



# MCIU CONNECTION

The bi-weekly newsletter of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

May 30, 2008

Online: [www.mciu.org](http://www.mciu.org)

## Legislative Breakfast Draws 70 Educators/Legislators

The MCIU Legislative Services Division held a very successful Annual Legislative Breakfast at the William Penn Inn on May 16th. A total of 70 people attended, including MCIU Board members, superintendents, five legislators and staff members from 7 legislative offices. There were lively discussions at each table, giving our superintendents and board members the opportunity to discuss important educational issues with legislators. Ron Cowell, Esq., President of the Education Policy and Leadership Center provided remarks on the current legislative landscape in Harrisburg. He reviewed all the pending legislative issues pertaining to education and gave particular emphasis to the funding campaign.

The following legislators attended:

- HR Kate Harper (R) 61st District
- HR Jay Moyer (R) 70th District
- HR Tom Quigley (R) 146th District
- HR Larry Curry (D) 154th District
- HR Mike Gerber (D) 148th District



(left to right) Charles D. Amuso, Ed.D., Superintendent of Souderton Area School District and member of the MCIU Legislative Service Committee poses with Sharon Richardson, Director of Legislative Services and Ron Cowell, Esq., President of the Education Policy and Leadership Center at the Annual Legislative Breakfast hosted by the MCIU.

## Nearly 100 Educators Attend Mental Health Presentation



Nearly 100 educators turned out to the MCIU on May 12 to hear a dynamic presentation by Ross Szabo, Director of Youth Outreach for the National Mental Health Awareness Campaign and speaker for CAMPUSPEAK, Inc. His book cover says "Addressing nearly 100,000 students, parents, teachers and counselors each year about mental health issues, his dynamic presentations have made him one of the top speakers on the college circuit. He continues to develop educational middle school, high school and college programs while regularly appearing at national mental health conferences." His book is titled *Behind Happy Faces*. District Attorney Risa Ferman arranged for Szabo to present at the MCIU.

## Bobbie S. Goodman Award



Congratulations to Andrea Kalacznik, Nonpublic School Services math and reading specialist, who received the Bobbie S. Goodman Award for 2007-2008. Bobbie was employed as a reading specialist for the MCIU from 1979-1996. During her career, she worked in 21 nonpublic schools and with more than 1,000 students. A memorial fund was established by her friends and family in her honor to annually recognize a nonpublic school staff member who exemplifies Bobbie's characteristics including dedication to teaching; personal caring for students; creativity; professional support for colleagues; commitment to friendship and loyalty to the MCIU. (Pictured above) Supervisor Mary Rita Cleary presents the award to Andrea who exemplifies these characteristics.

More on Bobbie Goodman award...page 4



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**Montgomery County  
 Intermediate Unit**  
 1605 W. Main Street  
 Norristown, PA 19403  
 610-539-8550

### Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley

Executive Director/CEO

### Jane W. Mansuy

Asst. Executive Director/  
 Director of Human Resources

### Stan H. Wisler

Chief Financial Officer/  
 Director of Management Services

### Kristen Rawlings

MCIU Connection Editor and  
 Director of Communications

**Questions?  
 Comments?  
 Story Ideas?**

Contact Kristen Rawlings  
 krawlings@mciu.org or 610-755-9313

## We Got Soul!



Sheldon Wedermeyer, TIS Supervisor (back right), was joined by his dad at the Philadelphia Soul game on May 17th. The event, organized by the MCIU Spirit Committee, raised about \$328 for future staff events. The Soul generously donated \$8 back to the IU for each ticket purchased.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Tom Wuerstle, Counselor with Nonpublic School Services, who was inducted into the Penridge-Quakertown Sports Hall of Fame on May 9, 2008 at the Indian Valley Country Club.

Congratulations to Plymouth Whitemarsh High School students, Adrian Ferr-Varvoutis, Tina Phu and Lauren Herbert who were awarded 3rd place at the state competition of the Pennsylvania High School Computer Fair. The regional competition was held at the MCIU.

