

SPONSOR UPDATE

AUGUST 2019

Peggy Young,
Director

Jennifer Schorr,
Associate Director

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Education Division of Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is to establish strong public community schools by adhering to quality authorizing practices, ensuring responsible oversight, and setting high standards for school performance.

OUR VISION

The Education Division's vision is strong communities of healthy, well-educated students, and a future in which all students have access to a high quality public education. Ohio thrives as increasing numbers of schools graduate students equipped to assume a positive role in society.

Stakeholders react to budget bill's education provisions

There is broad support among education stakeholders for the \$675 million in student wellness and success funding to provide wraparound services for at-risk students included in H.B. 166.

But, predictably, Democrat lawmakers and teachers' unions are highly critical of the budget bill's expansion of eligibility for the EdChoice Scholarship Program and changes to state charter school laws, including those that address school automatic closure.

"This budget props up private schools and charter schools, at the expense of our traditional K-12 public schools, with policy changes that should have been addressed through the normal legislative process, rather than being slapped on to the budget," said Melissa Cropper, who serves as president of the Ohio Federation of Teachers.

Innovation Ohio President Janetta King, who previously served in former Gov. Ted Strickland's administration, also spoke out against charter school provisions in H.B. 166.

"It is disappointing that Republicans in the legislature have once again placed the interests of failing charter schools ahead of Ohio students and communities," she said. "After the ECOT (Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow) debacle, we should be strengthening, not loosening, the rules regulating charter schools. Ohio taxpayers – and more importantly, Ohio students – deserve better."

Please note: H.B. 166 was approved by the Ohio General Assembly, and signed into state law by Gov. Mike DeWine (R-Cedarville) on July 18. An overview of key provisions of the legislation of interest to charter school stakeholders has been distributed to schools sponsored by Buckeye Community Hope Foundation with this issue of the Sponsor Update.



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**STATE BOARD
WELCOMES NEW
MEMBERS**
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Two new State Board of Education members have been appointed by Gov. Mike DeWine (R-Cedarville).

Stephen Dackin replaces Jimmy Sheppard, whose resignation was the result of relocation. Dackin, whose term will run through the end of 2020, is the superintendent of school and community partnerships for Columbus State Community College.

Reginald Wilkinson replaces David Brinegar, whose cited personal reasons in his letter of resignation. Wilkinson, whose term will run through the end of 2022, is the former director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.



Dr. Joelle Hood to be featured speaker at BCHF's All Schools Meeting

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (BCHF) is pleased to announce Dr. Joelle Hood as the featured keynote speaker at the upcoming annual All Schools Meeting. Dr. Hood's message on *Leading with Courage, Connection & Compassion* will resonate well with BCHF-sponsored schools, and with BCHF's theme this year of a "deeper look" into social and emotional wellness in schools.

A recognized teacher of the year, principal of the year, mindfulness instructor, certified life coach and educational consultant, Hood brings over 25 years of experience, energy and passion to helping humans flourish. She provides leadership coaching and professional learning to districts, agencies, and organizations across the nation, specializing in social emotional learning, school climate, mindfulness, and social emotional wellness/resiliency for educators. Her research focuses on well being for educators, influenced by the fields of emotional intelligence, mindfulness and positive psychology. Through her work, she empowers individuals and organizations to thrive.



Hood describes her mission in this way: "Although I have held many different jobs throughout the years, my purpose on the planet has been steadfast — I have a deep desire to influence, inspire and ignite humans to become the best possible version of themselves. My heart gets full when I am able to help others tap into strengths they weren't even sure they had, broaden their mindset, stretch their potential, and shift their spirit into dwelling in a space of possibility."

Hood earned her doctorate degree in organizational change and leadership at the University of Southern California. She also has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in educational leadership. She is a certified life coach through iPEC, holds a certification in social emotional learning leadership from Rutgers' University, and is a graduate of the Mindful Schools year-long Mindfulness Instructor Certification Program. Hood has served as a principal in both traditional schools and alternative high schools.

