

# MCIU Update

Winter 2012

The Newsletter of Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23

## 4th Annual Montgomery County Specialist Day

Health and physical education teachers, school nurses, art & music teachers, librarians and other school specialists should check out the upcoming annual Specialists Symposium to be held February 17th. There will be a variety of morning and afternoon workshops to choose from:

- **Guidance & Social Work**- Oleweus Framework & Legal Issues with Bullying
- **Library** - Maximizing the use of Proquest; Teaching News Literacy
- **Music**- Teaching Music History from 1920s to Present; Differentiation in the Music Classroom
- **Health/PE** - SPARK PE, Yoga, Cooperative Activities, Salsa & more
- **Art** - Using the Philadelphia Art Museum Digital Content

To register visit [www.mciu.org/allwksp](http://www.mciu.org/allwksp). Questions? Contact Linda Bean at [lbean@mciu.org](mailto:lbean@mciu.org) or 610-755-9312



## MCIU Expands AP Summer Institutes

This summer, the MCIU will be expanding its successful series of summer institutes for AP educators. Designed to engage both novice and experienced AP teachers, participants will work with veteran, College Board certified instructors to:

- Review recent updates to the AP program and exam, including a focus on the new AP Biology curriculum
- Reflect on instructional delivery practices that impact student learning in an AP environment
- Examine course design options that best fit their settings

### Institute 1

June 25-29, 2012

Biology  
Calculus AB  
Chemistry  
Environmental Science  
Physics B  
Statistics

### Institute 2

July 9-13, 2012

English Literature and Composition (New/Experienced)  
English Language and Composition (New/Experienced)  
U.S. Government and Politics  
U.S. History (New/Experienced)  
World History

All courses are at Montgomery County Community College. Course fee is \$895 and includes registration, meals and workshop materials. Courses may be taken for graduate credit. For more information, contact Linda Bean at 610-755-9312 or [lbean@mciu.org](mailto:lbean@mciu.org).



## BrainSTEPS Team Up and Running

The MCIU BrainSTEPS team is open for business! More than six months ahead of schedule, the team, comprised of professionals from varying disciplines who have received extensive training on educating children with brain injuries, is accepting referrals. The team provides coordinated consultation services to school districts to help plan a student's re-entry to school after injury, including training and support for staff and recommendations for educational programming and long-term monitoring.

"We have a very high incidence rate of brain injury in Montgomery County," said Dr. Brittany Lourea-Waddell, MCIU psychologist. "This is an invaluable service to help support our students, families and schools." To date, 18 children have been referred to the MCIU BrainSTEPS team from the Children's Hospital Concussion Treatment Center.

Dr. Lourea-Waddell said this service will be particularly beneficial in light of SB200, or the Youth Sports Act, which goes into effect July 1, 2012. This new law establishes standards for the management of concussions and head injuries to student athletes. Under the law, coaches must complete a concussion management training course, and an athlete must be removed from the field of play if he or she exhibits symptoms of a head injury. Students may not return to play until he/she is examined by a health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions. The act also imposes minimum penalties on coaches for violations.

For more information about BrainSTEPS, contact Dr. Lourea-Waddell at [bwaddell@mciu.org](mailto:bwaddell@mciu.org) or 610-755-9433.

## What's in your AT Closet?

Assistive Technology (AT). The name describes the concept perfectly but leaves the possibilities for products and services to the imagination.

AT services are services that directly assist in the selection, acquisition or use of an assistive technology device, while an AT device is any item, piece of equipment or product system that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

Many Montgomery County students benefit from these products on a daily basis, but what's the process for acquiring one? How should school districts determine what will be the most useful tool for the student's success? Do districts already have a device that a student can benefit from?

That's where Julie Adinolfi and the AT programs at the MCIU come into the picture.

Adinolfi, a speech language pathologist, specializes in individualized onsite consultations regarding school district and individual AT needs.

"This service really is invaluable because it allows school districts to consult with a team of individuals to demonstrate and share information on AT," says Adinolfi. "In a combined effort from the AT, special education and regular education departments, schools can find out what they already own, what can be utilized and can also save money on any new technology that needs to be purchased."

