



# THE TWENTY

*This Month: Curriculum and Technology Departments*



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Colonial Intermediate Unit 20

June 2010

## Executive Director's Message

BY DR. CHARLENE M. BRENNAN

As the end of June 2010 comes to a close along with another school year, I have no other important message for you this month other than to say "Thank You." I have watched your struggles as you all dealt with what has been the most difficult year that I can remember in 28 years as an educator.

In these situations, all board members' actions will bring either condemnation or praise depending on which member of the public or school system you talk to. With much certainty, you are "between a rock and a hard place" as the saying goes.

But at least here at IU 20 we would like to pause and remind our IU board members, our local board members, and all of you, of the important work you do for the children of your community and the Commonwealth. It is an unpaid and unrewarded job that you do with diligence, commitment, and caring. People who know me know that I always say that strong leadership doesn't show up when things are easy. It is during the tough times that strong leaders show their true abilities to lead. No matter what side of an issue you've been on this past year, know you are true leaders.

While the perception among many of our districts is that the IU is somehow shielded from current and future challenges, we are not. I want to thank my IU board for challenging our thinking and holding our feet to the fire. They have had to make many tough decisions too this year and there are more to come, but they do it with the same commitment and dedication that they approach their problems back home. Our challenges are many in trying to keep costs for some of our region's most challenging students affordable for districts, and we are prepared to make the tough decisions necessary to fulfill that commitment.

I don't know what 2011-12 will hold, or for that matter 2010-11, given the uncertainty of the state budget. What I do know, though, is that we will continue to meet the challenges with you as you provide the leadership back home to serve children.

So, on behalf of the staff and students of Colonial Intermediate Unit 20, all of our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the hard work you do for children and in advance for the challenges we will all meet ahead.

*Charlene*

## DID YOU KNOW . . .

...that intermediate units facilitate the development of school improvement plans using the "Getting Results" and "Leading for Learning" planning models. These models assist districts and schools in meeting the requirements of No Child Left Behind school and district improvement plans. Intermediate Units are also responsible for the review of plans. Additionally IUs provide trainings, assist with plan revisions and participate in the statewide report review process. Since July of 2005, CIU 20's Curriculum Department has provided school improvement services to 983 participants across the 13 districts in the area.



CIU 20 Director of Curriculum Kelly Pauling speaks with Irene Duggins, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at East Stroudsburg Area School District, who accompanied her district team to the School Improvement Luau in March of 2010.

## SAFARI Montage to be Available to Public School Districts on the PAIUNet

BY HEATHER BROWN, *Coordinator of Educational Technology*

The Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units (PAIU) has received a statewide grant to provide SAFARI Montage to every K-12 public school district that is connected to PAIUNet for the 2010-2011 academic school year. SAFARI Montage is a video-on-demand and digital management platform that is pre-loaded with numerous high-quality educational programs from content providers such as Schlessinger Media, PBS, The History Channel, National Geographic, Scholastic, Disney Education, BBC, and more. In addition to the pre-loaded content, districts will have the option to upload their own content.

Educators will be able to integrate videos and images into their lessons. The videos are segmented and aligned to the Pennsylvania state standards and assessment anchors. Some other features that educators will be able to access are the grade range, running time, publisher, abstract, and copyright date for each video; teacher-created bookmarks that note a start and stop time; and closed captioning on most videos. Some videos will also include a Teacher's Guide and the ability to assess students using pre-created quizzes or teachers may create their own quizzes using SAFARI's quiz creator.

SAFARI Montage also provides a media player. The media player enhances the video quality, provides an option to easily speed up or slow down the video, and switch from English to Spanish for Schlessinger Media videos. This plug-in is highly recommended and free to download.

The IU will be offering professional development to interested educators on how to integrate SAFARI Montage into the curriculum throughout the 2010-2011 school year. Please continue to check CPETracker for these dates.

## Summer Administrative Workshop to Focus on Student Achievement

BY LINDSEY SMITH, *Coordinator of Professional Development*

On August 5 and 6, 2010, Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 will hold its annual Summer Administrative Workshop for IU and district administrators. Now in its 37th year, the conference will feature a variety of national and local speakers addressing the theme "The 4 C's: Communication, Collaboration, Climate and Connections," a theme created by conference chairperson, Dr. Sandra Fellin, Superintendent, Saucon Valley School District.

In an effort to determine why and how successful schools reach high levels of achievement, Dr. Fellin worked to research schools with similar demographics, less per pupil expenditure and high achievement results. After conducting site visits in order to reflect on such schools' steps to achieving success, her findings reflected that it is not about the amount of money spent but rather the relationships built inside and outside of the school district, the communication and collaboration with these stakeholders and the climate of the school and community.

