



JCESC

The Bridge to Tomorrow

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Inside JCESC

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Project GATEWAY Grant

Project GATEWAY, a \$90,575 grant funded by the Ohio Board of Regents, has been a collaboration among Franciscan University, Jefferson County ESC, Buckeye Local, Edison Local, Harrison Hills City, Indian Creek Local, Jefferson County Board of DD, Steubenville City, and Toronto City school districts in Jefferson and Harrison Counties. Project GATEWAY has been an ambitious effort to enhance achievement for 3,950 students in Grades 4-8 mathematics. The project design is embedded in four selected Guiding Recommendations from “The Mile Guide: Milestones for Improving Learning and Education,” a tool released in 2009 by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills.

1. Develop intensive teacher professional development programs that focus intentionally on 21st century skills instruction, e.g., sessions that help teachers integrate critical thinking and communication in the context of math lessons.
2. Train teachers and administrators around how to model and lead 21st century skills initiatives
3. Build teacher capacity to create an environment of differentiated professional learning, risk taking, and collaborative relationships
4. Deliver learner-centered instruction to build mastery of math core content and instill 21st century skills

Project GATEWAY is a 12-month project that began with a 5-day Summer 2011 institute at Franciscan University where 74 teachers participated in 12 1/2 contact hours of math content based on grades 4-8 Common Core Standards in geometry, measurement, data, and the mathematical process; participants also engaged in 12 1/2 contact hours of pedagogy based on the Gradual Release of Responsibility framework. A second phase of Summer 2011 professional development for the project was a 2-day technology training on utilizing the SMART Board in 4-8 math instruction.

Project leaders are now finalizing details for delivering an additional 20 hours of data-driven, job-embedded, collaborative professional development designed to sustain and expand the new learning and skills acquired during the summer institutes. Three college professors and eight trained math mentor/coaches will facilitate the follow-up sessions. All professional development is aligned with the Staff Development Council Standards. George Allan coordinates the project for the JCESC.

Administrative Leadership Team Back-to-School Breakfast

On Thursday, August 11, 2011, the Governing Board hosted the annual back-to-school breakfast meeting for 85 district administrators, the ESC Leadership Team, and special guests. This year’s meeting was held at The Rose in Wintersville. Tom Ash, Director of Governmental Relations at BASA, was the guest speaker. His presentation titled, “A Legislative Banquet: Some Done, Some Still Cooking, and Some Raw,” related to aligning current legislation with the district “big arrow” focus for 2011-12.



A Note from the Superintendent



Joy Howell
Superintendent

Summer 2011 was filled with collaborative professional development for teachers and administrators. Watching a Board of Regents funded grant for math teachers transform from a paper document to hands-on experiences with the Geometer's Sketchpad, the Gradual Release of Responsibility instructional framework, and SMART Board lesson development for 74 teachers was very gratifying to JCESC and Franciscan staff members.

Equally rewarding was the overwhelming teacher response to the Summer Technology Workshops ranging from Web 2.0 tools to Geocaching. In addition, principals, superintendents, and district office staff gathered at Eastern Gateway College in June for an administrative version of the Standards Roll Out presentations delivered to their teachers.

Over the years, district leadership has come to realize and value the power and effectiveness of collaboration. By pooling human and fiscal resources, we can provide high quality, value-added professional development, programs, and services none of us could provide individually.

This newsletter attempts to highlight summer activities as well as several upcoming fall programs, services, and initiatives. For additional information, we invite you to visit our website at www.jcesc.k12.oh.us.

Standards Revision and Model Curriculum

The State Board of Education adopted the Revised Standards in June 2010. After the standards were revised, ODE began work on the Model Curriculum that was adopted by the State Board of Education in March 2011. Throughout the process, ODE trained and enlisted the assistance of the 56 ESCs across the State to rollout the Revised Standards and Model Curriculum.

The Jefferson County ESC has presented numerous PowerPoint presentations to teachers and administrators. In fall 2010, the JCESC Professional Development and Curriculum Staff made 16 PowerPoint presentations to over 300 teachers and 34 administrators in five districts, plus the JVS and Board of DD. In spring 2011, the ESC staff led three full-day trainings on the Model Curriculum with kindergarten, first, and second grade teachers. They also led four half-day sessions with eleventh and twelfth grade teachers in each of the four content areas. Then, in June, the JCESC PD and Curriculum staff shared the ODE

Model Curriculum PowerPoint presentation with 52 administrators (Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Elementary and Secondary Principals, and Curriculum Directors) at the Eastern Gateway Community College Training Center.

On August 22, at the collaborative Professional Development Day sponsored by the Jefferson County Educational Service Center, Sasheen Phillips, Executive Director of the Center for Curriculum and Assessment (ODE), presented additional information and reinforced the work conducted by JCESC on the Revised Standards and Model Curriculum.

The JCESC Professional Development and Curriculum Staff will continue to work with all districts throughout the three-year transition process.

