



THE TWENTY

This Month: Curriculum and Technology Departments



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Colonial Intermediate Unit 20

March 2010

Teachers to be Honored for Integrating 21st Century Lessons at the STAR Awards Banquet

BY HEATHER BROWN, *Acting Coordinator of Educational Technology*

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 will host the 2nd Annual STAR (Superior Technology Achievement Recognition) Awards Banquet, which will take place on the evening of March 30th at Colonial Academy. The STAR Awards honor outstanding educational professionals, in CIU 20 member school districts and vocational schools, that are integrating and supporting technology and 21st Century teaching and learning skills into the secondary classroom.

A total of eight categories will receive awards this year. The categories include Best Use of Technology in Math, Science, English, and Social Studies, Best Use of Technology in a Career Education Program, Best Technology Coach/Integrator, Best Technology Support, and Best Supporting Administrator.

Nominations were made by administrators, colleagues, teachers, technology integrators/coaches, and/or technology directors. Additionally, nominees were asked to submit lesson plans, rubrics, and student work in order for the judges to gain a full understanding of the lesson.

There were approximately 80 nominations for the STAR Awards across the eight categories. Fifty-five of those nominations were teacher submissions in the categories of Math, Science, Social Studies, English, and Career Education Program.

The final four nominees for each category are from the following districts: Bangor, Bethlehem, Career Institute of Technology, Delaware Valley, East Stroudsburg, Easton, Northampton, Pleasant Valley, Saucon Valley, Stroudsburg, and Wilson. The winners of the STAR Awards will be announced at the banquet.

Colonial Academy will host the STAR Awards Banquet and is providing decorations for the 'star'-studded event. Dario Chavez and his culinary students will be providing the food with hors d' oeuvres starting at 5:30.

CIU 20 Hosts Regional High School and Middle School Computer Fairs

BY TOM BAILEYS, *Director of Technology*

The annual regional High School Computer Fair for schools in Pike, Monroe and Northampton counties was held on March 5, 2010 at East Stroudsburg University. More than 120 students from nine schools representing five districts and two vocational schools participated in the competition. East Stroudsburg University continued its major sponsorship for the event by providing space for the competition and student presentations, as well as lunch for all students, advisors and judges. Students developed projects to participate in one of nine categories that are specified by the

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Executive Director's Message

BY DR. CHARLENE M. BRENNAN

The Twenty for March

This month in The Twenty we are highlighting our Curriculum and Technology Departments. These two departments are rarely highlighted for our local school board members, at least in relation to our special education and mental health programs that are always in the forefront and what the IU is normally associated with.

However, our Curriculum and Technology departments provide important services to our school districts and this issue highlights both programs offered to teachers in our districts as well as direct programs for students. For example, our technology department recently hosted our regional high school and middle school computer fairs. Students at these events were able to showcase their technology skills and compete for awards in nine categories. Our middle school students even got to dissect a cow's eye using our Internet 2 connection and partnership with the Ann Arbor Hand's on Museum. How exciting!

Our Curriculum department spends much time providing direct and necessary support to administrators and teaching staff in our school districts through professional development on school improvement strategies that work to increase student achievement for all students. One major initiative highlighted in this issue is our work with districts in using the PA Department of Education's new resource called Standards Aligned System (or SAS as it is known). We hosted an intense training session for all of our school district staff on how to use SAS to improve student achievement in our classrooms.

These are just a few of the highlights of the hard work these two departments and their staff do with our 13 school districts, all with the important of goal of benefiting students. Please take time to read this issue of the Twenty for some of the interesting work Curriculum and Technology is providing to your districts.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that more than 170 students participated in the CIU 20 Regional Computer Fairs this year and that 15 first place winners will go on to compete in the 2010 State Computer Fair competition to be held at Dickinson College on May 25th and 26th? Despite elimination from the state budget, the 2010 State Computer Fair competition is being continued through the efforts of Pennsylvania's Intermediate Units, with generous support from vendors, as a premier event for students to showcase their technology talent.