To accomplish these tasks, Adinolfi offers four on-site, customized services:

- SETT meetings
- AT consultation for teams or individuals
- Individualized AT trainings
- AT initial device set up

For students who have not yet been evaluated for assistive technologies, Adinolfi facilitates the use of the 'Student-Environment-Tasks-Tools' (SETT) framework, a nationally recognized process which uses a team approach to obtain data to make effective AT decisions about a student's needs and incorporate appropriate technology into the student's IEP. Team members can include teachers, therapists, parents, principals or anyone who has significant insight into the needs of the child. Product and service trials are conducted to ensure the tool is beneficial for the student. Adinolfi also offers AT trainings, including the "What's in Your AT Closet" service, for any school district employee, AT consultations for teams already in place; and initial AT device set ups.

**For additional information about the MCIU's Assistive Technology services, contact Julie Adinolfi at [jadinolfi@mciu.org](mailto:jadinolfi@mciu.org).**



*Julie Adinolfi demonstrates the use of a low tech assistive technology device.*



## Online Drivers Education

Beginning March 1, the MCIU Nonpublic School Services Division will be offering a standardized online driver education theory class for high school students through a partnership with the Edward Savioz Driver Training School. The online program, approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, will provide students the opportunity to learn safe driving methods and gain the perceptual experience needed to drive in today's environment.

Successful completion of the 30-hour drivers education theory course will help prepare the student to take the required PA drivers examination. Additionally, students who complete the course will receive a Certificate of Completion which may entitle the student to an automobile insurance discount.

### For more information and to register:

visit <http://mciu.org/drivertraining>  
or contact Dr. Ken Voss  
Nonpublic School Services Division  
at 610-755-9318  
or [kvoss@mciu.org](mailto:kvoss@mciu.org)

## 2011-2012 MCIU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Marc Lieberson, School District of Cheltenham  
Secretary: Jeanette Maitin, Abington School District

Vice President: Burunda Prince-Jones, Wissahickon  
Treasurer: Louis A. Polaneczky, Hatboro-Horsham

Past President: Joseph Chmielewski, Upper Dublin

Randy Bennett, Perkiomen Valley  
Maura Buri, Upper Merion  
Thomas J. DiBello, Spring-Ford Area  
Dr. David Hakes, Upper Moreland  
Robert H. Hartman, Jr., Pottstown  
Matthew Holliday, Souderton

Howard Jones, Methacton  
Yuri Khalif, Lower Moreland  
Holly Kisailus, Springfield Township  
Julie Knudsen, Colonial  
Nancy J. Landes, Pottsgrove  
Ted Miller, Jenkintown

Carolyn Murphy, North Penn  
Janice Pearce, Norristown Area  
Thayer Pendleton, Bryn Athyn  
Virginia Pollard, Lower Merion  
William Scott, Upper Perkiomen



## Speech, Language and Literacy: Fostering Connections

A series for speech-language pathology professionals, psychologists, special educators, reading specialists, guidance counselors, social workers and parents.

**March 29th**  
**8:30 am-3:30 pm**

Assessment & Treatment of Selective Mutism: Beyond the Basics!  
Presenter: Donna Spillman-Kennedy,  
MS, CCC/SLP

**June 11th**  
**8:30 am-3:30 pm**

Childhood Apraxia of Speech: Practical Assessment & Treatment  
Strategies for Achieving More Intelligible Speech  
Susan Caspari, CCC-SLP

**February 17th and August 20th**  
**Morning and afternoon sessions**  
Boardmaker Basics for Version 6  
Pat Mervine, CCC-SLP

iPads, iPods and Apps for  
Communication and the Curriculum  
Pat Mervine, CCC-SLP

To register, go to [www.mciu.org/allwksp](http://www.mciu.org/allwksp) and search for "ASHA."  
For additional information, contact Linda Bean at 610-755-9312 or [lbean@mcui.org](mailto:lbean@mcui.org).



## MCIU Welcomes New Legislative Services Director

The MCIU is pleased to welcome Valentina G. Viletto (Tina) as the Director of Legislative Services and Grants Development effective January 03, 2012. Tina currently serves as the Board President of the School District of Cheltenham

Township. She has been active in the Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee, as well as being a regional director for PSBA and a founding member. She also served as general counsel for the Keystone State Education Coalition, formerly the Southeastern PA School Districts Education Coalition.

"Tina has a passion for assistance to school districts, supporting a high quality education for children, and for working in the legislative process on behalf of our school districts. She is very familiar with the Montgomery County legislators and will be able to represent the issues facing our districts and the MCIU. She is a person who will 'hit the ground running', said Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, MCIU Executive Director/CEO.

Additionally, Tina is a member of the Pennsylvania State Bar and is a practicing attorney. "The Montgomery County Superintendents' Task Force on Cooperative Services has identified that one of the tasks they would like the MCIU to do is simple contract assistance as well as help with school district policies. Tina's appointment will expand the capacity of the MCIU to assist school districts with some of the more routine legal issues," Dr. Shiveley said.

