

The ESC

FALL 2015

CONNECTION

PROVIDING STUDENTS
THE OPPORTUNITY TO
LEARN AND GROW

The Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County



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Universities & Colleges • Students • Adult Learners
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Superintendent's Message

By Dr. Bob Mengerink, *Superintendent*

ESC Experiencing Exciting and Positive Changes



Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have had a wonderful start to this new school year.

Our ESC has seen some exciting changes over the last year with new districts, programs and

services that continue to increase our capacity to serve each of you. While our client districts now span across five counties in Northeast Ohio, we remain open and committed to providing assistance and support to any district that needs services.

“There is no wrong door to finding support at our ESC and you can always contact any of our staff at any time.”

Services and programs developed through the ESC of Cuyahoga are based on dialogue and feedback from our clients to ensure that we are offering flexible support that meets your needs—not our needs. With the relationships our ESC team has developed over the years with area administrators and educators, we hope you will always feel welcome and comfortable to tell us not only how we can help, but how we can help better. There is no wrong door to finding support at our ESC and you can always contact any of our staff at any time.

While our vision is to continue to expand our work and partnerships at the ESC, our priority will always be to make each individual feel as they are a part of a small family of support.

Sincerely,
Bob Mengerink

Congratulations 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recognized 335 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2015 based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. The ESC of Cuyahoga County congratulates **Hilltop Elementary School** in the **Beachwood City School District** (Rebecca Holthaus, Principal) and **Westerly Elementary School** in the **Bay Village City Schools** (Josie Sanfillippo, Principal).

The Department honored all 285 public and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony on November 9-10 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. Each school received an award plaque and a flag as symbols of their accomplishments. In its 33-year history, more than 8,000 of America's schools have received the coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award.



Migration in Global Context

Twenty-two educators from around Ohio participated in the Summer Institute in the Humanities, *Migration in Global Context: History, Narrative and Project-Based Learning*, at the ESC of Cuyahoga County during August. The ESC is collaborating with the History Department at Cleveland State University to present the teacher institute and follow-up workshops during Fall and Spring terms. During the institute, teachers learned from humanities scholars about local, national and international historical, social, cultural and economic consequences of migration within and across countries and continents. Master teachers demonstrated transdisciplinary curricula and project-based learning that engages students in learning about migration themes in the classroom and in their communities. Teachers toured the historic Tremont area of Cleveland that has welcomed waves of immigrants for decades. During AY 2015-2016, the program continues with book discussion, film, and a Teacher Symposium during which participants will demonstrate their curricular units and the active participation of their students.

In preparation for the Symposium, Cleveland Central Catholic High School visual art students, led by Mary C. Brondfield, and North Olmsted High School history students, led by Matt Aber, participated in an interactive program to understand migration patterns and contributions of immigrants within Cleveland's Slavic Village neighborhood on October 22. Prof. John Grabowski of Case Western Reserve University was interviewed by students about growing up in Slavic Village

and the changes he has seen over the years. Students toured historic Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, built by Polish immigrants during the 1800s. The tour was given by choir director David Krakowski and writer Rob Jagelewski. Students had the opportunity to tour the Baxter Road Cemetery, one of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in Cleveland. Author Jeff Morris unlocked the gates to the cemetery and provided students with an up-close view of the tombstones; Morris gave a lecture on the history of the cemetery. The event provided students with an authentic experience of the economic, cultural and historical changes in migration leading up to the present day Slavic Village. Both Mrs. Brondfield and Mr. Aber participated in the program this past summer.

The project is funded in part by Ohio Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, to expand content knowledge through a humanities lens for teachers and their students.

For information and to register for events, please contact: Nadine Grimm, Coordinator of 21st Century Learning 216-901-4243

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Ohio
HUMANITIES
SHARING THE HUMAN STORY



GLOBAL EDUCATION

International Visitors at the ESC

On October 23rd, international educators from Turkey, the Republic of China, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia learned about the myriad services and programs provided by the ESC of Cuyahoga County. The educators represented a broad range of disciplines including English, psychology, science, social studies, special education, curriculum and instruction, and evaluation and assessment. They are currently participating in education programs at Kent State University and are interested in learning about services and programs which typically are not offered in their home countries.

Coordinator of 21st Century Learning Nadine Grimm shared information about the ESC, its mission, services and programs. Communications and community outreach professional Charlene Papparizos provided information about the ways in which schools and the ESC communicate with their constituents about important issues through print, electronic and social

media. Dana Lambacher and Susan Cromwell of the ESC shared information about student special services, such as audio or visual interventions. Mary Wise, coordinator of Project AWARE! discussed mental health services for students and educator training to raise awareness about needs and interventions.