CIU 20 Hosts Regional High School and Middle School Computer Fairs

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State Computer Fair committee. A listing of winners is provided below and all first place winners will advance to the state competition which will be held at Dickinson College on May 25th. Students participating in the fair were treated to a demonstration of the digital graphics capabilities available at East Stroudsburg University, a demonstration of the New Worlds multi-user virtual environment and the FlipFlicks project using CIU 20 Flip Video Cameras.



Left to right: Jesse Algarian and Shane Niper, East Stroudsburg High School North, and Cody Burke, Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School, celebrate after placing in the top three in the Animation category at the High School Computer Fair.

The annual regional Middle School Computer Fair for schools in Pike, Monroe and Northampton counties was held on March 19, 2010, at Colonial Intermediate Unit 20. More than 50 students from four middle schools representing four school districts registered projects for the competition. Students developed projects to participate in one of six categories that are specified by the State Computer Fair committee. A listing of winners is provided below and all first place winners will advance to the state competition, which will be held at Dickinson College on May 26th. The Middle School Computer Fair students were able to participate in the dissection of a cow's eye assisted virtually by the Ann Arbor Hand's On Museum using Internet2 as well as an eMission with the Challenger Learning Center from Wheeling Jesuit University. A number of students also prepared some FlipFlicks using the CIU 20 Flip Video Cameras.

First place winners for the high school fair include Jessica Jovellar and Alicia Ventura, Bethlehem Area Vocational Technical School for Information-Based Web Design; Linda Tran, Delaware Valley High School for Logo Design; Chrisanna Rock, Pocono Mountain East High School for Digital Movie; Al Agraviador and Steffen Bianco, East Stroudsburg High School South for Multimedia Design; Cody Burke, Bethlehem Area Vocational Technical School for Animation; Shawn Adamski and Spencer Mannion, East Stroudsburg High School South for Curriculum-Based Web Design; Briana Marshall and Tiffany Bruno, East Stroudsburg High School South for Text-Based Desktop Publishing; Arianna Titcomb, Kristen Ortiz and Abel Alvarado, Pocono Mountain West High School for Graphic Design; and Jacob Butts, Pocono Mountain East High School for Programming.

First place winners for the middle school fair include Molly Italiano and Brittany Poje, JT Lambert Intermediate School for Desktop Publishing; Cory Fish and Blake Hollister, JT Lambert Intermediate School for Graphic Design; Kelsey Finn, JT Lambert Intermediate School for Logo Design; Patrick Dykiert, JT Lambert Intermediate School for Digital Movie; Melanie Meilinger and Mercedes Marquee, JT Lambert Intermediate School for Multimedia Design; and Ryan Bridges, Patrick Leggieri and Luke Booth, JT Lambert Intermediate School for Web Page Design.

CIU 20 Gets "SAS-ified"

BY KATHY EMEIGH, Assistant Director of Curriculum Services

On Friday, February 19, 2010, the Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 Curriculum Department hosted a day long presentation, for 120 educators from the 13 participating school districts, on the new and improved PDE (PA Department of Education) Standards Aligned System. This updated SAS (Standards Aligned System) was "rolled out" by the state during the Fall of 2009. Since then, PDE, PaTTAN, and intermediate units have been offering trainings to introduce this innovative and aligned project.

The Pennsylvania Standards Aligned System (SAS) is a collaborative product of research and good practice that identifies six distinct elements which, if utilized together, will provide schools and districts a common framework for continuous school and district enhancement and improvement. Much research was conducted regarding what makes a great school. There are many intangible components; however, research supports the notion that great schools and school systems tend to have six common elements that ensure Student Achievement: Clear Standards, Fair Assessments, Curriculum Framework, Instruction, Materials & Resources, and Interventions. The connector point of all these circles is competency and what it looks like for all students. SAS is not a product and it is not limited; it is a project being provided by PDE to educators across the state. It is an extraordinary relational database filled with the state educational standards, assessment anchors, eligible content and the materials and resources to support instruction.

