



Bobbie Goodman Award Winner

Congratulations to Deb Booher who was selected as the 2009 recipient of the Bobbie Goodman Award. The award is named after Bobbie Gooman, a reading specialist with the Nonpublic School Services Division from 1979 to 1996. Deb was selected based on the qualities of Bobbie Goodman: Dedication to teaching; personal caring for students, creativity, professional support for colleagues, commitment to friendship and loyalty to the MCIU. Following are the remarks of Dr. Ken Voss, who presented the award to Deb at the April Board meeting.

“Deb came to the Montgomery County intermediate Unit in 1979 as a Speech-Language pathologist. I’m told this was the year in which the individual private contractors were hired as teachers, counselors, psychologists, and speech therapists by the IU. During her 29 year tenure, Deb has served children in 26 different nonpublic schools, and worked with 5 supervisors and four directors!

Deb is known throughout Montgomery County as being extremely organized, always willing and able to share her expertise with her colleagues, and not shy about laminating anything she feels is important, or someday, may be important.

Deb’s gifts and talents have been shared with other divisions and schools: during the 1980’s she provided assessments for the Early Intervention Division and was a presenter for the, then, 5-County Nonpublic School Services In-service Program. While during the 1990’s Deb taught 1st Aid for the Curriculum and Instruction Division and was engaged in numerous summer projects designed to directly or indirectly enhance the service provided for students.

Throughout all of this and to the present, Deb has worked closely with nonpublic schools teachers and administrators to ensure that students are given the opportunity to experience success both in the classroom and in their personal lives. The schools in which Deb serves literally love her: they consider her an important member of their instructional team, value her expertise but, perhaps, most important, value her service and devotion to the children she serves.

Deb Booher truly emulates the life of Bobbie S. Goodman.”



Deb Booher accepts the Bobbie Goodman award from Board President Joe Chmielewski (left) and Dr. Ken Voss, Director of NPSS (right). (Bottom picture) Deb poses with former Bobbie Goodman award winners and the Goodman family.

MCIU Hosts National Safety Experts



(left to right) National school safety experts, Kenneth S. Trump and Chuck Hibbert pose with Sandy Edling, Management Services, and Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley before presenting a training called “Proactive School Security and Emergency Preparedness Planning: Trends, Strategies, and Best Practices.” The MCIU sponsored the training using a \$10,000 grant by the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Safe School Initiative. More than 100 area school and public safety officials attended the free training. Kudos to Sandy for writing the grant and organizing the event!



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
INTERMEDIATE UNIT**

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

MCIU Connection

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Dr. Mary Jane Gales, Director of Legislative Services, drafted the following update on the federal stimulus funding.

Pennsylvania will receive \$1.9 billion in Fiscal Stimulus resources as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Of this amount, \$1.6 billion is intended for education. Under long standing Pennsylvania law, all federal funds coming to the state must be re-appropriated by the General Assembly.

Outlined below is a short summary of Governor Rendell's proposal of how these funds maybe expended.

Governor Rendell has proposed allocating the resources as follows:

1. Continue planned increases of the state's existing school funding formula. The Department of Education (PDE) recommends that districts budget these resources for ongoing programs and services that will provide core academic support to students and to expand innovative programs that are achieving the greatest student learning gains.
2. One-time grants to school districts to be used for modernization, renovation and repair of school facilities, basic education, special education, career and technical education and/or adult and family literacy
3. Restore higher-education funds that had been reduced in the initial budget. Pennsylvania will also receive additional one-time funding for Title 1, Title II-D (educational technology) and IDEA (special education) programs. PDE recommends that school districts inventory their short-term needs and rank those needs based on what investments are most important to increasing student learning for the lowest-achieving students.

The use of Title 1 funding is limited to Title 1 buildings. The use of IDEA funds is restricted based on whether eligible students with disabilities are being served by the expenditure.

The Department of Education has suggested several ways to expend these funds

including professional development, expanding the capacity to collect and use data to improve teaching and learning, train teachers in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate curricula, early childhood education, tutoring and other extended learning opportunities with a focus on hardware, software and other one-time purchases.



PHOTO: At the invitation of Dr. Gales, US Congressman Joe Sestak spoke about ARRA to Montgomery County superintendents at their monthly meeting hosted by the MCIU. Sestak is a member of the House Education and Labor Committee.

MCIU Snapshots



The MCIU received an "Award of Excellence" in

the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association (Pen-SPRA) Annual Publications Contest for its 2007-2008 Annual Report.

In addition, the Communications Director, Kristen Rawlings, was asked to serve on the Executive Board of Pen-SPRA as Program Chair for the East Region. This position is responsible for planning meetings and other PR initiatives for the chapter.

Free Books for Reading Olympics Teams



Nonpublic School Services staff picked up books for their Reading Olympics students from the more than 900 books donated during the Barnes & Noble book drive this winter. (left to right) John Mcgranahan works with Maria Johns (CIPD), Dr. Ken Voss and Mary Louise Hugnert in selecting the books. The donations were divided so that each elementary school team received one free book; two for middle school teams and 8 for high school teams.

Swine Influenza Information

Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, Executive Director/CEO, met with the Montgomery County Health Department and the Emergency Management Department for an update on the Swine Flu. Dr. Shiveley serves as the liaison between the school districts and the County Health Department and Emergency Management.

As of Tuesday, April 28th, there were 64 confirmed cases of Swine Flu in the United States and one reported child death in Texas. None of the confirmed cases are in Pennsylvania. Because of the time of year, flu season is hopefully expected to end shortly along with the Swine Flu outbreak.

The following information was provided to the MCIU from the Montgomery County Health Department.

What is Swine Flu?

In late March and early April 2009, cases of human infection with swine influenza A (H1N1) viruses were first reported in Southern California and near San Antonio, Texas. Other U.S. states have reported cases of swine flu infection in humans and cases have been reported internationally as well. An updated case count of confirmed swine flu infections in the United States is kept at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm> CDC and local and state health agencies are working together to investigate this situation.

Swine Influenza (swine flu) is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses that causes regular outbreaks in pigs. People do not normally get

swine flu, but human infections can and do happen. Swine flu viruses have been reported to spread from person-to-person, but in the past, this transmission was limited and not sustained beyond three people.

Following is a press release from the PA Dept. of Health as well as links to the latest information from the CDC.

The “What’s New” link is about prevention/mitigation. Health professionals and school administrators in schools should familiarize themselves now if they have not been updated in the phases of pandemic planning. However, there are no confirmed cases in PA. There is no action to be taken at this time.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is directing the public to the CDC web site and article “Swine Flu and You.” and the “General Information link below. Any information disseminated by schools should use facts from this fact sheet.

Questions and Answers: Swine Flu and You.
http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.htm

Swine Influenza: General Information.
http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/general_info.htm

What’s New on the Swine Flu Site.
<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/whatsnew.htm>