



The Collaborative

Winter 2006-2007

Volume XIV Issue II

KECSAC Welcomes Commissioners

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Professional Development Events

6th Annual Diversity Conference

February 7-8, 2007
Perkins Conference Center
Richmond, KY

SACSAA

March 8, 2007
Elizabethtown Tourism and Convention Bureau
Elizabethtown, KY

6th Annual Alternative Strategies for Educating Students

At-Risk Conference
July 24 - 26, 2007

Over the past year KECSAC has featured commissioners of our primary state agency partners. In this issue, KECSAC is pleased to present Commissioner Tom Emberton of the Department of Community Based Services and Commissioner John Burt of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services.

Tom Emberton Jr. began his duties as DCBS commissioner on July 1, 2005. Emberton is a U.S. Navy veteran who served from 1987 to 1992, spending his final year as a command training chief. He graduated from Western Kentucky University with a bachelor's degree in



general health studies, and has master's degrees in management and health services administration from Troy State University and the University of Evansville, respectively.

Most recently, Commissioner Emberton served as executive vice president of the North American Resource Group, an oil and gas development company in Glasgow, where he was responsible for compliance and communication. Prior to that, he was director of operations at Kindred Healthcare/Vencor in Owensboro for five years and held positions at Rosewood Healthcare/Vencor and Sunrise Healthcare in Bowling Green. He also has served in management positions at Kentucky nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities.

Commissioner Emberton lives in Frankfort with his wife, Stephanie, and their three children.

John M. Burt, Ed.D., was appointed commissioner of the Department for Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services (MH/MR) in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) on October 5, 2005.

Dr. Burt, a Ft. Thomas native, previously served as director of the division of administration and financial management in the Department for Public Health (DPH). He has an extensive



35-year background in health care in Kentucky, including managing medical and institutional advancement programs for hospitals, healthcare facilities, universities and a health insurance company. His 20 years of experience as a senior executive in hospital settings includes stints at St. Luke Hospitals of Ft. Thomas, Baptist Regional Medical Center of Corbin, Central Baptist Hospital of Lexington, and the Medical Center at Bowling Green.

Dr. Burt received his Ed.D. from Vanderbilt University, his M.B.A. in hospital administration from Xavier University and his undergraduate degree from Western Kentucky University. He is a past member of the Kentucky Hospital Association Board of Trustees and the Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians Foundation Board, among many others.

Dr. Burt resides in Ft. Thomas with his wife, Cathy. They have 3 sons and 8 grandchildren.

Reading Choices

Looking for ideas to motivate youth to read? Woodsbend Youth Development Center has a reading program that allows students to choose and have ownership of their reading material. This program has created an active reading climate and culture.

In the language arts classroom a poster board is available for students to write the names of books, authors, and/or genre of desired reading material. This is a reading wish list. As money for books becomes available, the language arts teacher purchases as many books from the list as possible.

When books arrive, the students assist in recording the titles for the library, placing pockets and cards in the books, etc. Periodically, the youth organize and check the books in the library for needed repair.

Students may carry their library books with them during the day, and read in class only when they have completed their assignments. In addition, after school while they are having their snacks, the youth workers allow students to read. Many youth use their evening quiet time to do additional reading. Each Thursday the students check out books and share information about the books they are reading

with their group members, never telling the endings, of course. They record the books they have read in a "Student Reading Log" sheet in their writing portfolio. This keeps a record of the books they have completed, and the ones they have abandoned.

The reading program of the Woodsbend Youth Development Center has created an amazing reading culture. No awards, points, prizes, or treats are connected to this program. The reward is the reader's enjoyment of a truly good book.

By: A Student and Charlette Allen,
Language Arts Teacher, Woodsbend
Youth Development Center

Student Poem

Bell County

My name is LiL mama
My whole life is full of drama

I've been working on my actions and what I say
Ever since I've been going to Bell County Day

I use to think I was the only one that hurt
But now I know other people has had their face in the dirt

Bell County is a really good school
It helps you to stop and think - before you do what you do

Now this is the end of my song
So I'm gonna keep trying not to do wrong

Ashley, a 14 year old female

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SACSAA

The State Agency Children School Administrators Association held the first of two yearly meetings on September 22, 2006, at the Elizabethtown Tourism and Convention Bureau.