This day proved to be an excellent example of the team work that CIU 20 represents. The Curriculum Department may have hosted the presentation made by Performance Learning Systems representative, Megan Kraus (Performance Learning Systems partnered with PDE to develop this extensive resource); however, success for the day falls on all CIU 20 departments. All departments worked together to make the day instructive and productive for district participants. From parking to technical assistance to serving lunch, the staff pulled together to ensure that the educators would be able to learn and then share this valuable information with their own teachers and administrators.



Approximately 120 educators from throughout the CIU 20 region actively participate in the SAS (Standards Aligned System) training held in February at the CIU 20 office.

For more information concerning CIU-20 Programs and Services, visit our website at www.ciu20.org or contact:

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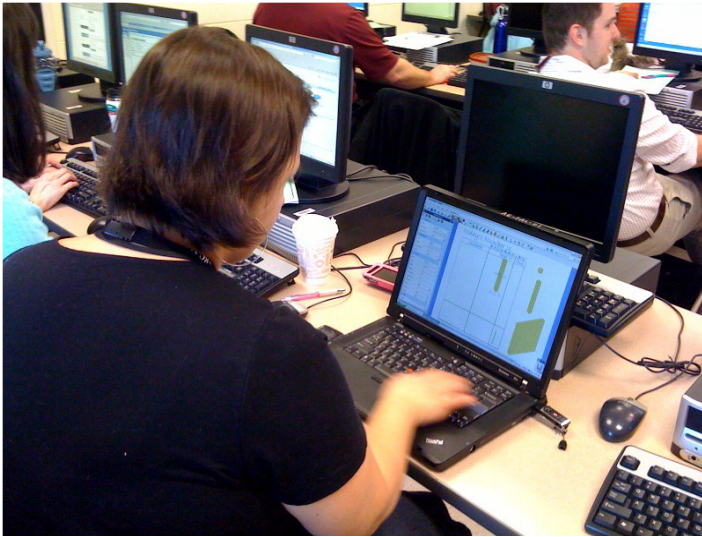
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Stroudsburg Computer Facilitators Participate in Technology Boot Camp

BY HEATHER BROWN, *Acting Coordinator of Educational Technology*

Stroudsburg computer facilitators recently participated in an on-site, three-day technology boot camp facilitated by Heather Brown, Acting Coordinator of Educational Technology, and Michelle Davis, Training and Consulting Staff from CIU 20. In this professional development, computer facilitators learned technology tools that can be implemented in their classroom. The computer facilitators will then share these resources and support the teachers in their building by informal conversations and in-service workshops.

The three main objectives for this professional development were to



Kim Asendorf, BF Morey Elementary computer facilitator, is developing flipcharts to use with her students utilizing the Promethean Board.

give computer facilitators knowledge on how to utilize the Promethean board in the classroom and provide support to teachers for troubleshooting and curriculum integration, to inform participants about alternate assessments and provide suggestions and technical assistance in technology integration, and to encourage computer facilitators to use technology to collaborate with teachers to use these tools with their students.

During the three-day training, participants learned to utilize classroom Promethean Boards to enhance instruction and increase student interaction. Additionally, the facilitators received instruction on the use of technology to increase student understanding and learning of concepts. Finally, computer facilitators learned how to use the accessibility features built into the control panel and Microsoft Word to help students with disabilities utilize the computer.

The computer facilitators appreciated the boot camp and the time to collaborate. They had positive feedback, and here are some of the comments:

- I learned so much about different resources available online, many of which are free! I feel as though I have a good handle on the resources and feel comfortable sharing them with the teachers at my school.
- I feel that I have a wide variety of experiences and knowledge on different types of programs that I am able to use and share with my colleagues.

Each building at Stroudsburg has a computer facilitator. They teach part of the day and spend the rest of their time helping teachers in their buildings to integrate technology. They are also responsible for leading professional development that the district offers.

Acting Coordinator of Educational Technology Named

BY LINDSEY SMITH, *Coordinator of Professional Development*

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 is pleased to welcome and announce its new Acting Coordinator of Educational Technology, Heather Brown. In a position which provides numerous services and supports to CIU 20 member schools, Heather has hit the ground running. Currently she is working as the VLINC (Virtually Linking Instruction and Curriculum) administrator for schools partnered with IU 20 on this initiative, as well as planning the STAR (Superior Technology Achievement Recognition) Awards, and the regional school computer fairs, in conjunction with other projects.

