



# THE TWENTY

*This Month: Curriculum and Technology Departments*



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Colonial Intermediate Unit 20

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## Crayola Donates a Colorful Array of Products to CIU 20

BY LINDSEY SMITH, *Coordinator of Professional Development*

For the second consecutive year, CIU 20 received a large donation of Crayola products that will be divided among intermediate unit programs for use in the classroom and at various events and programs. The donation was received through the Crayola corporate contributions program, which donates products to nonprofit organizations that provide services to children and young adults in Northampton and Lehigh Counties in Pennsylvania and the cities of Kutztown, PA and Phillipsburg, NJ.

Through Crayola's commitment to enhancing education in the arts, early childhood and for students with special needs, CIU 20 received a large donation which included items such as Silly Scents Supertip Washable, ColorWonder and Overwriter markers; ColorWonder mini tablets; construction paper; Color-Fillz Mosaic Art sets; ColorWonder Mess Free Paint; Model Magic Fusion kits (in glitter textures and glow-in-the-dark); Premier Fluorescent tempera paint; and a variety of paint brushes.



*A few of the many products donated by Crayola are laid out as the products are counted and prepared for distribution.*

The supplies were divided up among Curriculum, Special Education and Resolve programs at IU 20 based upon need and delivered to classrooms and other staff members as appropriate. Art is often used in classrooms, K-12, as a means of therapeutic support and to engage students in learning.

Additionally, Training Consultants provide workshops to teachers, providing creative project ideas for use throughout the content areas. These supplies will be arriving in classrooms and offices in the coming weeks.

It is companies like Crayola that positively support the growth of the community and continue the mission and vision of CIU 20 while promoting creative learning in the classroom. CIU 20 extends its sincere thanks to Crayola for the generous donation.

## Executive Director's Message

BY DR. CHARLENE M. BRENNAN

### The Twenty for October

As we head into November, it is inevitable that budget struggles will begin to take center stage for all of us. With an Act 1 index at 1.4%, a new and so far unknown Governor set to take a seat in Harrisburg and the loss of federal stimulus money, balancing budgets will require hard choices and difficult decisions.

We have begun our budget process for Intermediate Unit services but are only in the preliminary stages. Because each budget is separate, savings in one budget do not necessarily assist with other budget difficulties. For example, if we have a staff member paid in our Special Education budget retire and do not replace that position or hire a person at the start salary, those savings do not impact our Partial Hospitalization budget. As an Intermediate Unit, we do not have a General Fund in the same way school district do that would allow us to take those potential savings in special education and lower costs throughout the budgets or use the savings strategically in other areas. Therefore, our budgeting is extremely complex and, while separate, also interconnected in complex ways.

We are aware of your budget struggles back home and will work hard to make the hard choices necessary to make our services affordable for your district, while also being cognizant that we do not want to create a situation where districts are in due process or other situations that will require you to take money from service to students and put it in legal fees and/or settlements. As we work through our process, we will be consulting with your school districts for advice and assistance with decision-making in the weeks ahead.

I want to thank you ahead of time for your patience and ask that you continue to understand that we are facing the same challenges and struggles you are and that we are in this with you. As always, please feel free to call me at any time if you have questions or concerns at 610-515-6402.

## IMS Library Expands to Include Innovation Tools

BY HEATHER BROWN, *Coordinator of Educational Technology*

The IMS Library is CIU 20's lending library where districts may borrow instructional videos and supporting materials to enhance professional development and their professional learning communities. According to Marian Shaffner, professor/educator/speaker, (2002), integrating technology into the classroom may increase the learner's engagement and motivation, provide learner's creative ways to demonstrate their learning, make learning authentic and promote critical thinking and collaboration skills. The benefits of technology integration for educators are it may move instruction from a behaviorist approach to a constructivist classroom and promote project-based learning.

The IMS library recently added multiple instructional innovation tools. It now includes an iPod case with 20 iTouches, digital cameras, flip cameras, green screen kits, document cameras, Nintendo DSiXLs, learner response systems, and Kindles. Videos include national speakers, such as Carol Ann Tomlinson, Robert Marzano, Mike Schmoker, and address numerous research-based instructional strategies. Topics include, but are not limited to, differentiated instruction, brain-based research, inclusion, and school improvement.

Interested districts and educators may sign out any materials from the IMS library by contacting Kim Bowers at 610-515-6441.

## Curriculum Department Welcomes Two New Team Members

BY KATHY EMEIGH, *Training and Consulting Staff Supervisor*

The Curriculum Department at Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 is pleased to announce the addition of two new Training and Consulting (TaC) staff members, who joined the team at the beginning of the 2010-11 school year. These individuals will work closely with district administrators and teachers to provide technical assistance, consultation and professional development services.



Joana Spinelli joined the Curriculum Department Training and Consulting staff in August of 2010. Her main initiative area as a training consultant is Assistive Technology (AT) and she is excited to be sharing her love and passion for AT with others. She is also looking forward to collaborating with the many wonderful teachers and administrators throughout Northampton, Monroe and Pike counties.