State Representative Jimmie Lee welcomed SACSAA members to the Hardin County area and praised the group for their work with students at-risk. Having visited all KECSAC funded programs in the Hardin County area, Lee understands the challenges educators of students at-risk face. Representative Lee encouraged all educators in KECSAC programs to contact their local representative to let them know of the critical need for increased funding for state agency programs. Educators should also be prepared to discuss how increased funding will increase positive outcomes for students at-risk. Dr. Powell presented Representative Lee with a plaque of appreciation for his past and continuing support of state agency children.



Left to right: KECSAC Director, Dr. Norman Powell, Representative Jimmie Lee, and Robbie McKinney, SACSAA President.

Robbie McKinney, SACSAA President, presented the annual SACSAA Outstanding Teacher of the Year awards. The Outstanding Support Staff of the Year award was presented to Erica Thomas, Campbell Central

Alternative School. Ms. Thomas has designed and implemented a successful counseling program that encompasses the mental, physical and emotional well being of the entire student body. The Outstanding Academic Teacher of the Year award was presented to David Enzweiler, also of Campbell Central Alternative Program. Mr. Enzweiler was praised for possessing a contagious spirit for teaching and a sincere commitment towards making a difference in the lives of his students.



David Enzweiler, Outstanding Academic Teacher of the year and Erica Thomas, Outstanding Support Staff.

After a short business meeting, Nijel Clayton, KDE, provided an overview of new state graduation requirements and the revised Individual Graduation Plan (IGP). When fully implemented, a unique student identifier will allow the internet based IGP to follow students from school to school. The plan can be accessed by students and parents or guardians, and will be available 24/7.

The next SACSAA meeting will be held on March 8, 2007, at the Elizabethtown Tourism and Convention Bureau.

Student Writing

Care Academy Residents Take Trip to U.K.'s Campus

On September 15, 2006 there were eight residents from the Academy that went on an outing to the University of Kentucky. The residents that went were Charles, Tim, Darrell, and Andrew from the Knights, Derrick and John from the Explorers, and Cody and Eric from the Warriors. They went for a fun day to see what college life was like and to encourage them to further their education.

The trip included a 90-minute tour of the campus. They did not get to go through the whole campus because it was so big. However, they got to see real classes that were going on while on their trip. They also got to see the statue of the president that's in the middle of the campus. Students that had tests that day came by and rubbed his foot for good luck to pass their tests. They were able to see a lot of the new and old buildings on campus. UK has added a lot of new buildings in the past ten years. They added a new and bigger library that "Is huge", according to Tim. The residents were interested in the electronic bookshelves that the library had. Student only had to press a few buttons to get the book they wanted.

Throughout the whole day the residents saw people studying, going to class and just carrying on their everyday lives at UK. The residents, though, saw it as a new way of life. Darrell from the Knights said, "Education is the key to life."

By Andrew

Jessamine County Joins KECSAC and Debuts New Mental Health Day Treatment

by Jill Williams

With the paint on the walls still fresh, the KECSAC programs in Jessamine County are far from deficient. They have been well designed, well organized and are committed to success. Jessamine County is the latest district to join the KECSAC network, yet they are not new to providing quality service. The district's Providence School has proven its success over the years. All God's Children and the new Jessamine County Mental Health Day



Beth Armstrong, Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services, and Jessamine County Superintendent Lu Young visit Jessamine County Mental Health Day Treatment.

Treatment are two new programs and are well on the road to success.

Several members of the KECSAC staff and state agency partners attended an orientation day in Jessamine County on Tuesday, August 23, to give the Jessamine County administration an overview of what to expect as a KECSAC program. Superintendent Lu Young gave the KECSAC staff and state agency partners a tour of the new facility, as well as Jessamine County's existing alternative education program, Providence School. The group had an opportunity to meet and talk with several of the students who had been in school for a couple of weeks about their current projects.

The group first toured All God's Children, located in a brand career and technology facility adjacent to the Central office. The prime space is equipped with the latest technology and equipment, as well as seasoned teachers.



Owens Saylor, Jessamine County Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, and Dr. Norman Powell chat with a student during a tour of the new KECSAC program in Jessamine County.

The new mental health day treatment program is located at West Jessamine High School under the supervision of Interim Principal Bart Flener, who requested the program be located at his school. Both programs are in the beginning stages, but have already shown their dedication and willingness to make provide the students at both programs with a quality educational experience.

