

The Collaborative



Volume XVII Issue III

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Mini-Grants Making Big Strides

- In May of 2009, KECSAC awarded
- eighteen mini-grants to programs
- across Kentucky. This initiative was
- designed to meet the significant
- academic achievement needs for state
- agency children in KECSAC programs
- and all of the successful grant proposal
- teams were able to demonstrate that
- their planned use of the funds would
- help them to better serve state agency
- children. The grant funds were used
- for a variety of initiatives including
- mobile science labs, art projects and
- interdisciplinary projects. Seven
- programs wrote KECSAC to share how
- they've used their funds for technology
- and library expansion.

Alan Spade from the Wilkinson Street School reflects: "We were able to

complete two very different projects with the money we received. One project helped to supply our teachers with top of the line technology and the other was a specific project dealing with a unit in Social Studies." Wilkinson Street Social Studies Teacher, Scott Tippett noted: "The document camera, projector and media cart are used (nearly) every day in each class. In middle school science the equipment is used to display scientific processes, definitions, experiments, learning targets, etc. The document camera records video clips from

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*Garet Wells
begins his term
as SACSAA
President on
March 5, 2010*

Spring SACSAA Meeting

Eighty school administrators attended the video conference SACSAA meeting on March 5, 2010 at eight satellite locations across the Commonwealth. Donna Buckley, SACSAA President, discussed the new KECSAC Outstanding Student of the Year Award and introduced the candidates for President-Elect, who each gave a brief campaign speech. KECSAC Director, Dr. Ronnie Nolan, led the business meeting which covered a wide range of issues, including: the Budget Update, the Universal Tool for Assessment RFP, Best Practice Sites, Deadlines for New Programs/Capacity Increases, the 2010-2011 PD Calendar, the upcoming At-Risk Conference, the BEST Study Update, KECSAC Mini-Grants and SAC Definition Update

and Impact. Associate Director, Kaye Parker, reviewed Policy Updates and the Census. Garet Wells presented out-going SACSAA President Donna Buckley with a plaque thanking her for her service to the School Administrators Association and upon taking up the mantle of President, he remarked: "There is not a group that cares more about making a difference in the lives of youth than SACSAA, so it is an honor and privilege to begin my term as president of this organization. The issues ahead for us and education in general are numerous, however the skills and talents of this administrative group are more than capable of meeting these challenges."

Director's Corner



Director, Dr. Ronnie Nolan

A few weeks ago I traveled a winding country road through the mountains of eastern Kentucky on my way to a wedding. My niece was getting married to her boyfriend of the last 5 years. It sounds picture perfect doesn't it? However, my niece is 18 years old and her new husband is 19 years old and still a senior in high school. I admit I was a little shocked that they decided to get married so young, but I drove down anyway, determined to be a supportive uncle. The wedding was just how I imagined a young couple would have. There were numerous bridesmaids and groomsmen; all fresh off the school bus after a hard day in class. You see, once again, my work came

home. My new nephew-in-law (is that what I should call him?) is a state agency child. He has been in and out of juvenile detention centers most of his young life and is currently under a court order to finish his senior year of high school. He attends an alternative school in my home town and still takes that big yellow bus to school almost every day. He attends school because he has to, not because he wants to. And now, while I welcome him into my family, I am even more thankful for the programs out there serving state agency children. If he is going to succeed and, with my niece, build a life that is self-sufficient, purposeful and positive, he has to have a quality education. I know, as many of you do, that education is the key to a successful life.

Each day teachers and administrators across the Commonwealth wake up with a commitment to make our state and world a better place for the kids we serve. I know the work they do is complicated, difficult, never ending, stressful and sometimes more than they care to carry, but I also know they are a passionate people with a dedication to doing what is right for our kids. And today, more so than

ever before, I know and can appreciate firsthand the work they do. While our time and resources are continually being pulled in opposing directions and while we sometimes struggle to see the light at the end of the tunnel, our teachers continue to surprise. They continue to meet the challenges head on and they continue to change the lives of countless students who enter our programs. So, with dwindling budgets and less time with more demands, I thank each of those teachers who are working to help students like my new family member become better prepared for the life that lies ahead. I am in good company with my colleagues across the state and I feel confident that the education they have provided for my new nephew is one that will be the foundation for a great future. Today, more than ever, I am counting on it—and so is my niece.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnie Nolan".

