

The Collaborative



Volume XIV Issue II Winter 2011

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An Overview of the New End of Course Assessments

Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), enacted in the 2009 Kentucky General Assembly, requires a new public school assessment program beginning in the 2011-2012 school year. The legislation allowed, with approval by the Kentucky Board of Education, an end-of-course (EOC) assessment program at the high school level. Kentucky has contracted with ACT, Inc. to provide end-of-course assessments for the 2011-2012 school year in English II, Algebra



II, Biology and US History as part of ACT's *QualityCore*® program.

The program is syllabus-driven and will include curriculum and instruction support materials. *QualityCore*® has been developed based on research in high-performing classrooms that focus

on the essential standards for college and career readiness. The EOC assessments will be administered throughout the

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Americans Who Tell the Truth

Robert Shetterly's portrait series and book features the visage and words of famous (some living, some dead) Americans who dared to tell the truth—truth about social inequity, truth about civil rights, truth about environmental degradation, truth about genocide, and truth about the domestic sphere. For many Maryhurst students, daring to tell the truth about their experiences and lives to a teacher, to a social worker, to a counselor or to oneself is as daring as the great historic figures' speaking out.

Maryhurst Creative Technology and Visual Communications/Multimedia instructor, MaRi' Renn, partnered with Louisville Visual Arts and Norton Foundation Artist, Annette Cable, to create a Louisville-centric version, "Louisvillians Who Tell the Truth" of Shetterly's exhibition. Students photographed and interviewed several area celebrities and activists, including Congressman John Yarmuth, broadcast journalist Dawne Gee, teacher Ricky Jones, community organizers, Judy Schroeder and Nathalie Andrews, and sculptor Ed Hamilton.



Portrait of Ed Hamilton, Louisville sculptor.

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Director's Corner



Director, Dr. Ronnie Nolan

Last week I was asked by one of our programs to speak at their graduation ceremony. I admit my initial response was one of surprise, and of complete fear, followed soon by the excitement that such an invitation entails. I immediately began thinking of all the words of wisdom that I could share and it dawned on me that I didn't really have many (most of you will not be surprised by this). I asked the program what they envisioned me talking about and the school administrator simply said, "Ronnie, tell a story. Talk to us about what you experienced growing up and make it funny." Let me tell you that certainly eased the fear factor quite a bit. I started thinking about the stories I have shared over the years, both in these letters and in person at meetings across the Commonwealth. I admit that I sometimes pride myself on finding humor in just about anything. Certainly, this is something that has helped me over the years, and it's something I think our kids can find comforting as well.

When faced with hardships, the kinds of hardships our students face every day, it

is important to be able to laugh; to laugh at ourselves and with others. I think we have all faced some measure of obstacles in our lives and yet, here we are, not only surviving but thriving. As I work with our children in state care, I try my best to remember that humor is one of those common bonds that bring many of us together and I try to share that with them too. So, as I continue my preparation for the upcoming graduation speech and as I begin to jot down my thoughts, I promise to use humor as much as possible to not only illustrate the past, but to convey possibilities for those students.

As I share a humor filled message with the students in this particular program, I will remember that we are celebrating a commencement: the beginning. A new beginning of great promise for a future filled with adventure and, I hope, some humor. In our everyday work we are also commencing on a new journey. And like our children who are moving beyond our classroom walls, we are faced with new challenges as well. As the legislative session edges closer, we are reminded of the financial needs of our programs and the students they serve. We are challenged to convey their needs to those who are making critical decisions about legislation and funding for programs that serve our state's most vulnerable student population.

The Kentucky State Board of Education, with support from the Department of Education and Commissioner Holliday, has named state agency children as a funding priority for this upcoming session. Their vision for our children is further enhanced by their commitment to advocate on their behalf. And it isn't

just advocacy in terms of funding. The State Board has also moved forward on developing regulations to help ensure our students are receiving quality educational services in our programs. They are asking local school districts to assess the learning of our students and to develop appropriate interventions so they will continue to acquire the life skills needed to be successful, contributing and engaging citizens of our Commonwealth and our world. It is an exciting time to be a part of education in Kentucky. Together we are making incredible strides with our students and while the challenges are tough, and the work is difficult, I hope we will all remember to find some time to laugh. In the end, our students will be better prepared for their futures and we will be better people for helping them achieve their goals.

