

A Word from Dr. O'Shea



Greetings and happy New Year! I am pleased to provide you with the following overview of some of our activities over the last quarter.

ESPA Contract

ESPA, the support personnel association, and DCIU have reached a two-year agreement.

The negotiations were led by Christine Signora, president of the Association, with the support of the negotiation committee, and Sean Lilly, Director of Human Resources for DCIU, with support from the DCIU Board. With both parties being reasonable and negotiating in good faith, the agreement was reached well before the expiration of the current contract.

DCIU in Line for Early Head Start Grant

On December 10, 2014, President Obama announced the release of federal dollars earmarked for Head Start grantees nationwide that would consider establishing partnerships with child care centers in their community. These partnerships would be responsible for expanding Early Head Start, a federal program designed to support infants, toddlers and pregnant women in low income communities. We would like to proudly announce that the DCIU Head Start program has been named a preliminary grantee by the federal Office of Head Start to bring this worthy program to Delaware County. As the process of negotiating fiscal and

program matters are finalized, we will keep all DCIU stakeholders abreast of the progress of these discussions.

Speakers Bureau

The DCIU Speakers Bureau has made numerous presentations to various audiences since its inception in September. The Speakers Bureau was created as a part of our marketing campaign to help clearly communicate the mission and goals of DCIU and increase awareness of who we are, what we offer and how we can best meet the needs of our educational community. The Speakers Bureau is available to give a 10-20 minute multi-media presentation about our services, which can be modified to fit a particular program, meeting or organization. If you know of a civic, business, social, church, youth, educational or other community organization that might be interested in learning more about DCIU, please send an email to speakersbureau@dciu.org with the organization name and contact person, or call Joanne Matteucci at 610-938-9000 ext. 2058.

Marple Elevator Project

The general contractor has begun site preparation for the new elevator at the Marple Education Center. Electrical and plumbing rerouting has been completed both in the sprinkler room and the underground site work. Steel beams have been installed and elevator pit construction is scheduled to begin. Anticipated completion is still scheduled for Summer 2015.

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Delaware County Technical High Students are the first to join HealthWorks Academies' career mentoring program at the Rothman Institute

This past fall over 50 students from Delaware County Technical High Schools (DCTS) were the first to participate in the inaugural healthcare mentoring program organized by HealthWorks Academies in close partnership with the Rothman Institute. Rothman Institute is the founding sponsor of HealthWorks Academies.

HealthWorks Academies is a non-profit that partners with high schools, universities, and the healthcare industry to provide interested high school students with access to various healthcare professions. "We are really trying to fill a coming void by fostering unique educational opportunities in healthcare for these students," says Dale Keshishian, CEO of HealthWorks Academies. "What these students receive now, this unique education and experience, will be paid forward when they graduate and join leading healthcare organizations like Rothman Institute."

"Our team is very excited about this project," said Mike West, CEO of the Rothman Institute, "Economic forecasts predict a critical shortage of students interested in medical disciplines despite the increasing need. Partnering with HealthWorks Academies will allow us not only to show future generations of caregivers the business, but foster and encourage their growth within."

Nationally, career and technical education (CTE) advocates purport that CTE is uniquely positioned to narrow both skill and interest gaps through career pathway exposure and technical skills training. In Delaware County the "Real School for the Real World", DCTS, is dedicated to providing students real work-based learning experiences, real technical & workplace skills training, and real preparation for success in high demand fields after high school.

DCTS Administrative Director, Dr. Phil Lachimia says, "Delaware County Technical High School is always looking for partnerships that will provide the type of career exploration opportunity for students that is being offered by HealthWorks Academies and the Rothman Institute. It is critical that high school students identify their spark. Through these types of experiences students are able



to explore a variety of career pathways so when they decide to pursue a career they have enough experience and information to make sound, reasonable decisions."

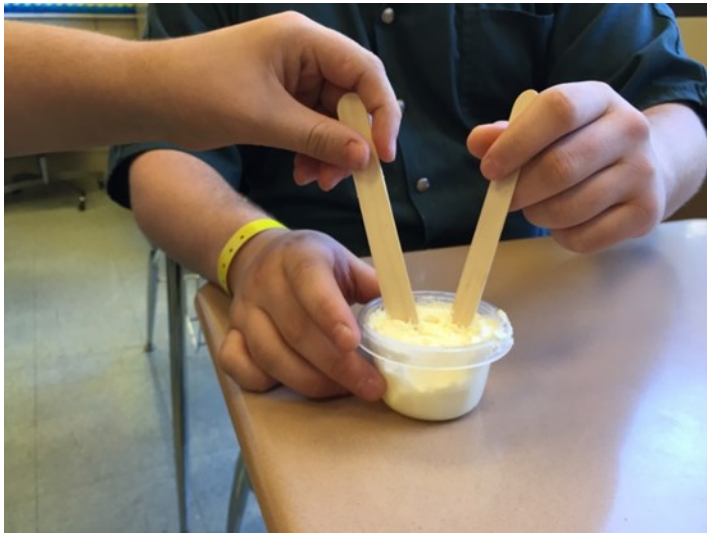
Participants in the healthcare mentoring program are enrolled in DCTS' School of Health & Biosciences which highlights numerous exciting career pathways in medicine, nursing and allied health. Students are immersed in a rich curriculum designed to prepare them to be college and career ready. Current School of Health & Biosciences programs include Dental Technology, Medical Careers, Emergency & Protective Services, and Health Science.

