for districts to address the expectations in classroom practice, testing, data management, and the leadership it will take to focus on these challenges. Group members participating were asked to bring, and had an opportunity to share, with other attendees, the Promising Practices they are using successfully in their districts. The goal of the Leadership Forum was to share information, challenge thinking and open conversation among administrators.



Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

in Region 3

This school year we have seen an increased level of interest in and support for PBIS in Ohio and in Cuyahoga County. PBIS is a proactive framework of evidence-based strategies and systems that assists schools in creating environments that are predictable, consistent, positive, and safe.

The newly formed Ohio PBIS Network has created resources and tools to support the implementation of PBIS statewide. In Cuyahoga County, State Support Team-Region 3 has been providing professional development, technical assistance, networking opportunities and resources to support our many districts that are at various stages of PBIS implementation.

This year, at least 31 building teams representing seven districts in our county will have participated in the SST-3 PBIS New Team Training series. Four two-day sessions are being offered this

year. In addition, SST-3 has created a PBIS Leadership Network for building/district coaches and administrators to build and sustain PBIS. This is open to staff from buildings who are already implementing PBIS, as well as to people who have been trained this year. Network members will have access to a wiki site devoted to sharing local, state and national resources. This network will also help people make connections and learn from other school staff who are developing PBIS in our region.

For further information about PBIS in SST-3, please contact:

Meghan Shelby, Ph.D., SST-3 Consultant
216-446-3817
meghan.shelby@esc-cc.org

Transition to Teaching

The ESC of Cuyahoga County is collaborating with the University of Dayton to deliver professional development for the University's participants in its Transition to Teaching (T2T) program. The T2T program is preparing district staff with bachelor's degrees in non-education content areas to earn their graduate teaching certification in special needs areas. This spring, SST-Region 3 consultants are leading workshops on Teacher-Based Teams and an online book discussion for educators teaching English Language Learners.

For information about the workshops contact:

Nadine Grimm
216-901-4243
nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org

The University of Dayton's Transition to Teaching program is recruiting a new cohort that begins in May. For information about Transition to Teaching, visit the University of Dayton website: www.ohiottt.org.



Simon Youth North Coast Academy

Simon Youth North Coast Academy (NCA) is using a new curriculum this school year, and it is already getting high marks from both students and administrators. Director Rena Wertheim explained that the new curriculum, called PLATO, is from the same company as the previous program but has been updated to line up with the new state standards.

“It is also more interactive, using more audio and video. I think the students are more engaged,” she said. The students like it because they spend less time just reading pages of text on the screen.

On a recent morning, Shaker Heights student Chuck Johnson was working on an economics assignment. “They put more life into it. There are more activities,” he said. Lawrence Butler, also of Shaker Heights, likes that the new program has more freedom. “It is more trial-and-error than the old software. You learn right away when you get an answer wrong, so you get it right the next time,” he said. “You understand more quickly.” Aaron Williams began using PLATO for a physical science course. “The new system gives more visual examples, and I like to listen to the auditory input,” he said. “It is a lot more visual, and I am a visual learner.”



But Wertheim said more audio and video does not mean the new curriculum is easier. In fact, it has more rigor and is geared to help the students develop critical thinking. “It asks for extended responses. The students are asked to analyze, or compare and contrast. They can’t just take something and memorize it,” she said. “The educators like it because it is pushing the students to challenge themselves. The long term outcome is better prepared students.” Teachers are also on campus to help the students.



Rose-Mary Center School

On January 31st, Rose-Mary Center School graduated two of its students, Chris and Kevin. Family and teachers attended the diploma ceremony. They will be graduating three additional students in June. The Rose-Mary Center School education program is operated by the ESC of Cuyahoga County. Rose-Mary Center School serves students ages 5-22 with multiple disabilities and significant medical needs in a separate facility providing intensive educational and medical programming.



Teachers at the Rose-Mary Center School recently took the “brain gym” class at Notre Dame College. Teachers learned to use simple movements to help access the whole brain by integrating left and right brain functions for a task. The movements improve concentration, memory, reading, writing, computation, organizing, listening, physical coordination, and more. Teachers looked forward to bringing back what they learned to their own students.



NorthCoast Business Advisory Council

Breakfast Meeting at Quicken Loans



The winter meeting of the NorthCoast Business Advisory Council took place on February 20th at Quicken Loans Arena. There was an engaging discussion about a subject of interest to educators and business professionals both personally and professionally, SUSTAINABILITY.

Jenita McGowan, Chief of Sustainability for the City of Cleveland, Dave Karpinski, Vice President

of Operations for LEEDCo (Lake Erie Energy Development Company), and Dr. David Krueger, Director of the Sustainability Degree Program at Baldwin-Wallace University were the guest speakers. It was a morning of networking and interesting dialogue from the area's leading sustainability experts.

The East Suburban Business Advisory Council is now named The NorthCoast Business Advisory Council and has a new home with the ESC of Cuyahoga County. The ESC is a welcome partner because of the center's commitment to providing multi-district service programs identified by school districts as being needed and valued.

The many new initiatives in the Cleveland Metropolitan area make this an exciting time for educators to be a part of a consortium with the proven ability to share resources and ideas with business and industry and leverage the participation of key organizations. Educators are vital to the organization's success in developing a regional council that is an educational model for school/business partnerships.

For more information, contact:

Bobbie Lindenbaum
NorthCoast Business Advisory Council Coordinator
216/407-2902
bobbie.lindenbaum@esc-cc.org

FIRST Robotics Competition



The Buckeye Regional FIRST Robotics Competition was held on March 20-22 at the Cleveland State University Wolstein Center in downtown Cleveland. More than 50 teams and 1,350 students from Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Virginia, Illinois, New Jersey, and California competed in the Aerial Assist_{SM} robotic game. The NorthCoast Business Advisory Council hosted a luncheon for its members on March 21 who were able to experience the event first-hand.

Aerial Assist_{SM} is played by two competing Alliances of three robots each on a flat 25' x 54' field, straddled by a truss suspended just over five feet above the floor. The objective is to score as many balls in goals as possible during a two-minute and 30-second match. The more Alliances score their ball in their goals, and the more they work together to do it, the more points their Alliance receives.

- Teams from our region included:*
- Cleveland Metropolitan School District**
 - Charles F. Brush High School**
 - Berea-Midpark High School**
 - St. Ignatius High School**
 - Lorain High School**
 - Orange High School**
 - St. Edward High School**
 - Hathaway Brown School**
 - Highland High School**
 - Amherst Steele High School**

- MC2STEM High School**
- Avon High School**
- Avon Lake High School**
- Parma Community High School**
- Revere Local Schools**

Sponsors of these teams included:

- 4-H
- Advanced Polymer Coatings Ltd.
- Alphaport
- American Tank and Fabricating Co.
- Balance Product Development
- Case Western Reserve University
- Constellation Schools
- Cuyahoga Community College
- GE Lighting
- GrafTech Corporation
- Highland Robotics
- J.B. Stamping Inc.
- JBC Technologies
- JCPenney
- Lockheed Martin
- NASA Glenn Research Center
- Nordson Corporation
- Parker-Hannifin Corporation
- Pointe Blank Solutions
- Remington Products
- Rockwell Automation
- Rosso Gelato
- SMART Consortium
- Staples
- University Hospitals Ahuja Medical Center
- Wadsworth Real Estate