

UPDATES

Office of Special Education – Mandated Activities Project Michigan Department of Education April 2014

WHAT'S NEW?

Center for Educational Networking (CEN)

- NEW *FOCUS on Results* articles at www.FOCUS.cenmi.org:
 - *Free Online Training Courses Promote Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness in Michigan* February 2014 – Every year, about 40 percent of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) in the U.S. happen to children. To better help educators understand the complexities of TBI, Michigan now offers four free online training courses.
 - *Sue Pearson: Hartland Schools' Special Education 'Barrier Breaker'* January 2014 – Learn about Special Education Director Sue Pearson and her implementation of Instructional Consultation Teams (ICT) in her district. Pearson received the annual Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education (MAASE) Award of Distinction last June. (Audio and Video Available)
 - Overview of some of MI-SER's newest documents March 2014
- UPCOMING FOCUS Topics:
 - START peer-to-peer program cultivates relationships, positive culture at Saginaw High School
- STAY Informed with SOCIAL MEDIA. The CEN Facebook Fan Page is a good source for current news and information from OSE and all the MAPs. LIKE Center for Educational Networking on Facebook Today!

Michigan Alliance for Families

- Michigan Alliance now has statewide mentoring available for parents! Check out the link to find the mentor in your area:
<http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/maf-offices/>

Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MiBLSi)

- MiBLSi is working with a national task force on addressing disproportionality in discipline and race through the National Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports www.PBIS.org
- Materials from the recent MiBLSi state conference are available on the MiBLSi website <http://miblsi.cenmi.org/2014MiBLSiStateConference.aspx>

Michigan's Integrated Mathematics Initiative (Mi²)

- (Mi)² began conversations with the developers of an elementary professional learning course around accessibility in mathematics in grades K-2 and 3-5. We are close to having an agreement with the developers and hope to offer a preview of the course at Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) in August and offer a Facilitator Institute during the 2014/2015 school year.
- Kate Fanelli has continued site visits to see implementation of the middle school course *Enhancing Mathematics Instruction for Students with Learning Difficulties* and other promising professional learning opportunities. The site visits yield important information regarding facilitator needs and successes around the course specifically and professional development in general; teacher needs around teaching students who struggle and students with disabilities; and how best to maintain and build a network of educators within and in cooperation with MI² to address accessibility to math content.
- (Mi)² provided training and consultation to the following: Dearborn Leadership Institute, Maxey visit and teacher meeting, Dearborn *Enhancing Mathematics* course, review of facilitator materials with Michael Klavon for Delta Math.
- (Mi)² met with leaders of other state initiatives to introduce each other's projects and discuss potential collaborations. Those present included: Mary Starr, Executive Director of the Michigan Math and Science Centers Network (MMSCN); Chris Berry, Executive Director of MCTM; presentation for MCTM Board of Directors
- We are very excited to announce that Jim Stachowiak has been hired as the Coordinator for (Mi)² and MITS. Jim is a native of Michigan but comes to us from the Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research (ICATER) where he served as the Associate Director. Jim's official start date will be May 27, 2014.

Michigan's Integrated Technology Support (MITS)

- Participation in two conferences in physical and other health impairments (POHI)/severe multiple impairments (SXI) Conference and Michigan Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) provided opportunities to share information and resources around accessible educational environments including Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM), universal design for learning (UDL) and information about our lending library and how educators can support struggling students without great cost to a district. There were approximate 800 educators in the two conferences combined.
- Ongoing PODD Overviews (Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display) throughout the different regions have resulted in increased awareness of this low-tech comprehensive communication strategy for students with complex communication needs. We have reached maximum participants (in-state) for upcoming PODD trainings to be held in June.
- Bookshare Train-the-Trainer resulted in 23 educators around the state who are eligible to train educators in their districts around eligibility of students to access Bookshare, creating individual and organizational accounts and the process for downloading books in an appropriate format for individual qualifying students.

Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP)

- The MSEMP will soon have a new video on its website that previews the program's collaborative skill-building workshops for educators and parents. The workshops are designed to make individualized education program (IEP) meetings more productive and help parents and educators avoid disputes or resolve them early.
- Preliminary data from the MSEMP's Restorative Practices Pilot Project indicate that participating schools were able to avert over 200 out-of-school suspension days from October through December 2013, its first three months of operation. The project uses restorative circles and conferences as an alternative to suspension and expulsion to address misconduct involving students with disabilities. It is scheduled to run through FY2015.
- The MSEMP is developing a workshop tentatively titled Cultural Consideration in Education Decision Making for educators, parents, and MSEMP mediators. The research-based workshop is designed to increase self-awareness about cultural and gender factors that may enter into the decision-making process. The MSEMP is working with Dorinda Carter Andrews, associate professor at the MSU Department of Education, and Earlene Baggett-Hayes, attorney and member of the State Bar of Michigan Alternative Dispute Resolution Section.