Joana is currently pursuing her graduate work at East Stroudsburg University. Prior to joining the IU, Joana was employed by Northampton Area School District, where she supported the use and integration of instructional and assistive technologies into classroom practice. Her professional interests include assistive technology, instructional technology, and universal design for learning. Joana is originally from New York and currently lives in Bethlehem with her family.

Andra Bell is excited to be the newest member of the Curriculum Department Training and Consulting staff at IU 20, providing service in the area of reading. A graduate from Bowling Green State University with a B.S. in Elementary Education, and an M. Ed. in Reading from James Madison University, Andra comes to the intermediate unit with 19 years of experience as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, literacy coach, and staff developer.



Andra started her teaching career in Ohio, and after marrying her husband John, gained valuable experiences teaching in Michigan, Virginia, Florida, and finally Pennsylvania. Working at the IU is the beginning of a new career adventure for Andra and she looks forward to collaborating with fellow TaC staff members as well as the administrators and teachers of Colonial IU 20's member districts.

CIU 20 Training and Consulting staff members provide workshops and offer leadership, direction and support in the development of effective practices for the improvement of instruction throughout the intermediate unit area. Additionally, the Curriculum Department offers customized professional development services, both at the IU and in the districts, to meet the needs of its member school districts. These services, offered at minimal or no cost to participating schools, may be requested by districts through the Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 website at:

[www.ciu20.org/curriculum-services/request-training.aspx](http://www.ciu20.org/curriculum-services/request-training.aspx)

## DID YOU KNOW...

**69,686**

**is the number of spam emails that our spam filter prevented from being delivered to our inboxes in one day this month.**

**608MegaBytes**

**is the amount of storage space that would have been required to store those 69, 686 messages that were blocked for that one day.**

**1,463,284**

**is the number of spam emails that our spam filter prevented from being delivered to our inboxes in the last month.**

**87**

**different types of viruses contained in emails were prevented from entering our system by our filter.**

**96%**

**of all emails directed at our email system are rejected as spam/virus-containing messages.**

**143**

**inappropriate web searches were blocked by our web content filter last month.**

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**

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## CIU 20 Supports RtII in PA

BY SHERRY HARTMAN, *Training & Consulting Staff*

Have you heard the term RtII? It stands for Response to Instruction and Intervention. Schools across the nation are using RtII as a framework to focus on improving student achievement for all learners. Pennsylvania has identified six major components that are critical as schools implement the framework into their daily practice. Those components are Standards Aligned Instruction, Universal Screening, Shared Ownership, Data-Based Decision Making, Tiered Intervention and Service Delivery System, and Parental Engagement.

Response to Instruction and Intervention is a framework for early intervention that looks at identifying students who may be at academic or behavioral risk. The six components provide guidance to schools as they implement the initiative. The first major component is that all students receive **Standards Aligned Instruction**. This simply means that the curriculum and instruction are aligned to the Pennsylvania State Standards. **Universal Screeners** are the second component of the framework. All students are screened several times throughout the school year. Benchmark goals are then used to determine students who may be at risk. **Shared Ownership**, the third component, encourages educators to collaborate and take an active role in the assessment and instructional process. Educators then use the benchmark data as they engage in **Data-based Decision Making**. This component allows educators to look at student performance and adjust instruction to better meet student's needs. Students at risk are then placed into a **Tiered Intervention Service Delivery System**. Tier 1 consists of standard aligned instruction for all students. Tier 2 offers more strategic interventions for some students and Tier 3 interventions focus on intensive interventions for a few students. The interventions utilized are scientifically research-based and have been proven to be effective to meet student's need. **Parental Engagement** is the final component in the RtII framework. This component, unique to Pennsylvania, requires that parents receive detailed information concerning their child's needs. Parents are informed of interventions their child may be receiving. They also receive feedback regarding their child's progress with the intervention. The overarching goal of Response to Instruction and Intervention is to improve student achievement using a systematic approach with research based resources for all students in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 will be hosting Dr. Denise Gibbs, a national presenter on the RtII process on November 2nd. She will share strategies for implementing RtII in Middle and High Schools. Registration is currently available at [www.cpetracker.org](http://www.cpetracker.org).

## Calling All Data! CIU 20 to Establish Data Collection Process for Wide Area Network

BY TOM BAILEYS, *Director of Technology*

CIU 20 is in the process of establishing the capability for Wide Area Network (WAN) member districts to monitor the utilization of the network and collect data that will identify not only how much the networks are being utilized but also for what they are being utilized. The WAN provides member districts access to four primary networks over which their data can flow. The first, and most expensive component is the commodity internet network or internet. In addition, districts can utilize the state K-12 education network, PAIUNet; the higher education network known as Internet2 or the regional network CIU20Net, our regional WAN.

