



MCIU CONNECTION

Annie Sullivan Award Winner



Congratulations to Tammy Bertel, the 2009 recipient of the Annie Sullivan Award, recognizing an educator who exemplifies caring involvement with disabled students. Tammy currently works as the Speech/Language Support Class teacher, held at Whitmarsh Elementary. Her supervisor, Joan Evans, wrote the following in her nomination for Tammy:

“Tammy held a variety of positions at the MCIU, including teacher assistant in the Multi-Disabled Support classroom program, teacher in the Early Intervention Developmentally Delayed classroom and Early Intervention itinerant teacher. She is currently the teacher of the Speech/Language Support class, which provides a language-rich classroom program for students, kindergarten through second grade. Tammy has brought a wealth of experience and expertise to all of these educational environments. With her calm, patient and caring manner, Tammy demonstrates a true gift for working with students who have cognitive and/or communication needs.

Tammy has always shared her talents and expertise with other staff members in a true team approach. In her position in the Multi-Disabled class, Tammy creatively developed PECS and Boardmaker materials, and incorporated them into students programming.

In addition to her special education background, Tammy has achieved a Master's degree in Instructional Technology. Most recently, in her position as the Speech/Language classroom teacher, Tammy developed an innovative technology program to assist the kindergarten and first grade teachers in Colonial School District's Whitmarsh Elementary School where her classroom was located. Tammy met with the teachers before and after school to train them to effectively use the InterWrite Board, and to provide ongoing technical assistance. She also designed a website to provide the teachers with internet resources in the areas of math, reading, phonics, spelling, and comprehension.”

2nd Annual Harvest Social & Fundraiser

The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Education Foundation and Education Association invite all staff, friends and family members to the 2nd Annual Harvest Social and Fundraiser, Thursday, November 5, 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm at Lower Providence Fire Company Hall.

Join your colleagues and friends for refreshments, music, merriment, and prizes as we enter the holiday season! 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! To purchase tickets, please contact Cindy Waters at cwaters@mciu.org or Anita Watson at awatson@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.

Staff are also encouraged to help create a gift basket for the basket raffle.

Kicking off the Year at Summer Academy



More than 185 professional staff and paraeducators in the school age programs kicked off the school year at the Summer Academy-- a three-day professional development symposium. This annual

event is organized by Cheryl A. Wise, Supervisor of Special Education and the Training and Consultation (TAC) staff. Thirty-two workshops were offered by MCIU professional staff and contracted presenters. The workshops addressed reading programs such as: Early Literacy Skills Builder, Reading Mastery, and Language for Learning and Strategic Instruction Model (SIM). Additional workshops addressed transition, classroom management and informative assessments.

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

MCIU Connection

The bi-weekly newsletter of the
**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

Director of Communications

Questions? Comments? Story Ideas?

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

Joint Energy Summit

The Montgomery and Bucks County Intermediate Units held The 2009 Joint Energy Summit for their member districts at the School District Insurance Consortium Building in Lansdale, PA.

The program, held July 16, included presentations and discussions covering many upcoming changes in the energy market affecting school districts such as the pending deregulation of electricity, lifting of price caps, new energy procurement strategies, and renewable energy solutions.

Over 50 school district representatives attended the event. PA Public Utility Commissioner, Robert F. Powelson served as the keynote speaker opening the event. Other participants were PECO Energy, PPL, Hess Corporation, Red Cricket LED Green Tech, and Provident Energy.

MCIU Blood Drive

The MCIU is having its Eighth Annual 9/11 Commemorative Blood Drive on Friday, September 18, from 10 am to 4:30 pm, in Conference Room C1/2. Please give thought to donating blood. The Red Cross is currently in very short supply for blood.

Please sign up by emailing crobinson@mciu.org or calling X167.

BONUS: To thank blood donors, the Red Cross will raffle one overnight stay at an Atlantic City Casino Hotel with a \$200 gift card every week through September 20, 2009. Just donate and you are automatically entered.

MCIU Awarded \$25K CCRES Grants

The MCIU Education Foundation (MCIUEF) received \$25,281 in grants from CCRES to support programs and services offered through the divisions of Special Education, Management Services and Technology and Information Services.

The mission of CCRES is to ensure quality educational and human service programs for children, families and schools. Through innovative partnerships, CCRES provides human resources, training, and grant opportunities.

The following grants were approved:

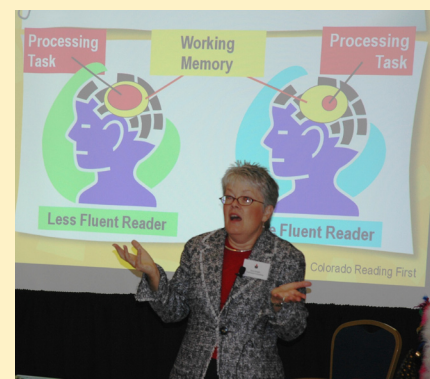
- ▶ \$5,000 for the 2009 Summer Campership Program for children with disabilities
- ▶ \$5,400 to offset costs associated with organizing the Montgomery/Chester County School Business Official 2009 Retreat
- ▶ \$4,500 for Instructional Frameworks development through content enhancement training. This is designed to increase student achievement and assist with training activities at the Anderson School.
- ▶ \$5,540 to offset costs of operating the Montgomery County Schools Fitness Challenge
- ▶ \$4,841 to purchase hardware and software related to develop a Virtual Technology Help Desk

Budget Impasse Continues

Now more than 60 days overdue, there is still no major movement on finalizing a State budget. In August, Governor Rendell signed into law Senate Bill 850 after blue-lining (deleting) almost all program funding except that which is necessary to pay state employees. The good news is that the Governor did not blue-line federal stimulus funds for Title I, IDEA and Title IID. These funds should now start to flow to schools and intermediate units. For the MCIU, this revenue funds the operation of PaTTAN and the Early Intervention programs.

However, basic education funding, including State Fiscal Stabilization Fund federal dollars, special education, Accountability Block Grant, transportation, construction reimbursement, food service, etc. were deleted from SB 850. These funds will not be distributed until the final resolution of a state budget.

The MCIU has been actively reaching out to legislators via email, phone calls and visits to advocate for speedy passage of a budget that fulfills the educational needs of the intermediate unit and school districts.



Summer Academy continued...

Highly specialized speakers for speech, hearing and vision therapists discussed the newest technology, equipment and assessments. "The Summer Academy is one example of the extraordinary professional development opportunities that are offered annually to the staff in the special education division," said Dr. Jeanmarie Mason, Director of Special Education. Pictured above: TAC specialist, Janet Wright, was one of the presenters.