



# THE TWENTY



***This Month: Curriculum and Technology Departments***

**Volume 6 Issue 6**

**Colonial Intermediate Unit 20**

**May 2011**

## **Executive Director's Message**

**BY DR. CHARLENE M. BRENNAN**

### The Twenty for May

As with every school year, May finds all of us with very busy schedules in activities that are a powerful testament to the value of public education and our efforts to provide our students with a solid foundation for whatever their next years will bring. For seniors that translates to commencement activities. Each of our school districts prepares during this time this important ceremony that is not the end for our seniors but is the beginning of a new life beyond high school, whether that be a life as a college student or some other post-secondary option or a life that takes them directly into the workforce.

Here at IU 20 and in collaboration with all of our school districts, we too plan our commencement ceremony for students who have completed their course of study in Intermediate Unit classrooms. They have faced tremendous challenges to achieve this passage to life beyond our schools, and so we plan a Graduation ceremony here at the IU that will complement your graduation ceremonies back home.

The Intermediate Unit 20 2010-11 Graduation Ceremony will be held at the IU 20 main office in Easton on Thursday night, May 26th at 6 PM. The program lasts approximately one hour and we would like to invite all of our local board members to attend. We would be pleased to have you participate and see the end result that we work with your school district staff to ensure for every student.

Please contact me at the Intermediate Unit if you are able to attend. 610-515-6402.

**Congratulations to the Academic Competition Team from Moravian Academy! After winning the CIU 20 regional competition, the team of students went on to place 2nd at the state competition held on May 6th in Harrisburg.**

## **CIU 20 Works to Provide Moodle Servers to Member Districts**

**BY TOM BAILEYS**, *Director of Technology*, and **HEATHER BROWN**, *Coordinator of Instructional Technology*

CIU 20 worked with its 13 member districts and three vocational technical centers to provide a server for each entity that provides access to the Moodle platform for district administrators, technicians and teachers to experiment with or to put into productive classroom use. The intermediate unit is utilizing its virtual server infrastructure environment and the Storage Area Network that was procured with the assistance of Act 183 EFund grant funds to provide this resource to districts.

Each district that requests to utilize Moodle is provided with access to a virtual server, which contains the Moodle system software. Administrative accounts are provided to a point of contact in each district that can then allocate and manage local user accounts on their server, including providing access to students. During regular business hours, students and teachers accessing the Moodle servers from their school computers will be utilizing the Wide Area Network bandwidth to/from their district to the IU servers. After regular business hours when the students or teachers access the IU servers from home they will be using their own purchased internet service and CIU 20's purchased internet service to access the IU servers during low-peak demand times, a perfect combination.

Moodle is a free, course content management system that can create dynamic online learning experiences for students. Teachers are able to upload files, engage students in interactive online discussions, develop self-graded quizzes and much more. Moodle allows a teacher to extend their classroom beyond the typical school day, provide 24/7 access to an enormous variety of resources and create a blended approach to learning.

As each district sees its Moodle use grow, it can make informed decisions about purchasing the server infrastructure to meet its needs or continue to use IU shared infrastructure, whichever is more cost-effective. This model allows districts to try the technology and then invest in it based upon its effectiveness. It also allows the IU to develop shared services models that meet the needs of member districts and provide cost-recovery to the intermediate unit.

To further promote the use of Moodle technology, Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 hosted a workshop on April 20th titled "Integrating Moodle 2.0 into the Curriculum." East Stroudsburg's instructional technology coaches, Brooke Langan and Joseph Martin, facilitated this full day professional development. This hands-on workshop was divided into three main areas: content management, resources and activities. The workshop was well attended and received rave reviews from participants. Teachers left with a preliminary Moodle page to integrate in their classroom.

## **DID YOU KNOW . . .**

**that CIU 20's email storage needs have grown from 4 Gb in 2003 to 40 Gb in 2007 and then to 200 Gb in 2010 and to over 400 Gb today?**

**An email with a 1Mb attachment (photo, ecard, stationary, etc.) sent to the "all staff" list requires 1.25 Gb of storage space. Since CIU 20 mirrors the systems to enhance availability and minimize downtime that 1.25 Gb doubles to 2.5 Gb, more than 2,500 times the size of the original message.**

