

Chester County  
Intermediate Unit  
*The First 50 Years*



**2021-2022**  
Annual  
Report



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# Mission

The Chester County Intermediate Unit is a dynamic educational service agency providing quality, innovative and cost-effective programs and services to enhance the lives of students, educators and members of our communities.

# Vision

Educational leadership for a better Chester County and beyond.

# Beliefs

**Customer Service:** We do everything with the goal of exceeding our customers' expectations.

**Partnership:** We work collaboratively with our partners.

**Leadership:** We accept a leadership role in serving the needs of our communities.

**Innovation:** We promote change to meet evolving needs and foster innovation.

**Advocacy:** We serve as a liaison for our member districts at the county, state and national levels.

**Professional Commitment:** We maintain the highest standards of conduct.

**Organizational Culture:** We provide an environment that fosters teamwork, creativity, professional growth, high morale, opportunity and pride in all we do.

# Essence

Brighter Futures Together



## Because we care...

A message from our Board President, Bonnie J. Wolff

We ended the 2020-21 school year filled with hope that 2021-22 would be a return to normal. In many ways the year was far from normal, but in the way that is most important it was a typical year here at CCIU. What continued to shine through, despite the difficulties and challenges that we faced, was that at the heart of CCIU, we care. We care about our students. We care about one another. We care about our community.

Because we care. Our teachers and instructional assistants provided nurturing, safe and secure learning environments for our students. Our administrative staff worked tirelessly to ensure that all staff had the resources they needed to do their jobs. Teachers checked in with their students, supervisors checked in with their staff, and colleagues checked in with one another.

Because we care. Our school districts turned to us to find solutions for students for whom we are their last chance for success. Our professional and support staff brainstormed to find ways to help our students navigate through yet another school year in the pandemic.

Because we care. CCIU showed once again that when times are the toughest, we are at our best.

Because we care. We continued our day-to-day work. We partnered with West Chester University to create and launch a Superintendent Letter of Eligibility program. We opened the Chester County Horticulture Center. We expanded online learning programs for elementary students and increased our enrollment in a single year from 1,900 students to 3,400 students. Because we care, we never ever stopped.

What we have learned in our first 50 years of existence, is that CCIU is adaptable. What others see as extraordinary, we simply see as our responsibility. Because we care deeply about our mission, about our students, about each other, we will always emerge from tough times stronger. Because we care, our students will always receive the supports they need to reach their full potential. Because we care, CCIU will always be an integral part of Chester County's and the commonwealth's educational community. Because we care, we find the inner strength to keep going despite personal hardships, professional challenges and seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

Because we care when others fall apart, Team CCIU comes together for our students, for one another and for our community. We are Team CCIU, because we care.

Sincerely,

*Bonnie J. Wolff*

Bonnie J. Wolff,  
CCIU Board President





# Building Relationships. Building Success.

A message from our Executive Director, Dr. George F. Fiore

As I conclude my third year serving as the executive director of the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU), much of which coincided with a global pandemic, I think about what has gotten us this far and, specifically, about who has helped us along the way.

While there is still much work to do, the past year has shown us what is possible when we work together towards a common goal. I am grateful for all of you and the opportunities we will have in the 2022-23 school year to make a positive impact on each other, our students, our partners and our communities. Together, we are Team CCIU.

Bestselling author Daniel Pink said, "This is what it means to serve: improving another's life and, in turn, improving the world." When I think back on the 2021-22 school year, I know the relationships we have built as individuals and as an organization have paved the way to success during these extraordinary times. The success of the CCIU is only achievable through the combined success of our students, families, community and beyond.

When a student finds her passion at the Technical College High School, we succeed. When we provide families with the support and answers they've been desperately seeking, we succeed. When the CCIU collaborates with business partners to build our local workforce, we succeed. And when a student with learning differences reaches a

milestone, we succeed. These successes, and many others, are the direct result of our service and dedication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. George F. Fiore".

Dr. George F. Fiore,  
CCIU Executive Director



Celebrated the grand opening of the CCIU Horticulture Center, which serves as a collaborative space where students are able to prepare for careers in the horticulture and landscaping industries through hands-on experiences with real clients and community partners. Guests in attendance learned about the blossoming partnership between the CCIU Learning Center Horticulture program and the Chester County Food Bank. As part of the program, the students donate fresh vegetables produced in the greenhouses to the Chester County Food Bank.

# Major Initiatives

- Celebrated the grand opening of the Collaborative Learning Center, a space that fosters creativity and provides Brandywine Virtual Academy (BVA) teachers and students with virtual and in-person learning opportunities.
- Coordinated and hosted a legislative briefing for county superintendents to meet with the Chester County legislative delegation and commissioners to discuss school staffing shortages and the mental health needs of children and youth.
- Conducted superintendent search services for Carlisle Area School District, Downingtown Area School District and York Suburban School District.
- Conducted communication audits for Downingtown Area School District, Owen J. Roberts School District and Spring-Ford Area School District; also conducted a communications systems review for Cheltenham School District.
- Expanded BVA to include an elementary program, serving 1,178 elementary students and boosting BVA's total enrollment to 3,443 students.
- Conducted the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Chester County College Fair when more than 629 high school students and their parents learned about post-graduation options.
- Negotiated an agreement with Blue Cross to save Chester County school districts at least \$8.4 million in prescription drug pricing over a three-year term beginning in 2022-23.



1971

Pennsylvania intermediate units begin operations. Among the first CCIU employees are Executive Director Stanley K. Landis, Margaret Watson, Ruthbarbara Clifton, Constance Benarick and Vito "VJ" Selvaggio.



CCIU opens the Chester County Child Development Center

1971

Pennsylvania's PARC Consent Decree establishes that children with disabilities have the right to a free and appropriate public



1971



U.S. Congress passes P.L. 94-142, which requires all students with disabilities to receive a free and appropriate public education

1975

Pennsylvania Legislature passes the Act of 1975 (P.L. 180, no. 89), mandating non-public school services

