



COLONIAL
Intermediate Unit 20

THE TWENTY

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CIU 20 Launches Hybrid Learning Initiative

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 has partnered with Dellicker Strategies to launch a Hybrid Learning Initiative in three member school districts, transforming how teachers teach, how content is delivered, and how students learn.

During the 2017-2018 school year, Pleasant Valley School District, Easton Area School District and Stroudsburg Area School District have implemented the HLI within their respective schools.

"The Stroudsburg Area School District has really embraced the hybrid methodology of teaching and learning as a research-based instructional practice," said Dr. Cosmas Curry, Superintendent of the Stroudsburg Area School District. "We are continuing with this process next year and well into the future, as we believe it is best for students."

Building a common language and developing a shared vision provide the foundation for creating personalized learning environments.

"The hybrid learning initiative has been transformational for our school districts," said Dr. Michelle Bozzini, Director of Professional Learning and Curriculum at CIU 20. "When implemented with fidelity, it evolves into student-centered learning that is truly customized in order to meet the unique interests and needs of all children."



Dr. Michelle Bozzini, Director of Professional Learning and Curriculum, facilitates a group discussion on the CIU 20 Hybrid Learning Initiative at the SAS Institute in Hershey on Dec. 5.

The partnership includes 66 teachers, 3,050 students and 27 administrators. Collaborative efforts from these learning communities have focused on supporting teachers to redesign their classrooms to meet the needs of all learners.

During the second half of the school year, CIU 20 will continue to support the personalized learning journey for all stakeholders, and looks forward to supporting more school districts with the Hybrid Learning Initiative in the 2018-2019 school year and beyond.



Elsie Doll and Construction Management Instructor Mark Franczak prepare for the District 11 SkillsUSA Championships.

Colonial Academy Student Competes In D-11 SkillsUSA Championships

A Northampton Area School District student from Colonial Academy competed at the 30th Annual District 11 SkillsUSA Championships on Jan. 31 in the Job Skills Competition, an event that requires competitors to teach a skill to three judges using a five-to-seven-minute presentation.

Under the direction of Construction Management Instructor Mark Franczak, Elsie Doll delivered a presentation on how to use a wood-burning pencil, which combined her love of art with the skills she has learned at Colonial Academy.

"I was really nervous until I started presenting," said Doll. "Mr. Franczak prepared me well." She said the experience boosted her confidence in public speaking, and she enjoyed getting to know her competitors. She hopes to use her love of art to open an art-based business some day.

"I am very pleased with Elsie's dedication to this competition," said Franczak. "She had so much content that she actually had to shorten her presentation."

Regional Training on Heroin Epidemic Held for Educators

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 hosted a workshop, "Current Heroin Threat in the Community," which was presented by Master Sgt. Brandon Staudt and Sgt. Maggie Shewack from the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center.

Fifty-two representatives from CIU 20, school districts, non-public schools, and county agencies attended the full-day session on Jan. 11. The workshop was held due to the sudden rise of heroin and prescription opioid deaths, which has created a unique challenge to our local communities. Attendees were able to review and analyze their most recent Pennsylvania Youth Survey data in order to identify patterns of substance abuse and risk factors throughout all communities.

The course was designed for educators, community organizers, and health-care personnel, as the content focused on national, statewide, and local trends related to heroin, prescription opioids, and other opioid compounds. Attendees learned about the opioid epidemic that the Commonwealth is currently facing, how this epidemic has changed, and what can be done to combat this growing threat.

The course outcomes included analyzing the history of heroin usage and how it relates to today's issues, assessing the currently identified trends in the manufacturing and distribution of heroin, understanding the pharmacology of



Master Sgt. Brandon Staudt works with workshop attendees to review Pennsylvania Youth Survey data to identify patterns of substance abuse and risk factors in the region.

heroin, and analyzing the physical and psychological effects of heroin and its direct relation to law enforcement actions today.

It was the second workshop presented by Staudt at CIU 20 during the 2017-2018 school year. On Oct. 17, he presented an Opioid Awareness Training at the regional Student Assistance Program meeting held at CIU 20.

Internet Costs Continue To Drop For Participating RWAN Districts

Members of Colonial Intermediate Unit 20's Regional Wide Area Network will see a 20 percent discount on their internet bandwidth costs for the upcoming school year. After the latest revision of CIU 20's network was put into place in July 2015, CIU 20 was able to offer its RWAN members a cost of only 75 cents per megabyte for internet service.

Throughout the years, the IU has been able to consistently renegotiate and reduce internet service costs for member districts. Next school year, districts can expect to pay only 27 cents per megabyte for Zito internet service - a 64 percent cost reduction in just three years.

The decrease is due largely to CIU 20 member districts, as well as other local education agencies throughout the state on the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units Network, working together to combine their demand for internet service.

RWAN members are also provided a web interface that provides them with real-time and historical data on internet utilization. This data allows districts to make data-informed decisions about the amount of internet service their district needs. Members will have the option of seeing a deduction on their bill, or reinvesting those funds to purchase more internet bandwidth for the upcoming year. The second option allows members to get the amount of bandwidth they need with no net increase.

The CIU 20 RWAN is currently comprised of 12 school districts, three vocational-technical schools, one non-public school, and two charter schools.



VOL. 13 • ISSUE 5 • FEBRUARY 2018

The Twenty is a monthly publication of Colonial Intermediate Unit 20, 6 Danforth Drive, Easton, Pa., 18045

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Guest Teacher Program Adds 30 New Substitutes

In a continuing effort to address substitute shortages occurring in Colonial Intermediate Unit 20's member districts, the winter Guest Teacher Training Program granted emergency permits to qualified recipients and added 30 new individuals to the CIU 20 pool of substitutes. The two-day training took place Feb. 6 and 14.