This special BCHF event is a great opportunity for its sponsored schools to share in Hood's positive message on school leadership. Register for the All Schools Meeting, which will be held on September 18, 2019, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Gahanna (a suburb of Columbus) online at:

<https://allschoolsmeeting2019.eventarc.net/e/42765>

JEOC CONSIDERATION OF STATE REPORT CARDS CONTINUES

In a recent meeting, members of the Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC) discussed the state report card's "Prepared for Success" component, questioning whether its name accurately reflects what it seeks to measure.

Several stakeholders shared their view that the component focuses too heavily on the college pathway, failing to acknowledge the value of apprenticeships, entrepreneurial opportunities, careers in the military and other paths.

The majority of districts earned an "F" in the "Prepared for Success" component, and about 43 percent earned "C" or "D" grades on the most recent state report cards.



Happy (fiscal) New Year!

The state's new fiscal year actually began July 1, but since the biennial budget bill wasn't finalized by the June 30 deadline, a delayed celebration seems appropriate now that the legislation has been signed into law.

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (BCHF) encourages members of the boards of its sponsored schools to address annual training needs early in the new school year.

Under state law, charter school board members are required to complete annual training, which is also included as a provision in the contracts between BCHF and boards of its sponsored schools.

"The training is critically important," said Jennifer Schorr, who serves as associate director of BCHF's Education Division. "We recognize that board members are volunteers with varying schedules and different learning styles and preferences, so we provide a variety of opportunities to fulfill the training requirement."

BCHF offers online board training, training for individual boards (typically scheduled in conjunction with board meetings) and a four-hour workshop in Columbus, scheduled this year for Saturday, Nov. 2.

Questions about the annual training requirement or how to participate in BCHF's training opportunities? Contact your school's sponsor regional representative.

U.S. Census Bureau shares stats

The U.S. Census Bureau offers free Statistics in Schools classroom resources, which use census statistics as the foundation for learning. Teachers and subject matter experts developed each activity to teach students about the value and everyday use of statistics. The Statistics in Schools program includes more than 200 activities to enhance learning in a variety of subjects.

Resources include: 67 new activities for grades pre-K through 12 that have students use data interactively to build skills in history, math, geography and English; large colorful maps with fun census-based facts; a storybook with activities and a music video for children in preschool and early grades; engaging videos; and, resources for English language learners.

Access the resources online at:
<https://census.gov/schools>



**2020 GRADUATION
OPTIONS —
CAPSTONE
PROJECT
GUIDANCE
AVAILABLE**

New materials on graduation requirements for students in the class of 2020 are available on the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) website.

Students in the class of 2020 may complete a capstone project to satisfy one component of Ohio's graduation requirements. Under state law, ODE is required to develop guidance for districts and schools that outlines the components of successful capstone projects and a process for evaluating them, so these experiences satisfy graduation requirements.

Access the capstone project guidance document online at: http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Ohio-s-Graduation-Requirements/Earning-an-Ohio-High-School-Diploma-for-the-Cl-1/Work-and-Community-Service-Experience-and-Capstone/Capstone_Project_Guidelines.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US

School funding bill introduced; hearings likely delayed until Fall

As previously reported, Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) and Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) attempted to implement a new school funding plan – developed by a work group formed by the two legislators – through the state biennial budget bill (H.B. 166).

Ultimately, they were unsuccessful, in large part due to the fact that House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) was in opposition, stating that the plan needed additional work to better address the needs of poor urban and rural schools.



On June 26, the bipartisan duo introduced the plan as a standalone bill, which has been referred to the House Finance Committee for consideration.

Although Reps. Cupp and Patterson had hoped hearings on the bill would begin this summer, it seems unlikely that any action will be taken before the legislature returns in the Fall.

However, Speaker Householder has pledged to “roll up my sleeves and really work with them to try and come up with a funding plan.”

The plan calls for a new formula to determine the base cost of adequately funding the education of a typical student in districts across the state and establishing an appropriate split between state and local funding. It would eliminate capped funding to growing districts, which was a sticking point in negotiations between the House, Senate and Governor's office in H.B. 166.

Reps. Cupp and Patterson acknowledge that the plan can be improved upon and welcome input from stakeholders and other policy makers.

Rep. Cupp said that H.B. 166 has “overwhelming support in the House,” with 60 members representing both political parties serving as cosponsors.