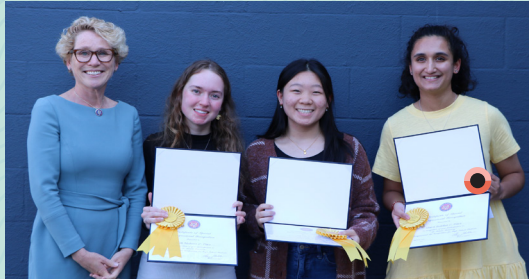


1975



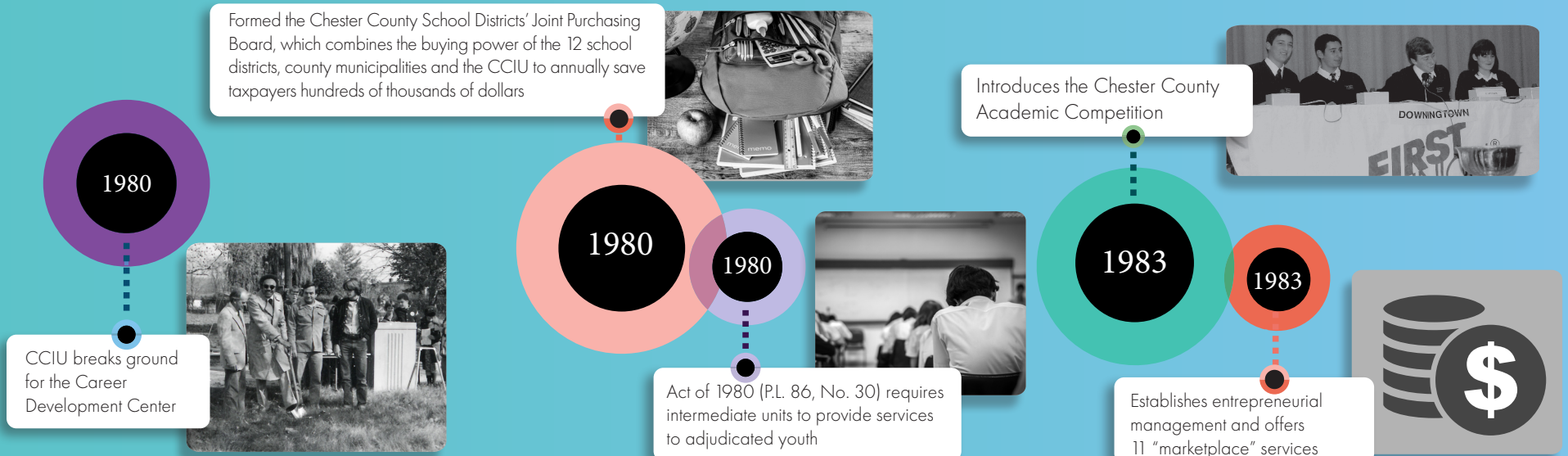


Conducted the 2022 Chester County High School Art Festival and 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Congressional District Art Competition for more than 300 students. A reception and awards ceremony took place in April, during which the Congressional Art Competition and Chester County Art Association Awards were presented to students.



Congresswoman Houlahan's 2022 Congressional Art Show Winners (pictured from left to right): Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan; third place – **Leah Nicberte**, West Chester Henderson High School; second place – **Jia Lin**, Conestoga High School and first place – **Shurti Bedekar**, West Chester Henderson High School.

- Conducted the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Chester County Spelling Bee for 35 students who won their school's local spelling bee. The Chester County Spelling Bee is open to all students enrolled in a Chester County public, private, parochial or home school in any grade up to and including grade eight.
- Refinanced the 2014 Chester County School Authority Bond Issue at a lower interest rate, saving over \$180,000 in interest costs.
- Conducted program reviews and supported multiple Chester and Delaware County school districts as well as approved private schools. Through the Behavior Skills Training (BST) model, specialized instructional coaches instruct, model, rehearse and provide feedback to administrators, teachers, therapists and paraprofessionals on current research-based approaches including Applied Behavior Analysis and Verbal Behavior for the analysis of language.
- Approved for the first-ever, state-registered pre-apprenticeship program in Chester County. The program, Build Your Trade, will be offered at the Technical College High School (TCHS) Brandywine Campus beginning in September 2022. The program will focus on meeting the demand for workers in the construction trade industry and will also provide students with access to all the resources necessary to excel in this career field.
- Developed a dual enrollment pilot program with Delaware County Community College (DCCC) for TCHS Pennock's Bridge HVAC & Refrigeration Technology students, which will encourage completion of the DCCC HVAC Certificate program by removing the barrier of tuition.





# Major Initiatives (continued)

- Initiated a collaborative project between the CCIU Learning Center and the CCIU's Career, Technical and Customized Education division to align the Career Academy programs with the requirements to become accredited career and technical programs, which will provide more opportunities for students to earn industry-recognized credentials while continuing to improve employability skills that are common across workplaces.
- Held the annual Career & Training Fair for TCHS students and 138 local businesses and industry partners who gathered at the TCHS Brandywine Campus. Over 1,000 interviews were conducted at the fair, which allows students to have personal one-on-one interviews with employers, giving them the opportunity to walk away with a job offer or a second interview.
- Expanded the Training & Consultation (TaC) team to support two large-scale special projects in Coatesville Area and West Chester Area school districts, which focused on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).
- Helped relieve the substitute teacher shortage by creating a Classroom Management Training program. Created a Classroom Management Training program as a result of the Classroom Monitor status now offered to qualified instructional assistants by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

TCHS Career and  
Training Fair



Congress passes P.L. 99-457, mandating intermediate units to provide early intervention (special education preschool services)

1985

CCIU Teacher Center opens



1986

CCIU begins operating Chester County Head Start



1988



CCIU moves from the Stanley K. Landis Building in Coatesville to its new headquarters at the Oaklands Corporate Center in Exton and will house up to 150 central office staff.

1989

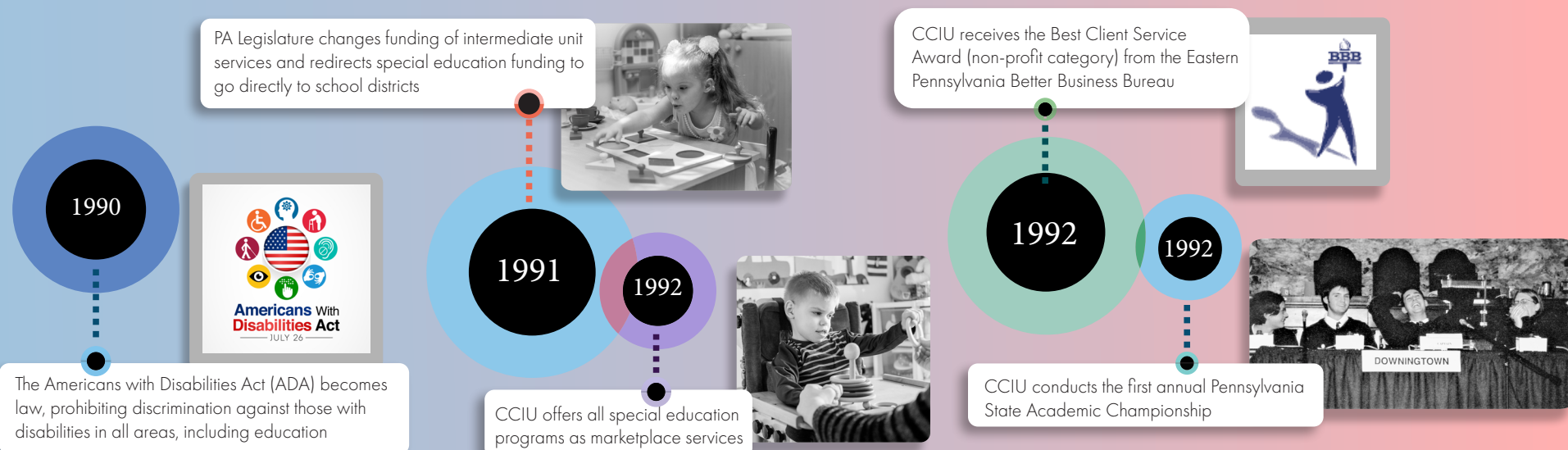
1989

Unifies the county's vocational education system under the operation of the CCIU. Central and Northern Chester County Vocational Technical Schools become the Center for Arts and Technology Brandywine and Pickering Campuses.



- Developed, designed and led two new Esports events: the first PETE&C Esports Experience and the first annual Esports College Fair. The PETE&C event featured hands-on experiences with gaming, presentations, panels and posters as well as a playground. Over 70 educators from across the commonwealth participated in the event.
- Increased employee wellness initiatives to include Wondr, a digital weight management program; Catapult Health, a virtual checkup program; and Do It Better Wellness sessions.
- Enhanced CCIU's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) by adding more dedicated counselors, making it easier for employees to get immediate access to mental health services when they are most needed.
- Provided psychological evaluation services and staff support to all Chester County school districts and to 10 districts beyond Chester County, completing over 900 evaluations during the 2021-22 school year.
- Developed creative recruiting strategies in order to meet staffing demands for highly qualified candidates, including implementation of a referral and sign-on bonus structure, combined with a successful social media campaign.
- Developed and implemented the new Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) for children, youth and young adults who have mental, emotional and behavioral health needs.