**More than 90,000 emails per day are prevented from entering the system by the spam filter.**

## Four Districts Participate in Classroom Walkthrough Professional Development Series

BY MELISSA PETRILAK, *Training and Consulting Staff*

Administrators from four area school districts have participated in a six-day professional development opportunity this school year aimed at providing leadership in data-driven decision making for schools. Over 80 instructional leaders from Bethlehem, Northampton, Stroudsburg, and East Stroudsburg School Districts took part in Classroom Walkthrough, a research-based program sponsored by Teachscape Professional Learning. Bethlehem and Stroudsburg involved all administrators including central office staff in this series to develop a common language around the walkthrough process in their districts. Classroom Walkthrough is a seven-stage process that enables administrators to collect, analyze, and reflect on data collected during a 4-7 minute period in any given classroom at any grade level.

During the initial trainings, administrators gained insightful knowledge into identifying the most effective research-

based educational practices used in education. The workshops were facilitated by staff members in the Curriculum Services department who engaged the adult learners in determining best practices through the use of professional journal articles, peer discussions, and video case studies. The training series provided each district administrator with an iPod to assist in collecting data on these best practices.

One of the activities the participants were engaged in was a Marshmallow Challenge. The lesson behind this challenge is to make sure participants know what the focus, represented by the marshmallow, is in order to have continuous school improvement, while making sure to continue to revisit and adjust plans, and ensure that the walkthrough process is iterative.

All administrators completing the series earned 38 PIL hours.



Left to right: Antonio Traca, Assistant Principal, JoAnn Durante, Principal and Nikolas Tsamoutalidis, Assistant Principal from Liberty High School work as a team during the Marshmallow Challenge.



Stroudsburg Assistant for Personnel and Personnel Services, Stephen Brodmerkel (left), Paul Sipler, Assistant Principal (middle) and Dr. Maryellen Moss, Principal (right) at Stroudsburg Junior High/Middle School build a tall structure during the Marshmallow Challenge.

## Using Technology to Share Technology

BY MICHELLE DAVIS, *Training and Consulting Staff*

The Curriculum Department recently conducted a videoconference with Central IU 10 in State College. The topic of this session was Proloquo2Go, the Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) application for the iOS devices. This application has gained extreme popularity in the one year since its introduction to the consumer market. Unlike traditional AACs, this application is available to the average consumer on a widely available and multi-functional consumer device. The Proloquo2Go application provides an alternative to the traditional, high cost, dedicated AAC devices on the market.

Whereas a traditional AAC device has sales reps across the country, training opportunities, and tiered supports, the developers of Proloquo2Go opted for a simpler support system that relies upon local specialists to facilitate trainings and provide technical support; input CIU 20's local Assistive Technology Training Consultant, Michelle Davis. Central IU 10 requested assistance from a group of statewide assistive technology consultants on the application. Michelle has conducted several technical trainings in local school districts on the application and offered her services to IU 10.

In an effort to reduce travel costs and save time away from Michelle's position, Curriculum Director, Kelly Pauling, suggested providing the training over videoconference. This idea meant that great coordination between the curriculum and technology departments would have to take place for the training to be successful. It is not often that a workshop on the hands-on use of a software program is conducted via an off-site presentation.

Central IU 10 held the event with approximately 30 participants. While they had an on-site facilitator, the instruction and demonstrations were seen via videoconference with IU 20. Many participants expressed positive feedback for the event in the form of written evaluations. For example, "I appreciate the live demos and questions," or, "I really like having guided practice."

The success of this training could not have been achieved without a coordinated effort between CIU 20's Technology Department's Tom Kalinoski and Jared Venezia, and the Curriculum Department's Lindsey Smith. These individuals provided practice sessions and hands-on support to make the videoconference effective.

It is the hope and directive of Colonial IU 20's Curriculum Department to find more opportunities to provide workshops, meetings, and training events via videoconference. These cost saving measures will not only help districts and intermediate units, they will also help us all forge into a new frontier in technology.



Participants live at CIU 20 (pictured at table) interact with videoconference participants (shown on the screen) throughout the event.