KECSAC Outside Evaluation of Operations

The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children recently entered into a contract with REACH of Louisville, Inc., to complete a full administrative evaluation of the organization. REACH will be conducting a primarily qualitative evaluation that assesses: (a) KECSAC's impact on state agency children programs, (b) the structure of KECSAC, and (c) the quality of administration (including how to

improve KECSAC services). In order to facilitate the study, REACH will be reviewing internal operations, meeting with the Interagency Advisory Group, interviewing central office staff and program improvement specialists and conducting site visits to several programs. During the site visits, REACH will discuss communication, operations, planning, responsiveness, and general goal attainment of the KECSAC program. In addition to the site visits and focus groups, REACH will be conducting an online survey to provide all programs an opportunity to participate in the evaluation process.

Programs Across Kentucky



the internet via a laptop for use when reviewing or demonstrating something in class. It is amazing how much high school students stay focused while using this technology.”

Sue Buley from Adair Youth Development also utilized funds for technology improvements. She reflects: “The special funds have made a great impact on our ability to bring technology to the classrooms. Since students are not able to have access to the Internet, or have very limited access, the teachers are able to bring the Internet to them through the use of the media centers. We are able to project laptop computer images onto a large screen to enable students to be interactive with the teacher.”

Another program that used the special allocation for technology is The Life Connection in LaRue County. Cindy Caswell reports that they were able to purchase seventeen new computers which are being used for Achieve3000, credit recovery and student I.L.P.’s (Individual Learning Plan). Achieve3000 is so popular with the students that they won a second contest in two years demonstrating student commitment to completing units through self-initiation. Ms. Caswell credits her Language Arts Teacher, James Brewer for inspiring the students to excel.

Renee Bullock, a Teacher at Rockcastle Regional Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, shares that as a result of the KECSAC grant was able to purchase a SMARTBoard. She states, “having the latest whiteboard technology in our classroom provides students with disabilities multiple opportunities to actively respond to the content they are learning. In addition to hands-on, at-the-board manipulation of graphics, text and images by instructional staff and students with a greater degree of mobility, program students with severe orthopedic disabilities are using a mouth-operated switch device, a computer mouse and a wireless notepad to operate the SMARTBoard from their wheelchairs.”

Bobby Branham, the Math Specialist at Shelby Valley Day Treatment, notes that the special allocation funds were used to purchase computers for their classrooms and library. They are used daily for the Accelerated Reader Program as individual stations to enhance classroom performance and for the use of United Streaming Educational Programs through Discovery Learning on the Internet. Mr. Branham notes, “we now can test more than one new student at a time when entering our program using the T.A.B.E. test to determine grade level equivalency. These computers also allow us to assist students with their I.L.P. which allows them to keep up with their classes taken and map their

way to college or explore vocational opportunities.”

Susan Bucy at Calloway County Day Treatment reports that their grant funds were used for additional core and elective courses which were added to the credit recovery program. She noted, “because of the purchase of the additional textbooks/workbooks through this KECSAC funding opportunity, we are able to provide students who have failed multiple classes with the opportunity to recover classes and be promoted to the next grade level.”

Tillie Slagle at Lake Cumberland Youth Development Center credits the grant with allowing the program to expand the library by 375 books. She exclaims, “when these books arrived, this gave me the opportunity to train students how to prepare library books for shelves, correctly catalog books and even collaborated with the carpentry class to build some new book shelves.”

This school year, KECSAC was able to offer another chance for programs to apply for mini-grants. The recipients of these funds (including their grant award amounts) are listed in the table on page five. We look forward to receiving more reports from programs benefitting from these grants in the school year to come!

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BARREN COUNTY

Barren County Day Treatment

By Dan Belding

Barren County Day Treatment recently started an after school wood shop class. It is a voluntary extra-curricular activity that has motivated several students. By tying participation with behavior write-up, teachers have seen improvements in several students. Currently, bird houses and corn hole sets are being sold to help finance the project.

BULTER COUNTY

Green River Youth Development

By Jim Green

The students at the Green River Youth Development Center have been very busy during the past couple months. A major goal of the Green River School is to expose students to many different educational opportunities, which in turn, will motivate them to raise their expectations when making their own educational and social choices.

In science class, students have been designing and building bridges. Each student creates their own bridge design and then builds it to meet certain standards specified by Western Kentucky University. This year, the school submitted 22 bridges to the competition, which was hosted by Stupps Bridge Building Company in Bowling Green. The school took eight students to the competition, where it placed third overall in the team competition. Several students’ bridges placed in the top 20 overall.