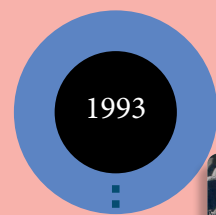
- Grew the Teacher Induction Program when a majority of educator candidates indicated via a poll that a mentoring program was most important to new educators. As a result, a record number of new CCIU teachers participated in the induction program.
- Provided services to 398 Discover program students, 325 of whom received job training support and 73 received travel training instruction.
- Held the Holiday Hope Chest charity event at TCHS Brandywine, Pennock's Bridge and Pickering campuses, which provided a free day of shopping for more than 500 economically disadvantaged Chester County residents. The value of all donated goods and money raised totaled over \$50,000.
- Developed a Talent Development Center, which provides educational resources to existing employees, promoting pathways to obtaining teacher certification and other exciting career growth opportunities.
- Hosted two Chester County Safe School Summits: Prevention and Preparedness and Parenting in a Digital World. The Prevention and Preparedness summit focused on how all educators can contribute to creating a safe school environment for students and staff. Parenting in a Digital World focused on examining current digital interaction apps and platforms, increasing parental awareness of digital interaction threats and identifying the steps that parents can take to keep children safe.



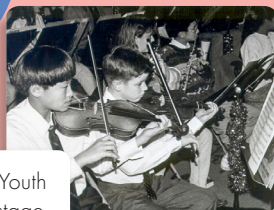


# Major Initiatives (continued)

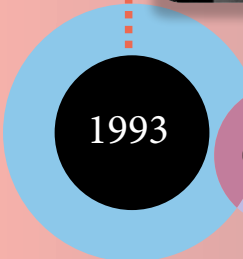
- Launched the CCIU's Virtual Teacher Center in December, moving from its physical location in Coatesville to a virtual model.
- Hosted a virtual Student Information Systems (SIS) Vendor Showcase to provide educators throughout Pennsylvania the opportunity to learn about all the specific components of 11 different SISs through customized, content-specific presentations.
- Selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Science Education Leaders (PennSEL) Network, a cohort of leadership teams representing 19 regions across Pennsylvania with the goal of improving science teaching and learning for all students.
- Hosted a series of executive development sessions on Systemic Approach to Support System Redesign, which was facilitated by the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE). The goal is to build district leadership teams' capacity to drive change and transform their districts into systems that produce improved student performance.
- Launched two new collaborative networking groups for Chester County educators: the Instructional Technology Integrationists Collaborative (ITIC) and the Curriculum Think Tank Collaborative.
- Installed a new Computer Information Systems (CIS) lab at the TCHS Brandywine Campus.
- Partnered with Oxford Area School District to deploy and support its Multimedia program lab at Oxford Area High School. The lab features state-of-the-art iMacs and MacBook Pros configured with apps used widely in industry to provide a high-quality, career-building learning experience for students.
- Collaborated with over 200 volunteers and dozens of sponsors to host the Chester County Special Olympics at Coatesville Area Senior High School. Over 1,200 student-athletes participated in the games.
- Deployed updated hardware and software for the Commercial Art & Design Media program lab at the TCHS Pickering Campus. The program uses industry-standard tools to prepare creative students for admission to post-secondary art schools and employment in the graphic communications industry.
- Prepared over 800 new Chromebooks for the Child and Career Development Center (CCDC); the CCIU Learning Center (CCLC); and the Gateway, Transition-to-Work and CHAAMP programs. The goal is to move toward a 1:1 laptop program to improve virtual learning for all students.
- Created a 911 Center Simulation for the Criminal Justice and Police Science program at the TCHS Brandywine Campus. The simulation provides students with realistic experiences of typical law-enforcement situations encountered in the real world.



The Chester County Youth Orchestra takes the stage for the first time



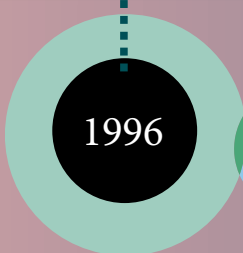
All CCIU staff trained in customer service



CCIU introduces its 100<sup>th</sup> marketplace program – the Summer Academies



CCIU named a semifinalist in the Innovations in American Government Awards program conducted by the Ford Foundation and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University



Formed the Chester County Recruiting Consortium to search for and identify quality, certificated professionals to teach in Chester County schools





- Hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual African American Read-In event, which featured author Kwame Alexander. Over 400 students in grades 4-12 attended the event, which was coordinated by Brandywine Virtual Academy (BVA) staff.
- Completed multiple renovations to further improve the quality of our programs and buildings. Renovations included upgrading the HVAC and electrical systems at the CCIU Learning Center; completing roof replacements at the CCIU Learning Center, Options Plus and TCHS Pickering farmhouse buildings; and renovations of leased space for preschool and Pre-K Counts classrooms. In addition, land development plans, property subdivision plans, building design plans and RCAP grant administration were initiated for the new CCIU Toddler Center building.



CCIU's Practical Nursing program ranked #6 in Pennsylvania by Nursing Schools Almanac. The ranking is based on student performance on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) exam over an extended period of time, which is used to determine the quality of practical nursing programs.

Formed Chester County Regional Educational Services (CCRES), a non-profit organization, to meet the growing need for behavioral health services for children in Chester County



1997

Charter school



Charter schools established by the Charter School Act of 1997. IUs in southeastern PA open the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cyber Charter School

1999

1999



Over 95% of U.S. public schools have internet access

CCIU's 900 employees gather for the first school day of Y2K



2000

2001



In partnership with CCIU, Citadel Federal Credit Union establishes the Citadel Heart of Learning Award, which recognizes Chester County teachers who show dedication in and outside of the classroom

# Staff Awards and Recognitions

## Leading the Way!

### Recipient of the Gary L. Miller Distinguished Service Award

For her dedication to public relations and legislative services in Chester County and across Pennsylvania, **Mary Jeanne Curley**, CCIU's director of Communications & Learning Solutions, was presented with the 2020-21 Gary L. Miller Distinguished Service Award by the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units (PAIU) at the PAIU annual conference at Seven Springs.

Mary has worked tirelessly and passionately over her 36-year career at the CCIU to support the diverse needs of students in Chester County and beyond. As one of the top educational leaders in the communications field, she is involved with numerous projects, committees and advocacy groups across the state. She serves as the spokesperson for the CCIU and is the executive director of the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association (PenSPRA), an organization of school public relations professionals whose goal is to improve educational communication and support student achievement

through systematic, proactive and responsible public relations programs.

According to Shannan Guthrie, program director of the executive director's office/corporate communications for Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit, "Mary is a genuine, kind and thoughtful leader - and a highly respected member of the intermediate unit family."

Mary, said Guthrie, is always willing to lend a helping hand, lead a project, support an initiative with resources, etc., be it for PAIU or another IU. She is truly committed to the work and mission of PAIU, and helping each IU be successful.

Gary L. Miller, executive director of Midwestern Intermediate Unit from 1983 to 1992, had a profound impact on educational initiatives in the Commonwealth, and it is in his honor that PAIU selects a recipient for the award annually.

CCIU "breaks ground" for new headquarters

2001

Assumes all network design, engineering, management and support for Chesconet, which provides a fiber network that connects businesses and non-profits throughout southeastern Pennsylvania

Chesconet

2002

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is signed into law by President George W. Bush on January 8

No Child Left Behind!

