



INSIGHT ONLINE

September 29, 2011

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Notes from the CEO Bill Sims



In the last edition of Insight Online I wrote about my disappointment that provisions in HB 153 allowing hybrid (blended) schools were stripped from the bill in conference committee. At the risk of over staying my welcome on the topic I was struck by an article in “Yahoo Games” about online gamers accomplishing an incredible feat. The first paragraph of the article basically says it all:

“Online gamers have achieved a feat beyond the realm of ‘Second Life’ or ‘Dungeons and Dragons’: they have deciphered the structure of an enzyme of an AIDS-like virus that had thwarted scientists for a decade.”

The exploit was published last Sunday in the journal “Nature Structural & Molecular Biology.”

The gamer’s 3-D and spatial reasoning skills were key to their accomplishment. My point is simply this. Online learning, digital science simulations, gaming strategies in curriculum, to say nothing of digital learning experience are so much a part of the 21-century learning environment that we need to be thinking about accelerating this mode by encouraging blended learning programs in the state, not hindering them. Enough said.

This past week the Ohio Alliance held its first annual Charter School Law Workshop with 117 attendees, 16 Ohio attorneys presenting and 13 topics covered. Chairman of the Ohio Alliance’s Board of Directors, Chad Readler (Jones Day) welcomed the group along with Associate Dean, Rachel Janutis. Thank you Capital University Law School for making your classrooms available for the workshop sessions. If you’ve ever felt unsure about school and teacher liabilities relative to technology, social media, student discipline, sunshine laws and human resources (some of the topics covered), or were just looking for an historical legal overview of community schools in Ohio, this was the place to be. Feedback from the workshop confirms our suspicions that this needs to be an annual event. Thank you to all the presenters. A list of presenting attorneys is footnoted below.

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Articles of Interest...

[Jury's out on Michigan's school-funding formula - Toledo Blade](#)

[Urban Charters Outstrip Performance of Nonurban, Study Finds](#)

[Area Charter Schools see big gains on state report cards](#)

[Pearson steps up push into online schooling](#)

Contact Us

Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools
33 N. Third Street,

Congratulations to Citizens Academy for becoming one of the U.S. Department of Education's 2011 National Blue Ribbon Schools.

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Not to be Missed

Public schools chase charters

By Ben Wieder, Stateline Staff Writer

Science Standards: Ohio will join 19 other states in leading in the creation of Next Generation Science Standards to define the content and practices students need to learn from kindergarten through high school.

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HELP SELECT THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE AWARD WINNERS!



This is your chance to help select this year's Teacher of the Year and School Leader of the Year! Go to our website www.oapcs.org and click on Ohio Conference/Awards. There you will find all of the information you need to make a nomination for the 2011 State Conference Awards.

These prestigious awards have become highly competitive over the past few years. We want to honor the cream of the crop and we need your help to do it!

The deadline for all nominations is **Friday, October 7**. No late applications will be accepted.

This year, we will be honoring teachers and school leader of OAPCS Member schools, and we will be notifying the top three candidates in each category prior to the conference. The finalists' names and profiles will be published in the Annual Conference Guide. The finalists will also be recognized during the award presentation ceremony. The winner in each category will be kept confidential until the conference when it will be announced. Winners must be present to receive the award.

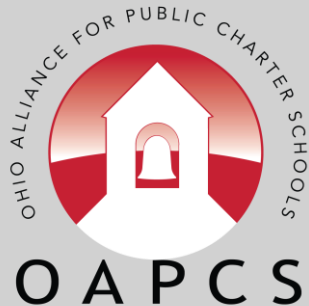
Remember, October 7 is the deadline to submit your nomination. Take a moment today to submit your nomination!

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Early-Bird Deadline Expires October 6!

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Registration is well underway for our 5th Annual State Conference to be held December 6-7 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. We are expecting upwards of 1000 attendees, 70 exhibitors, 75 breakout sessions and several relevant keynote addresses.

Many schools are taking advantage of the one day teacher pass as well as the teacher group discount rates to make the conference an annual professional development venture.

Our next price break deadline is Thursday, October 6. With the early bird registration discount, each admission is discounted \$50. Register today to save big!

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U.S. Department of Education Announces Grants for \$25 Million to Charter School Management Organizations: Ohio-based Breakthrough Charter Schools Receives \$3.5 Million

September 28, 2011

Contact: Press Office , (202) 401-1576, press@ed.gov

The U.S. Department of Education announced today charter school grants totaling \$25 million to replicate and expand high-quality charter schools that have demonstrated success. Today's grants will serve nearly 45,000 students in 124 new and 3 expanded charter schools over the next five years.

