

# THE TWENTY

Division of Administrative & Professional Services

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## Nothing But Net! Better Instruction Through Networking

When educators work together, great things happen! The IU has created new networking opportunities throughout the year for teachers and administrators who work with preparing students for Keystone Exams and for those who serve ELLs. These half-day meetings include updates on new legislation and initiatives from PDE as well as reporting from teachers and administrators about how they have innovated and struggled to serve the needs of their students. There is always time set aside for collaboration and discussion in a networking meeting. Recent topics for these meetings have included: best practices for giving general education teachers useful information about student learning plans and suggesting methods for providing consistent instruction across classrooms. These networking meetings are great opportunities for collaborative problem solving with teachers and administrators from other districts and schools! To see the full list of networking opportunities visit [www.ciu20.org/networkingmeetings](http://www.ciu20.org/networkingmeetings).



**Save the date!** On March 20, 2017, Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 is hosting a Leadership Symposium for Aspiring Leaders in K-12 education. The theme for the symposium is "Leadership with a Twist." The event will be held at DeSales University in Allentown, PA. The keynote speaker is Dan DiZio, CEO and Co-Founder of Philly Pretzel Factory.

If you are interested in being a presenter, please contact Todd Van Nortwick, [tvannortwick@ciu20.org](mailto:tvannortwick@ciu20.org). Some of the topics that will be considered include but are not limited to: Teacher Leadership, Coaching, Systemic Leadership, School Culture, Hiring and Retention, Developing a Leadership Style, and Dealing with Conflict in the Workplace.



On Wednesday, December 8, children from CIU 20 programs attended a Christmas Party hosted by Kiwanis Club of Easton. The event featured a magic act and, of course, Santa also made an appearance. Kiwanis members distributed a gift bag to each child that attended.

## Parent & Family Engagement Night Held for NPSS Families

On November 7, 2016 CIU 20 hosted its Fall Parent and Family Engagement Night for students and families receiving remedial services in our nonpublic schools throughout the region. Remedial teachers from CIU 20's Nonpublic School Services facilitated a variety of activities in reading and mathematics, including but not limited to: "Get to Know You" Bingo activity, Math Stamp game, Writing-to-Draw activity, and OSMO iPad activities. In addition to the fun and engaging activities, local author Josh Berk did a short presentation on his love for writing and how he used his passion to become an author. Mr. Berk also did a "Meet the Author" session in which students and families had an opportunity to make a personal connection with him by asking questions about his career. The Lehigh Valley Therapy Dogs were also present led by therapy dog, Mr. Peabody. Nearly 70 people attended the event.

Thank you to Crayola of Easton, Exeter Orthodontics of Easton, Children's Dental Health Associates of Easton, and Pizza Joe's of Nazareth for sponsoring this wonderful, well attended event for our nonpublic school students and families.



## Innaugural Math Symposium A Success

CIU 20 hosted its 1st Annual K-12 Math Symposium for educators on October 25, 2016 at DeSales University. The theme of this year's symposium was: Teach It, Learn It, Love It. Dr. Paul Riccomini, an author, educator and mathematician from Penn State University, was the event's keynote speaker. Along with listening to the keynote address, participants had an opportunity to engage in three different break-out sessions on various math topics. Two school districts within CIU 20 presented during the break-out sessions. Michelle Arnold, Principal from the East Stroudsburg Area School District and Joseph Yanek, Principal from the Nazareth Area School District, both presented topics respectively. Each participant in attendance was provided with a book pertinent to their grade level to help with their math instruction. Over 80 educators from the CIU20 region and beyond attended the event.

Thank you to Jeff Richter and his team from DeSales University for their hospitality. Overall, it was a wonderful, well attended event for our public and nonpublic school educators.

## Annual IU Wide In-Service Day Focuses on "Educating the Whole Child"

On October 10, 2016, the CIU 20 annual IU Wide In-Service Day was held at East Stroudsburg University. This annual multi-county in-service day is designed specifically for paraprofessionals, teachers, and other professionals who work outside of the four core content subject areas (Math, Science, Social Studies and English/Language Arts) of our region (Northampton, Monroe and Pike counties).

The date is always Columbus day, thus coinciding many of our districts' own in-service days. This enables CIU 20 to provide meaningful professional development in a cost-effective manner that reaches the largest amount of the educators in our region. For several years we have been utilizing East Stroudsburg University to hold the majority of our sessions because it is centrally located, and we are able to get many classrooms on the campus.



Dana Hahn from the Luke William Hahn Foundation spoke about helping students deal

This year's attendance was a little over 400 educators, many of whom were paraprofessionals / teacher aides / 1 on 1 staff. The original intent of this day was to offer professional development sessions that were very specific to content area. But the overwhelming feedback in recent years has been to offer strategies to help students overcome challenges in the home and outside the classroom that block their path to academic success.

This has helped us shape the day into professional development that "educates the whole child." The most popular topics for this year's event addressed many of these issues, including dealing with grief, substance abuse, dysfunctional families, suicide awareness, mindfulness, and collaboration.