When I stand on that stage in the coming days, congratulating our graduating students, I will remember that our work has only begun. We too are just now commencing on a new day with a renewed spirit and, I hope, a touch of humor to help us in our journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnie Nolan". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dr. Ronnie Nolan
KECSAC Director

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Portraiture, an art form usually reserved for the highly trained and experienced, was made accessible to the students by Ms. Cable's know-how and ability to adapt the project to all of the students' skill levels. She helped them grid canvasses and create a system similar to "paint-by-numbers" using high resolution photographs, graph paper and courage. In addition to the images, the students interviewed each subject about their work and ideas about what it means to be a community leader. The students mixed their likeness and their words to capture portraits of the body and the mind.

Reflecting on the project, Ms. Cable remarked "I'm honored to get to know these girls. They're good girls and every one of them has great ambitions. And if I could, in an itsy-bitsy way, help them to realize their ambitions or even to just have a good day, that's an honor."

Ms. Renn was originally inspired by Shetterly's book and traveling exhibition and as luck (okay, and planning) would have it, Shetterly's exhibit came to Louisville to the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage in November. Ms. Renn planned to take the girls to see the exhibition, but what she did not plan for was to be invited to display the students' art work alongside the internationally acclaimed artist's work! The official exhibit kicked-off November 17, 2011, but on



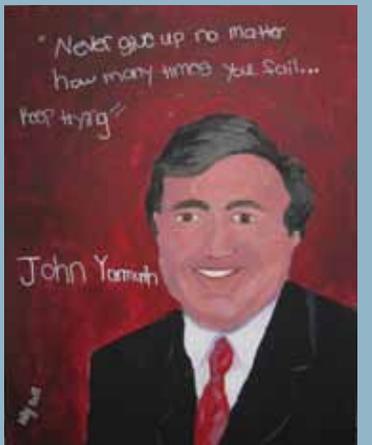
Step 1: Maryhurst students photographed their subjects. Above: Nathalie Andrews, community organizer. Below: Congressman John Yarmuth.



Step 2: Maryhurst students make a grid on their canvass and using tracing paper, trace out the portrait.



Step 3: Maryhurst students paint the portrait and select a quote from their interviews to highlight their words/ideas along with the image.



Left: Maryhurst Creative Technology and Visual Communications/Multimedia instructor, MaRi' Renn. Right: Louisville Visual Arts and Norton Foundation Artist, Annette Cable.

November 16, 2011 there was a special reception held for the Maryhurst students at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage where their work was proudly displayed in the Board Room not far from Shetterly's gallery. The Center was so impressed by the exhibition they asked Ms. Renn if they

could keep the portraits for a while for all to see. Now the show will be at the Center from November 2011-March 2012. Maryhurst students are daring to tell the truth about their lives, and they are daring to flourish, creatively and academically.

KECSAC's PD Corner

KECSAC strives to provide quality and relevant professional development trainings for educators, administrators and staff who work with some of Kentucky's most at-risk students. Over the course of the fall semester, KECSAC has been able to provide professional development events designed to meet the needs of the special students we serve. *Teaching in Action* hosted by Buckhorn Children's Center School was held on September 15, and the *Innovative Strategies Series* kicked off on November 9 at Green River Youth Development Center.