Michigan Transition Projects (MI-TOP & RTSL)

- In March, MI-TOP and RTSL supported the Michigan Transition Services Association (MTSA) at their annual conference in Frankenmuth. MTP hosted a pre-conference workshop featuring LeDerick Horne and MI-TOP and RTSL conducted nine breakout sessions. Despite the Michigan weather and school closures throughout the state, we had a great turnout and response for the pre-conference. The workshop survey indicated participants ($n=220$) were 50 percent teachers, 14 percent intermediate school district (ISD)/local education agency (LEA) transition coordinators, 15 percent agency staff, 15 percent other school staff, 2 percent administrators, and 1 percent parents. In addition, the workshop post-then-pretest showed gains in the areas of: practices that lead to poor outcomes for students with disabilities; using an asset-based model for inclusion; how practices, policies, and personnel impact students with disabilities; and best practices for systemic change. LeDerick also spent a day at Martin Luther King Jr. High School in Detroit working with teachers and students on self-advocacy and finding your voice.
- Every year, MTSA awards a leader in the field the C. David Anderson award. The award is given to honor an MTSA member who "exemplifies outstanding support and promotion of transition services through leadership, advocacy, and/or innovation." This year, Laurie Bradley, MTP Department Analyst was chosen as the award winner for her dedication in supporting transition in the state. We are so proud of her.
- During the past several months, MTP staff worked with the OSE state performance plan (SPP)/annual performance report (APR) and monitoring teams to improve data collection for B-13 and respond to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP's) new direction toward quality and results. We've recently finished piloting the new checklist with content experts in the field and several school districts. For the 2013-2014 data collection, no changes were made. Please stay tuned for more information on the 2014-2015 roll out.

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)

- See upcoming learning opportunities.

UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Michigan Alliance for Families

- Michigan Alliance has a new Transition webinar series. You can find out more information at:
<http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/webinar/calendar/>

Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MiBLSi)

- MiBLSi upcoming Webinar—Early Childhood Session 2 Exploring PELI (Preschool Early Literacy Indicator). Wednesday, April 23 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (EST)
- MiBLSi upcoming Math Webinar—Tier II Interventions and Instructional Routines: What the research says. May 13, 2014
- For information go to: <http://miblsi.cenmi.org>

Michigan's Integrated Mathematics Initiative (Mi²)

- *Enhancing Mathematics Instruction for Students with Learning Difficulties* Facilitator Institute, Traverse City, June 16-19, 2014
- *Math for All* product preview, Holland, MI (MCTM pre-conference institute), August 5, 2014
- For information go to <http://mi2cenmi.org>

Michigan's Integrated Technology Support (MITS)

- A planned site visit with Intensive Support site will take place in an effort to provide continued support for Universal Design for Learning (UDL) implementation in the elementary school. Day 3 of professional learning opportunity encompassing assistive technology consideration in the IEP will be scheduled for August 2014. Follow up site visits will be maintained through the 2014-15 school year to provide support for their continuing efforts to provide an accessible learning environment for their students with the goal of increasing student outcomes.
- Mid-Michigan Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Conference will be held Friday, May 2, 2014 co-hosted with Eaton Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) to provide information and knowledge around AAC devices and strategies for Michigan educators. Twelve separate sessions with presenters from around the state and vendor presentations will be held throughout the day.
- Summer Institute – June 16-20, 2014 will include two intensive workshops for Michigan educators:
 - David Koppenhaver will present “From Emergent to Beginning Literacy for Students with Significant Disabilities”—exploring how and why to implement four critical sets of emergent literacy experiences that are helpful to student progress.

- Gayle Porter and Linda Burkhart will follow up last summer's institute Introductory PODD training with 5-Day Advanced PODD Training. PODD-Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display, is a comprehensive low-tech communication strategy for students with complex communication needs.
- In addition, Gayle Porter, Melanie Tervo, and Laura Taylor will provide an introductory PODD training for educators in and outside Michigan. This two-day training will train individuals on the reason and implementation for PODD and will also serve as certification training for Melanie and Laura. They will become certified PODD trainers and be able to provide two-day introductory trainings around the state. (June 23-24, 2014)
- For more information go to: <http://mitscenmi.org>

Michigan Transition Projects (MI-TOP & RTSL)

- The Michigan Transition Projects (MI-TOP & RTSL) is hosting the Transition Leadership Institute on May 1-2, 2014 for ISD transition coordinators, rehabilitation staff [Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) & Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP)], and their ISD teams to create an annual transition education and services improvement plan. Two national experts will speak on the transition planning and IEP process.

Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START)

- Start Conference – April 28, 2014 – Keynote: Peter F. Gerhardt, Ph.D.
 - Evidence-based Education & Interventions for Adolescents & Adults with Autism
Location: Crowne Plaza Lansing West
- RCN Spring Leadership Day – April 28, 2014 – Keynote: Bryan Davey – Location: Crowne Plaza Lansing West
- Complete details and registration information for the above events can be found on the START website under START EVENTS. www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter
- CET – May 22, 2014 – Training Site: St. Clair Co. RESA
- Systems – May 30, 2014 – Training Site: Ionia ISD
- **START Intensive Training Application for 2014-15**
- The training application for the START Building Your Future intensive training for 2014-15 is now posted on the START website. <http://www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter/requirements-to-participate-in-byf-it-194.htm>