*At the collaborative
Professional
Development Day on
August 22, Sasheen
Phillips, from ODE,
presented information
on the Revised
Standards and Model
Curriculum.*

Resident Educator Program

Ohio House Bill 1, passed in July 2009, mandated a new licensure system for teachers in Ohio that included a Resident Educator license effective by January 2011. JCESC is coordinating the Resident Educator Program for Buckeye Local, Edison Local, Harrison Hills City, Indian Creek Local, Jefferson County Board of DD, Jefferson County JVS, Steubenville City, and Toronto City school districts. The program is structured similarly to the Entry Year Program coordinated by JCESC from 1998 to 2009.

The Resident Educator Program is a four-year program of support and mentoring for new teachers that will provide Ohio educators just entering the profession with quality mentoring and guidance essential for a long and flourishing career. Successful completion of the residency

program is a prerequisite for qualifying for the five-year professional educator license.

Mentoring with a qualified, veteran, and Ohio Department of Education trained mentor is a required component of the program. Fifty-three teachers in the JCESC consortium with at least three to five years of teaching experience and a strong professional desire to work with and support beginning teachers were recruited to participate in a mentor training held September 8-9, 2011, at Eastern Gateway Community College.

Throughout the school year, mentors and resident educators will share 36 hours of collaboration and mentoring. They will also participate in ongoing professional development coordinated by JCESC staff through evening follow-up sessions.

The Resident Educator Program is a four-year program of support and mentoring for new teachers.

Teacher Leader Endorsement

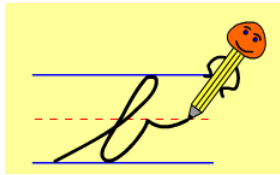
JCESC is coordinating and facilitating the process for helping teachers complete requirements for acquiring Teacher Leader Endorsement status. The Ohio Department of Education restructured the licensure system that became effective January 1, 2011. The new multi-level system encourages motivated teachers to move to the top level of Lead Professional Educator, which may open doors to out-of-classroom, non-administrative assignments that are professionally motivating and fulfilling. Moving to this licensure level requires teachers to meet several indicators of distinguished performance including holding a Masters Degree, achieving Master Teacher status, and acquiring the Teacher Leader Endorsement.

The new Teacher Leader Endorsement supports the teacher residency program by preparing educators to serve as teacher leaders who will focus on increasing skills of working with adult learners, facilitating and leading change, managing conflict, and coaching and mentoring teachers at all stages in their careers.

JCESC is partnering with the University of Cincinnati in providing teachers opportunities to enroll in a graduate program leading to the endorsement. Currently, 13 teachers have enrolled in the first Teacher Leader cadre. George Allan coordinates the program for JCESC.

JCESC is partnering with the University of Cincinnati to provide teachers opportunities to acquire the Teacher Leader endorsement.

Web 2.0 Tools in VLA Courses



*A sample of flash animation,
a Web 2.0 tool*

VLA continues as a forerunner in technology in education by implementing and utilizing Web 2.0 Tools. With these new additions and enhancements to courses, VLA provides 21st Century Skills to students, as well as meets many varied student needs. VLA provides a variety of tools to engage students in courses fully aligned with Ohio Academic Content Standards.

Animation facilitates an interactive learning environment in kindergarten and

elementary courses. When students fully engage in activities, the success rate for learning is greatly increased. High school students engage in standards-aligned content and are challenged with interactive practice quizzes, podcasts, videos, audio clips, interactive maps, flip books and animation. Using enhancements that offer multiple learning opportunities, students are more likely to comprehend and retain information presented. In many courses, students sharpen their 21st Century Skills,

while completing projects and activities using a wide spectrum of Web 2.0 Tools.

New VLA courses in development include kindergarten math, language arts, and science. In addition, Spanish Grades 5 and 6 are in progress and, upon completion, will provide a seamless K through 12 course offering in the Spanish language.

Summer Technology Workshops

The annual JCESC Technology Workshops were well attended this summer. Nine of the eleven 2-day workshops were filled to capacity. Using teacher survey and personal input, JCESC VLA staff worked with various technological themes, utilizing the newest software and Web 2.0 tools. After reaching consensus on topics, they developed and presented workshops that included Adobe Acrobat 9, Adobe Photoshop, Blogging in the Classroom, Classroom Podcasting, Differentiating with Technology, Flash Animation, Geocaching for the Classroom, Google Apps for Educators, Math: Online Tools,

Resources & a Wiki, 100+ Free Web Resources, and Web 2.0 Storytelling.

The workshops were held at three locations: The Belmont-Harrison Career Center in St. Clairsville, the OMERESA/JCESC Lab in Steubenville, and the Eastern Gateway Community College in Steubenville.

This year Franciscan University became a partner in the Summer Technology program and offered one semester of graduate credit at \$75 for each two-day workshop. Participants could also opt for CEU credit at no cost.

Eleven Technology Workshops with various technological themes were offered during summer 2011.



