

BOARD 2 BOARD

August 2016

NEWS FROM THE ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year! At the AIU, we are planning many new initiatives and look forward to partnering with our member school districts in a variety of ways. Please mark your calendars and “save the date” for these events:

- 2016 STEAM Grant Open House – September 27, 2016 – 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – IBEW Circuit Center & Ballroom
- AIU Assessment and Intervention Showcase – October 27, 2016 – AIU Central Office
- AIU Convention – March 30, 2017 – Sheraton, Station Square

We look forward to meeting the needs of our students and schools districts with our leading-edge, high-quality, cost-effective programs and services. On behalf of the entire staff at the AIU, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful 2016-2017 school year.

Legislative Roundup



In July, the General Assembly finalized the budget for the 2016-2017 school year. The budget includes increases in basic education funding (\$200 million increase) and special education funding (\$20 million increase). Within the budget, pensions, property taxes and charter school reforms were not addressed. However, the General Assembly did finalize a school code bill that, among other actions, outlined fund distribution and authorized a few grant programs. For additional information and details, please see the [end of year summary](#).

NEWS FROM

ECFCS Early Childhood, Family & Community Services

ROSAMARIA CRISTELLO RECEIVES ATHENA AWARD SCHOLARSHIP



The Allegheny Conference has announced that Rosamaria Cristello, Director of the AIU’s Latino Family Center is the inaugural recipient of the Barbara McNees Spirit of ATHENA Award Scholarship. She will attend, tuition-free, the 2016-2017 session of the Carnegie Mellon Leadership and Negotiation Academy for Women: a six-month, 100-hour academy and part of the executive education certificate program at CMU’s Tepper School of Business. Congratulations, Rosamaria!

AIU – PITT PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTED

In June, Lindsay Scholl, supervisor in the AIU’s Head Start program, attended the 2016 Education Summit to present the great work of the AIU’s University of Pittsburgh Partnership. At

We, the members of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of Directors, are proud to serve as representatives of the 42 boards in our Allegheny County school districts. By way of this correspondence, we hope to keep you better informed of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit’s programs and services.

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the event, Scholl discussed the AIU-Pitt professional development model for supporting teacher/staff readiness in response to trauma and psychological safety. The ECFCS Division’s work with Trauma Informed Care under the direction of Dr. Catherine Lobaugh was also included. Great job, Lindsay!

AEP PARTNERS WITH AREA AGENCIES



Throughout the summer, the AIU’s Alternative Education Program (AEP) partnered with Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Juvenile Probation to offer summer school to students on probation. Held at Community School East in Turtle Creek, the summer school program gave students an opportunity to make up and earn credits for coursework from their home school district. Subjects offered included English, math, social studies, science and physical education/health with Pennsylvania Department of Education certified professionals.

FOCUS ON ATTENDANCE PARTNERSHIP KICKOFF FALL 2016

New for the 2016-2017 school year, the AIU’s AEP program is partnering with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Juvenile Probation to assist families and their children with school attendance. Overseen by the Honorable Judge Dwayne Woodruff of Commonwealth Court, the Focus on Attendance Partnership supports stakeholders and assesses the underlying needs of students who are chronically absent or tardy. The partnership is a result of deliberate collaboration to enhance the region’s capacity to address truancy using the five recommendations of the Pennsylvania Educational Success and Truancy Prevention State Roundtable. Information on the partnership and the referral process will be distributed to the schools. The referral form will be available electronically through the Department of Human Services and the AIU.

NEWS FROM

Special Education and Pupil Services

SCHOOLS FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN – READY FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

MON VALLEY SCHOOL

It's that time of year again at Mon Valley and the AIU's staff has several new initiatives underway for returning students. The school has many returning seniors this year and it is anticipated that there will be 22 students in the class of 2017 – the largest in recent memory. This year the staff will begin Project Max, a curriculum program designed to ensure that all students have access to a regular education curriculum. The school's vocational programs continue to transform and grow, and the school has a renewed partnership with the AIU's OT/PT program to ensure students' work environments are properly adapted.

THE PATHFINDER SCHOOL

School leaders at the Pathfinder School are excited to announce PRIDE - a new, full-time transitional program designed for 18- to 21-year-old students in special education with mild to moderate needs. Designed to give students the skills needed to survive and thrive, the PRIDE program provides intense transition experiences and training in real-life settings. Embedded in the community, PRIDE also offers supplemental pre-employment and independent skills courses at the Pathfinder School.

