Greetings,
I hope you are all staying warm as we (hopefully) enter the home stretch of the winter season! After a restful winter break, many programs started the new year energized and enthusiastic to set new goals. The Early Intervention program begins its massive transition process to prepare students for kindergarten, while many older students continue to participate in many events including Delco-HiQ and the upcoming Spelling Bee. We look forward to all of the achievements our students and staff will accomplish this year!

Maria Edelberg, Ed.D
Executive Director, DCIU
**Upcoming Events**

**DCIU Delaware County Spelling Bee**

February 23 | 9am | Morton Rooms 171-172

Wishing all of Delaware County’s bright middle school spellers the very best at the Bee!

https://www.dciu.org/spellingbee

**Parent Workshop**

February 27 | 6pm - 8pm
Morton Education Service Center

Managing Difficult Behaviors at Home: In this session, participants will examine various techniques to set clear and realistic expectations in the home and build positive, respectful relationships.

Please email Stephanie Szczepowski at sszczepkowski@dciu.org to register.

**Save the Date: Employee Recognition Dinner**

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

**Coffee with the Exec**

February 4 | 7am | Aston - CTE
February 4 | 8am | Aston - EI, HS, SS
February 12 | 8am | Marcus Hook
March 4 | 7:30am | Marple
March 18 | 7am | Folcroft - CTE
March 18 | 8am | Folcroft - HS/EI

Please join Dr. Maria Edelberg for coffee and conversation!

**LocoSummer Modern Robotics**

Registration is now OPEN for the LocoSummer Modern Robotics Camp, taking place August 12-16, 2019! Click HERE for more information.

**PA Media and Design Competition**

April 2, 2019

An annual event that highlights Pennsylvania students' application skills, creativity, and knowledge. The deadline to register is March 15, 2019. Click HERE for more information.
The DCIU school psychology internship program has been strong for over 30 years, with many current staff having interned here! The program accepts a cohort of 5 graduate students each year, with this year’s cohort all being from Temple University. While Stacey Sebastian grew up locally in South Jersey, Danielle Laurence and Sara Oh are originally from Virginia, Zoe Kearns is from the Pittsburgh area and Ayesha Solaiman is from Islamabad, Pakistan.

The cohort shares some of the factors that brought them to DCIU including the opportunity to learn from two talented supervisors in two different programs, collaboration with other school psychologists, as well as the opportunities to share experiences and learned knowledge within the intern cohort. Ayesha notes how accessible both the other interns as well as the supervisors are, saying, “if I ever have any questions, the supervisors and/or other interns are always there and ready to help.” Sara noted she is grateful for the many invaluable professional development opportunities provided by DCIU. Interns mentioned choosing DCIU above other internship sites as they wanted to ensure extensive training to prepare them for the role of a school psychologist to best support the diverse needs of students. Stacey notes that “DCIU has provided me with the experience of working with a diverse population of students, in age, disability, ethnicity and socioeconomic status.”

The DCIU internship program is well known throughout the community and at local universities. Stacey says, “DCIU has truly fostered an environment that encourages learning and growth within a variety of programs and training opportunities. These experiences have shaped my personal and professional growth as a school psychologist.” Zoe says, “I love the variety of experiences I have had so far working at DCIU as well as how knowledgeable and supportive my supervisors are.” Danielle says, “This experience is allowing me to really get a grasp on what it is like to be a working school psychologist. This preparation is helping me to learn how to better manage my time and handle different situations I will face when I am on my own. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a DCIU intern and can already see growth in myself due to it.” As DCIU school psychology internship coordinators, we could not be more proud of our internship program and this year’s cohort! We are honored to be able to train others and give back to the field of school psychology.
Early Childhood Education

Transition to Kindergarten

January kicked off the annual transition process for Early Childhood Education administrators as they work towards transitioning families and students from Early Intervention programs to Kindergarten, working with all fifteen Delaware County school districts.

On January 3, Early Intervention hosted the Preschool Transition Parent Night. Approximately 80 parents attended and were briefed on the preschool transition process, including the forms used in the process. Parents were invited to ask questions and answers were provided. At the end of the session parents met in small groups with their school district and an EI representative. Parents were thankful for the opportunity to learn more and left feeling assured that they will be supported through the process.

Approximately 600 students will be transitioned and the EI team is doing a wonderful job at starting this immense effort on the right foot!

DCTS Early Childhood Program

In January, students at the Early Childhood program at Delaware County Technical Schools in Folcroft were recently studying 'developmentally appropriate storytelling in Early Childhood.'

Students were able to practice their skills in a real life setting at the CTE Head Start. They also created posters reinforcing the importance of reading for parents/families to view when dropping the children off. These pictures show how theory goes into practice.
Happening at Morton

Job Fair

On Thursday, January 10, the Delaware County Intermediate Unit partnered with Insight Workforce Solutions to host a county wide job fair for our constituent school districts. We were pleased to welcome 181 participants from all over southeastern Pennsylvania, as well as other states. Special thanks to Alison Russo, Job Coach, and the OPTIONS students for participating in the event by selling refreshments to our guests.