“Several high-quality charter schools across the country are making an amazing difference in our children's lives, especially when charters in inner-city communities are performing as well, if not better, than their counterparts in much wealthier suburbs,”Duncan said. “Every one of our grantees serves a student population that is majority low-income and virtually all exceed the average academic performance for all students in their state.”

The Administration will invest more than \$250 million this year to assist in the planning and implementation of public charter schools and dissemination of their successful practices through the Charter School Grants Program. In addition, the President's fiscal year 2012 budget requests \$372 million for Expanding Educational Options, which includes grants for supporting effective charter schools.

The purpose of the Charter School Grants Program is to increase financial support for these public schools, build a better national understanding of the public charter school model and increase the number of high-quality public charter schools across the nation.

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Citizens Academy is a Blue Ribbon School



National Awards: Eighteen Ohio schools join a list of 305 buildings nationwide named Thursday as 2011 Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education.

The designation goes to schools that display overall academic excellence or success in closing achievement gaps. The individual schools will be recognized at a ceremony Nov. 14-15 in Washington, D.C.

"America's long-term economic prosperity and civic engagement depends on our children receiving a world-class education," U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said. "National Blue Ribbon Schools are committed to accelerating student achievement and preparing students for success in college and careers. Their success is an example for others to follow."

To be named a Blue Ribbon School, a building must either rank among the state's highest performing schools based on assessments or have at least 40% of its students from disadvantaged backgrounds and improve performance to high levels, according to the USDOE.

All of Ohio's awardees were classified as high performing. Four schools are considered disadvantaged and six are private schools.

Ohio's Blue Ribbon Schools are: All Saints School in Cincinnati, Cardington-Lincoln Elementary in Cardington, **Citizens Academy in Cleveland**, Kensington Intermediate School in Rocky River, Kings Mills Elementary, Lake Elementary in Harville, Maplewood Elementary in North Bloomfield, Putman Elementary in Blanchester, Saint Angela Merici School in Fairview Park, Saint Barnabas Catholic School in Northfield, St. Columban School in Loveland, St. Francis Xavier School in Medina, St. Joan of Arc School in Chagrin Falls, South Range High School in Canfield, Springboro High School, Timmons Elementary in Chagrin Falls, Union Elementary in Upper Sandusky, and West Boulevard Elementary in Youngstown.

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Join Disney's Planet Challenge



Imagine your students embracing science. Imagine them identifying a real-life issue and creating a plan of action. Imagine your students taking ownership of their world.

Disney's Planet Challenge can help make this vision a reality. This project-based learning competition for grades 3-8 inspires kids to explore and achieve, to become stewards of the environment and to make a difference at school, at

home, and in their local communities—all while meeting national and state curriculum standards!

Enrollment is now open. It's free and comes with online tools to help teachers meet their goals while empowering students.

Learn more at: <http://disney.go.com/planetchallenge/>

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Welcome Ms. Natalee Long as Cornerstone Academy Community's New School Leader



Natalee M. Long currently serves as the Chief Administrative Officer/Principal of Cornerstone Academy in Westerville, Ohio. She earned a Master of Education degree from Lee University (Cleveland, TN) in 2006 and is continuing her studies in Educational Leadership at The Ohio State University.

Long brings to Mosaica Education Incorporated a wide-range of educational experiences from both the elementary and secondary levels where she served as a lead teacher and a department chair. While at Cornerstone Academy she has served as a music specialist, behavior specialist and now as the CAO. Long is dedicated to creating a welcoming center of educational excellence with a determined focus on the development of every student.

In her time away from work, Long volunteers in the Westerville Community Band and Orchestra, is an active member of Jersey Baptist Church where she is the orchestra director, and enjoys time with her Central Ohio family.

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Tools for Teachers



Equip educators and students for the 2011-12 school year with tools available through eTech Ohio! Licenses for Atomic Learning (an online professional development solution) are available for public school districts and community schools at no cost, as funds remain available. To learn more, or to begin an application for services, visit www.etech.ohio.gov/online-learning. Educators and school staff can also access Computer Aided Design and GIS mapping tools for the classroom, as well as technology training solutions through eTech Ohio's programs and services. To learn more, contact Jim Harvey at james.harvey@etech.ohio.gov.