SAVE
the Dates

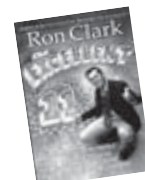
Featuring
Ron Clark

For more information,
contact Ronnie Nolan
(859) 622-6552
email: ronnie.nolan@eku.edu



July 24-26, 2007
6th Annual
**Alternative Strategies for
Educating Students At-Risk**
Conference

- He has been called "America's Educator"
- Disney's American Teacher of the Year in 2000
- Author of *New York Times* best seller, *The Essential 55*



Kentucky Virtual High School: A Resource for KECSAC Students

The Kentucky Virtual High School offers a range of online or eLearning services to help schools meet their goals for

numeric score to the local school that grants the credit. KVHS does not grant credit. During the semester, information about student

registration screen will appear that mentions tuition. There will be no tuition for the courses used through the repository so please disregard

Courses Available Through the KVHS Resource Repository

AP English Literature	AP Calculus AB	AP Calculus BC	AP Physics B
AP Physics C	AP Environmental Science	AP U.S. History	AP U.S. Government
AP Spanish Language	Creative Writing	Pre-Calculus	Introductory Calculus
General Calculus	Environmental Science	Introductory Physics	General Physics
College Prep Physics	Earth and Space Science	U.S. History	American Government
Consumer Economics	Spanish I/II	Spanish III	Introduction to Health Science
Health	6th grade Language Arts	7th grade Language Arts	8th grade Language Arts

High Student Performance, High Quality Teaching, and a Strong and Supportive Environment for Every Child.

By integrating KVHS services into their instructional programs, districts and schools can find new ways to provide:

- Access to an expanded curriculum for every student
- Additional options for credit recovery and summer enrichment
- Increased instructional support for at-risk students

Online learning allows students to work at their own pace according to their own needs, to go further into the mastery of content that is of particular academic and career interest, and to study with students from other regions and backgrounds. KVHS students value those experiences as well as the personal attention they receive from their online teachers. KVHS approaches each student as an individual.

When a student completes a course, KVHS sends a final, un-weighted

progress is readily available to the school and to parents through the online grade book. By reviewing the grade book regularly, parents can help students meet their goals.

Terri DeYong, KVHS, reports the KVHS Resource Repository is available to all KECSAC teachers and offers the full curriculum for the courses listed above. It can be used in a variety of ways depending on the needs of your students and teachers. Teachers can view the full content by visiting the KVHS website, www.kvhs.org

Login using repository as the username and password as the password. Should teachers wish to use any of the courses, Ms. DeYong will create a separate section for each interested teacher. Teachers can use the course as a resource and/or have their students enroll in the courses, providing them 24/7 access. Teachers will need to inform Ms. DeYong if they want to use the repository and let her know when they want registration opened for their students. Students can then go online individually and register for their teacher's section. By default, a

that portion of the screen. After viewing the web site, contact Ms. DeYong at the number below to set up the account and learn the next steps.

Terri DeYong
 Kentucky Virtual High School
 (866) 432-0008 (in KY)
 (502) 564-4772


.....

Louisville

to host

19th Annual

National Dropout Prevention Network Conference



When:
October 29 - 31, 2007

Where: Galt House
Louisville, KY

Mark your calendar
and plan to attend!

Ramey-Estep Students Honor Soldiers

Many students at Ramey Estep High School know the loneliness of being away from home for long periods of time. So, when they heard about Project Appreciation they eagerly accepted the opportunity to show their support for the U.S. troops serving in Iraq. Project Appreciation was proposed by REHS Principal Ann Brewster whose cousin, Captain Mara Boggs, is currently serving in Iraq.

Enthusiastic about reaching out to the soldiers, each of the 156 students currently served at Ramey Estep prepared a gift package. Each package consisted of personal toiletries, selected food items, and a personal letter from the student. As a special touch, students included specially designed stationary sets and a Christmas card so soldiers could write to loved ones back home. Items included in the packages were donated by staff at REHS, Ashland Community Technical College, and Holiday Inn Express. Ramey Estep Homes also donated a large amount of food items. Packages were mailed to the soldiers on Veteran's Day.



Students and teachers prepare packages for soldiers serving in Iraq.

Project Appreciation was a huge success thanks to the support and enthusiasm of students and staff. More than just providing thanks to soldiers who sacrifice so much to protect the freedoms we enjoy, this project gave the students the opportunity to appreciate how good it feels to reach out to others.

Youth Behavior Risk Report Released

A study released this past summer by University of Kentucky Center for Prevention Research reveals Kentucky high school students are more likely to be overweight than all high school students among the 47 states surveyed. "The Kentucky Youth Behavior Risk Report: 1997 – 2003 Trends and 2004 Baseline Data" also reports Kentucky students get less physical activity, have poorer dietary practices, and smoke more than their peers in other states. According to the study, Kentucky students are also more likely to report being physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the past year.