## Anderson Staff Work with National Expert on Alternative Ed



At the invitation of Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, Dr. Robert Barr, former Director of Teacher Education at Indiana University, Dean of Education at

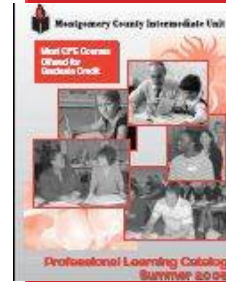
Boise State University and Oregon State University, a

noted researcher, author and workshop presenter visited The Anderson School for two days in order to offer suggestions for the future vision of the school.

Dr. Barr spent an entire day with staff, students, and some parents in order to gain insight about current school operations. Dr. Barr then chaired a full day workshop with Dr. Shiveley, Dr. Mason, and the Anderson staff in order to share his research and proven approaches of best practice for alternative education. In addition he assisted staff in identifying key concepts and suggestions for the future vision of The Anderson School. The Anderson faculty was most appreciative of Dr. Barr's insights as well as the depth of his research and experience.

## Sign up for Summer Courses

Register now for your summer courses. Courses are filling up quickly so register early. A copy of the summer catalogue is available online at [www.mciu.org](http://www.mciu.org).



## NPSS Fundraiser

The Nonpublic School Services Division will be holding its annual fundraiser on June 13th. This NPSS staff member initiative has raised thousands of dollars over the past eleven years. Many of the divisions create festive-themed baskets which are raffled off at the NPSS Division end-of-the-year staff meeting/luncheon.

## Transition to Adult Life Community Resource Fair

The Montgomery County Transition Coordinating Council sponsored the fifth annual "Transition to Adult Life"; a resource fair for secondary special needs students at Norristown Area High School on April 24, 2008. The program for the evening consisted of three breakout sessions including "Navigating the System", "Residential Housing Options", and "Post-Secondary Education". Fifty-four vendors/agencies participated in providing information in the areas of Employment/Day Programs, Post Secondary Education, Residential and Supported Living, Recreation and Leisure, Advocacy, and Community Resources. The night was a tremendous success. Nearly 150 parents, students, and educators attended the event to gather information on adult services. Responses were extremely positive and suggest that future programs of this nature would assist students in life beyond high school. Council members offered a great deal of support to ensure the success of the evening.

## Southeastern Pennsylvania School Library Book Reviewers

### Their Opinions Have Brought Thousands Of Dollars Worth of Books to Regional Libraries

For almost fifty years, a group of between 20 and 25 area librarians have met monthly during the school year to select and evaluate new books for children in grades K through 8. With the average price of a children's book at roughly \$15.00, just over the last five years alone this dedicated group has reviewed about 8,000 books at an approximate combined total value to districts of a \$120,000.



The majority of the group is from schools in Montgomery County; however, Bucks, Delaware and Philadelphia counties are also represented as well as the parochial schools and a special needs program. There are six current members who have each been active for more than 25 years and one who has been reviewing for the group for more than 30 years; two new members joined in March, 2007. The rest of the membership and venue have changed over the years, but the commitment to quality literature and improving student access to current titles have remained core values.

The group feels very fortunate to have found a home at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. The IU provides a centrally located meeting place and a small space to store books. They also provide some much needed and appreciated technical assistance for docu-

menting and managing reviews. Having this kind of supportive environment has not always been the case. The group began under the aegis of the state in the 1960s. Alice Barz, a librarian from Abington, was the paid director. Her husband, who was retired, volunteered to help unpack boxes and sort books. This smooth running operation based at the Horn School in the Frankfurt section of Philadelphia, however, was more temporary than they realized. State funding was cut off and space was needed for classrooms. Members of the group decided that they could be self-sufficient if only a meeting place and some additional managerial support could be found. The MCIU came to the rescue offering this support to the group since 1984.

