



The bi-weekly newsletter of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

# MCIU CONNECTION

www.mciu.org

October 16, 2009



## Buy your Tickets!

### MCIU Education Foundation Harvest Social and Fundraiser

Thursday, November 5, 2009

4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Lower Providence Fire Company Hall

Join your colleagues and friends for refreshments, music, merriment, and prizes! The event will include raffle prize baskets and a silent auction – a great way to help a good cause and get a head start on holiday gifts!

Tickets are \$20 per person, which includes a light dinner, wine/beer/soda, and three raffle tickets for door prizes!

10+ gift baskets will be raffled off with themes including:

- Gardening
- Fitness
- Wine and Spirits

More than 50 items will be available for Silent Auction including:

Loews Philadelphia Hotel -Complimentary Overnight Weekend for two in Deluxe Accommodations

Crowne Plaza Hotel (King of Prussia) -Bed and Breakfast overnight package

Reading Phillies - 6 General Admission tickets

People's Light & Theatre Company - 2 Tickets

Camelot Salons - Signature Massage

To purchase tickets, please contact Cindy Waters at [cwaters@mciu.org](mailto:cwaters@mciu.org).

Proceeds benefit the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Education Foundation, which is an organization that specifically supports and enhances educational opportunities for students in Montgomery County. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, various academic competitions, including the Reading Olympics program, camps for children with special needs, and cultural diversity initiatives.

## Get Styling with MCIU Attire for all Occasions!



*Casual...*

*Formal...*

Whether you're heading out to a football game or a night on the town, the MCIU has the right apparel for you! This fall, the SPIRIT Committee is selling the following attire:

- \* Full-zip fleece vests (black, navy or charcoal-  
charcoal in men's only) \$35
- \* Baseball caps (black, beige or blue) \$12.50
- \* Long sleeve polo shirts (multiple colors-stop  
by Communications to see the selection) \$26

There are also long sleeve, full-zip fleece jackets left over from last year's MCIUEF Golf Classic. These are on sale for \$30 and will benefit the Education Foundation.

To place your order, contact Kristen Rawlings at [krawlings@mciu.org](mailto:krawlings@mciu.org) or ext. 197.



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
INTERMEDIATE UNIT**

*An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence*

**MCIU Connection**

The bi-weekly newsletter of the  
**Montgomery County  
Intermediate Unit**

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**Questions? Comments?  
Story Ideas?**

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

**Conversation...it is the Relationship**  
**A Continuing Series on Teachings from the Jorgensen Learning Center**

“**M**any frustrated leaders fail to realize that they have a perfectly useful tool for Stewardship and change in the art of good conversation.

Adults construct understanding through conversation, yet our meeting agendas rarely provide time for any conversation at all. The really useful discussion occurs after the meeting has been gaveled to an end, as stimulated minds seek to make sense of what they’ve just heard. Insights, alternatives and solutions are more likely to arise in the parking lot after the meeting if participants have not had an opportunity to engage in conversation about the issues during the meeting proper.

Currently what happens at most meetings denigrates the purpose of gathering busy professionals around the table. If the leader believes that this committee or other group has something to offer in the change process, then he or she will want to learn to use these five guidelines for learning conversation:

- ▶ Listen for Understanding
- ▶ Speak from the Heart
- ▶ Suspend Judgement
- ▶ Hold Space for Differences
- ▶ Slow Down the Inquiry”

MCIU staff may have noticed these guidelines listed on the side of meeting agendas. Cabinet and Administrators have been incorporating these as a constant reminder to use these guidelines in all conversations with staff and those we serve. Dr. Ray Jorgensen has taught us that using the Learning Conversation can help in all endeavors, whether it is to improve the relationship with your boss or a customer or to be a more loving, supportive friend, spouse or parent.

In upcoming *Connection* issues, we will focus more on each Learning Conversation principle. Staff are also encouraged to learn more about the Learning Conversation by logging on to <http://www.gojlc.com/virtual-learning/podcasts> and click on the podcast entitled “Leading from the Inside Out: Learning Conversations.”



**State Budget Passes 101 Days Late**

**An Update from Dr. Mary Jane Gales, Director of Legislative Services**

**A**fter a 101-day budget impasse, we finally have a 2009-2010 state budget! The tax code bill the governor signed is estimated to raise \$25.561 billion, with about \$400 million of it from new taxes and another \$577 million from recurring revenues redirected to fund this year’s budget. The fiscal code includes fund transfers of about \$1.8 billion, including transferring the entire \$755 million from the state’s Rainy Day Fund and \$60 million from leasing state land for natural gas drilling. It increases funding for basic education by \$300 million. The budget agreement uses \$654.7 million in federal stimulus funds (AARA) for the 2009-10 basic subsidy, using \$354.7 million in federal funds to replace a reduction in state funding for basic education.

The plan increases funding for school improvement grants, services to non-public schools, reimbursement of charter schools, textbooks for nonpublic schools and level-funds PreK Counts. A number of education and education-related appropriations are reduced, among them funding for the earned income tax credit, museums and libraries, career and technical education, teacher professional development, intermediate units and school improvement grants. Funding for several education programs was eliminated, including Classrooms for the Future, the Governor’s Schools of Excellence, Project 720/high school reform, alternative education demonstrative projects, safe and alternative schools, and consolidation incentives/shared services.



**MCIU  
Trick or  
Treating  
October  
30th**

**H**elp make Halloween a spooktacular day! Wear your costumes (appropriate attire only), bring in your favorite sweets, and join your co-workers in an informal trick-or-treating excursion.

At your convenience, visit different MCIU offices to locate the snack that satisfies your cravings.

Happy Haunting!