SUNRISE SCHOOL

At Sunrise School, students and staff are returning to an expanded playground with new pieces of equipment as well as a new AIU DART classroom. To serve our students better, school leaders have partnered with Office Vocational Resources (OVR) to provide more experiences for students of transition age. A potential partnership with PPG, Monroeville Arts Council and the Gateway to the Arts Resident Program is also being explored, which would infuse arts into the classroom. Also, Sunrise School expresses its thanks to UPMC East for its generosity and donations through the Tools for School program. Thank you!

First Days of School for Teachers

Mon Valley School – August 19
The Pathfinder School – August 19
Sunrise School – August 19

First Days of School for Students

Mon Valley School – August 30
The Pathfinder School – August 30
Sunrise School – August 30

NEWS FROM

Teaching and Learning

AIU INVITED TO PRESENT AT NATIONAL STEM CONFERENCE

On July 29, the AIU's Tyler Samstag and Brian Stamford presented at the National Science Teachers Association Annual STEM Conference in Denver, Colorado. Samstag and Stamford discussed creating and sustaining innovative partnerships to shape the future of teaching and learning. They were also invited to share the success of the AIU's STEAM Lending Library with thoughts leaders and practitioners from across the nation. This was a wonderful opportunity for the AIU to demonstrate why we are a leader in STEAM education at both a regional and national level.

AIU PARTNERS WITH APPLE TO BECOME CERTIFIED APPLE EDUCATION TRAINERS



The Teaching and Learning Division recently partnered with Apple to become one of the first institutions in the nation to have certified Apple education trainers. After participating in two days of training, 14 staff members completed a rigorous project-based assessment to demonstrate proficiency and receive Apple's official endorsement. This certification will allow the Teaching and Learning Division to offer meaningful professional development sessions on the use of Apple products, customized to a school district's needs. Districts that engage in this professional development will have the opportunity to access Apple content at a lower cost. Local trainers will be available to provide on-site follow up.



AIU APPRENTICESHIPS

For the 2016-2017 school year, the AIU Apprenticeship Program has accepted more than 500 students into various career exploration programs. High school students participate in programs based on career interest during the school year, during the school day. Programs with openings will be available for students to register until the end of August. Students have a wide variety of sessions from which to choose, including nursing and healthcare careers, engineering, journalism, graphic arts, architecture, forensics and biotechnology.

Pens Foundation Awards Scholarships to 21 Graduates



In partnership with UPMC, and with the strong support of the AIU, the Penguins Foundation awarded 21 educational-based scholarships in 2016. Each scholarship is valued at \$1,500 for the student's first year of college, and an additional \$1,000 is awarded for the student's second year of college if a 3.0 GPA is maintained and a minimum of 24 credit hours are earned. Students from Allegheny Valley, Carlynton, Highlands, McKeesport Area, Northgate, Penn Hills, Pittsburgh Public Schools, South Allegheny and Sto-Rox were honored.

AIU, PITTSBURGH STEELERS AND CHEVRON PARTNER TO HONOR REGIONAL TEACHERS

The Pittsburgh Steelers and Chevron, with support from the Grable Foundation, the AIU and IU1, will partner in the Leaders in the Classroom program, a new opportunity to recognize pre-K through 12th grade teachers who are making a significant difference in the lives of students. A total of 16 teachers from the region will receive recognition during each of the Steelers' 2016 regular season home games and will receive a donation to purchase classroom materials to support their unique approach to "remaking learning." In addition, each winner will receive two tickets to the final Steelers home game on January 1, 2017 against the Cleveland Browns where they will be honored with a pre-game reception and on-field presentation at Heinz Field.

ED TECH TEAM GIVES TEACHERS OPTIONS FOR APPRAISAL

Kevin Conner and Jana Baxter, AIU's educational technology specialists, recently completed the design an online course "[Using Technology for Formative Assessment](#)" that is the culmination of months of research, field testing and instructional design. The course is now an offering in the marketplace on the EduPlanet21 website and available to all educators in Pennsylvania. Baxter and Conner originally developed the session to include an overview of several free online assessment tools. They have since expanded this instruction to include an in-depth examination of the features of each tool. Online courses, such as the one Baxter and Conner developed, can be efficient and convenient ways for educators to learn new methods, reinforce understanding or meet compliance requirements. Great job, Jana and Kevin!

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