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Critical Issues Series: "Bringing the Classroom to Life" and "Downtown to Downhome"

KECSAC, in collaboration with the College of Education at Eastern Kentucky University, has sponsored three Critical Issues Series Workshops for KECSAC educators and education students throughout the 2009-2010 school year. The first of the series was "Bringing the Classroom to Life" on November 11th on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University and the next two workshops, both entitled "Downtown to Down Home," were on March 16, 2010 in Bowling Green and March 17, 2010 in Richmond.

Two-hundred sixty-nine KECSAC educators and students attended the back-to-back installments in the series, "Downtown to Down Home" in Bowling Green at Warren County Day Treatment (March 16th) and at the Perkins Conference Center on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University (March 17th). Dr. Eddie L. Woods presided at both installments presenting "Youth Gangs & Violence: Effective Program Approaches." As co-founder of a youth outreach organization called the LIFE Institute and Operation Hope in Louisville, Woods is deeply involved in preventing gang violence among the youth he mentors.

According to a LeoWeekly profile published in December of 2008, Dr. Woods grew up in the California neighborhood of Louisville, an area known for youth violence and gang activities, but his strict parents kept him from getting into trouble. "Back then — in the 1960s — gang activity consisted mainly of fistfights and petty theft. It wasn't unusual to scuffle with a rival gang one day, then play basketball with them the next... but that began to change as illegal guns poured into inner-city neighborhoods."

Currently, Dr. Woods estimates the Life Institute serves about one-hundred eighty young people. They reach their youngest members through after-school tutoring, offer strategic family planning classes to parents, life skills training such as developing and maintaining a household budget, navigating the court system and career services.

Dr. Woods' presentation focused on communicating with youth using relevant terms and street language, gang prevention programming through community involvement and best practices to help at-risk youth recover from gang culture. Dr. Woods' presented



Dr. Woods presents Youth Gangs & Violence: Effective Program Approaches.

"Youth Gangs & Violence: Effective Program Approaches" in two distinct venues: the Bowling Green installment was a more intimate setting composed primarily of seasoned KECSAC educators and the larger installment at Eastern Kentucky University was attended by both current educators in the field and a large number of ECU education majors. Dr. Woods was able to capture the attention and the imagination of both audiences, drawing in both the small and large crowds to participate in hands-on activities and speaker interactions.

Both Critical Issues Series topics, "Bringing the Classroom to Life" and "Downtown to Down Home," proved to be rich with information and rife with the kind of inspiring energy that helps KECSAC educators serve the educational needs of state agency children.

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The English and history classes have been collaborating over the past couple of months to expose students to units on World War II with emphasis on the Holocaust and its negative effects on the world. As a culminating activity, students were taken to the Patton Museum at Ft. Knox to view the equipment and leadership used during that period of time. During the month of February, both classes discussed the Civil Rights movement and the impact of the Harlem Renaissance on American society. The students were exposed to the art, music, literature, and important historical figures of the period. The final activity of

that unit was a trip to Paducah to view the theatrical production, "The Jackie Robinson Story." Currently, the English classes are studying and rehearsing the play, "Twelve Angry Men," which they will perform for the camp in early April.

In Math class, the students have been learning about financial responsibility, especially about positive and negative uses of credit. It has created much excitement, as they have learned many new vocabulary words, analyzed credit reports, and learned how to study *The Wall Street Journal*.

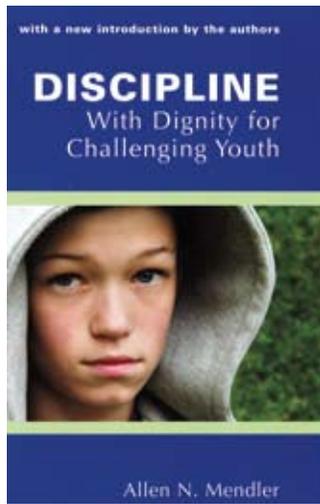
The students have also been discussing family planning and the negative effects of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs on themselves and their families. David Parnell wrapped up the unit by speaking to the students on the devastating effects of meth and child abuse on individuals and families through a meaningful presentation titled "Slaying the Dragon."

The staff at the Green River School believes in "Students First," and that it can raise student expectations by exposing them to new things that might make a difference in their lives for the future.

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Discipline with Dignity for Challenging Youth

explores the roots of student alienation and misbehavior, identifies the goals of effective discipline, and presents ways to avoid the confrontations, judgments and punitive responses that thwart positive outcomes.



