

VISIONS

Serving the Schools of Northeastern Pennsylvania

DECEMBER 2009

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

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“Street Gangs in Our Schools”

Ed Bachert

On Wednesday, November 18 and Thursday, November 19, 2009 over 900 educators came to Scranton High School and Valley View High School to hear speaker, Ed Bachert. Mr. Bachert is known as an educational consultant who specializes in street gang awareness.

Edward Bachert has over 25 years in the Criminal Justice field. He has worked as a Corrections Officer in a maximum security prison, a Corporate Security Officer for a fortune 500 company and as a Police Officer with a large metropolitan Police Department. Ed recently retired from the Allentown (PA) Police Department as the Assistant to the Chief of Police and Assistant Commander of the Emergency Response Team / Hostage Negotiation Unit, and is currently a Professor at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. Ed has trained thousands of teachers, health care workers and police officers from across the Country. He speaks regularly at many high profile State and National Conferences on a wide variety of topics. He is currently on staff at several Universities, numerous Municipal Police Academies, and approximately ten Educational Intermediate Units across Pennsylvania. Ed has written and developed curriculum for the PA Department of Education, PA Department of Health, the Municipal Police Officers Training Commission, several Universities, and numerous School Districts. Ed has attended over 300 police related schools, is a graduate of the PA State Corrections Academy, the Allentown Police Academy, and has a BS in Business Administration and an MPA from Kutztown University and a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice from St. Joseph’s University.

As **part one** of a two part initiative to educate teachers and administrators about the growing problem with street gangs in our schools, Ed Bachert’s message provided those in attendance with information about gang trends, gang tactics, gang mentality and gang violence. It focused participants on recognizing and identifying possible gang members, as well as gang investigations and gang suppression skills. The presentation focused on how Super Gangs such as, the Bloods and Crips out of California and the Chicago based street gangs, such as the People and Folk Nations, influence what occurs in our region. Participants looked at physical signs of gang involvement such as, gang signs, colors, tattoos, clothing, and examine the messages that are made public with graffiti. This presentation also examined how to safely interact with these individuals and recognize their dangerous verbal and non-verbal communications. Each gang was discussed along with how they are structured, operate and the new dangers that are present in dealing with these individuals.

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ISSUE

ARTICLES
Ed Bachert/TOSS
Technology Integrators
We the People
Message from Dr. Rosetti
PA Inspired Leadership

CALENDAR of EVENTS

December

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

8:30am Promoting Social and Emotional Competence

8:30am Para Standards Viewing

8:30am Geometry Math Academy

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

8:30am Child Study

9:00am PA Inspired Leadership Program

Thursday, December 3, 2009

8:30am CLM Paraprofessional Networking

9:00am PA Inspired Leadership Program

Friday, December 4, 2009

8:45am Safety Care

9:00am Curriculum Network- Moodle Demo

9:50am Curriculum Network

12:30pm Language Institute

12:30pm Data Training

1:00pm VC Healthy, Physically Fit

Monday, December 7, 2009

8:45am Non-Violent Crises Intervention Day 1 Training

9:00am VLINC Course Development

9:00am VLINC Developers

12:00pm Athletic Directors' Association

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

8:30am PANA Energy in Webcast

9:00am VLINC Developers Blackboard Basic Training

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

8:30am Computer Stimulation in Math

Thursday, December 10, 2009

8:30am Private Universe Project Math Academy Day

8:45am Social Studies Network

Friday, December 11, 2009

8:45am Safety Care

9:00am Drivers ED Network Meeting

10:30am Physical Therapy Topics

Monday, December 14, 2009

8:30am Graphing Calculator Workshop

9:00am VLINC Developers Blackboard Basic Training

Technology Integrators Instruct Non-Public School Teachers

As part of an on-going technology integration initiative within the Non-Public schools, Eliza Vagni, NEIU 19 Director of Community Services, and Anne Chervanka, NEIU 19 Educational Consultant, coordinated a series of technology courses for non-public school teachers. Modeling the Classrooms for the Future (CFF) approach, schools were asked to send two or more participants to five (5) two-hour technology sessions. The appropriately titled "SmartBoard Resources" course introduced participants to the 21st Century Teaching and Learning philosophy and taught them how to use the SmartBoard to enhance their instruction. At the conclusion of the course, each school will receive a SmartBoard installation, a SmartBoard, and a projector.

The courses are being taught by a team of technology integrators from NEIU 19 districts. The team includes:

Tom Kameroski	Abington Heights
Tim Snyder	Forest City Regional
Patty Smith	Montrose Area
Ty Yost	LIU 18
Mary Gene Eagen	Valley View
Kathy Matis	Susquehanna Community
Lori Sheldon	Wayne Highlands

Twenty teachers from ten non-public schools have completed the course. Another group of twenty teachers from seven other non-public schools will complete the course this month.

