

BULLYING TASK FORCE PLOTS COURSE

The RESA 2 Anti-Bullying Task Force is working to bring more exposure to the issues that surround bullying in schools and supply resources to help counties address the problem.

The group was originally formed in 2011 to review the issue of bullying and make recommendations regarding updating the student code of conduct and discipline policy. It came together again following the release of the *It Does Matter* campaign in November 2012 by the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE).

It Does Matter's purpose is to raise awareness among students, teachers, parents, and the community at large regarding the problems of bullying, what constitutes bullying behavior, and how to prevent or stop bullying. It includes resources like poster designs, t-shirt designs, and sample school announcements – all located at www.itdoesmatterwv.com.

RESA 2's superintendents requested that the task force re-convene to take advantage of this campaign by launching a sustained, RESA-wide effort in conjunction with the WVDE initiative. The task force is focusing on three areas of concern:

- Implementing a RESA-wide launch of the It Does Matter campaign with a media event and activities for every school in January
- Finding and providing professional development opportunities for teachers and staff regarding how to prevent bullying, recognizing clues that students are being bullied, and how to intervene in a bullying situation
- Empowering students to become anti-bullying advocates and to stand up to bullies.

The task force is made up of representatives from every county and includes principals, counselors, school psychologists, prevention resources officers, and teachers from RESA 2.

For more information, please contact Keith Dalton, Regional School Wellness Specialist, at 304.529.6205 Extension 28.

IT DOES MATTER

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TEACHER STUDIO

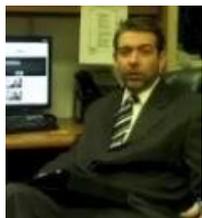
Teacher Studio® is an online, professional learning community tool and portal designed to support educators through ongoing collaboration and sharing of best practices both within and across schools, district, and organization lines. RESA 2 had a need for an online tool to engage teachers and principals, build collaborative teams and coach and mentor across distances. RESA 2's solution was to utilize a technology driven platform to overcome major distances to meet the needs of many administrators and teachers in sustained collaboration and support. RESA 2 is utilizing Teacher Studio with a variety of cohorts ... math, Reading, co-teaching, new teachers, those exploring assessment, and support for principals for three years. The goal of the project is to create empowered teams of teachers and administrators collaborating together and building the capacity for high quality student learning that has a positive impact on professional learning. Teacher Studio has given our region the ability to have educators share comfortably, open up the school walls beyond school and district, encourage educators to support one another, receive immediate feedback and coaching from RESA staff, eliminate isolation and build content knowledge.

Dr. Dee Cockrille, Executive Director at RESA 2, and Caroline Masse, Vice President at eSchool Solutions presented the story of Teacher Studio and RESA 2 at two National Conferences: Association of Service Agencies National Conference in Tampa and the National Learning Forward Conference in December in Boston.

Featured in the presentation were Tammy Stowers, Staff Development Coordinator from Logan County, Shannon Blackburn, Principal of Matewan Middle School, Chapmanville Middle School teacher Courtney Pritchard, Tish Smith and



Tammy Stowers



Shannon Blackburn

Shawna Lewis, Wayne Middle as well as the video work of the RESA 2 co-teaching cohort.

Three schools currently collaborating on Common Core issues through the Teacher Studio Portal include:

Chapmanville
Middle School
~Tigers~



Kermit K-8 School
~Blue Devils~

Harts Pk-8 School
~Lions~



There are several other operating collaboration teams using the portal. Any administrator or teacher group in RESA 2 who would like to build collaborative online teams and resources may contact the RESA office for details on how to get started.

RACE TO THE TOP GRANT

RESA 2 and the six counties it serves were included in 61 proposals selected as finalists for federal Race to the Top – District funding. Selected districts received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to adopt new school-wide standards, promote student growth and recruitment, or other improvements.

Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo and Wayne counties were selected as part of the North Central Educational Service District 171 proposal including multiple states and West Virginia’s Regional Educational Agency 2 (RESA).