Publishers have continued to send their newest publications finding the group even during its many moves. "Our responsibility is to provide an honest evaluation of the books we receive based on professionally determined criteria," says Lynn Rudolph, long-time member. Each month each member chooses between 8 and 15 books to review. In the past, reviews have appeared in publications such as Catholic Library World and a list of books that received a quality rating of good or excellent from our reviewers has been published. Each year, librarians receive many of the books that appear on the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association list of the Best of the Best books for Children. In 2006-07 reviews of 25 (out of 67) books that appear on that list were reviewed. Notably, they have also had input into the selection of the Caldecott and Newbery Awards.

"The quality and quantity of children's literature has improved over the years and we feel strongly that our conscientious reviewing has played a part. We have, over the years, received positive responses from many publishers and our advice has been taken on issues raised in our reviews," remarks Lynn.

"Through the support of the MCIU we have been able to impact this new world of children's books in a positive way and continue to bring quality literature to students. Thank you to the IU for supporting and believing in what we do for children."

## DISCOUNT COUPONS TO HERSHEY ATTRACTIONS

Discount coupons to Hershey Park, as well as Dutch Wonderland and other Hershey attractions, are now available in the Human Resources Office. Please stop by or give us a call at 610-755-9307 if you are interested in obtaining them.

## Bobbie S. Goodman Award 2008

The speech below was delivered by Dr. Kenneth Voss, Director of Nonpublic School Services, in presenting the Bobbie S. Goodman award to Andrea Kalacznik.

“This award, in memory of Bobbie S. Goodman who worked as a reading and math specialist in the non public division, recognizes a staff member who demonstrates qualities that Bobbie lived:

- dedication to teaching
- personal caring for students
- creativity
- professional support for colleagues
- commitment to friendship

The nominees are recommended by fellow colleagues and reviewed by former award winners who recommend a finalist to the Non Public School Services Director.

This year’s winner is Andrea Kalacznik.

Andee has served students in the non public schools of Montgomery County for 29 years. Andee currently serves at Corpus Christi and St. Rose of Lima Schools. She is well respected by her colleagues, school administration, and faculties. In our annual needs assessments, administrators wax eloquently regarding Andee’s expertise and professionalism. Year after year we hear the request “Please don’t change Andee from our school or can we please have Andee back!” Andee goes the extra mile for her students; she refers to them as her “hurting buckaroos.” As their advocate, she works side by side with the regular classroom teachers and gives frequent updates on her students’ progress while regularly inquiring as to how her students are progressing in their classes. She is a lifelong learner who is always open to new ideas that could improve the quality of her delivery of service. This year, she worked toward her Level 1 Wilson certification. She has collaborated with other IU teachers on a variety of projects. For example, she has participated in remediation committees both during the school year and in the summer that have brought about changes toward improving our reading and math programs. Andee also worked with individual colleagues regarding the case review and self-directed supervision models that addressed the delivery of her instruction in a more focused manner and its effect on student progress. In committee meetings or in our remediation meetings, when Andee raises questions, colleagues listen because they know that Andee’s heart and focus is on what is best for students.

Andee has an unassuming way about her so that students, faculty and colleagues feel very comfortable in her presence. For years, she has chaired and arranged the sunshine committee for remediation. Individual staff

members have felt her care and concern in both times of celebration or need. You can count on Andee.

Dr. Shiveley, Mr. Chmielewski, and the MCIU Board of Directors, it is with pride and respect that I present to you the 2008 Bobbie S. Goodman Awardee – Andrea Kalacznik.”



(left to right) Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, Executive Director/CEO and Board President Joe Chmielewski present the Bobbie S. Goodman award to Andrea Kalacznik, along with Dr. Kenneth Voss, Director of Nonpublic School Services.



(left to right) Bobbie Goodman’s husband, sons and granddaughters pose with Andee (middle in brown)



Andee (middle in brown jacket) poses with former Bobbie S. Goodman award winners.