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High School Guidance Counselors participate in iPad Training at the CCESC. The training was provided by the College Access Challenge Grant, which is a partnership with the Mahoning Valley College Access Program (MVCAP). (Photo by CCESC staff).

Every Child in Columbiana County—Safe, Healthy, and Achieving



CCESC

Providing quality services through cooperative efforts to create success for all students

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College Access Challenge Grant

By Steve Stewart, CCESC Staff

Columbiana County public schools, in partnership with the CCESC and the Mahoning Valley College Access Program (MVCAP), received the College Access Challenge Grant for the 2011—2012 school year. This grant, from the Ohio Board of Regents, is intended to increase the college-going rate of high school students. The grant provided Columbiana schools with a three pronged approach to increasing the number of students not only attending college, but earning their degrees.

The College Access Challenge Grant will provide one ACT Explore test for each eighth grade student in the county. This test is designed to help students explore a broad range of options for their futures. Explore not only prepares students for high school coursework, it also assists them in making decisions about their post-secondary education. It marks an important beginning for a student's future academic and career success. The Explore Student Score Report gives information about the student's knowledge, skills, interests, and plans.

The second area of the grant enabled each district to receive the Student Trakker. Student Trakker is an exciting innovation from the National Clearinghouse that allows schools at the secondary and post-secondary level to track their students' progress beyond high school. High schools will be able to more accurately gauge the college success of their graduates by reporting data, such as:

- How many students enroll in college?
- Do they graduate from college?
- How long does it take them to earn their degrees?
- Which colleges do they most commonly attend?

Through this program our high schools will be able to gather concrete data to help inform them about how they are preparing students to matriculate and graduate from college.

Lastly, all high school guidance counselors attended two trainings offered by Dr. Joe Rottenborn (MVCAP) and Steve Stewart (CCESC). Apple iPads, purchased through the grant, were distributed to the guidance counselors. Stewart (see **College Access**, p. 2)

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A Photo Finish: What's In Your Bucket Today?



Ask the students in Chris McKay's CCESC class at Leetonia Elementary if they have filled their buckets today and they will answer, "Yes!"

The students have decorated and are filling small buckets for a character-building program, based on the book, *How Full is Your Bucket? For Kids*, by Tom Roth, Mary Reckmeyer, and Maurice Manning.

The students fill their buckets with small rewards when they use kind words and perform positive actions during the school day. The "drops in the bucket" fill each heart with pride and joy. Negative words result in the buckets "drip, drip, dripping," away.

So far, all the buckets are staying full!

McKay is assisted by Diane Crites, Speech-Language Pathologist, Karen McKim, Teacher Assistant, Anita Gillam, Sign Language Interpreter, and Student Attendants Teresa Groner and Barb Baumgardner.

The students pictured are (left to right) Faith Petrycki, Caleb Drye, Katie Spencer, Jimmy Shasteen, Katrina Morris, Dillon Hunsbarger, and Alonna Davis.

Have you filled your bucket today?

Leetonia students in Chris McKay's class pose with their buckets (Submitted Photo).

Countywide Youth Survey Results Are Presented

On Thursday, Nov. 3, community agencies, police department representatives, and school personnel met to review the results of the 2011 Developmental Assets Survey at the Salem Community Center. The meeting was called to engage all sectors of the community who work with children and families to discuss how they can build assets with youth. The survey was administered to seventh and tenth grade students in 10 Columbiana County public school districts. A total of 1,768 young people participated.

The Search Institute, a non-profit research organization, created a framework to measure positive youth development. The framework is based on the number of supports, called "assets," a young person can identify in his or her life. According to research, young people who report more assets in their lives are less likely to engage in risk-taking behaviors. The Search Institute measures 40 assets, which encompass

external and internal supports.

The meeting presenter, Debbie Pietrzak, Assistant VP of Marketing and Planning at Salem Community Hospital, provided an overview of the Developmental Assets and how county students responded compared to national behavioral trends. Overall, county students report an average of 19.1 assets. This is slightly below the national average of 20.1 assets. The Search Institute benchmark for optimal youth development is 31 assets.

Pietrzak talked about student response by asset category. The eight asset categories are Support, Empowerment, Boundaries and Expectations, Constructive Use of Time, Commitment to Learning, Positive Values, Social Competencies, and Positive Identity. Students in Columbiana County reported lower levels of assets in the category of Social Competencies compared to national results. This category

includes Planning and Decision Making, Cultural Competence, Resistance Skills, and Peaceful Conflict Resolution.

When looking at specific assets, Columbiana County students were above the national average for Youth as Resources, Neighborhood Boundaries, and Time at Home. Asset categories that were significantly underreported by county students were Safety and the amount of time spent on Homework.

The meeting concluded with a roundtable discussion about what resources and partnerships are needed within the community to increase assets among young people. The goal being that all sectors of the community are working together so local youth have the opportunity to thrive. The meeting was sponsored by Salem Community Hospital, the Coordinated Action for School Health (CASH) Coalition, and the Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention Team (ADAPT).

What We Learned—How A Dog Helps Others

By Kaitlyn Van Wye & Dusty Kelley

Bonnie Reed came to visit our Leetonia ESC class on October 14th with her dog Kahlua. Bonnie has Multiple Sclerosis (MS), and uses an electronic wheelchair. Bonnie needs help doing daily tasks, including dressing, cooking, and laundry. She signed up for Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. (ADAI), which is a service dog program based in Toledo, OH. Bonnie has owned Kahlua for two years. She tells Kahlua what to do, and he does it. He uses a rope to open cupboards and doors.