Thank you to Susan Brousseau, Supervisor of Low Incidence Program; Mike McCormick, Supervisor of Early Intervention; Deneen Mosley, and Director of Head Start; for attending the job fair to recruit for DCIU program vacancies. Sincere thanks to the thirteen Delaware County School Districts who attended the event. Finally, Human Resources Director Dr. Caroline Duda would like to offer gratitude to the Insight, DCIU HR, and DCIU facilities teams for coordinating and running the event.

NSBA Advocacy Conference

On January 27-29, Dr. Maria Edelberg, DCIU Board member Monica Taylor, and Theresa Marsden attended the National School Board Association Advocacy Institute conference in Washington, DC.

This year, the conference focused on reauthorizing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Fully funding IDEA is critical to modernizing special education and giving our students the support they deserve. Many members of Congress were in attendance and School Board members from across the country had an opportunity to tell their stories about the importance of IDEA funding.

The DCIU staff had the opportunity to tell their story to Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon who represents Pennsylvania’s 5th congressional district, which includes all of Delaware County.
STEM Competition at PA Farm Show

High school students from Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties put their computer science skills on display January 8 as they presented apps designed to easily track, detect, identify and access information about the Spotted Lanternfly at the 2019 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

An all-girls team from Strath Haven High School represented Delaware County after winning the regional competition at DCIU on November 9. After the presentation, they were interviewed and featured by Fox 43 news! At the conclusion of the student presentations, each of the four teams were given $500 from the PA Department of Agriculture to further develop their apps. Ideally, the goal is to have the apps available on the Apple App Store and Google Play.

The competition was a coordinated partnership between the PA SEED STEM Ecosystem, the PA Department of Agriculture, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the PA Department of Education. Delaware County Intermediate Unit is a member of the PA SEED Ecosystem and DCIU’s Sara Frey serves on its Executive Team. This competition is a great example of the opportunities DCIU can bring to Delaware County students through its statewide partnerships.

The Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive insect that has the potential to have a multi-billion-dollar economic impact on several important industries – including grapes, apples, hops and hardwoods - and early detection is vital for the protection of Pennsylvania’s businesses and agriculture.

“Students learn best when they can apply the skills they learn in class to real-world applicable experiences,” said Secretary of Education Pedro A. Rivera. “By engaging them to help address the Department of Agriculture’s challenge, they can contribute their skills to improve conditions for commonwealth agencies.”
Staff Celebrations

Academics

Jennifer Wagner, Head Start Instructor, recently earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. Congratulations, Jennifer!

Births


Welcome!

Please welcome our newest DCIU staff members!

- Erin Cooper, Early Head Start/Head Start
- Fatih Gozuacik, Teaching, Learning, and Innovation
- Renae Geary, Student Services
- Val Gibson, Intermediate Unit
- Shanida Lukis, Intermediate Unit
- Brian McCloskey, Early Head Start/Head Start
- Krista Bussone, Early Intervention
- Rebecca Carden, Student Services
- Tanika Ivory, Early Head Start/Head Start
- Kimberly Martone, Student Services
- Margaret Nugent, Intermediate Unit
- Susan Shandler, Early Intervention
- Margaret Stairiker, OPTIONS
- Katurah Whittington, Early Head Start/Head Start
- Cyrina Nduka, Early Head Start/Head Start
- Amber Pitts, Student Services
- Gwendolyn Swinson, Early Head Start/Head Start
- Esther McMenamin, Student Services
Tracey Wise

Tracey Wise is a Supervisor of Pupil Services for Delaware County Intermediate Unit. She has been working in the field of education serving in various roles for the last 21 years. She began her career with the School District of Philadelphia as a Special Education Teacher. She then went on to become a School Counselor with Chichester School District in Delaware County. While there she was promoted to Supervisor of Special Education and then Director of Pupil Services before joining Delaware County Intermediate Unit in 2013.

Tracey received her undergraduate degree in Education from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and her Masters of Science in School Counseling from Gwynedd Mercy University. Tracey also received her certification in Pupil Service Administration and Special Education Supervision from Widener University. Tracey loves spending time with her family vacationing, watching sporting events and summers at the beach.

Guess Who

Time to guess again! Can you guess the administrator in this photo? She will be featured in our next Staff Profile!

Click HERE to take your guess.
Healthy behavior can be habit-forming, just like anything else. Determine how you want to improve, then find small ways to consistently work toward that goal.

1. **You don’t need to spend hours in the gym to live an active lifestyle.**
   Instead, get up to walk, jog, run or complete light exercises (pushups, jumping jacks, sit-ups) every hour or two at work. Then supplement that movement with longer workouts or active (maybe outdoor) hobbies when you have the time.

2. **Small changes add up to big improvements in your diet.**
   The key is to read food labels to avoid hidden sugars and eat whole, fresh foods whenever you can! For example, drinking water instead of juice at breakfast can save you 28 grams of sugar—that’s almost as much as an entire can of Coke.

3. **Set a sleep schedule to get better rest.**
   Establish a consistent evening routine that includes reducing time in front of a screen for at least two hours before bed. Train your body to get tired and wake up at the same time of day, and you’ll find it easier to fall asleep.

4. **Find a calm moment or two in your day.**
   Everyone feels and deals with stress differently. Find an oasis of calm (or two or three of them) in your day and plan small breaks to care for your mental wellbeing.

5. **Establish (and stick to) a budget to reduce financial worries.**
   Don’t assume you’ll find time to track your spending. Instead, plan a specific time to balance your budget at the end of each day or week.