Buckhorn Children's Center School in southeastern Kentucky was named a Best Practice Site for Alternative Education by the Kentucky Department of Education and hosted the first *Teaching in Action* training of the year. Teachers and administrators from as far away as Ashland were welcomed onto the property by the site of the historic Log Cathedral. Tim Wooton, Buckhorn's school administrator, greeted the group and shared the history of the cathedral and the long standing children's home. The multimedia presentation, which had been developed by students, explained that what began as Witherspoon College around the turn of the 20th Century has evolved into Buckhorn Children's Center, a program where students enjoy modern technology such as smart boards in the classrooms, while nestled into the picturesque wooded hills of Perry County. Participants toured the facility and viewed impressive student art work before sitting in on language arts, math and science classes. Jennifer Dixon highlighted the use of technology in her language arts classroom, using the smart board, internet clips and cross curriculum instruction to get her students excited about ancient Greece's history and mythology. Stephanie Miller

shared her strategies for differentiation with the group and how she is able to organize so many lesson plans and activities. After meeting with staff and administration, the group got to talk to the most important people on campus – the students! Three incredibly bright young men and women shared their experiences at Buckhorn and their goals for the future. They emphasized how important it is to be challenged at school in order to reach their full potential. Each student seemed to appreciate the extra attention afforded them at the program, and one stated that, "every teacher here deserves an A."



Bradley Stephens and Gerald Hadley of Adair Youth Development Center participate in an active listening exercise at the November Innovative Strategies Series event held at Green River Youth Development Center.

State agency teachers and administrators, Butler County Schools Board of Education representatives and KECSAC staff came together in November at Green River Youth Development Center. Those who hadn't visited the school before were immediately inspired by the welcoming and serene environment. Jim Green, school administrator, gathered the group in the school's cabin-like chapel for a day of strategy sharing designed to promote student engagement. Green River is a school that has made both its district and its state agency partner, the Department of Juvenile Justice, very proud. Butler County Schools Superintendent Scott Howard came in support of the school to speak about the importance of relationship building and how Green River truly makes a

difference in the lives of its students. Bob Hader, DJJ Supervisor, was clearly impressed with the program, which had recently been named DJJ Facility of the Year. After sessions by the teachers at the school, it was easy to see why that was the case. Ben Annis, Renea Hunt and Deanna Jenkins trained the group in student engagement in each of their core content areas; science, language arts and math respectively. Each teacher provided the group with hands-on strategies and activities for getting distracted students interested in the curriculum. They modeled the activities with participants, who were thrilled to experience how fun math problem solving could be made through games. Mr. Annis, the science teacher, pointed out that the classes at Green River are more than just fun, however, and that he wants his instruction to be, "minds-on, not just "hands-on."

Mr. Green spoke highly of his teachers, who work together to promote literacy skills in all content areas and embed character education. He noted that one of the strengths of his staff as a whole comes from their varied backgrounds and experiences. From business and agriculture to elementary and special education, the staff at Green River brings a variety of perspectives to their students. A highlight of the day was touring the facility, including the wood shop, aquaculture program and greenhouse. Participants observed classrooms and witnessed the impact of positive relationships on student engagement. Mr. Green emphasized that philosophy of the program throughout the day. He stated that he wanted all of the young men at Green River to feel special and he sent the group home with the simple but powerful statement, "Through these doors walk the finest young men that Green River School has to offer."

Lu Young: Superintendent of the Year



Jessamine Co. Schools Superintendent Lu Young was awarded the 2012 Superintendent of the Year distinction on November 30, 2011 by Wayne Young, Executive Director of Kentucky Association of School Administrators, in a surprise ceremony.

her family, school board members, school district employees and other friends looked on at the Jessamine Career and Technology Center on Wednesday, November 30, 2011.

Ms. Young was picked from about half a dozen nominees by an independent selection committee made up of educators, business people and community leaders. Lu Young joined the Jessamine County Schools as a teacher in 1983. She became superintendent in 2004, and she has been highly regarded among school superintendents statewide.

“When you look at Lu, what you see is the whole package,” Wayne Young said in a Kentucky.com article published on December 1, 2011. “She’s smart; she works hard; she’s well-versed on every

topic related to carrying out the CEO function in a school district. As I have put it in the past, Lu is the smartest person in the room, no matter who else is there.”