CIU 20 provides approximately 250 active substitutes to its participating school districts through the Guest Teacher Program. These substitutes can function just like a traditional substitute for day-to-day teacher absences. The program allows individuals with bachelor's degrees to serve as a substitute with an emergency permit. There is no cost to the districts for participating in this program.

During the training, participants develop skills on classroom management, behavior modifications, technology, and strategies for educating students with special needs. Participants also tour classrooms within participating districts. During the opening keynote address, CIU 20 Director of Special Education Jackie Bartek told the trainees to "make connections and be part of the team ... be flexible and always act in the best interest of the kids in that classroom."

The Guest Teacher Program was founded at CIU 20 in 1998. There are typically two trainings per year - one in the fall and



CIU 20 Director of Special Education Jackie Bartek welcomes the substitute teacher trainees during the opening keynote address.

one in the winter. The IU is proud of this collaborative effort to provide qualified, trained substitutes in its classrooms. CIU 20 looks forward to continuing this training in collaboration with its member school districts and vocational schools.

If your district needs substitutes, or if you know anyone who is interested in becoming a substitute, please contact Tony Pidgeon, Director of Human Resources, at (610) 515-6405 or tpidgeon@ciu20.org.

TEACH Aims To Optimize Instruction For Learners With Complex Needs

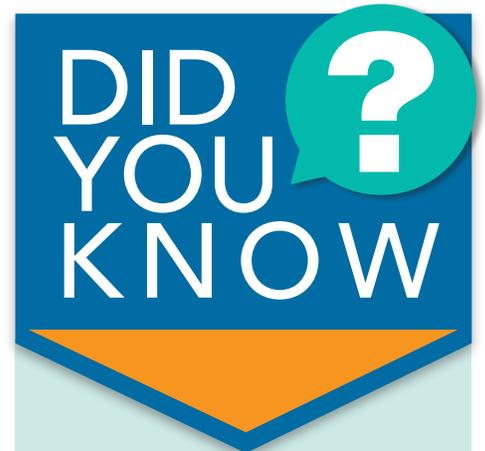
During the 2017-2018 school year, the Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 Training and Consulting Staff are working collaboratively to facilitate the professional learning community, TEACH: Technology, Engagement, Assessment, Communication, History.

The six-part series is designed to support educators in using optimized practices for students with complex instructional needs by setting high expectations for all students, including those who may require significant modification to the general education curriculum. Educators are equipped with strategies to engage learners who have low incidence disabilities, such as significant cognitive disabilities, autism, or multiple disabilities.

Throughout the series, attendees are engaged in active discussions, hands-on learning, direct instruction, videos, resource discovery, and professional reading. The collaborative staff has combined experience in assistive technology, autism, behavior, and special education strategies to enhance learning of students with complex needs.

To date, the series has addressed history, engagement, and assessment. The series begins by examining the history of education for people with complex needs. Participants are challenged to assume high expectations for all learners, including learners with the most significant challenges, by first presuming competence. The presumption of competence is present throughout each subsequent training session.

A community of learners has formed, as attendees and trainers alike openly share their experiences, challenges, questions, and support in providing optimized instruction for learners with complex needs. There are still two dates left, and new participants are always welcome. Visit www.cpetracker.org to register for the March 13 and May 8 sessions.



Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 provides truancy intervention services? Last school year, CIU 20 helped **1,526 kids** in Northampton County get back on track with their school attendance. Want to learn more about this service? Contact Jim McDonald, Director of Resolve Behavioral Health Services, at jmcdonald@ciu20.org or (610) 515-6527.

IU Works With Families, Districts To Prepare 550 Students for Transition to Kindergarten

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 is working with families in its 13 member school districts to transition approximately 550 students to school-age programs in the fall. Community, family and school district connections are crucial to the growth and success of the students in CIU 20's Early Intervention Program.

Becky Eller, Supervisor of Early Intervention, presented to the Easton Area School District Family Connection Group, which included 70 early childhood providers, kindergarten teachers, principals and various community partners. The focus of the Jan. 25 presentation was how to help families access supports and services that children might need to prepare them for transition to school-age programs.

This presentation was just one part of the transition process, which occurs throughout the winter months. The Early Intervention Program also partners with each district to hold meetings for families, which allow them to share information about their child, and gain insight on future programs and services to match student needs for the kindergarten year.



Makenna has fun developing skills for her transition to kindergarten.

Early Intervention Program Hones Trauma-Informed Care Practices

The Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 Early Intervention staff recently participated in focused professional development on Trauma-Informed Care Practices. At a training session on Jan. 12 at Northampton Community College, the Early Intervention staff was able to investigate how trauma impacts children and families, and gain a better understanding of how to support both with trauma-informed responses, practices and policies.

Through this important work, the EI staff has been able to learn sensory strategies and self-care techniques to keep children engaged in learning and relationship-building in order to achieve emotional and relational success. Digging deeper, the EI staff has become more skilled at working

on social engagement and brain-based interventions to help change the architecture of the brain and foster emotional and relational growth.

Each year in the United States, approximately five million children experience some form of traumatic experience. Research has shown that these adverse childhood experiences can have a devastating impact on children, altering their physical, emotional, cognitive and social development. Early intervention providers and teachers encounter these children and families in IU classrooms and often struggle to understand ways to best support the challenges they face. CIU 20 is committed to supporting and providing the best education for all students.



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