For purchase information please contact:

Solution Tree
555 North Morton St.
Bloomington, IN 47404
800.733.6786
www.solution-tree.com

Excerpt

Discipline is just another form of instruction. The primary goal of a discipline method is to teach better behavior. Although punishment or reward may be a byproduct, the major questions an educator needs to ask are 'how is this method going to improve behavior?' and 'what is the student likely to learn?' If improved behavior is our goal, then we must be prepared to match the method to the student in a manner that differs little from conventional instructional practices... All schools recognize the value of individual educational plans (IEP's) for academically challenged students. We must also recognize behavioral diversity by providing individualized prevention or intervention methods that help teach improved and acceptable behavior.

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Congratulations Mini-Grant Recipients

Program	Projects
ASPIRE MHDT	Smart Board Technology & TABE
Barren County Day Treatment	Reading Plus Software
Bell County Day Treatment	Enrichment Activities & Tutors
Buckhorn Children's Center	Technology & PD
Calloway County Day Treatment	Life Skills Text Books
Christian County Day Treatment	Library Books & Technology
Clark County Day Treatment	Smart Board Technology & Books
Dessie Scott Children's Home	Smart Board Technology & Software
Frenchburg Group Home	Odyssey Compass & TABE
Green River YDC	Aquaculture Program
Harrodsburg Day Treatment	Smart Board Technology
Lake Cumberland YDC	Library Books & Text Books
Madison County Day Treatment	Outdoor Classroom Supplies
Phelps Day Treatment	Student Workstations
Ramey-Estep High School	Smart Board Technology
Safe Harbor Academy	Foundations in Personal Finance
Shelby Valley Day Treatment	Smart Board Technology
Taylor County Virtual Learning Academy	Smart Board Technology & Printing
The Life Connection	PE Equipment
Whitley Day Treatment	Library Books
Total	\$126,008.27

2010-2011 Best Practice Sites

To formally recognize the provision of high quality educational services in alternative education programs, KECSAC and the Kentucky Department of Education has once again offered an opportunity for superintendents to nominate exemplary alternative education programs for selection as Best Practice Sites for Alternative Education Program. Each alternative education program selected as a Best Practice Site will receive \$1,000 for instructional support and be recognized at an upcoming meeting of the Kentucky Board of Education. Some of the programs selected as Best Practice Sites may serve as locations for the KECSAC Teaching in Action Series in the 2010-2011 school year. The Best Practice Site Selection Committee recently designated eleven alternative education programs as finalists. Nine out of the eleven were KECSAC programs. Each finalist will receive an onsite review by a team of educational professionals who will select the 2010 Best Practice Site winners. We anticipate the final winners of the Best Practice Site for Alternative Education to be released in May, 2010.

Teaching In Action: Calloway County

KECSAC staff was delighted to be joined by teachers, administrators and DJJ personnel at the Calloway County Day Treatment Center (CCDTC) on March 25, 2010 for the 3rd Teaching in Action professional development event. CCDTC staff welcomed their colleagues from as far as Northern Kentucky and Frankfort in order to share the successful strategies that helped them earn the distinction of being named a Kentucky Department of Education Best Practice Site for Alternative Education in 2009.



Dr. Ronnie Nolan talks to a CCDTC student about Achieve3000, the web-based reading curriculum that allows students to work on their own level and progress at their own rate.

sharing with and learning from their colleagues. Not only did several district personnel meet with the participants, the Superintendent Steve Hoskins joined us to share words of welcome and pride in the work being done with the youth at CCDTC.

Participants toured the facility and observed the enthusiasm with which the teachers conduct their classes. Some of the attendees were even tempted to join the hip hop dance class that Mr. Steve Saunders was holding with some of the center's young men. Various staff shared strategies on credit recovery, parental involvement and lesson planning. Of particular note was the extent to which transition and follow-up is valued at CCDTC. Center staff makes sure that their students have opportunities to explore career and educational options as well as continuing contact after the youth transition back into AI schools.



Cindy Lassiter leads her class while the participants observe.

Susan Bucy, the Director of CCDTC and Stephanie Wyatt, the Supervisor of Instruction for Calloway County Schools, began the day by describing the vision and mission of the district.

The focus on creating successful learners with bright futures is evident in the commitment of the center's staff to

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One of the most poignant aspects of the training was Missy Jenkins Smith, a counselor at the center, sharing her story of survival and forgiveness. Missy was the victim of a school shooting in Paducah, Kentucky in 1997. Now Missy serves the at-risk population with a perspective and insight that few will ever have. Having been paralyzed from the shooting, the proud wife, mother, author and youth advocate travels to schools to share her message and encourage youth in pain to reach out for help and share with adults if they are concerned for their safety. Missy's story touched everyone present.