2002

2003

CCIU moves into its new headquarters in Downingtown, having outgrown its old headquarters in Exton. The new headquarters will house 300 employees.

2003

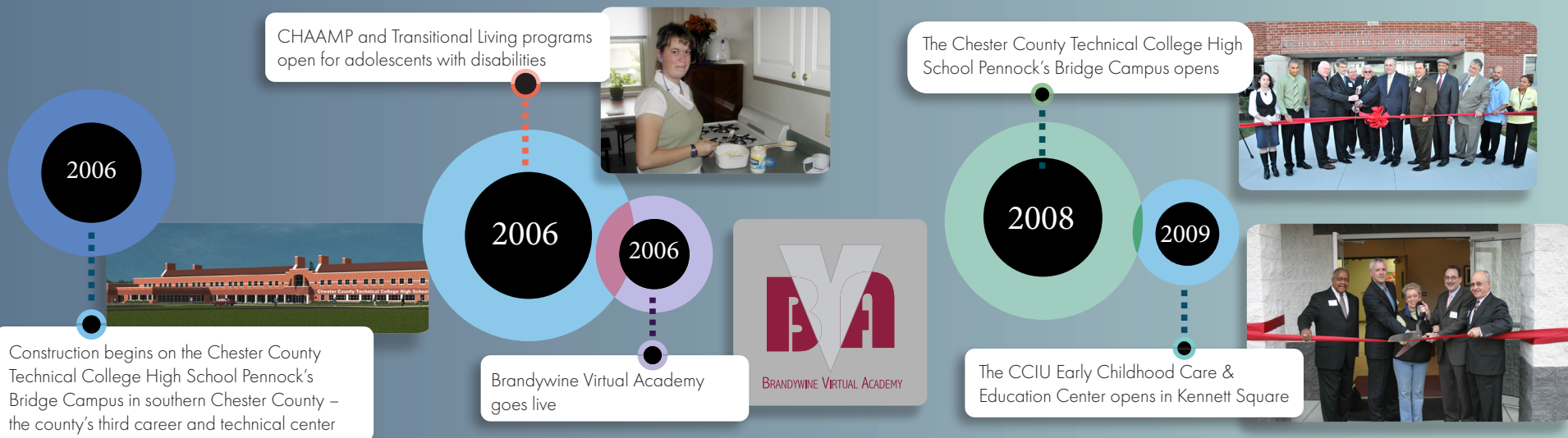
CCIU and Delaware County Community College partner to open the Chester County Middle College High School







Mary Jeanne Curley receives the PAIU Gary L. Miller Distinguished Service Award (pictured from left to right): Dr. Greg Koons, Schuylkill IU executive director; Dr. George F. Fiore, CCIU executive director; Ms. Mary Jeanne Curley, 2020-21 Gary L. Miller Distinguished Service Award recipient; Dr. John George, PAIU executive director; and Dr. Shawn Kovac, Tuscarora IU executive director





# Staff Awards and Recognitions (continued)

## Simply the Best!

**Jennifer Licate**, Non-Public School Services counselor, published two children's books: *My Anxiety is Messing Things Up* and *Why is Drama Always Following Me?*

**Ashley Boyd**, senior communications specialist; **Erin Britton**, graphic designer; **Jennifer Chicosky**, marketing and community engagement manager; **Lauren Critelli**, admissions specialist; **Mary Jeanne Curley**, director of Communications & Learning Solutions; **Tonia Farnum**, communications manager; **Laura Huff**, admissions manager; and **Haley Taylor**, communications specialist, were awarded five school communication awards by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) for school communication.

Manager of Data Governance, **Stacey McCreary**, was selected by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Office of Data Quality staff to receive the 2022 Data Summit Volunteer of the Year Award.

**Dr. Demetrius Roberts**, assistant director of Teaching and Learning, was selected to serve as a special consultant to PDE for STEM and computer science.

**Ashley Boyd**, senior communications specialist; **Jennifer Chicosky**, marketing and community engagement manager; **Mary Jeanne Curley**, director of Communications & Learning Solutions; and **Melissa Smith**, assistant director of Communications & Learning Solutions were skill session presenters at the 2022 NSPRA Conference in Chicago.

**Jessica Hull**, training and consultation specialist, was recognized by the PDE Bureau of Special Education for her contributions as a member of a PaTTAN Teacher Work Group for special educators and content experts who created instructional resources that are published for educators across the Commonwealth.

2010

Opens the first mental health program in Chester County to use Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to treat youth with mental health needs



Launches an online Driver Education program



2010

Assists school districts in establishing virtual academies in 31 school districts



2011

2011

Partners with West Chester University to develop the Aspire program, which assist students on the Autism spectrum with the transition from high school to college



2012

Opens the Chester County Technical College High School Brandywine Campus





**Joseph Lubitsky**, director of Administrative Services, received the Delaware Association of School Business Officials (DVASBO) Advocacy Award.

**Paul Thompson**, director of operations, was recognized by the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for his 20 years of support and service to the committee.

**Debbie Phillips**, physical education teacher at the Child & Career Development Center, coordinated the Chester County Special Olympics event for over 1,200 athletes.

**Kammas Kersch**, STEM coordinator, was invited to serve on the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) program planning team for its 2023 conference in Philadelphia. Kammas was also selected to host an Esports strand at the ISTE conference.



Technical College High School (TCHS) Pickering Campus special education teacher, **Laura McGinley**, was recognized with the Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction Award by the National Society of High School Scholars for her outstanding dedication to excellence in education.

**Lindsay Ambrosino** and **Courtney Cohen**, specialized instructional coaches, and **Elizabeth Willis**, speech-language therapist, presented about caregiver coaching via telepractice using the evidence-based behavior skills training approach at the 2021 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ASHA) annual convention.

**Elissa Steinke** and **Basil Thommen**, speech-language therapists, presented to an international parent group of children who have Fox P1 Syndrome.

**Sue Lombardi**, supervisor of mental health programs, coordinated Trauma-Informed Practices and the PRePARE program for the CCIU.

2012

Opens the County Cup, a food kiosk located at the Chester County Government Services Center in West Chester



Establishes the Transitional Work Program to support students transition to the workforce

2014

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 10



2015



Opens the Gordon Early Literacy Center in Coatesville

2016

CCIU's Practical Nursing Program celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary



2017





# Staff Awards and Recognitions (continued)



Pictured from left to right: Dr. George F. Fiore, CCIU executive director; Mary Clay and Mary Rash, CCIU Hall of Fame recipients; and Bonnie Wolff, CCIU Board president

## Hall of Fame Award Recipients

The CCIU Board of Directors is proud to honor this year's Hall of Fame inductees: **Mary Clay**, special education instructional coach; **John Cramp**, director of facilities management; and **Mary Rash**, teacher academy instructor.

The CCIU Hall of Fame was established in 1990 for those men and women who have distinguished themselves through a lifetime of exemplary service to education in Chester County. Induction into the CCIU Hall of Fame is the highest form of recognition the CCIU Board of Directors bestows.