In these times of economic instability, Act 1 and referendum and standardized testing, this year's conference will show how the 4 C's can ultimately increase student achievement. Opening keynote speaker, Nick Morgan of the District Management Council will begin the conference with a session on improving district communications strategies by understanding stakeholder motivation. Additional breakout sessions, by Nick Morgan and national and local speakers throughout the conference, will provide further information on forming partnerships with students, parents and community.

Local board members and school district administrators are invited to attend the Summer Administrative Workshop. Contact Lindsey Smith at [lsmith@ciu20.org](mailto:lsmith@ciu20.org) for additional information.

## District Technicians Attend Training

BY THOMAS BAILEYS, *Director of Technology*

In June of 2010, CIU 20 was proud to host a dozen district network technicians for a formal certification course on the Lightspeed content filter and anti-virus/anti-spam solution that has been widely adopted by our member districts. The CIU 20 Technology Department was able to negotiate consortium pricing for this solution that will save participating districts a significant amount of money annually on their content filtering, anti-virus and anti-spam solutions, while providing archival capabilities. By arranging to have a core group of local network technicians trained to the certification level in this product, the region will benefit from the combined expertise of participating districts.

The course cost was supplemented by an Act 183 grant that CIU 20 received for WAN infrastructure; therefore the training was very inexpensive for the participating districts. The technicians learned complex techniques for protecting their networks from external and internal threats, monitoring the use of their networks for access to objectionable content, filtering their internet access to block objectionable content and improving access to needed internet resources. These practices will help districts comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which is required for continued eRate eligibility. In addition, these certified technicians can now use their skills to control the use of their internet bandwidth and limit the explosive growth in purchased internet bandwidth in the future.

This course was offered toward meeting CIU 20's goal of establishing a technology leadership position in the region by providing programming, which will increase the technology knowledge infrastructure throughout the region. An additional course in network monitoring is planned, as well as a course in network routing (Cisco certification).

## CIU 20 to Continue WAN Monitoring

BY THOMAS BAILEYS, *Director of Technology*

Now that the Wide Area Network (WAN) contract has been re-bid and formally accepted to start providing service on July 1, 2010, it is time to start looking to the future to make sure that the region is utilizing the array of advanced networks that are available, including the Internet2 network, PAIUNet, commodity internet and the WAN. As part of the Act 183 grant that CIU 20 was awarded, funds were requested to establish the monitoring of networks at both the intermediate unit and the district level to determine the extent to which information is sent over each of the various networks. This data will be vital in determining technical assistance to improve the utilization of the networks and for defending the continued existence of the WAN when the current five year contract ends in 2015. The CIU 20 Technology Department is working with the WAN member districts to test network monitoring equipment that can provide sufficient data to answer the following questions:

1. How much and what type of data traffic is being sent to the Internet?
2. How much and what type of data traffic is being sent to the WAN network?
3. How much and what type of data traffic is being sent to the PAIUNet network?
4. How much and what type of data traffic is being sent to the Internet2 network?

By collecting and analyzing this data at each member school district and then aggregating this data at the intermediate unit level, CIU 20 can predict the need for additional bandwidth or whether there is needed additional bandwidth to support access to educational resources. Additionally, the data can determine if the connections to external networks such as PAIUNet and Internet2 are being utilized and whether they are being utilized for accessing educational resources. With five years of this type of data, the region will be in a much more informed position when the WAN contract comes up for renewal.

The CIU 20 Technology Department is working to find a solution that will provide the necessary data in sufficient quantities without burdening the school district networks or the network technicians. CIU 20 has also worked on developing a solution that provides additional benefits such as network traffic control, at the same time and without cost, to the districts over the five year project life cycle. District network administrators and technology directors met in mid-June for a demonstration of one proposed solution and decided to seek more information. This project will continue throughout the summer with the hope for implementation in the early fall.

For more information concerning CIU-20 Programs and Services, visit our website at [www.ciu20.org](http://www.ciu20.org) or contact:

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Dr. Charlene M. Brennan, Executive Director  
[cbrennan@ciu20.org](mailto:cbrennan@ciu20.org)  
Ms. Dawn M. Miller, Executive Secretary/Board Secretary  
[dmiller@ciu20.org](mailto:dmiller@ciu20.org)  
Dr. Mary Beth Bianco, Assistant Executive Director  
[mbianco@ciu20.org](mailto:mbianco@ciu20.org)