Additional professional development sessions are being developed now with the vision that a summer technology institute will round out this year's initiative. The theme of the initiative is entitled "**Beyond Bricks and Textbooks—The 21st Century School**".

Some of the sessions being offered after the first of the year include:

"Getting to Know Your PC"

"Classroom Instruction using Google Docs"

"Verizon Thinkfinity"

"Exploring Wikispaces"

"Multimedia in Today's Classroom"

"Digital Storytelling"

"PowerPoint for Beginners and Advanced PowerPoint"

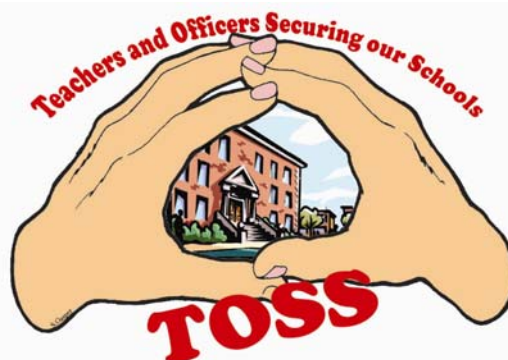
"SmartBoard Basics and Intermediate SmartBoard"

"Desktop Publishing"

Non-Public schools share a common goal and vision of expanding both technology use and improving their instruction through the use of technology.

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Part two of the initiative involves lead trainer, **Robert Maguire**, Intelligence/STG Coordinator, Lackawanna County Prison. The initiative called **TOSS (Teachers and Officers Securing our Schools)** will create well-trained and knowledgeable teams within the schools which serve as liaisons between law enforcement and middle and high school students. The teams will be trained in the identification of gang profiles, including gang communication both verbal and non-verbal identifiers. Teams will learn how to address and provide guidance for suspected gang affiliated students. Each participating school district will determine who should be included on their team. Recommended team members may include, but not be limited to: Administrators, Guidance Counselors, School Nurses, Teachers, Members of the SAP team, etc.



This initiative involves the District Attorneys from the three counties that NEIU 19 represents: Lackawanna, Wayne, and Susquehanna Counties. Children and Youth, as well as Juvenile Probation are involved and participating in the initiative. It is our hope that we will take the lead within our state while working to combat street gangs in our schools.

Announcing
NEIU Professional Development Online Module
We the People



We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution is a nationally acclaimed civic education program focusing on the history and principles of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights for upper elementary, middle, and high school students. The program is administered with the assistance of a national network of coordinators in every state and congressional district in the nation.

The **We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution** program not only enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy, it also helps them identify the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. At the same time, students discover the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

This program is directed by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the United States Department of Education by an act of Congress and established in 1987 under the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. There is a coordinator for every Congressional District.

Dr. Lillian DeLeo, Coordinator for the Pennsylvania 10th Congressional District, and member of the Curriculum and Instruction Department of NEIU, has developed this on-line course. It is open to American History, civics and government teachers in grades 5-12. Instruction is differentiated into three levels: upper elementary, middle and high school. Videos include demonstrations of students' participating in mock trials and simulated congressional hearings. This self-paced course is designed for individual and independent educators and is linked to resources at the Center for Civic Education as well as other relevant civics and government websites.

Teachers who complete this course are eligible to receive a free classroom set of *We the People* student textbooks.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

- 8:45am Reading Network
- 9:00am VLINC Developers Blackboard Basic Training
- 11:30am VLINC Point of Contact Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

- 8:30am Verbal Behavior Networking for Paraprofessionals
- 8:30am Child Study

Thursday, December 17, 2009

- 8:45am eStrategic Planning work session for Phase I
- 9:00am Children's Literature Workshop and Access PA

Friday, December 18, 2009

- 8:00am LETRS
- 8:30am Private Universe Project Math Academy Day

Monday, December 21, 2009

- 8:45am Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Day 2 Training

For a complete listing of
NEIU events, visit us on-line

www.iu19.org

Message from the Desk of the Executive Director

As we approach the holiday season, we settle in for the heart of the academic year. All new year adjustments have been made. Teachers and students are now accustomed to each other and finally everyone has their schedule set to memory.

It is a relatively short period of time. We must make the best of our opportunity. Let us not look forward to "next year" or dwell in the past. The present is what is most significant. Teachers must model positive behaviors and flood the minds of their charges with rigorous and challenging instruction. Students should discipline themselves with a strong work-ethic and an appreciation and openness to assimilate and absorb the teaching offered for their benefit. Mutual respect and understanding provides a smooth learning surface for attaining the maximum achievement possible. The academic partnership of student and teacher insures the greatest chance of success. Success is working diligently in meeting ones potential and doing the best that can be done. Awards and recognitions take care of themselves. They are something one can be proud of if attained, but are not as worthwhile as the satisfaction of trying hard, playing the game within the rules, and enjoying the experience.