The exchange with international educators will continue in April with the Culture Café hosted at the ESC. For information, contact:

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216-901-4243

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Teaching About Africa Workshop Series

The ESC of Cuyahoga County is collaborating with scholars from Cleveland State and Kent State Universities to present a series of fall workshops focusing on sub-Saharan Africa and the history, cultures and current events shaping the continent. On September 2nd, The Public Humanities and Modern Africa Symposium, co-hosted by the ESC, was held at Cleveland State. Scholars from Africa or whose expertise focuses on Africana history, anthropology, archaeology, art, geography, and educational research discussed the past, present and future of the developing countries on the African continent. On October 22nd, the ESC hosted a workshop on

East Africa, Kenya and the Cleveland-Kenyan History Mobile App Project led by Prof. Meshack Owino, a native Kenyan who is collaborating with scholars in Kenya and their respective students to record the history of public sites in Kenya and Cleveland. It is a model of conducting local history work, but with international implications. Workshops continue at the ESC with West African history and literacy genres and the history of Central Africa cultures and African music traditions with professors at Kent State from Senegal and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

For information, contact:

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[Click here](#) for more info on the Dec. 2 workshop.



Global Arts and Culture: Handmade Papermaking - Octavofest

Pre-school, art, English and reading specialists participated in an Octavofest* event at the ESC of Cuyahoga County making handmade paper in the Western style from cotton fiber and in the Eastern style from kozo fiber. The workshop was one event of Octavofest, a celebration of the book and paper arts that happens annually in October in Northeast Ohio and includes lectures, exhibits, tours and other events. This year's theme was "In the Garden," thus our handmade papers were made from plant fibers provided by artisans from Morgan Art of Papermaking Conservatory. Teachers will use their handmade

papers to make journals, books and posters with their students to enhance reading, writing and art skills.

*The octavo is a traditional book format that refers to the size for pages used in the printing of early books in which a large sheet of paper or parchment is folded three times to produce eight leaves. The ESC has offered workshops for past Octavofest events on handmade book crafts, creating books from recycled materials, and workshops on travel journals.



ESC of Cuyahoga County Announces Two New Professional Learning Networks

The ESC of Cuyahoga County is pleased to announce the addition of two new professional learning networks for the 2015-2016 academic year.

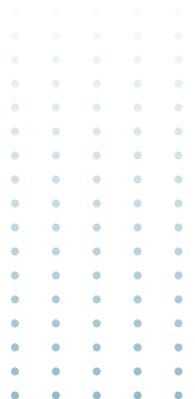
The Literacy Network – The first meeting of the Literacy Network was held on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, at the ESC of Cuyahoga County. The network is for dedicated ELA specialists, coaches and teacher leaders who are interested in sharing, discussing, learning and reflecting together to ensure that all students receive the highest quality ELA instruction possible. The Literacy Network is facilitated by Jennifer Miller, K-5 ELA Coach and Specialist, Aurora City Schools. To learn more about the network or to register for the meeting, please go to the ESC of Cuyahoga Website at: www.esc-cc.org. Click on Professional Development/Calendar of Events.

The Northeast Ohio Mathematical Specialists (NEOMS) Network - This network is facilitated by Mike Lipnos, Math Coach Specialist, Aurora City Schools, and is for passionate math specialists, coaches and teachers who are interested in learning together for the sole purpose of advancing mathematics instruction. Meetings are held from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the ESC of Cuyahoga County. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for the following dates: December 8, 2015, January 22, 2016, March 18, 2016 and June 3, 2016. To learn more about the network or to register for a meeting please visit the ESC of Cuyahoga County website at: www.esc-cc.org, Click on Professional Development/Calendar of Events.

For information, contact:

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Collinwood High School Writing Center

The ESC of Cuyahoga County is coordinating the development of a Writing Center to serve the teachers and students at Collinwood High School in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The Center provides college mentors for one-on-one conferencing with students as they brainstorm, draft and revise their essays for all classes. On October 29th, the Writing

Center hosted the first College Essay Review Day for 40 seniors who are applying for college admission. Plans include small group sessions for students to improve reading and writing skills and vocabulary comprehension, as well as online research skills. The Writing Center is located in the school's library media center.