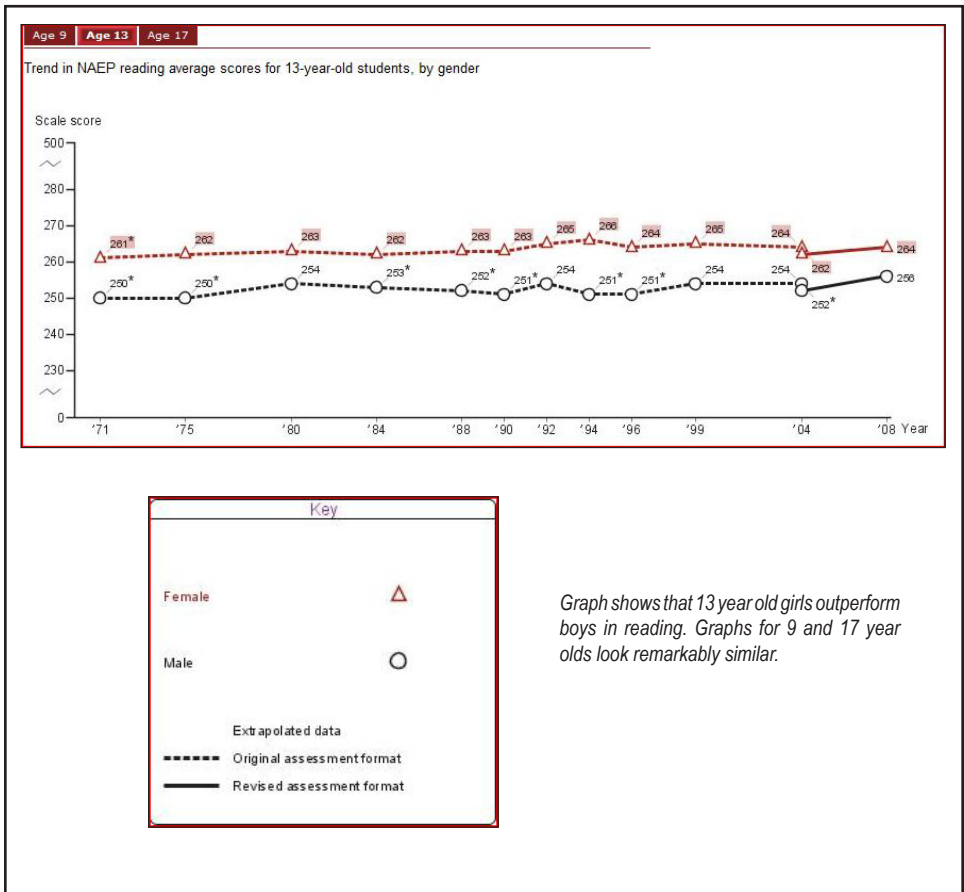
## Summer Camp is Redesigned at Pleasant Valley

BY KELLY PAULING, *Director of Curriculum Services*

CIU 20 is collaborating with Pleasant Valley School District's reading and technology staff to redesign their Title I summer school program for 5th and 6th graders. The aim is to put a new spin on summer school. Through the careful selection of books, best practices in reading, and strategic integration of technology, the hope is to increase student attendance and maximize engagement to improve motivation and achievement in reading.

The program is designed to meet the learning needs of all students, but especially boys. Thirty years of reading data demonstrates a clear and persistent 10% gap between boys and girls in reading. In addition, boys are more often referred for special education and more frequently held back.

CIU 20 will be conducting three days of staff development with summer school staff to implement the redesign. The program will target a select group of technology tools, which will build on the learning preferences of boys. For example, reading comprehension is generally developed and assessed through conversation, but many boys prefer not to talk about feelings or emotions found in fiction books. Therefore, the program will pair a technology tool such as voicethread, blogging or wallwisher to create an action-oriented environment for students to add and revise their thinking. Digital storytelling using a green screen and video will help students focus on the elements of an effective retelling, a traditional reading comprehension assessment.



## CIU 20 Seeks Grants in Tough Economic Times

BY AMAAL AWADALLA, *Assistant Director of Curriculum Services*

In these tough economic times, as responsible educators, it is critical that additional resources are sought in order to support struggling budgets. Throughout the past six months, many of the departments at Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 have worked diligently to partner with various organizations in order to submit grant proposals. The CIU 20 Curriculum Department has focused on grants in the following initiative areas: RTII (Response to Instruction and Intervention), integrating technology and RTII, increasing math and science scores, Reading Apprenticeship, strengthening the content knowledge in U.S. history, and art.