John Cramp, CCIU Hall of Fame recipient

2018



Celebrates the grand reopening of the Chester County Technical College High School Pickering Campus

Approved as a third-party driver testing center for PennDot



2018

2019



Celebrates 50 years of providing career & technical education in Chester County

Opens the Achieve program for adults with special needs

2019







**Front Row (left to right):** Larry Konig, Susan Tiernan, Jessica Fabrey, Marylou Starner, Ronnie Carrone, Morgan Galbreath, Denae El and Roxanne Welch

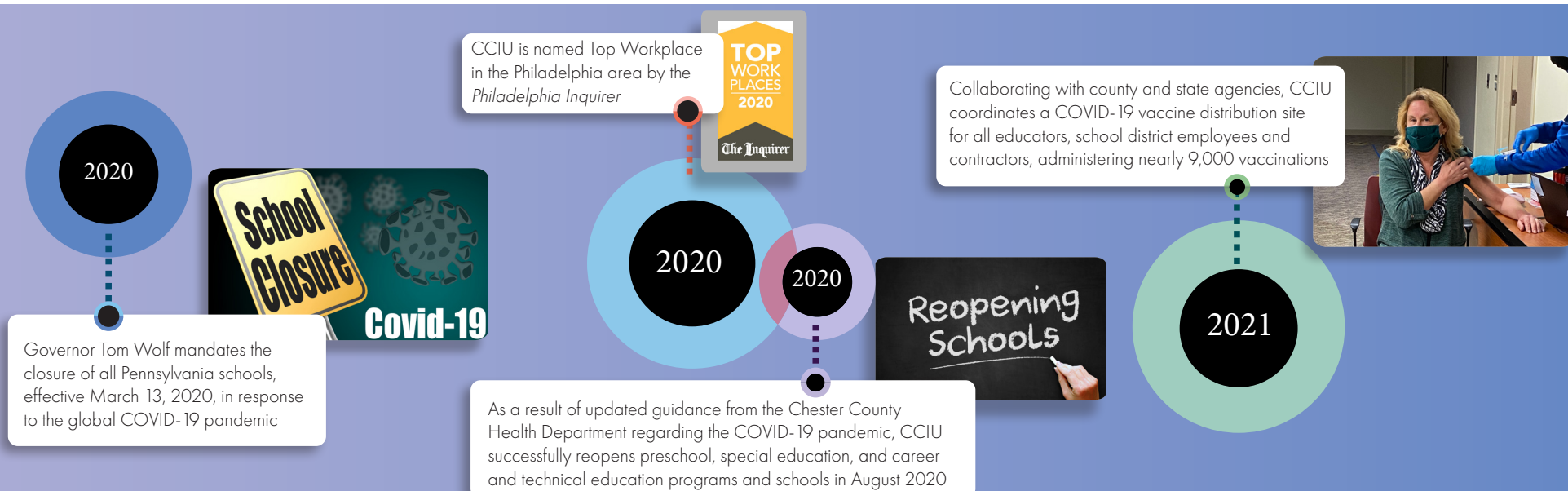
**Back Row (left to right):** Dr. Christopher Marchese, Dr. Michele Orner, Dr. Richard Gusick, Dr. Dusty Blakey, Dr. George F. Fiore, Dr. Will Stout, Chelsea Smith, Dr. James Scanlon, Luisa Knecht, Dr. Robert Sokolowski, David Woods, Dr. John Sanville, Dr. Susan Lloyd, Dr. Alan Fegley and Bonnie Wolff (CCIU Board President)

**Not Pictured:** Edgar Garcia, Dr. Dan Goffredo, Tomás Hanna, Dr. Emilie Lonardi and Sam Pennington

## Outstanding Service Award Recipients

The Outstanding Service Awards (OSA) are presented each school year by the CCIU Board of Directors in recognition of the outstanding contributions of CCIU staff, members of affiliated organizations, community volunteers and supporters. Congratulations to this year's recipients: **Ronnie Carrone, Denae El, Jessica Fabrey, Morgan Galbreath, Edgar Garcia, Luisa Knecht, Larry Konig, Sam Pennington, Chelsea Smith, Marylou Starner, Susan Tiernan and Roxanne Welch.**

Congratulations to the Chester County superintendents and the CCIU's executive director who were also recognized with an OSA this year for their unwavering leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic: **Dr. Dusty Blakey, Dr. Alan Fegley, Dr. George F. Fiore, Dr. Dan Goffredo, Dr. Richard Gusick, Mr. Tomás Hanna, Dr. Susan Lloyd, Dr. Emilie Lonardi, Dr. M. Christopher Marchese, Dr. Michele Orner, Dr. John Sanville, Dr. James Scanlon, Dr. Robert Sokolowski and Mr. David Woods.**





# Staff Awards and Recognitions (continued)

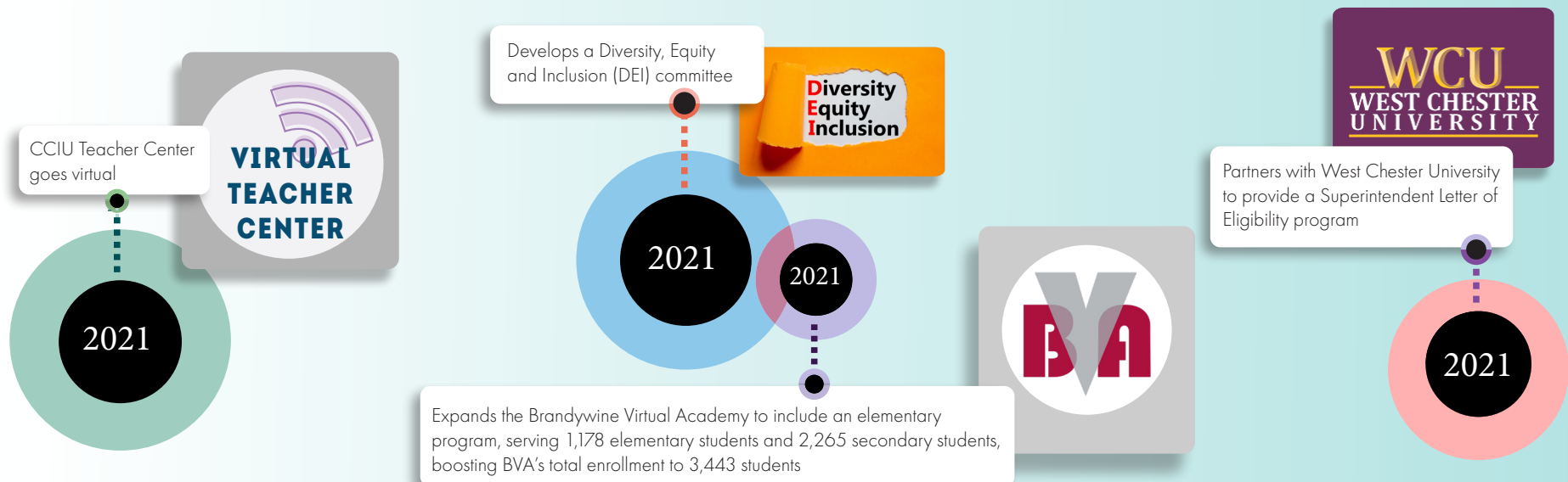
## Citadel Heart of Learning Award Finalist



Pictured left to right: Dr. Joe Fullerton, CCIU director of Career, Technical & Customized Education; Dr. Kirk Williard, former CCIU director of Career, Technical & Customized Education; Dr. George F. Fiore, CCIU executive director; Kyle Sollenberger, Citadel Heart of Learning finalist; Dr. Frank McKnight, TCHS Brandywine principal; and Dave Purdy, TCHS Brandywine assistant principal

Out of thousands of nominations received, **Kyle Sollenberger**, Animal Science teacher at the Technical College High School (TCHS) Brandywine Campus, was one of 31 outstanding educators selected as a finalist in the 2022 Citadel Heart of Learning Award program.