The Disney Way

On September 25, 2015, the ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted 44 local and city school districts in Northeast Ohio for a day-long program with Bill Capodagli, author of *The Disney Way*. At the request of superintendents and other educational leaders, the ESC established Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) this academic year for superintendents, principals from high schools, middle and elementary schools, and administrative assistants. An Emerging Leaders program also was developed with the assistance of the Schlechty Group. *The Disney Way* was selected as a focal area for readings and discussions among all the PLC groups and with the Emerging Leaders participants. During the program on September 25th, the author stressed that the Disney magic

is built on four areas of prominence: Dream, Believe, Dare, and Do. About 190 educators attended the session and will participate in book review and discussions during future monthly meetings. In addition to the book study, monthly meetings will include other discussions and learning opportunities, such as videos for learning, TED talks, and will focus on topics about technology, the administrator as the lead learner, and leaving a legacy.

For information, contact:
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B Building Teachers' Capacity for Success: A Collaborative Approach for Coaches and School Leaders Institute

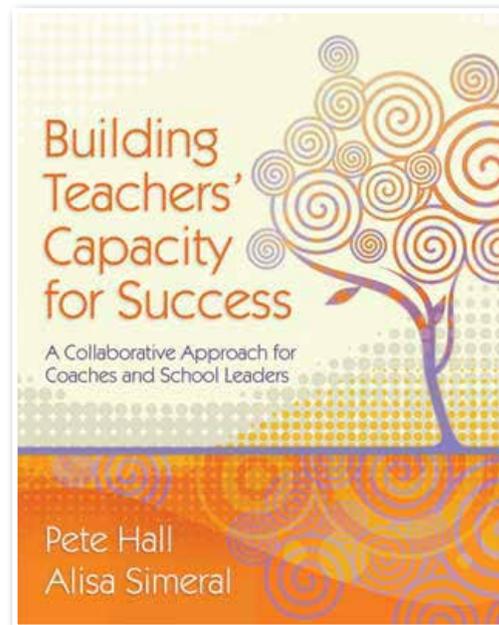
On October 12, 2015, and in partnership with ASCD, the ESC of Cuyahoga County kicked off Building Teachers' Capacity for Success: A Collaborative Approach for Coaches and School Leaders Institute. In this year-long institute, author Pete Hall (winner of the ASCD Outstanding Young Educator Award) will share a straightforward plan and ideas that will help site-based administrators and instructional coaches collaborate to bring out the best in every teacher, build a stronger and more cohesive staff, and achieve greater success. Throughout the program, participants will learn clear, proven strategies that are organized around two easy-to-use tools—the innovative Continuum of Self-Reflection and a feedback-focused walk-through model—a differentiated approach to coaching and supervision centered on identifying and nurturing teachers' individual strengths and helping them reach new levels of professional success and satisfaction. This year's cohort includes administrators and teachers from several school districts, locals and community schools and organizations.

Districts: **Berea, Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Cleveland Metropolitan, Euclid, North Olmsted, and Rocky River**

Locals: **Crestwood, Firelands, Revere**

Community School: **Near West Intergenerational School**

Organizations: ESC of Cuyahoga County, Positive Education Program



For information, contact:
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Making Campus Connections at the ESC

The ESC of Cuyahoga County, in partnership with area universities, provides area educators with a variety of opportunities to participate in graduate credit programs as well as to obtain graduate credit hours for workshops occurring at the ESC's Independence facility.

Ashland University's Telego Center for Educational Improvement offers curriculum studies, professional development, grant evaluation services, and school safety training. Their College of Education's four master's level programs integrate academics and field-based elements. The Ashland Treasurer Leadership Academy (ATLAS) responds to issues in public education for treasurer and business offices.

Cleveland State University's Center for Educational Leadership partners with the ESC to house their Inspired Leaders Principal Licensure Program. This is an alternative pathway to receiving principal licensure in 16 months.

The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, with the ESC and Cuyahoga County Board of Health, partner on the Farm to School and Early Childhood Network. Partners provide technical assistance, education, and networking for educators doing farm-to-school programming, an approach that connects the classroom, cafeteria, and community to improve health and well-being.

Youngstown State University partners with the ESC for their Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership. Instruction is online via YSU's online learning management system and monthly face-to-face meetings at the ESC.

The University of Phoenix partners with the ESC to offer classes designed for busy, working learners. This academic alliance allows participants to receive continuing education credits or bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from more than 20 programs and 50 concentrations.