Superintendent Young is particularly devoted to alternative education and she serves on KECSAC’s IAG (Interagency Advisory Group). She excels at drop-out prevention and her district is home to one of the Best Practices Sites in Alternative Education, The Providence School which is both an A5 (alternative) and A6 (KECSAC) school. Jessamine County and KECSAC are lucky to have her!

Congratulations to Lu Young, who was named the 2012 Kentucky School Superintendent of the Year by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators! Association executive director, Wayne Young (no relation), surprised Ms. Young by presenting her the with the award while

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year within the testing windows as students earn credit in each course. This is especially important for the transient population of students in KECSAC programs who may earn their course credits mid-term or during the summer.

So, who takes the EOC exams? Any student who has completed 55% of a course is expected to take the EOC (based on the percentage of 100 days students are enrolled in the course). Students in credit recovery programs are also expected to take the EOC exams.

The EOC exams will be administered online for the majority of students, but if a school or program cannot access online testing, a paper and pencil edition of the exam will be made available. The tests will have both multiple-choice and constructed-response sections, and



the multiple-choice results of the tests will be returned ten days after the test is submitted to ACT. Schools and districts will receive constructed-response student scores from the Kentucky Department of Education during fall reporting.

Should course credits be determined by the EOC? Students will not have to pass the EOC to pass the course, however teachers are encouraged to allocate a percentage of the course grade to the results of the EOC (KDE’s

Office of Assessment and Accountability recommends that about 20% of the grade should be derived from the EOC, but no more than 20%).

The testing windows for the 2011-2012 school year are:

- October 1-November 15
- December 1-January 15
- February 1-March 15
- April 15-June 15
- June 16-July 31

The EOC assessments are expected to improve the consistency of rigor for core courses and to provide a new measure of content course accountability across schools as well as districts. For more information about the EOC and the *QualityCore*® program, visit:

www.education.ky.gov



February 2012

Teaching in Action Series: Onsite PD

March 2, 2012

Spring Statewide SACSAA Meeting
Regional Video Conferencing Locations

- *Required for KECSAC Administrators
- *We are unable to offer EILA Credit for this meeting.

KECSAC Deadlines

January 25, 2012

Second Quarter reimbursement
MUNIS report due in the KECSAC
Central Office.

Across Kentucky



**BREATHITT COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Breathitt Regional Juvenile
Detention Center

Two engaging projects at Breathitt Regional Juvenile Detention Center (BRJDC) are capturing the students' hearts and minds: Guatemala Day and Habitat 101!

September 15, 2011, just another day for many people, but at the BRJDC it

was a day of celebration. On this day Guatemala, along with other Central American countries celebrated their 190th year of independence. With a student from Guatemala attending the school, BRJDC staff seized the perfect opportunity to have a fiesta and integrate Hispanic cultural diversity, history, and traditions.

Mr. Henry Turner, social studies teacher at BRJDC, took the lead in planning the celebration. Leading up to the fiesta, students worked to make flags from different countries and wrote reports on the nations which involved learning about finance, government, and activities that each are known for. Students drew maps showing outstanding geographical features and capital cities, which were displayed in the dining room for all to see. All students had the opportunity to make tissue paper flowers for decoration.

On September 15 all members of the education staff brought in Latin themed dishes for students and staff to enjoy. Special thanks to Alberto's Restaurant of Jackson for donating refried beans, Spanish rice, salsa, chips, and bread pudding. The kitchen staff, under the direction of Jean Stamper, provided chicken fajitas and tortilla chips. This collaborative effort was deemed a huge success by everyone at the center.

In another project at BRJDC, students studied and discovered different habitats in Mrs. Debra Drake's science class. The habitats of many different animals, and also the habitats of people, were under observation. During this project, students had the opportunity to build a habitat for birds. Mac Trusty, Maintenance Superintendent, was an integral team member for this project. He worked diligently with students teaching them how to sand and paint correctly,

giving them access to practical skills. The project permitted all students involved to utilize their tactile, kinesthetic, visual, and auditory learning styles in a positive manner. All birdhouses were sold and proceeds went into the student fund to assist in purchasing incentives for student achievement in the Accelerated Reader program and for other accomplishments during their stay at BRJDC.