Many thanks to all of the staff of CCDTC and Calloway County Schools who made the day such a valuable learning experience. Now that the Kentucky Department of Education is in the process of visiting finalists for 2010 Best Practice Sites, KECSAC looks forward to more Teaching in Action events in the upcoming year.



Amy Futrell sharing math lessons with Deanna Jenkins and Jim Green.

WARREN COUNTY **Warren County Day Treatment** "In the Spirit of Giving" By Anthony Young

During the Christmas season, Warren County Day Treatment (WCDT) participated in many giving activities. WCDT hosted a family night with a meal of turkey, dressing, green beans, rolls, yams, cranberries, and cake. The family night activity for this event was families working together to create Christmas stockings. A local church sponsored the

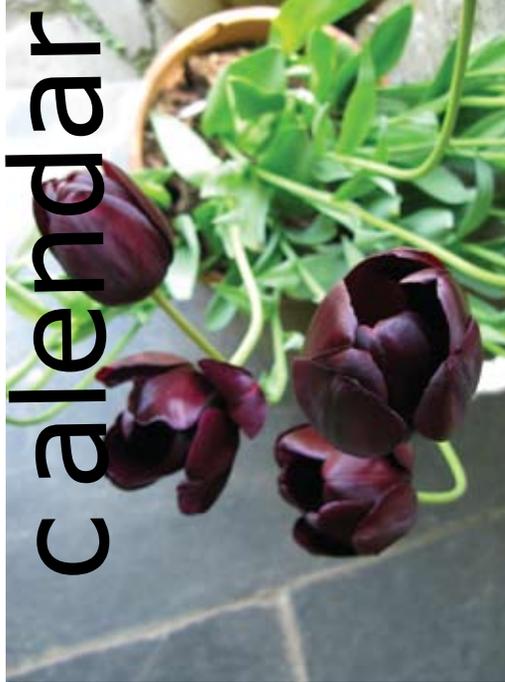
Christmas gifts for the students and staff shopped for student items such as coats, pajamas, shirts, toboggans, cologne, perfume, games, shoes, and uniform items.

Upper level students, along with staff, went to US Bank for our annual Christmas wrapping activities. Students wrapped approximately 75 gifts for needy families in the local community sponsored by US Bank. The bank rewarded students for their hard work with gold coins. Lastly, students along with the Bowling Green

Group Home handed out 150 Christmas food boxes to local families sponsored by the Knights of Columbus organization on a cold Saturday morning. We ask the question often, what can you do for your community?

Does your program or district have news to share? Please submit vignettes, tid-bits, or articles for the Across Kentucky section of The Collaborative to:

heather.carpenter@eku.edu
or call 859-622-5780.



Professional Development

July 27-29

*Alternative Strategies for Educating
Students At-Risk Conference*
Perkins Conference Center, ECU

All Conference Fees Waived

Register at:

www.kecsac.ecu.edu

KECSAC Deadlines

June 2010

30th End of fiscal year.

School districts have until
July 15th to submit the final,
year-end MUNIS report.

Educational Materials for Students with Visual Impairments

The workshop "Creating Accessible Educational Materials for Students with Visual Impairments," presented by Brian Goemmer, will be May 25 in Owensboro. This workshop will examine ways that technology from ViewPlus can be used to create accessible educational materials for students who are blind and visually impaired. Participants will learn how to:

- translate Microsoft Word documents to Braille documents using Tiger Software Suite
- create a tactile map of Kentucky using

mainstream technology and technology from ViewPlus

- create a tactile chart using MS Excel and tools from ViewPlus

To register, contact Kris Sandefur at ksandefur@wfcampus.org

Wireless Lab Contest

Teachers can enter the ninth annual Win a Wireless Lab Sweepstakes for a chance to win one of three grand prize wireless computer labs for their schools. Labs include 20 notebook or tablet computers, interactive whiteboard, mobile cart, projector, printer, wireless access points, portable document camera, digital camcorder and a \$5,000 digital media grant from Discovery

Education. Teachers can enter once per day until May 13.

www.discoveryeducation.com/cdwg

Educational Comics

MakeBeliefsComix.com has launched a new version of its educational comics Web site with added features to enrich the experience of students as they write, read and tell comic strip stories online. Some educational therapists use the online comics with deaf and autistic people to help them understand concepts and communicate.

www.MakeBeliefsComix.com



KECSAC

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