B Building Leadership Teams

The demands on today's educators are arguably the most rigorous in our country's history, and districts and schools in Cuyahoga County have recognized that schools can best help students grow and achieve through collaborative teams at the teacher, building, and district levels. As part of the Ohio Improvement Process, SST—Region 3 provides professional development for these collaborative teams to districts in Cuyahoga County in Intensive and Moderate Support status and community schools that are identified as Focus Schools.

This fall, SST-3 has provided professional development to hundreds of educators on the Teacher-Based Teams (TBT) and Building Leadership Teams (BLT) processes.

- The TBT process involves teams:
- Prioritizing standards for collaboration
 - Developing clear learning targets
 - Developing common assessments/ measurement tools
 - Analyzing student data
 - Designing instruction
 - Reflecting on student growth and instructional practices



- The BLT process involves teams:
- Monitoring and providing feedback and support to TBTs
 - Designing school-wide support for TBTs
 - Communicating to TBTs, a district/network team, or management team

John Hattie, in *Visible Learning for Teachers* (2012), considered the small teams data-driven model as the most successful method for analyzing student performance, goal setting, providing deliberate instruction, and monitoring student learning and teacher instruction.

Professional development opportunities:
TBTs: December 9th/15th
BLTs: December 2nd/January 20th

Contact:
Ross May, SST-3 Consultant
Coordinator of School Improvement
216-446-3802
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Educator Quality Programs Department

Ohio House Bill 64 and Safe Harbor Requirements both offer changes which impact districts and individual educators. HB 64 makes adjustments to the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System for the 2015-2016 school year and beyond. Districts are permitted to choose between the original teacher evaluation framework and the alternative teacher evaluation framework. New this year is an alternative framework that includes teacher performance at 50%, student growth at 35% and an additional measure as 15% of the evaluation. HB 64 also impacts the use of value added data/scores and how this translates into student growth for teachers.

We also have had many changes within our department this fall. We welcome Dr. Kathleen Scott who joins our team to lead the Resident Educator (RE) programming for the ESC of Cuyahoga County and local districts/schools. Kathleen has done prior regional work within the RE Program as a RE mentor state trainer and as a RESA master coder and lead assessor. We are proud to share her expertise and knowledge with our resident educators, their mentors and the administrative staff leading our participating districts.

Also, joining our team is Eric Sikora. Eric shares his time between the Ohio Department of Education and the ESC, working in Educator Quality Programs. Eric's focus is teacher leadership and supporting districts in implementing state and local initiatives.

The Educator Quality Department continues to provide guidance and support in OPES, OTES, Student Growth Measures including Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), eTPES, Local Professional Development Committees, Master Teacher, Resident Educator support and mentor training, and Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA). If you should have any questions or professional development needs, please contact:

Michele Shrefler, Director, Educator Quality Programs
michele.shrefler@esc-cc.org
or Sharon Novak, Coordinator, Educator Quality Programs
(216) 446-3808
sharon.novak@esc-cc.org

Emerging Leaders

The Emerging Leaders Program is designed to improve and enhance the leadership capacity of both school personnel and school districts. Designed in conjunction with the Schlechty Center, this program is providing the tools, training experiences, research, networking opportunities, as well as giving leaders the opportunity to examine their personal and professional beliefs and values in a setting that provides practical approaches to leadership. Some of the topics being explored are examining leadership styles, leading change, handling conflict, leading programming such as curriculum and special education, handling of political issues, exploring



all aspects of communication and many more. The program presently has a great blend of sitting administrators as well prospective and future leaders.

For more information about the Emerging Leaders Program, please contact:
Russ Bennett, Co-Director of Leadership Services
216-524-3000
russ.bennett@esc-cc.org

Early Learners Institute

On August 12-14, 2015, the 5th annual Early Learners Institute welcomed the early childhood community into the new school year. *Creating Connections for Kids* was woven through current early childhood topics to support the work of teachers, paraprofessionals, related services staff and administrators. Keynote speaker, Nancy Tarshis from Social Thinking, was featured in a full-day workshop. Sessions with The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Cleveland Museum of Art along with nine other vendors connected our audience to the local resources available to enrich curricula, practices and the educational experiences of our young learners.

Through professional development and technical assistance, SST-3 has supported both kindergarten and preschool teachers as they returned to their classrooms to begin administering statewide assessments. The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) is given to all first time kindergartners in the fall (only). The assessment is based on Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) and is used to determine what children know when they enter kindergarten. The Language and Literacy portion can also be used to address the requirements for the Third Grade Guarantee. Similarly, preschool teachers began the Early Learning Assessment (ELA) for children supported by state and federal funding and to meet the requirements for Step up to Quality (SUTQ). ELA is also based on the Early Learning and Development Standards but differs from the KRA as it is a formative assessment and can be administered throughout the year with reporting to ODE in the fall and spring. SST-3 support is ongoing as needed.