Kahlua is a service dog and a Labradoodle. He helps Bonnie do things that are difficult for her. Kahlua can get clothes out of the dryer, open the refrigerator to get a bottle of water, and take off Bonnie's coat and socks. He can travel the world helping others because he has a special license. He can go anywhere that Bonnie goes, including schools, churches, restaurants, concerts, and malls. Some other classes came to see Bonnie and Kahlua. Mr. Mehno stopped by to visit Kahlua, too!



Bonnie Reed and her aide dog, Kahlua, visited Kitty Kromer's CCESC classroom on October 14th. Reed discussed how Kahlua helps her complete daily tasks. Leetonia Superintendent Robert Mehno (pictured above right) greets Kahlua (Submitted Photos).

Southern Local Seeks Volunteer Mentors

Do you want to make a difference in the life of a child? Southern Local Schools has begun a program called Project MORE (Mentoring in Ohio for Reading Excellence), and is seeking volunteers to mentor struggling readers.

The program pairs one student with one mentor for personalized reading intervention. Project MORE is designed so that any person who reads beyond a 6th grade level can be a mentor. Students will be taken out of class to meet with a mentor for 30 minutes, at least 4 times per week. Regular attendance is crucial because students count on their mentors to be there for them at the designated time.

If you know of someone who may be interested in mentoring, please share the news with them. Interested persons may contact Cassandra Nicholas, Project MORE Coordinator/Literacy Coach, at cassandra.nicholas@southern.k12.oh.us

Substitute Teacher Training

The CCESC will offer a one-day training for substitute teachers on Thursday, January 26, 2012, 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m., at the CCESC office in Lisbon.

Participants must have a bachelor's degree. The training will include a review of classroom culture and teaching strategies. The session will assist each participant in completing his or her application for a one-year Temporary Substitute Teaching License. Attendees also have the option of applying for a five-year License.

The non-refundable training fee is \$15. Attendees can complete their BCI and FBI background checks on the day of training. For more information, contact Susan Wenderoth at swenderoth@ccesc.k12.oh.us

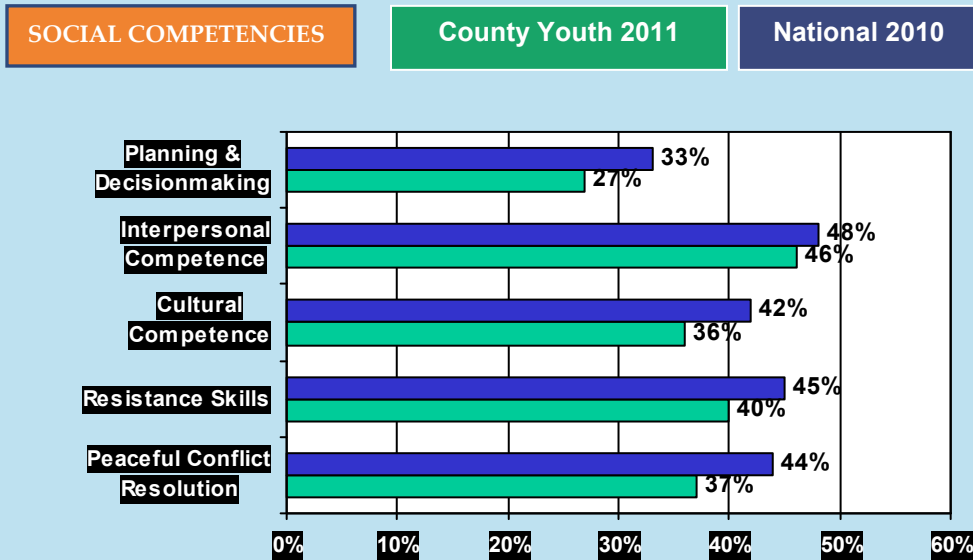
College Access, cont.

demonstrated the Apple iPad and gave a basic lesson about its operation. Dr. Rottenborn presented information about college admissions, financial aid, and how to utilize technology and internet resources to further inform students. He showed participants how to access college information via the MVCAP website and blog for students.

The better school staff disseminate current information and utilize best practices, the better we can help low-income, rural, and first generation applicants reach and graduate from college.

Through the three approaches provided in the College Access Challenge Grant, each of Columbiana County's local high schools will have resources that will better inform districts when making curriculum decisions at all grade levels. These decisions will prepare students for college and career success.

A Picture of Developmental Assets



In the graph shown above, the percent of county students reporting a particular asset (green) is compared to national data (blue). The internal asset category of Social Competencies is illustrated. Internal assets are values and attitudes which students identify within themselves. Definitions for the assets shown are: **Planning and Decision Making**—Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices. **Interpersonal Competence**—Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills. **Cultural Competence**—Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds. **Resistance Skills**—Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations. **Peaceful Conflict Resolution**—Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.

Spare the Ladies Night for ACS



CCESC staff and family met on Monday, October 24th, at Camelot Lanes in Boardman to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Pictured front row (left to right): Jeremy Lydic and Danielle Dillon. Second row (left to right): Karen Marcu, Yvonne Lipinsky, Judy Hill, and Rick Johnson. Third row (left to right): Katrina Moore, Shelly Smith, Joe Warchol, and Steve Wagner. Bowlers and staff donations raised more than \$150 for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Campaign (Photo by M. Lipinsky).