“RESA 2 was excited to be working with the states of Washington, New Mexico and Arkansas to implement innovative opportunities in the area of career and technical

education for students in rural areas,” said RESA 2 Director Dee Cockrille. “The design of this project will create many options to bring students, educators, industry and business together in a meaningful plan to engage students in personalized learning opportunities to meet the demands of the new economy.”

Launched by the Obama administration, Race to the Top – District is investing nearly \$400 million in schools to improve quality and performance. Applicants must meet a specific list of requirements to be considered for the grant. All finalists demonstrated a plan to significantly improve core assurance areas, personalize support and tactics for students, increase effectiveness and promote the growth of student preparation for college and careers.

Race to the Top – District rewards school district levels that are leaders in education reform. Four major reform areas of Race to the Top are the adoption of standards that prepare students for a post-secondary career or education, a data system to measure and inform of growth in the school, recruitment and retention of teacher and principals, and turning around low achieving schools.

Winners were announced in December. Our highly rated Service Agency proposal received 193.5 points on its application out of a possible 200. The focus of this comprehensive project was career and technical education innovations. While the application was a near miss for funding, all participating service agencies have pledged to work together for a submission in 2013.

COMMON CORE TASK FORCE

Common core content standards and objectives were adopted by the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBOE) more than two years ago. In response, the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) developed the Teacher Leadership Institute (TLI) as a primary vehicle to deliver professional development to teachers. TLI first included the training of kindergarten teachers in 2011-2012 with the goal of providing training to teachers in all grade levels by 2014-2015. Recently, however, decisions have been made to deliver common core professional development would better meet county needs regionally.

In an effort to address regionalized common core professional development, central office representatives from counties located within Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) 2, comprising Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo and Wayne Counties formed a common core task force as a continuation of the Common Core Study Group

started in 2011-2012. The purpose of the Task Force is to develop a sustained common core professional development plan designed to improve teaching and learning for each county supported by RESA 2.

The initial task force meetings last year brought RESA 2 representatives together to share common understandings pertaining to State directives regarding regional training needs and to begin the process of developing a sustained common core professional development plan for each county. County planning now includes selecting trainers to attend a regionalized train-the-trainer session delivered by the WVDE. Counties will then implement a uniquely developed plan to deliver subsequent teacher training lead by their respective trainers. County training may be school based, county based, RESA based or a combination.

The final hours of this latest session allowed counties to pair with other RESA 2 counties for the purpose of brainstorming common core professional development planning ideas. Each county presented their draft common core professional development plan to the group and agreed to share the draft with their superintendent and other pertinent central office staff prior to the next task force meeting. Additionally, each county will provide a finalized list of trainers by the next meeting held on February 8, 2013 from 1-3 p.m. following the RESA 2 Professional Development Consortium Meeting.

For additional information regarding the RESA 2 Common Core Initiatives, contact Dr. Karen Davies at (304) 529-6205 ext. 24 or kdavies@access.k12.wv.us.



Common Core
Task Force Meeting

LINCOLN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CREATES INTERACTIVE WAY TO GET STUDENTS MOVING

West Virginia Schools have been working to increase student physical activity by adding physical activity breaks into classrooms. Lincoln County High School has responded to this challenge by integrating a "Minute Movement" segment into their daily video announcements.

The Minute Movement was introduced by Principal Dana Snyder before the Christmas break via a staff dance video performed to pop musician PSY's song "Gangnam Style."

Each week, different student and staff groups are featured during Minute Movement leading the entire school in simple exercises that can be carried out beside desks in the classroom.



Administrators and teachers at LCHS dance Gangnam Style

"These are a hoot to film," Mike McCormack, the school's Technology Integration Specialist who films the segments, said. "The first real one we did to get the kids exercising, we had volunteers and people in the halls coming in to participate. We have had some people ask for a different group every day, but each shoot takes a lot of rehearsal and editing."