To everyone— our wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season. Let us share our good fortune with the more needy and tell our friends and family how much they mean to us.

Fred L. Rosette



Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership and Administrative Certification Under PIL Act 48

By Joan Esgro, Region 3 Regional Site Coordinator

As of January 1, 2008, the school code was amended to focus studies of school administrators on nine leadership standards and practices that have the greatest impact on student achievement.

All active school and system leaders employed as Principal, Assistant or Vice Principal, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Intermediate Unit Executive Director, Intermediate Unit Assistant Executive Director, or Director of an Area Vocational-Technical School are the professional educators affected by this legislation.

A Principal's Induction Program that addresses the three core leadership standards is a part of the program. Current certified principals, vice or assistant principals, who are employed for the first time on or after January 1, 2008 must complete the induction program within the first five years of employment as a principal, vice or assistant principal.

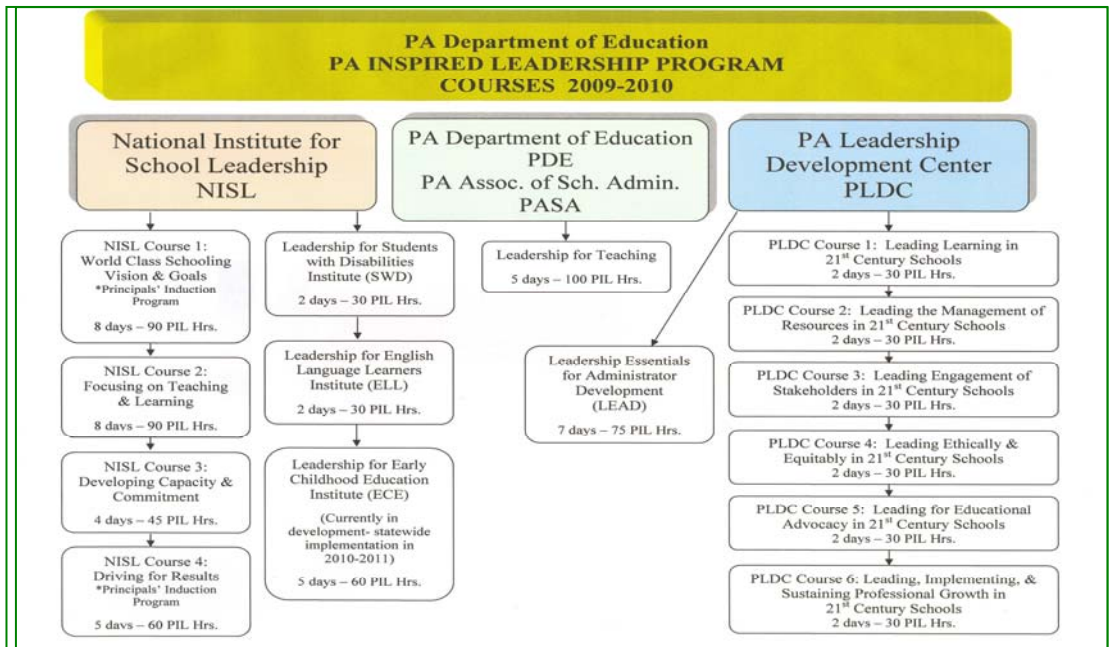
All school administrators from the seven listed categories, regardless of time spent on the job are required to complete 180 PIL Act 48 hours, sometimes called Act 45 hours, in a five-year compliance period.

This chart lists the PIL Course Offerings for 2009-10:

You can go to the PIL homepage by going to www.education.state.pa.us and clicking on Programs on the left side of the screen., next click on O-R and finally click on PA Inspired Leaders. There you will arrive at the PIL Homepage. At this site, you can find the current application, the regional schedules and additional information about the program. There are eight demographic regions in the state. We are Region 3 and that is comprised of all educational entities in the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit and Luzerne Intermediate Unit.

If all of this sounds confusing to you, you are not alone. If you have questions, it is best to call my office at 570-876-9226 and I can help you through the process.

Some important facts remain the same. You should always start by going to the state website at www.education.state.pa.us. On the left side of the screen, first click on Certifications, then click on Act 48 Continuing Professional Education, next click on Continuing Professional Education under Act 48, finally click on Act 48 Reporting System which is located in the middle of the screen. There you can put in your PPID number and see exactly when your personal compliance period begins and ends and how many hours you still need for completion. If you call my office with that information, we can work together to customize a plan to suit your needs.



Also on the PIL homepage, you can investigate many other options for PIL hours that are available throughout the state. There may be a cost for these alternatives courses. The PIL Courses offered through the state are free, including materials.

NEIU 19 Staff volunteers for the Family-to-Family program in assisting with the preparation of a traditional Thanksgiving Day Dinner for those less fortunate.



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