Each of these networks involves costs, which combine to make up the monthly WAN charges for each district. Monitoring the utilization of each of these networks and collecting data will provide district technology directors and administrators the capability to make informed choices about what networks the CIU 20 catchment area continues to belong to and support and whether there is a need to purchase more or less circuit capacity for each of these networks.

As the Technology Directors and Network Administrators looked for solutions to the problem of identifying the specifics of network utilization, it became apparent that success would depend upon a common solution that could be shared among the WAN members. Several vendors were contacted to provide demonstrations of their capabilities and open-source software solutions were explored. A final solution was selected which provides a stable and mature technology for gathering the data and also provides districts with the capability to add-on components, allowing them to prioritize their network traffic if their future needs exceed the bandwidth capacity of their networks.

The CIU 20 Act 183 grant included funds for implementation of a network monitoring solution and a plan was developed, which would provide the necessary equipment, configuration and implementation, maintenance, support and training for each of the member districts for the full five years of the current WAN contract. Thus, WAN member districts will not incur any additional expenses for equipment, maintenance or technical support over the life of the WAN contract. In addition, by implementing a common solution, with extensive training of district technicians, member districts can rely on one another for ongoing support and the development of best practices.

In addition to the hardware and support, CIU 20 utilized Act 183 funds to purchase a reporting system which can collect and analyze the network utilization data to provide reports in a useful format. The reporting system is web based and will be available to all WAN member districts.

## CIU 20 to Present Back to the Future: School Improvement Leadership Series

BY AMAAL AWADALLA, *Assistant Director of Curriculum Services*

CIU 20's Curriculum Department is hosting a continuous school improvement series starting this fall. This PA Inspired Leadership (PIL) approved program is a four part series that is designed to support building and central office leaders in continuous school improvement. Topics include the Getting Results framework, using the four types of data to identify root cause, and designing effective professional development that leads to increased student achievement. Activities are designed so that building administrators can take them back to their building and replicate with their teachers and committees.

Building administrators will have an opportunity to work with two national presenters as part of this series. On December 10, 2010, Dr. Edie Holcomb, author of **Students are Stakeholders, Too, Asking the Right Questions and Getting Excited About Data** will focus on the resources schools have and processes needed to maximize student achievement. On February 24, 2011, Shirley Hord, one of the leading experts on the change process, will

focus on what are the next steps in the change process and how do schools effectively initiate and manage change. She is the editor of **Learning Together, Leading Together** recently published by Teachers College Press, co-author of **Moving NSDC's Staff Development Standards into Practice**, co-author of **Implementing Change: Patterns, Principles, and Potholes**, and lead author for **Taking Charge of Change**.

This event is exclusively for CIU 20 member district building or central office administrators. Administrators in schools designated as Meeting AYP or Making Progress are also encouraged to attend. In addition, teams of building administrators accompanied by a central office administrator for curriculum and instruction are strongly encouraged. As a result of this series participants will be able to develop and/or enhance their school improvement plan. They will also be able to address concerns in their district's school improvement plan.

## Act 183 Expands its Reach

BY TOM BAILEYS, *Director of Technology*

To improve the broadband infrastructure and networking capabilities between schools both regionally and across the state Act 183 funding program was made available to schools. Having largely accomplished the goals of the program, regional groups are now seeking to extend that initiative to the thousands of non-public school students. CIU 20 has partnered with the Diocese of Allentown to prepare and submit an Act 183 grant to support the connection of the 52 diocesan schools into a wide area network (WAN) and to further connect that network as a node on the CIU 20 Regional WAN. Doing so would in turn provide these schools with a pathway to the state K-12 education network, PAIUNet.

The project began with a survey of the Diocesan schools in June and July and the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFPs) at the beginning of September. Vendor bids on the RFP are due this month and then the evaluation process for selecting a vendor to provide services will begin. In support of the project, an Act 183 grant application will be submitted near the end of October requesting funding to defray the cost of developing and extending broadband network infrastructure to non-public schools.

CIU 20 as well as IUs 14, 21 and 29 will be participating in this process since the footprint of the Allentown Diocese overlays all of these IUs. The individual intermediate units will be providing implementation technical support and then will be providing IU WAN services to the schools that fall within their catchment areas. For CIU 20 this means that the costs for PAIUNet connection and Internet2 fees will now be divided by a fourteenth entity (instead of 13 members) resulting in cost savings for all members. In addition, this connectivity will open new avenues for CIU 20 to provide fee-based services to non-public schools. In addition, the added student base will provide additional leverage in negotiation for pooled purchases of technology and curriculum services and materials.

The Act 183 grant awards are expected to be announced in mid-December and a final Diocesan WAN contract should be in place prior to the eRate filing window in mid-February. The WAN circuits could be activated at the start of the new fiscal year in July 2011. This is the final year of the Act 183 funding and a final opportunity to establish broadband network connectivity for non-public schools.



*Revolutionary Thinking . . . Makes A Difference*



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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.*