McCormack said overall reaction among the students has been positive. "We still have a few who think they are too cool to do it, but at the very least everybody stands up. We're trying to get the kids up and moving."

For more information, you can go to the school's Youtube channel at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/LCHSPantherPride?feature=watch>

RESA 2 FINALISTS FOR WV UNIVERSAL PRE-K OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD

RESA 2 is proud to announce Carolyn Sue Walls from Lincoln County as the Region 2 Pre-K Teacher of the Year and Alice Midkiff from Lincoln County as Region 2 Collaborative Teacher of the Year. As award recipients, they are finalists for the WV Universal Pre-K Outstanding Teacher Award.

This Award is designed to honor teachers in WV Universal Pre-K who demonstrate superlative dedication and commitment in early childhood education. The award, sponsored by the WV Department of Education Office of Early Learning, Office of Special Programs, WV Universal Pre-K Steering Team, and WV Regional Education Service Agencies (RESA) will be presented to one of sixteen finalists selected based on exemplary work in the early childhood field. Sixteen nominees will be recognized at the WV Universal Pre-K Outstanding Teacher Award Recognition Reception. The WV Universal Pre-K Outstanding Teacher will be announced at the Award Recognition Reception held at the 2013 Celebrating Connections, Charleston Civic Center on Thursday, February 21, 2013 from 5:00- 6:30 PM.

Carolyn graduated from Marshall University in 1985 with a B.A. Degree in Elementary Education and Certifications in Mental Retardation and Physically Handicapped. She began her teaching career in elementary special education at Griffithsville and Pleasant View Elementary Schools for four years. In the fall of 1989 Carolyn began her career in preschool. She taught preschool special needs children throughout various schools in Lincoln County. Following her love for the preschool child she received her M.A. Degree in 1992 in Preschool Special Needs from Marshall University and has taught special needs preschool children for seventeen years in Lincoln County. Carolyn is currently teaching preschool at Hamlin Pre-K – 8 and has been teaching there for five years.



Carolyn Walls



Alice Midkiff

Although Alice teaches in a predominantly 3 Year Old classroom at Harts Head Start Center, she participates fully in all aspects of the Pre-K program. She has been with Southwestern CAC, Inc. Head Start Program for almost 18 years. She began her career in early childhood as

a Home Visitor for Early Head Start. She is committed to her families, and helping them to understand the important role they play in their children's lives. She has an AA in Early Childhood from Marshall Community & Technical College.

SUMMIT ON CAREER READINESS

Dr. Cockrille was invited to participate as the representative of the four-state Race to the Top Consortium in the Career Readiness Summit, December 7th through the 11th in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Summit, "Redefining Readiness" is a thought leadership symposium that brought educational leaders together from across the country to work on solutions on redefining career and college readiness success. The Summit was hosted by the Successful Practices Network (SPN), working in partnership with WIN learning to discuss best practices around the Common Core curriculum.

The Summit provided collaborative sessions with outstanding session leaders to develop solutions for what lies ahead. Session leaders included: Dr. Bill Daggett, founder and chairman of the International Center for Education; Henry Kelly, Project Executive, Georgia Power Company; Peter McBride, Director of Successful Practices Network; Dr Luis Cruz, superintendent; Michael Haggen, Deputy Superintendent of Innovation and Reform, East Baton Rouge public School System; Dr. John Richards, Harvard University; William Symonds, Director Pathways to Prosperity, Harvard University; Valencia Strowder, Florida Ready to Work.

The forty invited participants included principals from state of the art career and technical centers, business leaders, three service agency leaders, 20 superintendents, the Palau Minister of Education, members of the Puerto Rican Department of Education. Dr. Cockrille described the four days as "the best discussion on career and technical Education I have ever experienced."



Mr. Cruz, Dr. Cruz, Los Angeles representatives; Dr. Dee Cockrille, Huntington; Felicia Nemcek, Las Vegas Career & Technical Center