According to Dr. Joe Fullerton, CCIU director of Career, Technical & Customized Education, "Kyle Sollenberger is a true professional in every sense of the word. He provides his students with lessons that are easily transferrable to life outside of high school. In addition, he presents an inviting classroom atmosphere for the students and an excellent work ethic to demonstrate how much he cares about his students. It is a pleasure watching Kyle grow as an instructional leader for his students and his colleagues."





# Annie Sullivan Award Recipient

The Annie Sullivan Award, named after Helen Keller’s devoted teacher and mentor, honors educators who go beyond their job duties to gain acceptance for children with disabilities in school and in the community. This year, the award was presented to **Mindy Hughes**, transition specialist in the Reach program.

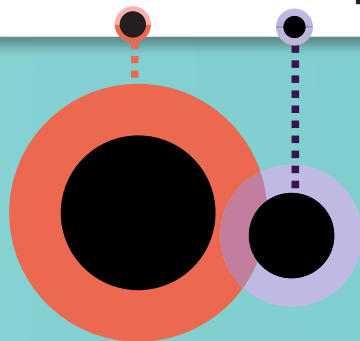
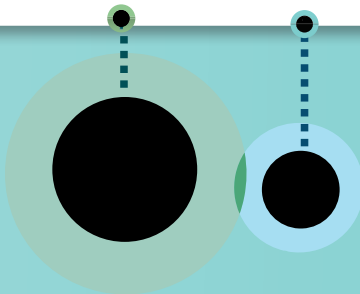
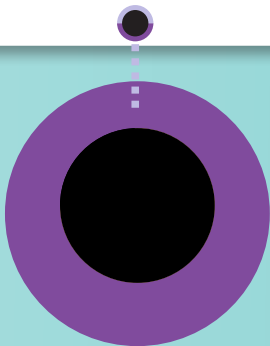
Mindy perfectly embodies the spirit of the Annie Sullivan Award with her dedicated service to students and community members with disabilities for the past 25 years. She serves as an educator, social worker, counselor and leader. As a special education teacher, she strives to fill these important positions every day, and she does it all with the highest degree of integrity. Her dedication to helping others is not finished at the end of the school day. Along with her family, Mindy works with food drives, homeless shelters, the Salvation Army and the To Love a Canine program. Her commitment to serving students and members of our communities is both honorable and inspirational.



Pictured left to right: Bonnie Wolff, CCIU board president; Mindy Hughes, Annie Sullivan Award recipient; Dr. George F. Fiore, CCIU executive director; and Siobhan Leavy, CCIU director of student services

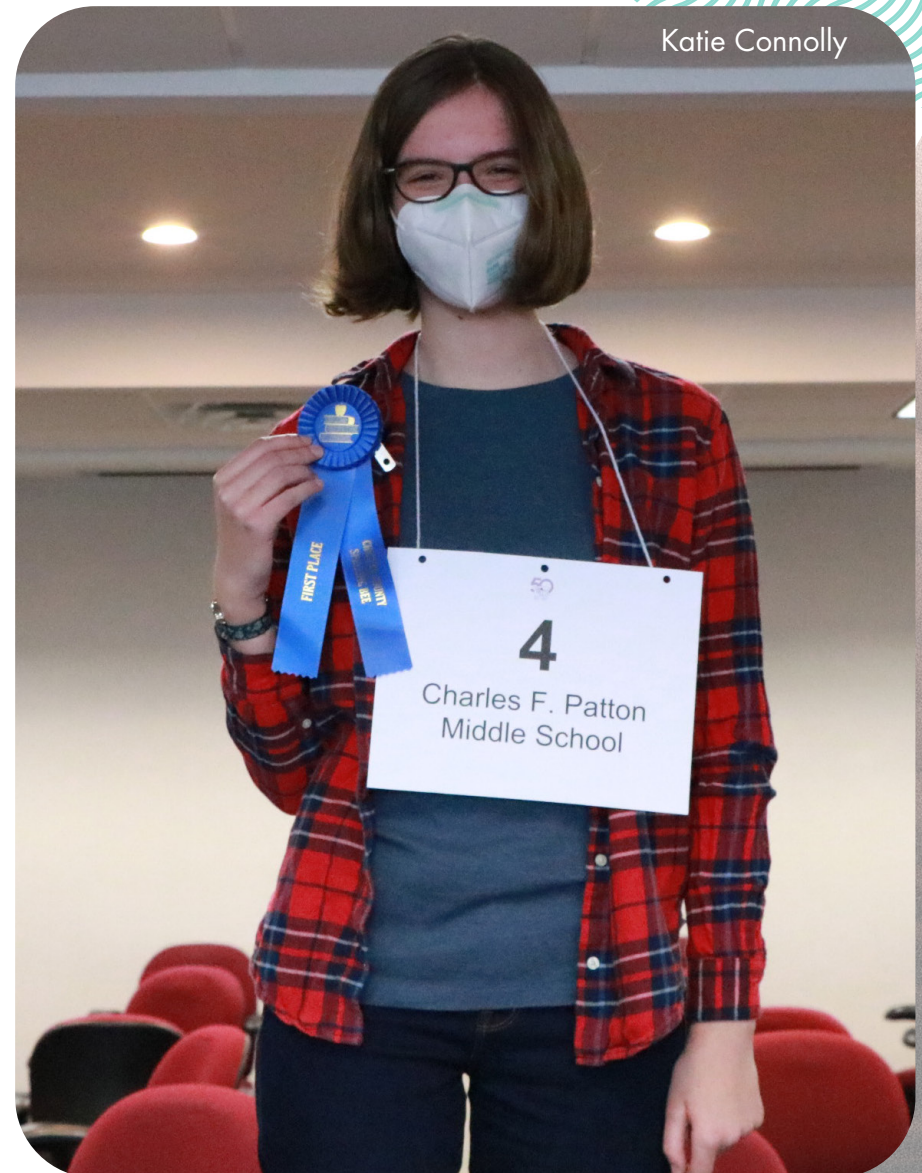
**There’s only one thing more precious than our time and that’s who we spend it on.**

**— Leo Christopher**



# Student Highlights

- Cecil County's Manheim Township High School rose to the top at this year's PA State Academic Competition held in April. Pennsylvania's top high school teams competed for the title of PA State Champion. Chester County's defending state champion, Great Valley High School, came in second with Wissahickon High School coming in third. Now in its 31<sup>st</sup> year, the PA State Academic Competition is hosted by Representative John A. Lawrence of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Education Association and coordinated by the Chester County Intermediate Unit.
- Four Chester County school districts held top spots in the Governor's PA STEM Competition out of 54 competing teams. In Division 1, Bishop Shanahan High School was crowned grand champion, with Conestoga High School finishing as second runner-up. In Division 2, Downingtown STEM Academy earned grand champion, with Technical College High School (TCHS) Pennock's Bridge Campus finishing as second runner-up. Each year, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) hosts the Governor's PA STEM Competition, an event that gives students in grades 9-12 the opportunity to test their creativity and inventiveness.
- Three Vision Support program students participated in the annual Pennsylvania Regional Cane Quest, organized by Berks County Intermediate Unit and Kutztown University. An elementary student received a certificate and two high school students placed first and second in their respective divisions.
- Carpentry students from the TCHS Brandywine Campus volunteered to help the Downingtown community clean up areas of town that were devastated by Hurricane Ida in September.
- Nearly 1,100 Chester County students joined other students from across the nation for Kids Voting, casting their vote in the 2021 local elections.
- Congratulations to **Katie Connolly**, an eighth grader at Charles F. Patton Middle School, who won top honors as Chester County's top speller in the 2022 Chester County Spelling Bee. Connolly moved on to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in June.
- CCIU Learning Center's (CCLC) Carpentry students assisted Information Technology staff and their school by applying their skills to save money. Students constructed countertop laptop charging stations for the Options Plus classrooms, gaining valuable carpentry skills and demonstrating their abilities, while saving money by not having to purchase commercial charging stations.