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

### Colonial IU 20 Board of Directors

Ms. Sharon L. Spadoni, President  
 Ms. Jane Erdo, Vice-President  
 Mr. Hans E. Baltzersen, Treasurer  
 Ms. Dawn M. Hales, Secretary

### Colonial IU 20 Administrators

Dr. Charlene M. Brennan, Executive Director  
 cbrennan@ciu20.org  
 Ms. Dawn M. Hales, Executive Secretary/Board Secretary  
 dhales@ciu20.org  
 Dr. Mary Beth Bianco, Assistant Executive Director  
 mbianco@ciu20.org

## CIU 20, Member School Districts and Distinguished Guests Honor Educational Excellence

BY LINDSEY SMITH, *Coordinator of Professional Development*

With students, parents, school district staff and administrators, board members and state legislators present, CIU 20 celebrated public education with its annual Excellence in Education and Merit Scholars Awards Ceremony. The event, held at the Candlelight Conference & Reception Center in Bethlehem, PA on Thursday, April 28, 2011, rewarded outstanding school programs and academic achievements in IU 20 member districts.

Intermediate Unit 20 and its school districts honored students who achieved the status of Finalist, Semi-Finalist or Commended in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Students achieve this distinction by scoring in the top 3% of students nationally on their PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test) tests. At the ceremony, 36 students received certificates of achievement from IU 20 and the state legislature. Students recognized from throughout the CIU 20 area include:

Student's Name	High School	Status
Keith Bell	Freedom High School	Commended
Samuel Bina	Bangor Area High School	Finalist
Brandyn Bok	Pleasant Valley High School	Commended
Haley Burns	Pen Argyl Area High School	Commended
Michael J. Burns	Nazareth Area High School	Commended
Jennifer Davidson	Stroudsburg High School	Commended
Justin Davis	Pen Argyl Area High School	Finalist
Alexander A. Delluva	Liberty High School	Commended
Bethany M. Dus	Pocono Mountain East High School	Commended
Tarek Elsayed	Stroudsburg High School	Commended
Shannon Francis	Easton Area High School	Commended
Benjamin M. Gotchel	Pocono Mountain East High School	Commended
Grant E. Haines	Liberty High School	Commended
Thomas Hartmann	Delaware Valley High School	Commended
Vrinda K. Jagota	Liberty High School	Finalist
Matt Jouny	Easton Area High School	Commended
Elizabeth Joyce	Stroudsburg High School	Commended
Benjamin J. Kraft	Liberty High School	Finalist
Ryan W. Lichty	Liberty High School	Commended
Joseph Anthony LoPresti	Pocono Mountain West High School	Finalist
Nicholas A. Marshall	Pocono Mountain East High School	Commended
Patrick Miller	Saucon Valley High School	Commended

Student	High School	Status
Wyatt Miller	Nazareth Area High School	Commended
Sarah Mincer	Delaware Valley High School	Commended
Heidi Muth	Bangor Area High School	Commended
Terese Nelson	Freedom High School	Finalist
Samantha Phillips	Pleasant Valley High School	Commended
Avani V. Pisapati	Liberty High School	Commended
Noah Root	Easton Area High School	Commended
Soham Roy	Freedom High School	Semi-Finalist
Allen Sirolly	Stroudsburg High School	Finalist
Andrew Trinker	Easton Area High School	Commended
Katrina Wagner	Bangor Area High School	Commended
Louis Wheeler	Easton Area High School	Commended
Jacob Young	Stroudsburg High School	Commended
Nicole Zenes	Delaware Valley High School	Commended

Additionally, the evening featured the presentation of crystal awards, known as the Excellence in Education awards, to school districts and a non-school entity who work within school districts or the district community to increase achievement and support public schools. The outstanding programs presented with awards include:

- Pleasant Valley High School, Pleasant Valley School District, for the program "Digital Documentaries to Highlight Contemporary Social Injustice" by Philomena Reduzzi, Patty McLain and Jackie Ludka
- Delaware Valley High School, Delaware Valley School District, for the program "Teens against Tobacco Use" by Ellen Orben
- The NE PA Federal Credit Union for "East Stroudsburg Area High School Student Branch of NE PA Community Federal Credit Union" by Mark Filbert and Holly Wilds

Distinguished guests included State Representatives Steve Samuelson, Marcia Hahn and Rosemary Brown, with representatives also in attendance for Representatives Mario Scavello and Steve Samuelson; as well as board members Pamela Colton, Bangor Area School District and CIU 20, Jane Erdo, Northampton Area School District and CIU 20 Board of Directors Vice President, Darin Arthofer, Northampton Area School District, and Dorothy Sirolly, Pocono Mountain School District.

The ceremony featured remarks from Dr. Charlene M. Brennan, CIU 20 Executive Director and Dr. John Toleno, Superintendent at Stroudsburg Area School District.