The Buckeye Association of School Administrators and the Ohio Association of School Business Officials also back the measure.

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**DATA REVIEW
WINDOW OPEN**
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Superintendents have until Sept. 6 to complete a required review of 2019 student and assessment data reported in the Education Management Information System (EMIS).

They must signify the accuracy of data as they complete and submit the 2019 Data Review for the Report Card Part 1 form.

Superintendents (or their designees) and EMIS coordinators can access and fill out the data review forms. However, the forms are not officially submitted to the Ohio Department of Education until the superintendent approves the form to complete the process.

For more information about the data review window, timeline and completion process, visit the EMIS Data Review & Verification webpage at:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/EMIS/Reporting-Responsibilities/EMIS-Data-Review-Verification>

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***Partnership enhances student support,
workforce development***

Creative school leaders are constantly on the lookout for partnerships with community organizations with the potential to help students achieve academic and personal success.

For Flex High School, Focus Learning Academy of Southeastern Columbus, Focus Learning Academy of Southwestern Columbus and Focus North High School, partnerships with Goodwill Columbus represent a great opportunity to provide mentoring, career exploration and workforce development training to dropout prevention and recovery students.



Flex is now in its second year of the Goodwill partnership, while the relationship with Goodwill is new to the Focus schools this year.

Flex High School Principal Alicia Henry – an experienced grant writer – worked hand-in-hand with Goodwill Columbus to apply for several grants. Both organizations were thrilled to receive grant funding through the Columbus Foundation to support workforce development opportunities for students.

“What started as a workforce development initiative has evolved,” explained Goodwill Career Facilitator Carly Baird. “I quickly learned that before we could make significant progress in helping students earn industry recognized credentials, we needed to focus on relationship and confidence building, career exploration, and the basic skills taught through Goodwill’s Career Boot Camp.”

“Our organizations are a great fit,” Henry said. “One of the reasons Goodwill reached out to us is our approach to helping students through independent studies. The partnership has helped us better serve our students – those enrolled in our traditional dropout prevention and recovery program, as well as our 22+ program for individuals who have aged out of Ohio’s K-12 public education system seeking to earn high school diplomas.”

Goodwill’s partnership with Flex represents its Workforce Development division’s re-entry into the at-risk youth space, and its

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HANDWRITING GUIDELINES NOW AVAILABLE

As previously reported, the Ohio General Assembly passed legislation (H.B. 58) to address the instruction of manuscript and cursive writing in Ohio's schools.

The new law – which requires the Ohio Department of Education to provide information on the development of handwriting and supplemental instructional materials in the English Language Arts Model Curriculum – became effective July 1, 2019.

A guidance and supports document is now available online at:

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/English-Language-Art/Model-Curriculum-for-English-Language-Arts>



Partnership — continued

new relationship with Focus is an expansion of its efforts to serve opportunity youth in Franklin County. The program goal is to prepare students who intend to directly enter the workforce upon earning their diplomas to obtain sustainable employment on a career pathway towards upward mobility.

Students gain access to individualized career coaching consisting of: skills and interests assessments; career plan development; work-readiness training; occupational skills training leading to an industry-recognized credential; intensive job search and employment placement; and, follow-up services design to ensure continued employment.



“The program aligns well with our career tech focus,” said Kathy Williams, who serves as executive director for the three Focus schools. “We value Carly’s experience, commitment and enthusiasm, and appreciate her willingness to customize the program to best meet our student’s needs.”

The initial emphasis at the Focus schools will be on enhancing existing efforts to prepare students to navigate in life and the workplace – from communication and leadership, to conflict management and workplace etiquette. Another key priority will be to improve students’ basic digital skills.

“We’re meeting students where they are,” Baird said. “It all starts with relationship building with students, and helping them recognize their skills, talents and ability to achieve success. Trust is absolutely essential.”

Baird, who spoke at Flex High School’s graduation ceremony earlier this year, has found that sharing her own personal experiences and challenges in life helps students open up about their own feelings and need to be loved, valued and respected.

“Helping students learn skills and earn industry-recognized credentials is critically important,” Baird said. “But it’s equally important that we help at-risk youth build confidence in their own abilities and a sense of hope for the future.”