Katie Connolly



Two high school seniors from the Technical College High School (TCHS) Brandywine Campus' Allied Health program are using their passion for the medical field to make a difference in the diagnosis and treatment of patients. **Neha Potla**, a senior from Unionville High School, co-wrote two papers that have been published in scientific journals within the past year. Her most recent paper, which was published in the International Journal of Emergency Medicine, is a systematic review regarding stroke and thrombolytics in the brain. Potla worked with Dr. Latha Ganti, a professor at the University of Central Florida and specialist in stroke and emergency medicine, to conduct case studies of one of Ganti's patients. Her other paper, which she also co-wrote with Dr. Ganti, is a case study about a 53-year-old postmenopausal woman who had pelvic congestion syndrome, a chronic condition that typically affects premenopausal females who have given birth to multiple children. The paper discusses the symptoms and findings shown on computed tomography (CT) and ultrasonography and it examines the causes the prognosis. **Pranitha Anoor**, a senior from Henderson High School, wrote an article that has been accepted for publication in the National High School Journal of Science (NHSJS). The article discusses the algorithm she created that can help detect brain tumors much earlier from MRI scans.





# Student Highlights (continued)

- In response to the Russian War on Ukraine, Transitional Work program students at the TCHS Pickering Campus gathered, organized and shipped donated items to benefit the people of Ukraine. Donated items included coats, hats, gloves, clothing, toiletries and medical supplies.
- The Information Technology support team hosted students in the Computer Information Systems (CIS) program at the TCHS Brandywine Campus for their job shadow experience as part of their senior portfolio projects, including four students from Coatesville Area School District, one student from Twin Valley School District and two students from West Chester Area School District.
- **Marcus Rundatz**, a senior in the TCHS Pennock's Bridge Campus' Engineering and Robotics program, has accepted a scholarship to attend Widener University. The scholarship offers \$25,000 per year, for a total of \$100,000, and an additional \$2,000 for each year lived on campus. Marcus will begin taking classes in the fall and will pursue a bachelor's degree in engineering and robotics. Marcus is a student from the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District and has attended TCHS since ninth grade.
- **Leah Kerry** and **Ashley Yang** from Phoenixville High School placed first in the Animation category at the regional PA Media and Design Competition hosted by CCIU. They also placed first at the state level.
- **Atharv Rajesh** from the Marsh Creek Sixth Grade Center at Downingtown Area School District won first place in the CCIU's Invention Convention competition.
- **Raymond Cooper, Mason Deeter, Michael Flowers** and **Colten Sterner** from Octorara Intermediate School placed first in the CCIU's STEM Design Challenge.



Marcus Rundatz

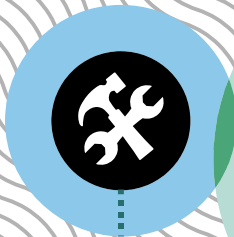
- CCIU's Practical Nursing Program (PNP) celebrated the graduation of 74 students since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Twenty-six TCHS students completed the theory section of Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training. Students were given the opportunity to drive dump trucks and operate some of the equipment during a field trip to the Allan Myers site in Peach Bottom.



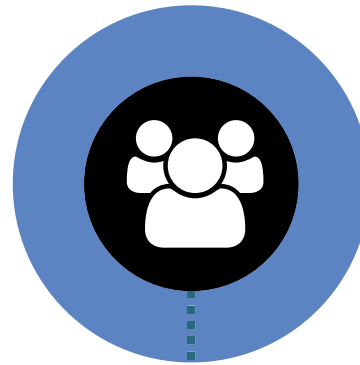
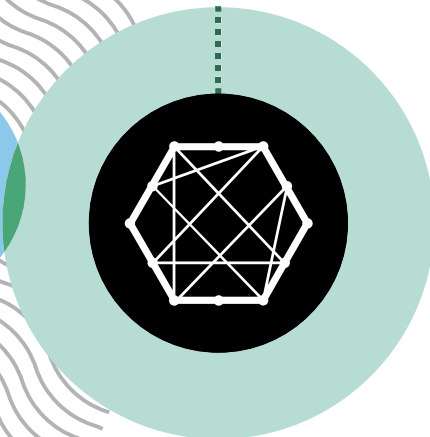


# Featured Grants

Awarded a \$250,000 grant by Chester County Regional Education Services (CCRES) to fund upgrades to the CCIU Toddler Center's playground equipment.

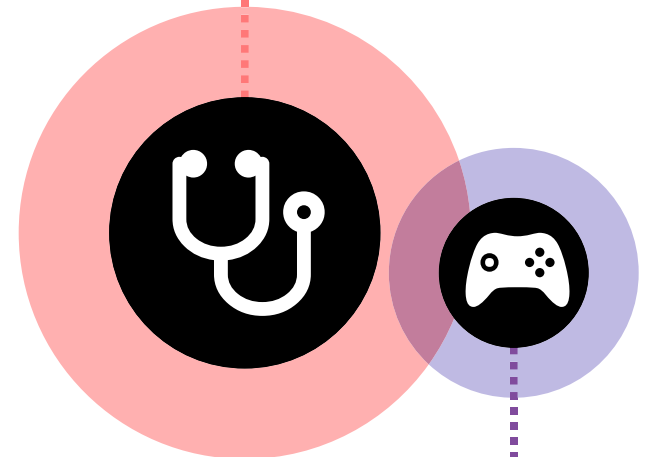


Awarded a \$1,000,000 Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant to help offset the planned renovations to the CCIU Toddler Center.

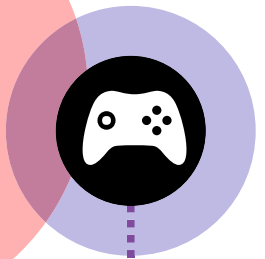


Secured a \$10,513,998 grant from the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) that afforded the opportunity for 34 non-public schools to receive reimbursements, new services, contracted services and five additional staff members.

Secured a \$550,000 grant from CCRES to be used for the Practical Nursing Program (PNP) and the Technical College High School (TCHS). PNP will use the funds to provide scholarships to qualified applicants to offset tuition costs, and TCHS will use the funds to recruit for existing programs and to partner with Chester County school districts to create a ninth-grade exploratory program.



In partnership with the Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) STEM Ecosystem, the CCIU received a \$500,000 grant to develop a Pennsylvania Esports Ecosystem.





Awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry to assess the state of broadband access in southern Chester County as a result of a widening gap in the accessibility and affordability of internet services for residents living in the southern part of the county.

Secured a \$75,000 grant from CCRES to fund the Esports Expansion of Chester County, which included working for and with the Chester County Esports Club, Chester County Thunder as well as the Pennsylvania Scholastic Esports League (PSEL).

**Grand Total:  
\$13,208,998**

Secured a \$90,000 grant from the Justamere Foundation to provide multi-year scholarships for TCHS students.

Awarded a \$30,000 grant from CCRES for the CCIU Driver Testing Center program to provide scholarships to historically underserved and economically disadvantaged student populations in Chester County.