## CIU 20 Maintains High Website Presence

BY JASON LEE, *Web/Application Developer*

In the last two years, from mid-April to mid-May, CIU 20's website has consistently attracted 5,000 to 6,000 "absolute unique visitors" during this four week period. During that same time range, 37,000 to 40,000 content pages were viewed, and on average each unique visitor viewed three pages. Overall, these users are estimated to typically spend 1.5 minutes within the site itself.

In a brief analysis, 5,500 unique visitors is an impressive expression of the site's monthly public use. While other organizations might be able to attribute high traffic to day to day employee use, as of 2009 the [ciu20.org](#) website has segregated all employee resources to a separate internal intranet website. Statistics also confirm that the homepage link to the private Intranet is in low use and not skewing the visitor data. Additional statistics further

highlight this trend and affirm that at least 2,500 visitors intentionally come to the website and navigate deeper into the site.

The fact that each unique user averaged about three page views acknowledges the success of the site's streamlined navigation structure. The website was designed without a deep structure so information could be quickly accessed. Site visitors navigating through three pages and spending roughly 1.5 minutes within the site implies they found what they needed and subsequently left. The website visitors do not typically investigate every offering of the site, which is reasonable considering the site's huge diversity, but there are certainly a large number of users coming for specific content.

Data collection also shows that 50% of the page views are related to

*continued on Page 4*

## Dinner Workshop Held at Delaware Valley High School

BY DONNA LLOYD, Curriculum Services Department

On Monday, May 2, 2011, Kathy Emeigh, TaC Staff Supervisor and Donna Lloyd, Training Consultant, of IU 20's Curriculum Services Department presented an overview of the Reading Apprenticeship framework to staff members in the Delaware Valley School District. The overview was presented during a dinner workshop held in the high school's cafeteria, to an audience of approximately 135 teachers and administrative staff including district superintendent Dr. Candis Finan and Board Member Diane French.

The goal for this learning session was for the attendees to see students as thinkers and learners. An additional goal was for the participants to see themselves as the conduit to develop and grow students' skills in those areas. The Reading Apprenticeship framework, which is research-based, is an approach to reading instruction that helps young people develop the knowledge, strategies, and dispositions they need to become more powerful readers. It is, at heart, a partnership of expertise, drawing on what teachers know and do as discipline-based readers, and on adolescents' unique and often underestimated strengths as learners.

The evening began with a brief presentation by district teachers, Ms. Liz Watson. She provided an inspirational keynote speech entitled, "A Glimpse into My Teacher Mind." This was followed by a one hour presentation facilitated by Kathy Emeigh and Donna Lloyd on the Reading Apprenticeship framework, which incorporated the four interacting dimensions of classroom life (social, personal, cognitive, and knowledge-building) that are the foundation for a Reading Apprenticeship classroom. These dimensions are woven into subject-area teaching through metacognitive conversations—conversations about the thinking processes students and teachers engage in as they read.

During the dinner hour, participants were provided discussion prompts related to the night's topic. After dinner, the participants were provided a collegial reading entitled, "Just like Pastrami." Teachers and administrators were prompted to select one "golden line" from the reading to discuss with their dinner partners, which ended with a whole group discussion.

The evening concluded with closing remarks by Liz Watson that included a personal story on how her teachers made a difference in her life. She charged her fellow teachers to make a difference in the lives of their students and expressed her excitement at how the Reading Apprenticeship framework can make that difference for all the students in their district.

## CIU 20 Maintains High Website Presence

*continued from Page 3*

Employment Opportunities, a main goal in the website redesign effort. An additional ten percent of the page views are focused on CIU 20 Courses and Workshops, and 10% is related to general "About Us" and "Contact Us" resources. Other content areas receive monthly attention with hundreds of page views but none compare to the above three topic areas.

In this brief analysis, the CIU 20 website appears to be a successful web presence and information source for the public. Their time spent is brief but it is also purposeful and successful. Going forward CIU 20 can now investigate how to better entice the consistently large visitor base to come to the site and investigate all CIU 20 has to offer.

*Revolutionary Thinking . . . Makes A Difference*



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

*"The Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 declares itself to be an equal rights and opportunity agency. As an equal rights and opportunity agency, it does not discriminate against individuals or groups because of race, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status or non-relevant handicaps and disabilities as defined by law."*

*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.*