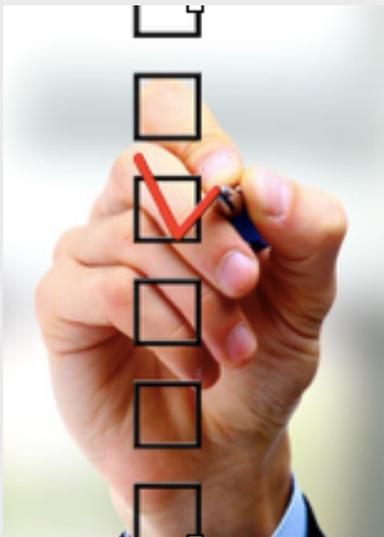
Henry, Williams and Baird encourage dropout prevention and recovery school leaders to seek similar partnership, grants and other opportunities with local workforce development organizations aimed at better preparing their students for future success.

COMPLIANCE UPDATE

New SharePoint/ Office 365

Coming soon

There is a new and improved SharePoint rolling out for the 2019-2020 school year! Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is excited to share the new updates soon. Please reach out to your school's sponsor representatives if you have any questions.



UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation offers a variety of professional development opportunities throughout the school year. This year, the emphasis is on online professional development, networks and professional development that is customized for delivery at individual schools. Listed below are the events that will kick off the 2019-2020 school year!

Classroom Management 101 - Online Professional Development Course

August 15 to September 12, 2019

This course focuses on how to structure the classroom and design effective classroom procedures to prevent most behavioral problems from occurring in the first place. Participants will be asked to design procedures for their own classrooms as part of the training. The last module of the course examines problem behaviors that sometimes arise despite the best laid designs.

Audience: Teachers and administrators

Time Frame: 4 weeks, approximately 2.5 hours per week

Registration ends August 8, 2019 at 5 p.m.

Register online at:

<https://registerclassroommanagement101.eventarc.net/e/43069>

Fall English Learner Support Network

September 12, 2019; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

School personnel concerned with educating English Learners (EL) will share strategies, concerns and issues at BCHF's update sessions. Network with others regarding your EL concerns! Speakers may be invited to address special topics as identified by participants. The morning meeting agenda will include introductions, announcements regarding ESL in Ohio, sharing and/or speaker, and ESL updates. The Fall Meeting will focus on monitoring of English Learners in addition to updates. A light lunch will be provided.

Registration ends September 6, 2019 at 5 p.m. Register online at:

<https://fallenglishlearnerregister.eventarc.net/e/42836>

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SHARE YOUR STORIES

Make a Fiscal New Year's resolution to keep Buckeye Community Hope Foundation's *Sponsor Update* in the loop throughout the new school year!

There are countless untold success stories within Ohio's charter school community and the Buckeye Community Hope Foundation family of schools – from outstanding student achievement and personal growth, to unique ways in which parents, boards, teachers, administrators and others are providing meaningful student support.

Have a story to share? Contact your school's regional representative or send an email to:

cwest@buckeyehope.org



UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS — *continued*

Fall Dropout Recovery Roundtable

September 17, 2019; 5 to 7 p.m.

Join us for an amazing evening with featured speaker Dr. Joelle Hood as she visits with leaders of BCHF's sponsored dropout prevention and recovery schools and discusses compassionate leadership in alternative educational settings. A light dinner will be provided.

Registration ends September 10, 2019 at 5 p.m.

Register online at:

<https://falldropoutrecoveryroundtable.eventarc.net/e/43070>

All Schools Meeting 2019

September 18, 2019; 8:30 a.m. to – 3:30 p.m.

The 2019 All Schools Meeting is a required event for all BCHF-sponsored schools! Plan to attend to gain information about charter school roles and responsibilities, BCHF's plan of support for this school year, and other essential community school information! Dr. Joelle Hood, will share on the topic of *Leading with Courage, Connection & Compassion*. Lunch will be provided.

Registration ends September 10, 2019 at 5 p.m.

Register online at:

<https://allschoolsmeeting2019.eventarc.net/e/42765>

Fall Data User's Network

September 25, 2019; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Data User's Network is a professional learning community intended for school leaders, school data coaches and others who wish to dig deeper into school data including norm referenced testing results, Ohio state testing results, attendance data and other relevant measures.