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Working on the Work Conference

On October 19-21, 2015, the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County, in partnership with the Schlechty Center, hosted more than 100 teachers, administrators and principals at the Working on the Work: A Strategy for Empowering Students to be Knowledge Workers Institute. Participants traveled from across Ohio and Georgia to attend this national conference. The three-day institute was designed to model a “learning platform,” and provided participants with an opportunity to sharpen their skills in the same type of environment we advocate creating for students. Throughout the conference participants were provided with inquiry and discovery learning opportunities. After exploring some overarching topics together on day one, participants selected how they would spend their learning time on days two and three from three specific, focused sessions. They were: Exploring how to create the right conditions for engagement and leading students toward success, How to develop leadership and How to Engage students in a digital world. Ohio districts participating included **North Olmsted City Schools, Maple Heights City Schools, Mayfield City Schools, Orange City Schools** and **Ridgemont Local Schools**. Representation from the state of Georgia included Carrollton City, Cartersville City, Catoosa County, Crisp County and Gordon County and Trion City Schools.



Innovation Lab Network

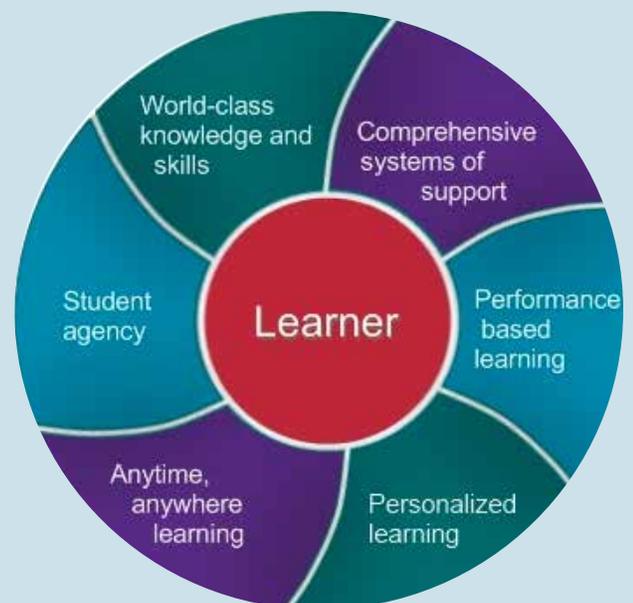
The ESC of Cuyahoga County has supported the work of the Innovation Lab Network (ILN) districts for several years as they move toward student-focused learning. ILN district administrators, boards, and faculty agree to promote principles and practices of 1) personalized learning; 2) world class knowledge and skills; 3) student agency; 4) comprehensive systems of learning supports; 5) anytime/anywhere learning opportunities; and 6) performance-based learning and

assessments. More than 20 districts currently are part of the statewide network. The districts met at their annual conference in June to learn about competency-based education efforts in Kentucky and Wisconsin and methods to scale personalized learning for curriculum, instruction and comprehensive systems of assessments. Several Ohio ILN districts and STEM schools have been awarded waivers from some evaluation and assessments as they strive toward competency-



based education, and they are awaiting federal approval. Legislation has provided opportunities for additional districts to apply for innovation waivers and for pilots for competency-based education.

For information, contact:
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216-901-4243
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GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGRAM

Beck Center of the Arts: Peaceful Solutions

On October 22nd, high school students from **Bedford, Cuyahoga Heights, Lakewood, Richmond Heights, South Euclid** and **Westlake** learned how to create peaceful solutions through the arts. This one-day workshop at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood, included opportunities for students to write songs, play instruments, paint, mold with clay, and learn how cultural arts can have a positive impact on their lives and society.



Leadership Workshop

On November 13, high school students had the opportunity to take part in a leadership workshop conducted by Paul Pendleton, Director of Leadership Services for the ESC of Cuyahoga County. The workshop encompassed areas such as Leadership Styles, Importance of Vision, Reaching Consensus, Team Building, and Creating Positive Environments for Success. Examples of various activities were used to help the students develop techniques to use in school projects.