REMINDERS:

- ◆ The DCIU Education Foundation grant application deadline is February 2, 2015.
- ◆ Nominations for the Delaware County Excellence in Teaching Awards are due February 6, 2015.

Detention Center Students Use Measurements to Make Butter

The students in Miss Rachel's math class at the Delaware County Juvenile Detention Center recently learned about liquid measurements and using proportions to reduce recipes. After reducing a recipe to yield a smaller portion, students worked in pairs to make butter. They measured the ingredients, took turns combining the ingredients, timed each step of the process, and then enjoyed eating the finished product.



ELL Staff Deliver 35 Thanksgiving Baskets

The DCIU ELL Department had another successful Turkey Drive in November. This year, the ELL Department raised money and donations to create over 35 baskets for the ELL families of Delaware County. The ELL teachers reached out to local community members for donations. Many of the teachers used their own money to make purchases for the baskets. Each basket contained everything a family needed to create a Thanksgiving meal, including a book about Thanksgiving and step by step instructions for cooking a turkey. The ELL teachers also volunteered their time to deliver the baskets to the families door to door. It was a wonderful event!



Wawa Autism Walks Nets Nearly \$6,000 for Autistic Support

The Wawa regional managers sponsored their third annual Autism Walk in November. The proceeds from this walk were split between the DCIU and CCIU Autistic Support programs. DCIU received a donation of over \$5,900.00 as a result of the Autism Walk event. DCIU volunteers who helped with the event include, as pictured, from left to right: Adriene Irving, Director, Legislative and Community Services (LCS); Dina Scoutelas, Behavior Specialist Consultant; Barb Schenkel Darkow, Autistic Support Administrative Assistant; Adrienne Maimone, Behavior Specialist Consultant; Kelly Fager, ABA Internal Coach; Chris Polzer, Supervisor, Autistic Support; and not pictured, Joanne Matteucci, Administrative Assistant, LCS.



EI Boasts a Flurry of Holiday Activity

The DCIU Early Intervention staff hosted a number of events and activities leading up to the holiday break that not only celebrated the upcoming holidays but more importantly, assisted needy EI families and others in the community:

- ◆ At Pennington, the staff brought in food for a needy family. They sent home a huge Thanksgiving box/basket (including a turkey, potatoes, yams, gravy, mac and cheese, rolls, apple juice, beans, peas, corn, olives, pickles, pumpkin pie, and more). The family chosen has two children in Head Start programming and the family needed assistance. The mother cried when she found out she “won the lottery” at Pennington. Additional baskets went out to students in the school age program.
- ◆ Another family needed coats for their children. EI provided the four children with new coats, hats and gloves right before the cold weather came in. The children and their parents were very appreciative.
- ◆ EI staff raised over \$250 for the holiday to purchase and donate toys to Toys for Tots. Any additional money went to the Food Bank in Media.
- ◆ The PEACH fundraiser, an annual holiday bazaar, raised about \$3,300, the bulk of which will be used for classroom items and equipment.



DCTS Mock Accident Gives Students Up Close Look at the Negative Effects of Drinking and Driving

For the eighth year in a row, students in the Emergency and Protective Services program at Delaware County Technical School (DCTS) participated in a mock car accident in early December. The students played various roles: victims, drunk drivers that caused the accident, EMTs who treated victims and firefighters who extracted victims from the car.

The purpose of the exercise was twofold: 1) to drive home the reality of drinking, or texting and driving and the damage it can cause, and 2) to give students in the program an opportunity to have hands on field experience. Throughout the exercise, teacher, Bill Richard, explained to the students and others present, via megaphone, what was happening as the students extracted the accident victims from cars. Two classes from DCTS participated while students from other classes watched the accident scene.

Fire companies Folcroft, Aston Beechwood, Lansdowne, Milmont Park were on hand and actively assisted and instructed students as they extracted victims from cars. Using various tools, they took off roofs and doors of the cars, popped open trunks and broke car windows applying skills they learned in class to an actual accident scene.

