



MCIU CONNECTION

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS

MCIU Welcomes New Board Members and Honors Board Commitment to the IU

This January, the MCIU recognized the MCIU Board of Directors for their service and dedication to the intermediate unit and welcomed nine new board members. Burunda Prince-Jones, Wissahickon School District, was also elected to serve as the new vice president.

“We are so fortunate to have such an outstanding Board of Directors. Being an effective board member for an intermediate unit or school district is no easy task, particularly in today’s climate of change and challenge. Our members devote countless hours of their time and talent, without compensation, to provide high-quality educational opportunities for students and responsive, cost-efficient and effective services to school districts and nonpublic schools. I applaud their vision and voice to help lead the MCIU and those we serve,” said Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, MCIU Executive Director/CEO.



left to right: New MCIU board members include: Maura Buri (Upper Merion), Nancy J. Landes (Pottsgrove), Carolyn Murphy (North Penn), Virginia Pollard, Lower Merion, Holly Kisailus, (Springfield Township), Julie Knudsen, Colonial) and Matthew Holliday (Souderton Area). Not pictured: Howard Jones, (Methacton) and William Scott (Upper Perkiomen).

Recognizing 25 Year Employees

Three 25-year employees were honored for their commitment to the MCIU at the January 25, 2012 board meeting.



Beth Pender (pictured above): Beth began providing Speech and Language services to several public schools in the western part of Montgomery County in April of 1986 when she was hired by MCIU as a long-term substitute Speech Clinician in the Special Education Division. Ms. Pender became a regular full-time employee beginning in the 1987-1988 school year. In 1991, she was assigned to the Early Intervention Program where she served as an itinerant Speech Clinician for a number of years. With the beginning of the 2000-2001 school year, Beth transferred to the Nonpublic School Services Division



and has remained there ever since. Beth has worked with numerous schools and hundreds of children throughout western and northern Montgomery County during her career. In addition to her regular school year duties, Beth has also worked as a Speech Clinician in our Extended School Year program and on numerous summer projects.

Barbarann Probst (pictured above): September of 1986 brought Barbarann Probst to MCIU as a Long-Term Substitute Speech Clinician in the Special Education Division. She was reappointed as an LTS again for the 1987-1988 school year



MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

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The bi-weekly newsletter of the

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

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Questions? Comments?

Story Ideas?

Contact Kristen Rawlings
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Tech Tip What is SkyDrive?

Accessing files from any device in any location is easy using a Microsoft cloud-based file storage called SkyDrive. The service offers 25 GB of free personal storage, with individual files limited to 100 MB. The app has four main tabs that give you access to all your files and folders, recently edited files, a handy list of files you shared or have been shared with you, and a settings tabs. You can choose permissions for each folder that you create - personal folders so you can keep files private or shared folders to share with your Windows Live network, your extended network, and people on your contact list; or in public folders so that they can be viewed by anyone on the Internet.

Go to <https://skydrive.live.com>
Sign in with your Windows Live/Hotmail credentials or register for an account

Priority Discussions Teachings from the Jorgensen Learning Center

Dr. Ray Jorgensen encourages supervisors to use pointed conversations about priorities and to ask staff the following questions to support their work:

- What can I do to help you complete your priorities?
- What can the organization do to support you?
- What do you commit to do to complete this project?
- Follow up at future meetings by asking, "How are you doing?"
- Both staff and supervisors should recommit to their work at the end of each meeting.

News Highlights

Explorations Partial Hospitalization Program located at the Anderson School has served 8 students since it opened in October. We also have 3 pending referrals.

The electricity buying group, coordinated through the MCIU, saved \$1,051,624 during the 2011 calendar year. The consortium consists of ten school districts, two career-technical centers and the MCIU which work collaboratively to aggregate electricity requirements and access the wholesale market to save energy dollars.

The BrainSTEPS team, which provides coordinated consultation services to school districts to help plan a students re-entry to school after injury, has had 18 referrals since it became operational in the fall 2011.

MCIU employees helped celebrate our 40th anniversary by purchasing 40 Year MCIU Anniversary shirts. Joanne Buchanan, Job Coach, models a shirt on the right.



25-year employees continued...

and then given a permanent position for the 1988-1989 school year. Over the course of her 25 years here, Barbarann has assisted countless students in the Special Education Division's School-Age and Early Intervention Programs as an itinerant speech therapist. She also spent many years serving the Early Intervention population as a diagnostician, providing assessments, therapy planning and consultation to parents. Currently, Barbarann is an itinerant speech therapist in the Nonpublic Schools Division serving students in grades K-8 in four schools in the central part of the county.

Marlena DeNicola (not in attendance at board meeting): Marlena began her career at the MCIU as a per diem substitute teacher assistant in Special Education in early 1986. The beginning of the 1986-87 school year saw her appointed as a full-time Teacher Assistant at Perkiomen Valley High School in the Learning and Adjustment Program. Marlena taught at the Anderson School as a Long-Term Substitute for the first semester of the 1997-98 school year and then was assigned there in from the fall of 1998 through the 2008-2009 school year. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, Marlena was assigned to the Montgomery County Youth Detention Center in the Corrections Education Program where she continues her good work today. Ms. DeNicola has also worked on summer projects as well as in our Extended School Year several times over the years as well. She has been a steady source of support to the students in a number of our programs throughout the years.