The goal of the project was to have the students complete a hands-on project by working together in cooperative manner to create something of which they could be proud. The project was also “green,” as most of the materials used for the birdhouses were from recycled materials. Mrs. Drake commented that she considered the project a complete success and hopes to offer other such endeavors in the near future.

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT Clark County Day Treatment



Pictured from left to right: Jason Christian, Lamont Wilkerson, Samantha Stewart, Jessica Burton.

Clark County Day Treatment (CCDT) participated in the World Open Chess Championship in Chicago from October 7-12, 2011. Teams and individuals from all around the country, as well as some international students, competed in the tournament. The tournament used a seven round format, with participants accumulating points for every match they won, or a half point for every match

they forced a stalemate. CCDT finished in 1st Place in the Girls 9-12 Grade Level Division, and 2nd Place in the Boys 9-12 Grade Level Division. Individually, Samantha Stewart finished in 3rd Place Overall, Jessica Burton finished in 4th Place Overall, and Jason Christian finished in 15th Place Overall, netting five trophies for Clark County Day Treatment.

JESSAMINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT The Providence School

Congratulations to Providence School teacher, Joyce Bruner, for earning her National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification! She is the first teacher in her district working in an alternative school to achieve this distinction. Every child deserves an accomplished teacher — one who is qualified to equip students with the skills to succeed in the 21st century global community. NBPTS Standards and National Board Certification give teachers and schools the tools to define and measure teaching excellence. NBPTS Standards are based on the Five Core Propositions that form the foundation for what all accomplished teachers should know and be able to do and provide a reference that helps educators link teaching standards to teaching practice. The five core propositions of NBPTS certification are:

- 1.) teachers are committed to students and their learning;
- 2.) teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students;
- 3.) teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning;
- 4.) teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience;
- 5.) teachers are members of learning communities.

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Warren County Regional Juvenile Detention Center

The Warren County Regional Juvenile Detention Center’s (WCRJDC) Citizens Advisory Committee and Western Kentucky University’s College Heights Foundation maintain a fund to help provide college courses to students in the detention center who have already received a high school diploma or have attained a general equivalency degree (GED). The CAC/WKU Scholarship Fund attempts to provide continuing education through correspondence courses to students who qualify for it. Teachers involved in the program look to encourage students to seek additional educational outlets after they are released, whether through college or vocational school.

“There’s a direct correlation between your educational attainment and earning power,” said Dr. Rebecca Painter, a teacher at WCRJDC. “We’re hoping that by providing continuing education, we’re laying a foundation for when they leave to continue their education and allow their earning power to be greater.”

About fifteen students have enrolled in correspondence classes supported by the scholarship program in the past five years. Dero Downing Jr., head teacher at the detention center who has taught there since the facility opened, said: “While students can attain college credit through the scholarship-funded correspondence courses, the program is just as important for building confidence in students who face obstacles toward rehabilitation and self-sufficiency. Our experience has been that it provided incentive for students who might otherwise not have considered college an option for them once they leave this program. I think the other important quality is to enhance the belief in themselves that they can actually accomplish work at that level.”



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Call for Proposals

KECSAC is accepting proposals to present break-out sessions at the *11th Annual Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference* which will be July 24-26, 2012 in Richmond, KY. We look forward to providing participants with hands-on training conducted by those of you who are doing the important work of educating students in alternative settings. The conference will cover a variety of topics, so proposals on any relevant topic are welcome. If you have found a great way to motivate your students, discovered successful techniques for managing difficult behaviors or developed exciting strategies for teaching a particular subject, we want to give you the opportunity to share those experiences with other educators.

The deadline for submission is May 1, 2012. Please submit proposals to the KECSAC office via mail or email at katie.helton@eku.edu. Please include your name, as well as any co-presenters, your title, your program, the name of the workshop and a brief abstract.

Thank you for the work that you do and for helping us make this year's conference a wonderful experience for your fellow educators!