Staff and Curriculum Development

More than 150 educators and administrators from the MOBECES region and beyond participated in this year’s CNY Education Conference, an annual two-day summer professional development opportunity.

Workshops and speakers this year focused on developing positive relationships with students to improve achievement and success. The Day 1 keynote speaker, Charlie Applestein, is the author of “No Such Thing As A Bad Kid.” He spoke about theories and techniques to reach at-risk youth. The Day 2 speaker was Tom Varano who intersperses personal stories about human connections with speedpainting demonstrations.

Over the two days, conference participants rotated through five workshops on different behavior management and relationship-building topics. MOBECES Alternative Education Principals Tonia Davis and Owen Maranville discussed Restorative Justice practices, and motivational speaker and leadership consultant Stanley Leone spoke about the effects of stress on the brain. Other session topics included motivating and managing disruptive students; relationship building; reaching at-risk youth; and creating a classroom community to address challenging behaviors.

Alternative and Special Education

The Extended School Year (ESY) program at MOBECES is supporting summer learning for about 114 students this year. During the six-week program, students from 20 districts will continue to develop academic, social and motor skills through classroom activities, recreational activities, therapies, interactive projects and guest speakers. Students are divided into 15 classrooms and there are about 100 total staff members involved in the program. Weekly themes have included superheroes and camping.

Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Director Colleen Wuest attended the NYSED Summer Institute on July 16-17 in Albany. The conference, hosted by the NYSED Office of Early Learning, centered around P-3 curriculum alignment. NYSED Commissioner MaryEllen Elia delivered closing remarks.

Specific workshop topics included NYS Pre-K Learning Standards, high-quality environments and instruction, formative assessments, P-3 pedagogy, interdisciplinary learning in early childhood education, family engagement, professional development, and implementing P-3 alignment in districts. Dana Benzo, Director of Early Childhood Programs for Rome, co-presented a session with a NYSED staff member on “Meeting the K-3 Standards Through Inquiry-Based Teaching.” Representatives from Rome and Morrisville-Eaton also attended the conference.
**Regional Information Center**

**TEACHERS EARN GOOGLE CERTIFICATIONS**

Model Schools Coordinators Valerie Ray, Kristin Spinella and Heather Bagnall worked with teachers in Oneida and Rome in July to help them become Google Certified Educators.

Kristin spent four days working with six educators in Oneida on an intensive Google Level 1 preparation workshop, which helps strengthen their Google integration in their classroom and their knowledge of G Suite Apps. In Rome, Heather and Valerie offered a two-day workshop for seven teachers on Google Level 2 certification, the next level after the initial training. Participants ended their respective training workshops by taking the certification exam. Several of the Level 2 students plan to train for the final level and become Google Certified Trainers.

Valerie said she and her colleagues offer Google certification trainings to educators upon request. These requests are becoming more common as districts increasingly move toward 1:1 computing, add Chromebooks to their classrooms and explore different assessments, teaching strategies and technology integration practices.

**Career and Technical Education**

**SUMMER LEAP PROGRAMS OFFER ENRICHMENT**

MOBOCES is coordinating elementary Summer LEAP enrichment programs in six districts this year – Camden, Canastota, Madison, Morrisville-Eaton, Rome and Vernon-Verona-Sherrill. Districts work with MOBOCES to hire staff and administration, design their programs and select students. Programs help reinforce academic skills in a fun way with interactive projects and hands-on activities. These include making indoor s’mores, building towers, making movies, designing buildings, creating colored pancake batter, and comparing different versions of “The Three Bears” story.

Several sites have coordinated their program times with the NYSED Summer Meals program, so students can eat one or two meals before going home. The Summer Meals program provides free breakfast and/or lunch to all children under 18.

**Management Services**

**PRINTING ROLLS OUT NEW ONLINE SYSTEM**

Printing Supervisor Don Philhower has been visiting districts in the region to formally roll-out his department’s new online print management system. The system, Print Shop Pro, allows district customers to upload documents and request print jobs online, view past print jobs in a dashboard format, and order paper and other supplies through the online store.

The system has been utilized internally by the Print Shop for the past eight months. Since mid-June, Don has been meeting with different groups at MOBOCES and in component districts to demonstrate the system and help users register. So far, he has met with the business officials group, MOBOCES support staff and division directors, and six component districts. The remaining districts will be scheduled during the summer.

**MECHANICS ATTEND SYRACUSE TRAINING**

Four mechanics from the Central Bus Maintenance (CBM) service attended the 30th annual School Bus Head Mechanics Association training in Syracuse on July 18. The full-day training was included a class on the Blue Bird air brake system, how to prepare for a DOT inspection, and an overview of the Ford drivetrain and the Cummins engine.

The mechanics will bring back what they learned and share it with the rest of the CBM staff at the Costello Transportation Center. The center provides vehicle maintenance and repair services to 11 area school districts.