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THE BEACON

Newsletter of the Western New York Educational Service Council

May 2010

The Jean M. Alberti Center is Established for the Prevention of Bullying, Abuse and School Violence



The Graduate School of Education at the University at Buffalo celebrated the establishment of the Jean M. Alberti Center with a symposium on the *Prevention of Bullying, Abuse and School Violence* on April 27th. There was an overflow crowd of 400+ in attendance at Slee Hall on the North Campus to hear the opening address by Dr. Alberti, who earned her Doctorate from UB and is a clinical and educational psychologist. Her critical message to the audi-

ence, “Bullying is Child Abuse by Children” is clearly an outgrowth of societal violence and a logical extension of adult abuse of children.

Dr. Dorothy Espelage, a renowned expert in the field from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, captivated participants in her keynote address with research data on the apparent lack of success in bullying prevention programs throughout the state, country and world. The increase in cyber-bullying, targeting someone because of their sexual orientation and the general demise of civility and respect has rendered 20-year old programs as outdated and ineffective with this generation of youth. Cont'd pg.3.



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“A Tiered Approach for Challenging Student Behaviors—RtI in Action”

Gregory A. Fabiano, Ph.D.

University at Buffalo Department of Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology



Teachers consistently indicate that effective classroom behavior management is one of their primary occupational concerns, and it is one of the areas they feel they are most in need of support and training (American Federation of Teachers, 2000; Moore Johnson & The Project on the Next Generation of Teachers, 2006; Public Agenda, 2003). It is highly likely that a considerable part of each teacher’s day is spent planning an approach to managing student behavior (creating schedules, organizing small group activity), responding to student behaviors (praising students who follow rules, providing corrective feedback), and assessing student progress in social, emotional, and behavioral development.

Mirroring this work in classrooms, the last few decades have seen school principals and district-level administrators also planning behavior management approaches on a school-wide and district-wide level. With the advent of Response to Intervention (RtI), the approach to behavior management may fit well within a tiered approach. Within an RtI model, universal behavioral management strategies that apply to all students, targeted interventions for at-risk students, and indicated interventions for students identified as having serious behavioral challenges would be organized across a continuum of school-based intervention. This approach holds considerable promise for supporting students’ social, emotional, and character-based development in educational settings.

However, this promise is tempered by problems with maintenance of a program over time, inconsistent implementation of key ingredients for effective behavior management, and the need for more intensive and targeted interventions for students who exhibit the most challenging behaviors.

To foster discussion of these continuing issues related to behavior management in schools, the Western New York Educational Service Council will be sponsoring a workshop on September 23 entitled, “**A Tiered Approach for Challenging Student Behaviors – RtI in Action.**” The workshop will go beyond describing effective approaches and focus on the process of maintaining gains, facilitating teacher and staff buy-in, and outlining strategies for working with the most difficult-to-reach students and families. Workshop attendees will also have an opportunity to network and discuss current issues with a professional learning community of teachers, principals, and administrators.

Research and Chinese Language Teacher Opportunities Through the Service Council at UB

School administrators should take note of two new initiatives at the University at Buffalo. As noted in this issue, the **Jean M. Alberti Center for the Prevention of Bullying Abuse and School Violence** has been launched and will be a major national center for research and practice. The creation of another new center at UB has also been announced recently: The **Confucius Institute** will support the placement of mainland Chinese teachers here in Western New York to teach Chinese language and culture. **The Council will be assisting these two groups in finding participants.**

2nd Annual Faculty-Superintendent Luncheon - Sept. 16th Center for Tomorrow

Legal Issues For School Building Administrators - Year 2



About 75 principals, assistant principals and other administrators attended the “Legal Issues” workshop on April 7th at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga. The Hodgson Russ legal team, pictured left, presented three short seminars. The kickoff session, by Ryan Everhart and Dylan Pauly, encouraged school leaders to exercise their authority and pay serious attention to the ever-changing Special Education regulations and issues, especially as they relate to IDEA and RtI. Karl Kristoff presented “Investigating Third Party Complaints,” and offered advice on what to do before, during and after the investigations, including a four page Checklist. Since we live in such a litigious society, Dave Farmelo offered dozens of ways to protect ourselves and districts in his session on “Limiting and Preventing Liability Related to Sports.” Overall, it was a very informative day.

Pictured left to right: Dylan Pauly, Ryan Everhart, Karl Kristoff and Dave Farmelo

Alberti Center to Research and Identify Ways to Stop Bullying

(Cont’d from cover)

Dr. Espelage went on to say that we must change our responses to reach this generation of kids, who are developmentally, socially and technologically very different. For many reasons, they are involved in bullying activity earlier and with more intensity than ever before, and we have to find more effective ways to prevent and react to the current environment. She feels that bullying is a “training ground” for other forms of abuse and aggression (control behavior, rape) as the abusers and victims grow older.

Dr. Alberti is fervent about this cause. She believes we will not make progress in alleviating the problem until schools and society change their thinking. She is committed to establishing this Center at the University at Buffalo, and according to Dr. Mary Gresham, Dean of the Graduate School of Education at UB, Dr. Alberti has made a very generous donation to help initiate and sustain the Center’s work for the immediate and extended future.

Dr. Gresham has already received many positive inquiries from throughout the country. Although the Center’s specific activities have not yet been determined, it is likely that they will include assessing current needs and issues, evaluating school programs, assistance with implementation of best known practices, providing speaker and researcher programs, and even consultant services directly in the schools. **The Western New York Educational Service Council will be a key partner in this effort.**

Make Note of Two Workshops Offered This Summer

July 21st “Non-Instructional Leader Series” for all Transportation, Food Service and Buildings and Grounds Supervisors by Hodgson Russ LLP Legal Team at the Millennium Hotel from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

July 28th “Organizing an Effective School Office: A Principal and Secretary Partnership” Limited to 15 Pairs. By Jill Pellis, Transit Middle School 8:30-Noon

Thanks to the UB Graduate School of Education

The WNYESC recognizes its invaluable partnership with the Graduate School of Education at SUNY Buffalo. The Council deeply appreciates support from Dr. Mary Gresham, Dean of the Graduate School of Education. We also thank the Faculty and Staff for their encouragement and participation in the Council programs and activities.

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UPCOMING CALENDAR

May

4th School Site Leadership Study Group 4:00 - 6:30pm Marriott

June

9th Board Meeting 11:30am Eagle House

July

21st "Non-Instructional Leaders Seminar" 9:00am - 2:30pm Millennium

28th "Organizing an Effective School Office:
A Principal & Secretary Partnership" 9:00am - Noon Transit M.S.

August

4th Educational Law Conference 8:30am - 3:00pm Millennium

September

15th Board Meeting 11:30 am Eagle House

16th GSE Faculty-Sup't. Luncheon 11:15am - 1:00pm Center for
Tomorrow

23rd "A Tiered Approach for Challenging
Student Behaviors-RtI in Action" 8:30am - 2:30pm Millennium

October

6th and 7th Global Citizens Conference Adams Mark Hotel

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Located at: SUNY Buffalo, 222 Baldy Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260-1000
716-645-2932; FAX 716-645-3840; email — debrabri@buffalo.edu