In addition to her current responsibilities, Heather currently services as a TIM (Technology Integration Mentor) with PAIU (Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units). Also, the Coordinator of Educational Technology provides professional development at the IU and on-site to enhance classroom instruction using a variety of technology tools. Heather is currently working to enhance the professional development available to schools in this area.

At anytime, however, a school may request on-site staff trainings by visiting and completing the online training request form available at <http://www.ciu20.org/curriculum-Services/request-training.aspx>.

Heather is a former member of the Training and Consulting Staff at CIU 20, a position in which she served for four years working on initiative areas including mathematics, differentiated instruction, assessment anchors, thinking maps, assistive technology and educational technology. Additionally,

during her time with CIU 20 she served as a Technology Coach in the Stroudsburg Area School District for three years. Heather received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in mathematics from Kutztown University. She completed her Master's of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Moravian College, during which she wrote a thesis regarding the integration of technology into the secondary classroom. She is currently enrolled at DeSales University to receive her Instructional Technology certificate, a program which she will complete this summer.

CIU 20 looks forward to offering member school districts Educational Technology services, which will support district technology initiatives.



At the joint Curriculum Council, Math/Reading Network and Technology Council meeting in March, Heather guides the group through a tour of a wikispace.

IU 20 Offers Classroom Walkthrough Training to Administrators

BY KELLY PAULING, Director of Curriculum Services

Classroom walkthroughs help bridge the gap between school improvement plans and instruction. With clearly outlined expectations, administrators collect data through brief, four to seven minute glimpses, of class instruction. While a single visit is not enough to draw conclusions regarding student engagement, instructional strategies or other factors, scaled up to 100 to 200 visits, is.

Classroom walkthroughs are not new; many schools have conducted them for years. However, the common language, structure and data collection software provided through the two CIU 20 events have built capacity and deeper understanding of how to make the most use of the data.

First administrators plan with a focus. Using school and district student achievement data (e.g. PSSA, DIBELS), the administrative team targets a specific grade-level or content area as well as instructional goals for assessment.

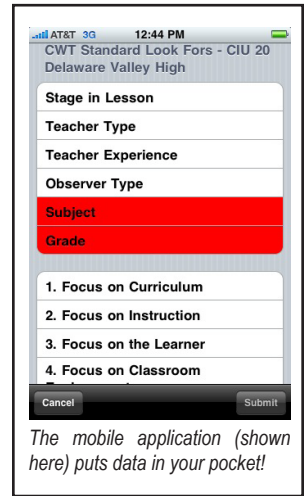
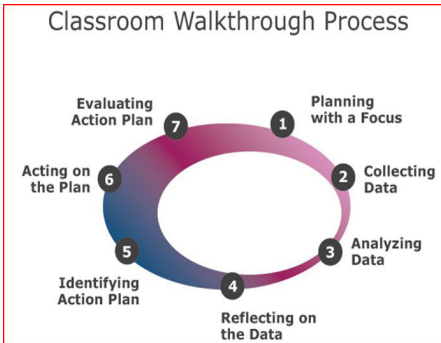
In a six to eight week cycle, data is collected. Administrators need a minimum of 15 walks per classroom in the target group or 30 per grade-level or

content area for analysis. The data is then shared with teachers and teachers identify strengths and needs. The group also commits to an action plan for further improvement. Then, the decision is made to continue the walks in that focus area or move to a new one. Once implemented, administrators should be able to complete five to six cycles in a school year.

The software system being used, Teachscape, provides a standard tool (e.g. lesson objective, grouping, high yield strategies, student engagement, depth of knowledge etc.) as well as options to customize the standard tool and create an entirely new survey. This flexibility will allow us to monitor core instruction, intervention programs and other initiatives.

This, combined with the mobile application, will make it easier than ever for principals and other educational leaders to collect implementation data, which can drive effective staff development, create a common language and common expectations across a school!

CIU 20 is working with several school districts to expand and refine the training for next year.



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For information regarding this statement, or special accommodations, please contact Mr. Anthony 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.