The Center for Humanistic Change presented sessions on "Current Trends in Substance Abuse" and "The Effects of Dysfunctional Families on Children"

One participant was so enthused about ideas that she learned on this day that she commented, "I am going to recommend to my administrator that we should have an extended version of this program at our district."



Tony Pidgeon, Director of HR

## News From HR ...

### Act 118 Extends Act 48 Deadline

Continuing Professional Education is important in Pennsylvania. Act 48 of 1999 requires all Pennsylvania educators holding Pennsylvania public school certification to participate in ongoing professional education. Educators must earn six credits of collegiate study; or six credits of PDE-approved continuing professional education courses; or 180 hours of continuing professional education programs, activities or learning experiences through a PDE approved provider; or any combination of the above every five years to maintain active certification status. Act 45 (Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership -PIL) states that certain administrators need to take PIL approved courses to meet the 180 hour requirement.

Act 118 of 2016 signed recently by Governor Wolf has amended act 48 in the following way, stating that each professional educator's current professional education compliance period shall be extended by one year.

Although this seems like a simple process, it has brought about many questions about how this act will be implemented. We have recently received guidance regarding Act 118. The interpretations are as follows:

- Anyone whose current compliance period ends June 30 of 2017 will have until June 30 2018. They get an extra year to meet the 180 hours of professional development.
- Everyone who has a current active compliance period at the same time as the enactment of Act 118 will get an extra year added to the end of their compliance period

This extension applies to both Act 48 and to Act 45 (PIL) requirements. All certificated individuals should be tracking their approved hours through the PERMS system. PERMS stands for Professional Educator Record Management System, and can be found on the PDE website.

It is important to keep your PERMS Profile updated at all times. Please take a moment to check to make sure your name, e-mail and current mailing address are correct.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Tony Pidgeon at [tpidgeon@ciu20.org](mailto:tpidgeon@ciu20.org).

## Making Coaching Connections with Easton Middle School: 2016-2017

Relationships, Responsiveness, and Results are not only the mission statement of CIU20, but it's also the driving force behind the working partnership between the Professional Learning Department and Easton Middle School. Since June 2016, TaC staff members Donna Lloyd, Debbie Matz, and Melissa Petrilak have facilitated the learning of approximately 140 teachers at the Easton Middle School in three common areas of education: formative assessment, student engagement, and differentiated instruction.

Collaborative planning, careful selection of resources, ongoing communication with the school's administration and TaC staff expertise in these three areas of education



has resulted in a comprehensive three pronged approach. Inservice day trainings, coaching in sixth grade classrooms with follow-up meetings, and one hour after school sessions reflect an ideal sustained model of professional development for building teacher capacity and changing teacher practice. Maintaining a "pulse" on this initiative is critical. Teacher and administrative feedback is regularly elicited and analyzed, offering direction for areas to pause and revise thinking before moving forward.



As with any school reform effort, our coaching partnership will take time to develop and take root in teacher practice. This is an opportunity to reform and inform educators since it incorporates much of what research tells us about how people learn and about best practices for improving learning.

Challenges along with teacher and student growth are anticipated and expected as we look forward to continuing into 2017.

## CIU 20 Leads in Fidelity of Implementation Pilot for Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDTs)

The Pennsylvania Department of Education, along with the Pennsylvania CDT Core Team, are presently conducting a Case Study Pilot about the fidelity of implementation of the CDTs (Classroom Diagnostic Tools) in six pilot project sites across Pennsylvania. IU 20 is leading the CDT Pilot Study efforts in one pilot project site within our regional service area.

The goals for the Case Study Pilot are to:

- Collect quantitative and qualitative data on the use of the Classroom Diagnostic Tools and associated professional development when implemented with fidelity;
- Guide future CDT professional development;
- Promote CDTs to districts currently not using as well as to support those that are currently involved at some level.
- Provide professional development and implementation assistance to districts newly adopting and implementing the Classroom Diagnostic Tool.

The six site project leads (IU Staff) provide full training and consultation per the CDT Core Team's recommendation for exploration, installation, preparation, implementation, and ongoing support and connections in the six pilot schools. Training and support is being offered throughout 2016-17 to fully implement the CDT Cycle in designated grade level(s)/content area(s), as decided by each participating pilot project site. Each pilot project site receives substitute reimbursement for up to 45 days at \$100.00 per day and \$1,000 per site for materials and resources.

When considering possible pilot schools/districts sites for this Pilot Study, the following factors were taken into consideration:

- Minimal or no use of the CDT in the recent past;
- A reasonable number of grade levels and content areas to serve as the focus of a pilot;
- An existing structure for professional development through PLC/grade level/department meetings/faculty meetings that supports initial implementation of the CDT;
- A positive working relationship with the site project lead.

In the IU20 regional service area, 80 percent of our Districts are currently using the CDTs at some level for the 2016-17 school year. The IU20 service area ranks #2 in CDT usage in the state, just a bit behind the IU13 service area. Statewide, only 34.8 percent of Districts are currently using the CDTs at some level for the present school year. In the 2015-16 school year, the IU20 service area ranked 4th out of 29 IUs across the state that were implementing the CDTs at some level.



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