While the weather was damp and frigid on this cold December morning, the experience the students received and the lifelong lessons they learned were warming to the soul.



LPN Students Get Practical Experience at DCIU Wellness Fairs

Human Resources and the Wellness Committee have brought the DCIU wellness program directly to our sites this year via a series of wellness fairs. The LPN students have played an important role during the wellness fairs as they gain valuable work experience at the same time. The students have come to each fair armed with great information and resources covering a range of health topics. They have also conducted blood pressure and other screenings. DCIU staff is encouraged to watch their email for the next scheduled Wellness Fair location, plus additional wellness information and videos.

These students, from the LPN Class 45, pictured from left to right, along with their teacher, were on hand at the Morton Wellness Fair in December: Jincy Kunjumon, Loretta Williams, Richard Lawrence, Amanda Prestwood, Tammy Simpson, Anthony Kamara, Raechel Pierce, and instructor Kim Agozzino.



Students Entertain at Marple Holiday Show

On December 18, the school-age Autistic Support and New Pathways Programs presented their winter holiday show, "Believe." The students in each classroom performed a variety of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa songs in recognition of the upcoming holiday season. Under the direction of music teacher, Cindy Rietz and art teacher, Pam Nelson, the program helped to usher in the season through music, movement and song. Even though the program had to be cut short, unfortunately, due to a medical emergency, the students did a wonderful job and the audience enjoyed the show!



Haverford Physical Support Students Sell Their Crafts

Students and staff from the Physical Support Program at Haverford High School set up shop in the Morton lobby on December 10. The students sold a wide variety of handmade holiday items from pillows to scarves and from trinkets to jewelry.

Through this event, the students gain numerous experiences and have the opportunity to work on skills, such as making the items, customer service, counting money and making change.



Riddle Hospital Hosts Operation Warm Party for Head Start

On December 10, about 40 children from the DCIU Head Start center at Yeadon were treated to a pizza party, song and dance with "Makin' Music Rockin' Rhythms," a special visit from Elsa from *Frozen*, and brand new winter coats and accessories, at the 10th annual Riddle Hospital Operation Warm party. The event is quite the production with dozens of employees, auxiliarians, volunteers and community members helping out and bringing fun, laughter and joy to the little tykes.

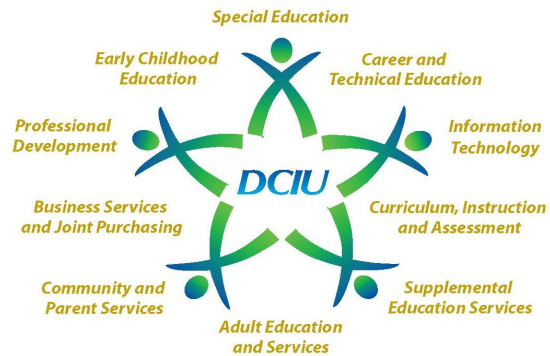
The new winter coats are provided by Operation Warm, a local nonprofit in Chadds Ford, PA, that believes all children should feel valued, happy and warm. The purchase of the coats is made possible through the Delco Campaign, which began in 2004 as the result of a partnership between Operation Warm, Riddle and local rotary groups. The Campaign raises funds to purchase the coats.

Pictured is Debbie Herker of the Associated Auxiliaries of Riddle Hospital who helped little Eimnet, age 3, pick out her new winter coat, hat, scarf and gloves, which were donated by Delaware County Community College's Surgical Technology Program's "G-love Campaign."





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Empowering Partnerships For Education

HUMAN RESOURCES CORNER/ HEALTH AND WELLNESS INFO.

Retirement Seminar

Considering retirement and not sure where to begin?

Every year Human Resources is asked many questions about retirement. There are a number of misconceptions about the process, so we will hold our annual information session about retirement. If you are thinking of retiring please try to attend and bring your questions.

Please join the DCIU Human Resources staff for a Retirement Information Session:

Wednesday, January 21, 2015
Morton Education Center
Rooms 103
4:00pm – 5:00pm

Topics to be covered include:

- The Retirement Process

- PSERS Requirements
- Medicare and Social Security Enrollment
- Health Benefits Options
- Affordable Care Act and Health Benefits
- Tax Sheltered Annuities (403B)
- Question/Answer Session

Space is limited so please RSVP to Eric Demkin at 610-938-9000 ext. 2003 or edemkin@dciu.org.

Please note this session does not take the place of your PSERS exit counseling or any other obligations you may have with PSERS. It is also recommended that you consult with a financial advisor.