The complete report may be viewed at www.uky.edu/RGS/PreventionResearch. Click on *Reports and Data* on the left side of the screen.

Morehead YDC Teachers Integrate Studies

The English/Title I classes at Morehead Youth Development Center participated in a week-long exploration of the Holocaust. Students participated in a variety of activities focused on a young Holocaust survivor named Gerda Weissmann. After watching a documentary of Gerda's life entitled *One Survivor Remembers*, the students wrote two personal essays related to her story. The students gained new insight into a historical event, as well as learned about new genocides that are occurring in our world today.

This weeklong study is part of an education kit designed to teach tolerance to middle and high school students. The Gerda and Kurt Klein Foundation has partnered with The Southern Poverty Law Center to distribute a comprehensive educational kit based upon the Oscar-winning documentary, *One Survivor Remembers*. This kit has more than a dozen lesson plans for teachers to use in their classroom and is provided at no cost to schools.

To order your kit, or any of the other Teaching Tolerance material, visit <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/resources/survivor.jsp>

Risk Behavior	US High School Students	KY High School Students
Current Smoker	22%	33%
Overweight	27%	30%
No leisure time physical activity	31%	79%
Eat less than five fruits and vegetables a day	82%	87%
Source: YRBS, 2003		

What's Up with District News

FRANKLIN INDEPENDENT Wilkinson Street Day Treatment

Liz Smith, the Language Arts teacher at Wilkinson Street Day Treatment (WSDT) attended an Aviation Workshop sponsored by the Department of Aviation and Kentucky Department of Education. She brought the information back to the students at WSDT and incorporated aviation into her language arts, science, history, and geometry/math lessons. Pictured are middle school youth that learned the history of aviation, wrote about the time-lines in their writing pieces and then were able to build a model plane and fly it. Flying the plane was the most fun for these younger students!



(br) Tyler Barber, Drew Simpson, Bobby Manley, (fr) DeAndre Ford, & Joseph Stewart all show off planes they made in Liz Smith's Language Arts Class. Students studied a unit in Aviation and had classroom work relating to this topic.

ROWAN COUNTY Morehead Youth Development

Teachers at Morehead Youth Development Center integrated real world issues into math and science classes during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Students participated in awareness and prevention activities including interpretation of graphs correlating the rise in breast cancer occurrences with age. For Hispanic Heritage Month, students explored various aspects of His-

panic culture, including murals. As a treat, they participated in making a sidewalk mural using chalk. The result was a beautiful multicolored, multi-cultural mural that was enjoyed by everyone who passed.

Students are excited about the newly renovated computer lab complete with brand new laptop computers. Not only are they working hard on their Novel Stars classes, but they take real pride and responsibility for maintaining the lab. And, they love the new fast technology.

DAVIESS COUNTY Owensboro Treatment Center

Matthew, a student at Owensboro Treatment Center, wrote a poem selected and aired on television by KET News Quiz program. Below, Matthew talks about his experience.

"I've always been interested in poetry and other sorts of literature for some time now. When I saw the chance to get my work out in the open, I went for it. My teacher and I worked one of my poems entitled "Time for Change." After revising it we sent it to the KET News Quiz Program.

KET News Quiz is a program that we watch to learn about news updates. I got the idea of putting my work on TV because they asked for a fall poem. Writing the poem was no problem for me. After writing it over several times, I finally sent it in. I wasn't expecting it to be on the broadcast, but I was hoping.

When I was watching the program with the rest of my class,

it appeared on the screen. I was awed that I had been accepted. I've sent my work to many places but this was the first time to accept. I was excited and encouraged to continue pushing."

Times of Change By Matthew

Fall is a season
That everyone enjoys.
Leaves cover the yards and drives
Of people at work.

Trees change color
And sleep for a while.
The wind that blows your hair
Becomes wift and cool.

Kids dress up
To go trick or treating.
Some natives sit around the fire
And tell stories passed down from
the ancestors

The squirrels begin to store nuts
For a long sleep.
Animals grow their fur thick
To adapt to a new change.

Fall brings some families home
And sends some on vacation.
If spring is the time of birth
Then fall is the time of change.

**"Teachers are people
who start things
they never see
finished, and for
which they never get
thanks until it is too
late."**

Max Forman



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