# Our Recipients

## Student Programs

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Program  
 Adult Services  
 Aspire  
 Assessment Support and Intervention for Students with Tic Disorders (ASSIST)  
 Attend Program (School Refusal)  
 Audiology and Hearing  
 Birth to Three Services  
 Brandywine Virtual Academy  
 CalcuSolve  
 CARE  
 Career Academy (Learning Center)  
 Changes  
 Chester County Youth Center  
 Chester County Youth Orchestra  
 Child & Career Development Center  
 Communities Helping Adolescents with Autism Make Progress (CHAAMP)  
 Cross-District Multi-Disability Support  
 Devereux 1306  
 Discover Program  
 Driver Education Online Course  
 Driving Lessons  
 Driver Testing Center  
 Early Care and Education Center (Coatesville)  
 Early Care and Education Center (Downingtown)  
 Early Head Start  
 Early Head Start Child Care Partnership  
 Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC)  
 Feeding and Swallowing Program

Food Services  
 Gateway  
 Hackathon  
 Head Start  
 Home & Community Services  
 Law-Related Education  
 Middle School Forensics Tournament  
 Migrant Education  
 Non-Public School Services  
 Options (Learning Center)  
 PA Media and Design Competition  
 Pennsylvania PreK Counts  
 Personal Care Assistants  
 Preschool Special Education Program  
 Psychological Evaluations  
 Reach  
 Reading Olympics  
 Selective Mutism Assessment and Intervention  
 Special Education Services (Reading School District)  
 Speech Services (School Age)  
 STEM Design Challenge  
 STEM Saturdays  
 Student-Related Special Events  
 CC Academic Competition  
 CC College Fair  
 CC HS Arts Festival  
 CC Kids Voting  
 CC Knowledge Bowl  
 CC Science Research Competition  
 CC Shakespeare Festival

CC Spelling Bee  
 Constitution Day  
 Pennsylvania Regional Academic Competitions  
 Pennsylvania State Academic Competition  
 Summer Adventures Camp and Activities Fair  
 Student Forum  
 Student Invention Convention  
 Summer Career Academies  
 Telepractice (OT and Speech)  
 Training and Consultation (TaC) Workshops  
 TCHS Brandywine Campus  
 TCHS Pennock's Bridge Campus  
 TCHS Pickering Campus  
 Therapeutic Education Advancing Children's Horizons (TEACH)  
 Transitional Living Program  
 Transitional Work Program  
 Transitional Work Readiness Program  
 Transitions  
 Transportation  
 Visually Impaired Orientation and Mobility  
 Young Parents Program

## Adult Programs

Adult Career & Technical Education  
 Certifications and Endorsements  
 CPE Courses  
 ESC Conference Center  
 Fingerprinting  
 IES Division Workshops  
 Livestream Viewers

PA Inspired Leadership  
 Practical Nursing Program  
 School Bus Driver Safety Competition  
 Safe School Summits  
 Student Information System (SIS) Vendor Showcase  
 Teacher Center Services

### Adult Totals

**27,740**  
 participants  
**13** programs

### Student Totals

**51,539**  
 participants  
**67** programs



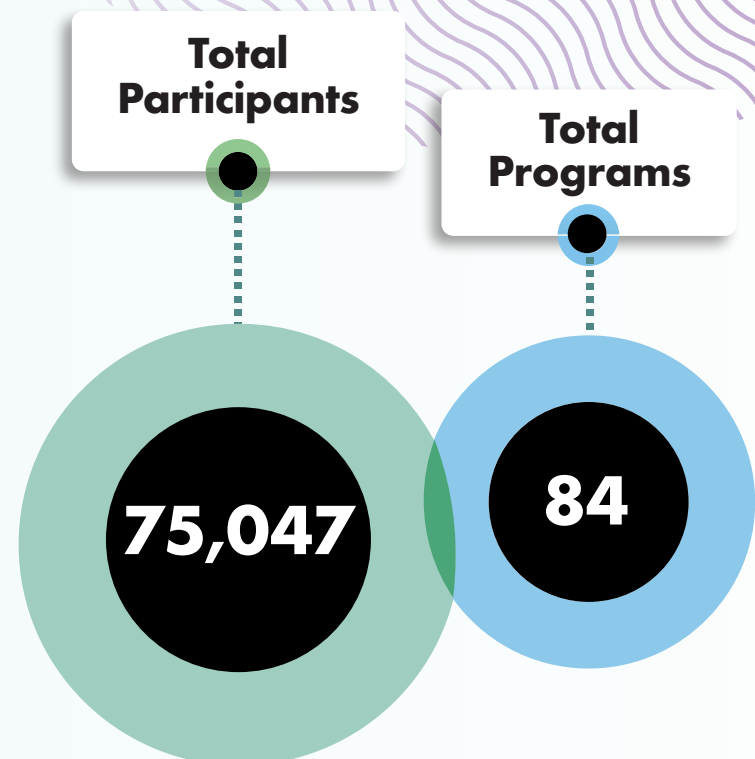
# 2021-22 Financial Statistics

## Revenue Sources

Source	Amount	Percent
State Revenue	\$54,014,706	17.52%
Federal Revenue	\$54,128,036	17.56%
District Core Contributions	\$603,727	0.20%
District Service Purchases (TCHS's and marketplace programs)	\$97,591,934	31.65%
Tuition Payments	\$1,177,580	0.38%
Local Revenue (from sources other than member districts)	\$100,793,993	32.69%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$308,309,976</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Expenditures By Service

Service	Amount	Percent
General Administrative Services	\$16,584,791	5.37%
Core Services		
Innovative Educational Services	\$4,574,742	1.48%
Information Technology Services	\$4,889,407	1.59%
Communications	\$2,732,839	0.89%
Building Maintenance Service	\$6,177,206	2.00%
Marketplace Services		
Occupational Education Services	\$78,374	0.03%
Special Education Services	\$46,834,100	15.19%
Other Services	\$226,291,393	73.40%
Categorical Services	\$147,124	0.05%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$308,309,976</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



# Chester County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors



Daryl Durnell  
West Chester Area  
School District



Robert Fisher  
Coatesville Area  
School District



Victoria Gehrt  
Kennett Consolidated  
School District



Madhu Gurthy  
Downingtown Area  
School District



Jeff Hellrung, Vice President  
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School District



Jennifer Munson  
Owen J. Roberts  
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Brian Norris  
Octorara Area  
School District



Andrea Rizzo  
Great Valley  
School District



Howard S. Robinson  
Oxford Area  
School District



Michelle Schamis  
Phoenixville Area  
School District



Stacy Stone  
Tredyffrin/Easttown  
School District

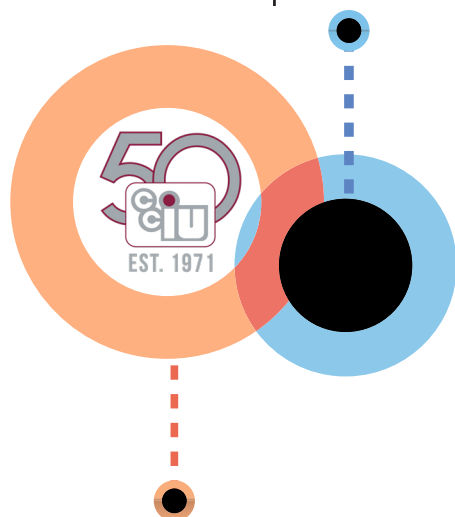


Bonnie J. Wolff  
Board President  
Avon Grove School District

Chester County  
Intermediate Unit

**2021-2022**

## Annual Report



The Chester County Intermediate Unit Report to the Community is a publication of the Communications and Learning Solutions Division.

Executive Director: Dr. George F. Fiore  
Assistant Executive Director: Dr. Steve Gerhard  
Executive Editor: Mary Jeanne Curley  
Managing Editor: Tonia Farnum  
Layout & Design: Erin Britton

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