## MCIU Regional Computer Fair

Middle and high school students are invited to participate in the 2012 Computer Fair, an annual event that highlights students' application skills and computer knowledge.

Date: March 5, 2012

(Snow date: March 12, 2012)

Location: Montgomery County Intermediate Unit,  
Rooms B3-B4

Time: 8 am-12 pm

Categories for both divisions include:

- Animation
- Computer Fair Logo
- Digital Movie
- Graphic Design
- Programming
- Web Page Design

For additional information, contact Jackie Krail at 610-755-9352 or [jkrail@mcui.org](mailto:jkrail@mcui.org).



## Big Savings!

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.

## 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.

The MCIU is governed by a 22-member board of directors composed of one board member from each of the 22 school districts in Montgomery County. Board member terms are three years and are staggered.



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).

### MCIU Education Foundation Board

This January, the Education Foundation also welcomed a new board member and elected new leadership. Geoffrey Schwartz, Account Executive for Aetna, joined the Board and was elected to serve as Vice President. Kirby Wood, Freedom Credit Union, was appointed to serve as President.

The Foundation is a private, nonprofit charitable organization that exists to assist children with special needs in the twenty-two school districts of Montgomery County and to support other MCIU programs.

## 2nd Annual Autism Resource Fair

February 16, 2012  
North Penn High School Cafeteria  
6:30pm-8:30pm

Featuring vendors in advocacy, behavioral health, community resources, camps, social skills groups and more!

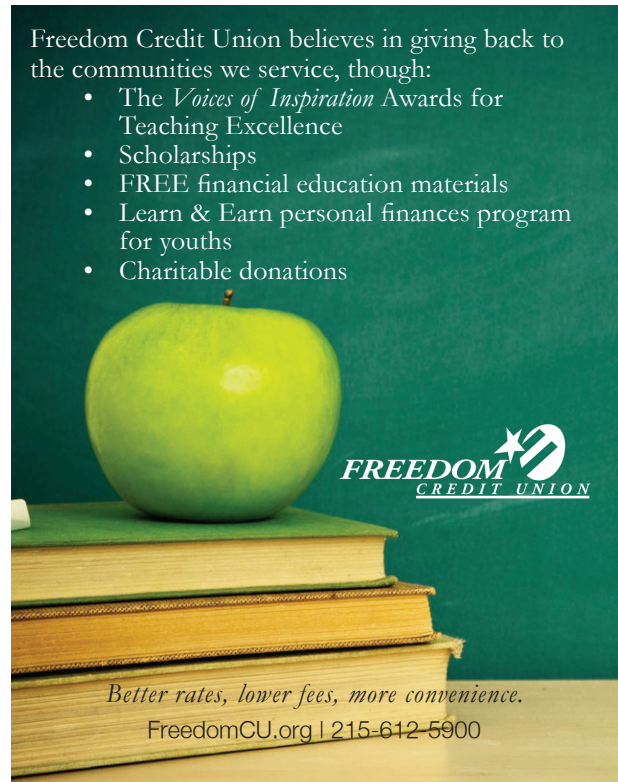
For more information, email Keri Kessler at [kkessler@mciu.org](mailto:kkessler@mciu.org).

## Nominate an Excellent Teacher: 6th Annual Voices of Inspiration

Nominations are now being accepted for the 6th annual Freedom's Voices of Inspiration Award for Teaching Excellence, sponsored by Freedom Credit Union and the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. The award honors and celebrates the contributions of exemplary educators in Montgomery County. Nominations, based on an individual's contributions or performance during that school year, or for cumulative efforts over many years, may be submitted by any of the following people: students, parents, co-workers, administrators, or school employees for public and nonpublic schools. The nominee should clearly demonstrate an extraordinary dedication to teaching young people, while exhibiting the qualities that represent a truly inspirational educator. Log onto [https://www.freedomcu.org/freedomcu/VOI\\_Nomination.asp](https://www.freedomcu.org/freedomcu/VOI_Nomination.asp) for more information or for a nomination form. The deadline is March 16, 2012.

Freedom Credit Union believes in giving back to the communities we service, though:

- The *Voices of Inspiration* Awards for Teaching Excellence
- Scholarships
- FREE financial education materials
- Learn & Earn personal finances program for youths
- Charitable donations



Better rates, lower fees, more convenience.  
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