Sessions will include participant sharing as well as one or more timely data topic. A light lunch will be provided.

Registration ends September 18, 2019 at 5 p.m.

Register online at:

<https://falldatausersnetwork.eventarc.net/e/43113>

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Welcome back to school!

By Diana Martin, School Improvement Specialist

We have another year to make a difference in the lives of students and many of them need someone in their life who really cares about their future. Many educators are uncomfortable with change and are content with maintaining current practices -- good and bad. Even if recognizing the need, some educators do not want to invest the time and effort for change. Educational administrators have a moral responsibility to respond to the changing landscape of education in the 21st century. The knowledge and skills needed by students to be successful after high school has changed and this requires education about effective change. It's been suggested that the "single greatest error people have made when trying to effect change is that they did not create a sense of urgency with the staff so the importance is not recognized" (Blackaby, 2011).

Integrity and honesty are two critical factors in creating urgency for staff. When staff trust their administrator and see consistency in policies and procedures, they are more willing to accept the need of urgency for action. In fairness, it's not just staff who do not always see the importance of change, as administrators may also not do so. The timing of any change is essential for helping staff see the urgency.

The 21st century has brought a plethora of educational changes with all having equal weight and importance thus making it difficult for staff to sense which ones are the most urgent to implement now in their school. Wise leaders help their people experience the clear consequences of not embracing needed change and recognizing that it is in their best interest to make necessary changes. To create urgency requires the leader to be trusted, make ethical decisions and be efficient with time.

Creating a sense of urgency is hard work, but the

result is action as compared to just talking about change. There has to be an urgency to act and prepare students.

"Within the progression of educational leadership, the greatest current issue is how principals, superintendents, and other administrators will be able to exercise effective leadership within a milieu of tremendous diversity" (Revoe, 2016). The student population of American schools is changing with an increase in students from every race, diversity, ethnicity, worldview and economic status. In education, there has been a lack of social justice that endures to the present time. "Diversity and pluralism initiate a concern for social justice. The rights and responsibilities of people as individuals and as members of

various groups bring into play certain tensions manifested through intolerance and discrimination" (Reboe, 2014). If a principal leads based on social justice for all students, the rights and equality of students are not denied. The lack of social justice as a leadership principle in schools can have a dire impact on students and their families. When dealing with the lives of others, a sense of urgency is crucial.

The division of social class is a long-standing tradition upheld in schools through acts of inequality toward students. Leading with social justice is doing well for the benefit of the students and staff in the building. Social justice cannot be delayed and requires acting with urgency when making ethical decisions. Character education is essential in leading students to respect diversity and believe in social justice for all the different students. Leading students toward honesty, integrity and ethical analysis gives them a

All students deserve equal opportunities to develop skills and knowledge that will prepare them for 21st century jobs.

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Welcome back — continued

foundation to build on for the future. Leading with social justice starts with educating the teaching staff so they understand how the culture of the student affects their education. Staff must internalize the belief that all students are to receive an appropriate education and to build on social justice recognizes that all students deserve the very best instruction and support regardless of color, status or ethnicity. Leading with social justice dictates that the leader will defend the rights of all students in the school. All students deserve equal opportunities to develop skills and knowledge that will prepare them for 21st century jobs. The most critical factor in student success is the teacher in the classroom and leaders need to train and have a constant dialogue with the teaching staff about social justice, so not one student is treated unfairly. Knowing that choosing important leadership principles results in staff and student leading lives that impact others in a positive way is just reward for a leader.

Sounds like a serious welcome back article but the intent is for you to reflect on your school's practices and traditions. Are we doing everything possible to help every student be successful? Many students only have you to look to for guidance into the future and they need to know that you are concerned and want the absolute best for them. At the end of the first week, take a time of reflection with the staff to determine if all students walked in the building with a positive attitude ready to learn. Make a list of the students who need more support and encouragement and start immediately to let them know that you care about their future. In the charter school world, this is so important because of the diversity of the student population. While the diversity may add another layer to reaching success, we can do it and our students can do it!

Here's to a successful year!

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