Sharon Doty teaches Photoshop



Participants search for a geocache

JCESC Welcomes New VLA Staff Member

In July, the Governing Board employed Kristina Ash to coordinate and lead the ESC outreach work for the Virtual Learning Academy. Mrs. Ash earned her bachelor's degree from Franciscan University and her master's degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Ash has served as an adjunct online faculty member at Eastern Gateway Community College since 2005. She has developed and taught online courses in Principles of Management, Organizational Behavior, Human Resources Management, and Microeconomics.

She and her husband, George, along with their two children, reside in the Richmond area. The Governing Board and staff welcome Mrs. Ash to JCESC.



Kristina Ash

AdvancED Plaque Presentation



At the regular April 2011 Governing Board meeting, Sharon Zimmers, Director, Ohio NCA/CASI, presented a plaque to Governing Board President Ken Simeral to acknowledge JCESC's NCA/CASI Accreditation. The plaque presentation represents a milestone in the accreditation process that began with a letter of intent mailed May 18, 2009. After a 13-month internal self-assessment and collection of artifacts, JCESC hosted a seven-member, external quality review assurance team from Arizona, Georgia, Kentucky, Nebraska, and Ohio.

The ESC Leadership Team is now working toward full implementation of the recommendations made by the review team. In June 2012, the ESC will submit a two-year progress report to the AdvancED office.

Blair Closser coordinates the accreditation-related work for JCESC.

Public Records Training

JCESC hosted a public records training on Friday, September 16, 2011, at the Eastern Gateway Community College Training Center. Personnel from the Ohio Auditor of State's office conducted the training. Topics included responding to requests for public records, an overview of the Public Records Act, compliance with House Bill 9, highlights of records retention, and the Open Meetings Act.

This is the second public records training hosted by JCESC. The first training was held March 31, 2010.

In addition to school district personnel, participants included representatives from other government agencies and municipalities. A total of 34 people attended the training.

Joy Howell
Superintendent

George Allan
Director of Curriculum/PD

Jeff Oblak
Director of Special Education

Shaye Casper
*Customer Relations and Billing Agent for
VLA and the Health Benefits Program*

Linda Lenzi
Coordinator of Gifted Services

Governing Board

Kenneth Simeral
President

Robert L. (Larry) George
Vice President

Barbara Cunningham

William Lollini

William Schaefer

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VISION

**The Jefferson County Educational Service Center
will be an innovative leader in creating and providing
educational opportunities and alternatives that
maximize achievement for all learners.**

MISSION

*The Jefferson County Educational Service Center models and promotes
effective research-based practices in teaching and learning.*

*The ESC is dedicated to serving the needs of schools, families, and
communities through partnerships and collaborative leadership.*

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BELIEF STATEMENT

The Jefferson County Educational Service Center believes in ...

- increasing student achievement and enhancing teacher instruction;
- supporting life-long learning;
- providing leadership and services that result in educational opportunities for all learners;
- providing programs that are service-oriented, data-driven, and cost-effective;
- promoting and modeling collaboration to enrich learning opportunities; and
- utilizing technology and research-based models in service and programs.

**Upcoming Events**

OCTOBER 2011

- 4 SST Region 12 Meeting (Cambridge)
- 6 Superintendents' Cabinet Meeting
- 11 Indian Creek Admin. Leadership Mtg.
- 12 Edison Local Admin. Leadership Mtg.
- 13 Principals' Leadership Academy (Elem)
- 14 Continuous Improvement Team (CIT)
- 18 Governing Board Meeting
- 19 Buckeye Local Admin. Leadership Mtg.
- 19 LPDC
- 21 First Aid, CPR, and Communicable Disease Review (Teachers and Aides)
- 24 JCESC Staff Meeting
- 26 Harrison Hills Admin. Leadership Mtg.
- 27 Principals' Leadership Academy (Sec.)

NOVEMBER 2011

- 3 Principals' Leadership Academy (Elem)
- 4 Superintendents' Cabinet Meeting
- 8 Indian Creek Admin. Leadership Mtg.
- 9 Edison Local Admin. Leadership Mtg.
- 11 Continuous Improvement Team
- 16 Gifted/Diff. Instruction/Enrichment
- 16 Harrison Hills Admin. Leadership Mtg.
- 16 LPDC
- 17 Buckeye Local Admin. Leadership Mtg.
- 17 Principals' Leadership Academy (Sec)
- 18 Positive Behavior Support (Aides)
- 21 JCESC Staff Meeting
- 22 Governing Board Meeting

DECEMBER 2011

- 1 Superintendents' Cabinet Meeting
- 9 Continuous Improvement Team
- 9 Hands-on Science for Preschoolers (Teachers and Aides)
- 13 Indian Creek Admin. Leadership Mtg.
- 14 Edison Local Admin. Leadership Mtg.
- 15 Buckeye Local Admin. Leadership Mtg.
- 21 LPDC
- 20 Governing Board Meeting

*For an up-to-date list of events and further information, please go to  
[www.jcesc.k12.oh.us](http://www.jcesc.k12.oh.us) and click on "calendar."*