CIU 20 partnered with DeSales University and Harrisburg University of Science and Technology to submit a proposal for the Title IIB Math and Science Partnership Grant. This grant will provide funding for school districts in the IU 20 region who have signed on for professional development for math and science teachers. Math teachers will have the opportunity to be immersed in professional development through DeSales University and science teachers will have the opportunity through Harrisburg University. The objective of this program is to increase teacher content knowledge in math and/or science and to assist teachers in building relevance between their content knowledge and careers. This component will be done through the partnership of the Lehigh Valley Workforce Investment Board.

CIU 20 was not awarded the Title IIB Math and Science Partnership Grant; however, through this process, CIU 20 has established or enhanced strong relationships with DeSales University, Harrisburg University and the Lehigh Valley Workforce Investment Board and looks forward to other opportunities to work closely with these innovative partners.

In addition, CIU 20 has partnered with PaTTAN (Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network) and WestEd Strategic Literacy Initiative in submitting two separate I3 (Investing in Innovation) grants. CIU 20 signed on to partner with PaTTAN on the I3 grant which will support RTII. If awarded, this grant will provide funding for professional development and implementation of RTII. The second I3 grant has been submitted by WestEd Strategic Literacy Initiative, in which CIU 20 will be the state lead for PDE in support of Reading Apprenticeship.

Further grants being pursued include the American History Grant and Nintendo Technology Funding. The objective of the American History Grant is to increase teacher's knowledge and understanding of U.S. history. The Curriculum Department also approached Nintendo to support a project in which teachers will use technology to enhance and engage students in reading during summer school. The intent is for Nintendo to provide several hand-held DSI systems that can be utilized to develop animated stories.

Finally, CIU 20 received a generous product donation from Crayola at the end of April. The donation, which includes products such as paints and paint brushes, ColorFillz with modeling material, markers, Color Wonder tablets and markers, and Model Magic Fusion modeling material will be distributed to CIU 20 special education and behavioral health classrooms throughout the region. The products will help to enhance art curriculum, integrate art throughout the content areas, and augment special events for students.

Yes, the times are tough economically; however, the ability to create new partnerships, offer more innovative professional development opportunities, and support districts through grants and funding is a win-win situation for all.

## LoTi is Turning Up the H.E.A.T. in the Classroom

BY HEATHER BROWN, *Coordinator of Educational Technology*

The Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units (PAIU) was awarded a Keystone Virtual Campus Act 183 E-Fund Grant to offer the LoTi (Levels of Teaching Innovation) Content Series. This online professional development opportunity offers four workshops for teachers and one for administrators. These courses will be offered through Moodle, an online content management system that can be accessed from anywhere via an internet connection.

The H.E.A.T.–higher-order thinking, engaged learning, authenticity, and technology use–training series offers teachers instructional strategies and best practices to use in their classroom in a collaborative and engaging environment. The four H.E.A.T. courses that are offered and aligned to the framework are titled Higher Level Thinking Processes, Engaging Students, Authentic Connections, and Technology Tools. Turning up the H.E.A.T. will promote rigorous and engaging 21st Century lessons and provide students with unique experiences. Each of these teacher course will provide 7.5 hours of Act 48.

The first of the teacher H.E.A.T. courses, Technology Tools, will begin on November 1, 2010. This course will explore a variety of free online technology tools to support and transform student learning, and will culminate with a project that analyzes the classroom implementation of a selected technology tool.

Additionally, CIU 20 will conduct the Engaging Students teacher course beginning on November 9, 2010, which will focus on strategies for engaging students and promoting their active role in classroom learning experiences. Class members will also collaborate and develop a lesson plan that uses active learning techniques.

Registration for the two teacher courses for the fall are available online at <http://www.bviu.org/registration>. An additional two teacher courses (Higher Level Thinking Process and Authentic Connections) will be available in the Spring of 2011.

LoTi helps to promote the H.E.A.T. framework and sustain the work already put in place by Classrooms for the Future. By utilizing 21st Century leadership and data-driven decision making, student achievement will improve. Strategies for classroom walk-throughs, a purposeful plan for professional development opportunities, and steps to create an Action Plan will be identified. This administrator course will provide 30 Act 45 hours.

The LoTi Administrator Institute begins on September 20, 2010. Registration for the Administrator Institute is available at <http://courses.ciu3.net>. This course will also be offered in the Spring of 2011.

The IU is pleased and excited to offer these courses to member districts.

*Revolutionary Thinking . . . Makes A Difference*



**COLONIAL INTERMEDIATE UNIT 20**  
**6 Danforth Drive**  
**Easton, PA 18045-7899**

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*For information regarding this statement, or special accommodations, please contact Mr. Tony Pidgeon, Director of Human Resources and Research Services, Colonial Intermediate Unit 20, 6 Danforth Drive, Easton, PA 18045-7899, (610) 252-5550, TDD/TTY Hearing Impaired (610) 252-3786.*