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ODE Anti-Bullying Webinar: October 5th, 2011



The Ohio Department of Education has launched a year-long series of webinars offered by the Ohio Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation and Anti-Bullying (Anti-HIB) Initiative. School professionals, parents and community support personnel are encouraged to participate in each session, which will be presented by content experts from each Anti-HIB agency. The next one-hour session will be offered October 5, 2011. Each webinar is open to the first 100 participants, with registration

beginning 30 minutes before each scheduled program. Previously completed webinars are available for viewing (Anti-HIB Policy on August 3rd and Policy Supports on September 7th) [by clicking here](#). Additional questions may be directed to Jill Jackson, jill.jackson@ode.state.oh.us or 614-466-9540.

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FREE Regional Value-Added Workshops for Community Schools this Fall

Don't miss these informative sessions! If you serve grades any of grades 4-8, value added data impacts your school in many ways:

- the ranking system (increase one designation for overall "Above," decrease one designation with two consecutive overall "Belows"),
- charter school closure,
- and, increasingly, teacher and principal evaluations (mandated as 50% of teacher effectiveness ratings for RtT participating schools).

New this year, students' historical data now travels across LEA's - meaning that ALL charter school students (in grades 4-8), will have value added data (if they have previous data from Ohio schools). By fall of 2013, math and reading teachers for grades 4-8 will receive teacher-level value-added reports.

OAPCS' VP of School Performance and Accountability, Marianne Lombardo, has been selected, along with Lenny Schafer and Sue Newell of Ohio Council of Community Schools, to assist Batelle in assuring that Community School value added issues and needs are addressed. They will participating in the 2-day Community School Value-Added workshops to be held:

- September 22 & 23: Columbus
- October 10 & 11: Akron
- October 14 & 15: Cincinnati
- October 20 & 21: Toledo
- October 24 & 25: Columbus

These workshops are open to ALL charter schools - NOT just those participating in Race to the Top, and are geared to schools serving any of grades 4-8. Registration is through STARS, and requires a DVAL Selection form. School Leaders should select a Value Added Leader from their staff that has a 1) willingness to lead the charge in their school to make value-added

information a diagnostic tool for instructional improvement, 2) a willingness to build others' capacity to use value-added reports, 3) strong relationship-building skills, 4) an understanding of educational improvement and change leadership, and 5) strong experience using multiple data sources to inform instructional improvement.

The responsibilities of the Community Value-Added Leader will be: 1) attend a Community School Value-Added Leader Workshop in the fall, 2) work directly with VALs, 3) partner with building administrators to co-facilitate information sharing and training on how to use value-added data with staff members, 4) build the capacity of building-level teams and teacher based teams to use value-added reports for diagnostic purposes, 5) arrange EVAAS® access for appropriate stakeholders, 6) deliver updates to staff members, and 7) assist with the collection of participant feedback.

School leaders should submit a Selection Form by September 2, 2011, via Fax to (614) 481-8997 or E-mail to OhioRttT@BattelleforKids.org. Please feel free to contact Marianne if any questions (614) 744-2266 ext. 201 or mlombardo@oapcs.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Office of Management and Budget: Shared Services - Survey Coming

In March 2011, Governor John Kasich unveiled his first Executive Budget proposal which sought to fill the \$8 billion budget gap and streamline state and local government. Among his proposals was the creation of Regional Shared Service Centers as well as the elimination of Ohio statutes that inhibit government entities from working together to cut costs.

Shared Services is a collaborative strategy which is fundamentally about optimizing staff, equipment and facilities and other corporate or public resources across jurisdictions to improve operational efficiencies and related outcomes. This approach, because of its high marks in the areas of cost reduction, improved services and increased efficiencies, has quickly gained attention and support among policy makers across the United States and internationally.

Am. Sub. H.B. 153, the FY 2012-2013 biennial state operating budget for Ohio, was passed and enacted in June 2011 and included several shared services initiatives. For example, the budget bill under temporary law section 267.50.90 requires the Director of the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education to conduct a shared services survey of Ohio's school districts, community schools, STEM schools, chartered nonpublic schools, joint vocational school districts, and other educational service providers & local political subdivisions by October 15, 2011. This survey will be utilized to collect baseline data on existing shared services arrangements as well as to identify where there may be opportunities to do more.

Stay tuned for the survey which will be coming out soon.

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Technology Planning Tools



Don't forget that the Technology Planning Tool (TPT) and the OSFC Technology Toolkit are available to create and update your district's Technology Plans. The TPT and the Toolkit can be found online at www.etech.ohio.gov/technology-planning, along with additional resources to help technology staff make the most of the tech planning process. eTech Ohio will also release the Biennial Educational Technology Assessment (BETA) 10-11 data this fall, which allows districts to understand better how their teachers and students are using technology in the classroom.

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