Represented Districts:

- Bedford**
- Richmond Heights**
- South Euclid/Lyndhurst**
- Westlake**



Annual GPS Workshop at Chagrin Reservation

Students from six school districts (**Bedford, Chardon, Lakewood, South Euclid/Lyndhurst, Rocky River, and Richmond Heights**) attended this middle school student seminar at Look About Lodge in the Chagrin Reservation on September 29th and October 6th. Students were instructed by a naturalist at the park on the theory and use of a handheld GPS unit. After the instruction on the GPS, students in teams of four and five searched for eight different waypoints in the woods. They also completed an exercise in triangulation. This is an annual event for districts that are a part of the Gifted Consortium of the ESC of Cuyahoga County.

For information about Gifted and Talented programs, contact:

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216-901-4210

Steve.rogaski@esc-cc.org





ESC of Cuyahoga County Selects Apex Learning as a Primary Provider for Ohio Online Learning Program

The ESC of Cuyahoga County has selected Apex Learning, the leading provider of blended and virtual learning solutions to the nation's schools, as a primary digital curriculum provider for the Ohio Online Learning Program. Supporting districts who want to offer virtual school options for their students, Ohio Online Learning Program is the most rapidly growing online school in the state. Apex Learning will provide more than 5,000 course enrollments, each supported by Apex Learning Ohio-certified online teachers.

“We selected Apex Learning for their expertise in servicing large virtual programs, the access to actionable performance data for teachers and administrators, and the active learning experience for our students—all of which will have a tremendous impact on the success of the Ohio Online Learning Program in meeting our districts’ needs. Our first priority is to provide districts with the flexible options and cost-savings that they do not currently have access to in implementing virtual learning tools,” said

Dr. Jennifer Dodd, the Director of Operations and Development for the ESC of Cuyahoga County.

Apex Learning courses are now available through Ohio Online Learning Program for grades 7-12 for the 2015-2016 school year. Available courses include those required for graduation, credit recovery, Advanced Placement, and electives such as Career and Technical Education and world language courses.

“We are pleased to partner with the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County to provide digital curriculum to students through the Ohio Online Learning Program, offering a rigorous option to support the needs of districts and their students,” said Cheryl Vedoe, CEO, Apex Learning. “Districts across the state can have confidence that students using Apex Learning courses with our online teachers will experience the highest quality of instruction.”

About Apex Learning

Nearly two decades ago Apex Learning emerged as a leader in digital learning for secondary education, developing online Advanced Placement courses to provide students who would otherwise not have access the opportunity to take rigorous, college-level courses. Recognizing the challenges schools face in meeting the needs of every student — from those struggling to stay on track for graduation to those capable of accelerating their learning — the company continues to develop innovative, digital learning solutions to support teachers and provide every student with the opportunity to excel beyond his or her expectations.

Today Apex Learning offers a comprehensive catalog of rigorous, standards-based online courses that meet high school graduation requirements. Apex Learning Comprehensive Courses are used by schools nationwide for both initial credit and credit recovery. The company's latest digital learning solution —Tutorials — are a key component of effective blended learning, providing classroom teachers with the critical resources they need to meet the needs of all students including preparation for high stakes assessments, targeted intervention and just-in-time remediation and enhanced instruction for all students.

Rose-Mary Center School Holds Basket Raffle and Open House

The basket raffle and open house at Rose-Mary Center School on October 29th provided fun for students, families, staff, and friends of the school. Approximately 2,000 tickets were sold for the basket raffle. Many thanks to the ESC of Cuyahoga County Governing Board who helped make this raffle a success. Proceeds from the raffle went directly to the Rose-Mary Center School's community training opportunities for 39 students. In addition to the raffle, everyone had a great time playing games and carving pumpkins.



Rob, classroom teacher in room 3, celebrated 20 years at the ESC Rose-Mary Center School program.



Fall Festival at Rose-Mary Center School

On October 27th, a Clown Shoot activity fun house was the center of all the fun fall activities in the gym at the Rose-Mary Center School. Each classroom had activity centers for students to move through one at a time. Fresh popcorn and punch were given to the students as they were busy enjoying all the fun.



Julie's classroom did pumpkin carving at their classroom's station. Stephen and Julie are creating a pumpkin.



Shelly's classroom had "gak" and the therapists set up a multi sensory station. (pictured are Bill, Debbie (OTA) and Faith)



Nickie is helping Carlos with making crafts at their classroom's activity station. They were making a haunted house craft picture.



Rob's classroom filled balloons with helium. Bob (with the wig) is encouraging Kristen to go into the "Clown Shoot" activity house.