The school year seems to be progressing rapidly, despite the winter weather dragging on into March. Much excitement continues to take place in the Madison County schools. The regional office has received update reports for the Conversations Toward a Brighter Future program. The student engagement is intriguing to review. An overview of the student activities is included in this edition. A date is being determined for the final reports and presentations this spring. Also featured is an article regarding the Ever-Fi financial literacy program that has been supported by The Bank of Edwardsville in numerous schools throughout the region. The ROE is recognizing the Granite City Evening Academy in this issue as an innovative approach to help high school students gain their diploma.

Congratulations to Jacob Carlson of Civic Memorial High School and Andy Brendel of Triad High School for their recognition as classroom teachers. Jacob Carlson is a finalist for the Golden Apple Award of Excellence and Andy Brendel has been named to the CTE Innovative Curriculum Project.

I encourage social study teachers to share with high school seniors the opportunity to become involved in the 2020 census as a census taker. These are paid experiences and would provide great civic involvement. I would also like to thank Jason Dandurand, Principal of Roxana High School, for chairing the STOP Review Committee. This working group has reviewed the policies and procedures of the Short-Term Option Program at the Center for Educational Opportunities in Troy. The ROE appreciates this group’s efforts as this program is in its tenth year and needed to be evaluated.

In this edition of Educational Benchmark, announcements of summer camps and upcoming professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators are provided. Barb Gillian, an education professor at SIUE and retired Alton High School principal, will lead the teacher evaluation training for ROE-41. A schedule for the evaluation trainings for this area is published in this edition. An announcement regarding the application process for candidates who wish to pursue national board certification is included as well.

Governor J.B. Pritzker announced this past month the appointment of a new state superintendent and new members to the Illinois State Board of Education. Dr. Carmen Ayala will serve as the new state superintendent. She has thirty years of educational experience. Dr. Ayala is the first woman to hold the position and the educational career at Triad. He began in 1994 at Triad High School as a math teacher and tennis coach. In 2005, he became the principal at St. Jacob Elementary and in 2008 of Silver Creek Elementary. In 2010, Mr. Henderson became the district’s curriculum director before assuming his current role of assistant superintendent in 2013.

The decision to leave Triad for the neighboring Edwardsville school district was extremely difficult for Henderson, who says he will miss working with the
TheBANK of Edwardsville Financial Literacy Program for Local Students Receives Honors

TheBANK of Edwardsville has received honors by Nasdaq and EverFi for its work in helping educate local students at the Financial Education Awards ceremony in New York City. “TheBANK of Edwardsville has been a wonderful partner with us for several years and has made such a big impact in the lives of thousands of students through its Financial Literacy Program,” Tim Convey, vice president of EverFi.

TheBANK of Edwardsville Financial Literacy program is a web-based interactive course designed to empower young people with the essential skills needed to make sound financial decisions. TheBANK of Edwardsville has partnered with leading education technology company EverFi to bring this interactive program to 17 high schools in Illinois at no cost. High schools currently using TheBANK’s program include, Metro East Lutheran, Triad, Edwardsville, East St. Louis, Granite City, Madison, Highland, O’Fallon, Belleville Althoff, Alton, Alton Marquette, Collinsville, Belleville East, Belleville West, Bethalto-Civic Memorial, East Alton-Wood River and Roxana.

According to recent EverFi survey data, children in the US primarily develop their financial attitudes from their parents through family discussions and learning by example. However, a FleetBoston Smarter Decisions Survey cites that 74 percent of parents don’t feel prepared to teach their children about money and over 40 percent of parents don’t talk to their children about money at all. These statistics support the need for financial education in a school setting, where all students have an equal opportunity to learn essential financial skills. TheBANK of Edwardsville Financial Literacy Program is implemented in a co-curricular basis, providing students with the opportunity to develop healthy financial attitudes and behaviors in a classroom setting.

TheBANK of Edwardsville’s Financial Literacy Program uses the latest in simulations and gaming to bring complex financial concepts to life for today’s digital generation. The high school course offers over eight hours of programming with ten units in a variety of financial topics including credit scores, insurance, credit cards, student loans, mortgages, taxes, stocks, savings, 401k’s and other critical concepts that map to national financial literacy standards. The platform uniquely tracks the progress and performance of every student.

Bethalto English Teacher is Golden Apple Award Finalist

Founded in 1985, Golden Apple innovates teacher preparation and leadership to transform both the careers of teachers as well as the lives of students in Illinois. Its signature initiative, the Golden Apple Scholars Program, provides exceptional teacher preparation, resources and lifelong support to advance educational excellence for Illinois’ most underserved students in schools-of-need. Aspiring teachers/scholars are recruited from the communities in which they return to serve -- with a passion for teaching and a drive to create positive change for young people in their communities. Scholars commit to teach at an Illinois school-of-need for five years after graduation. More than 1,000 Scholars currently are teaching across Illinois. Visit http://www.goldenapple.org for more information.

Mr. Carlson was announced as a finalist in this year’s Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching on February 7. All finalist were honored Saturday, February 23 at the Golden Apple Celebration of Excellence held at Tinley Park Convention Center. The 2019 Golden Apple Award recipients will be notified in the spring with surprise visits at their schools. The selected award recipients will be featured on a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) one-hour TV program.

Skertich from page 1

my time working with parents, district employees, the Board of Education and the community to create a diverse learning environment for all students, maintaining financial stability and upholding proud academic and extracurricular traditions. I am excited to be relocating to Collinsville, personally and professionally, to experience the many opportunities the community offers,” said Mr. Skertich.

Henderson from page 1

incredible staff of Triad on a daily basis. “I have so many friends at Triad who have worked with and supported me during my time here,” Henderson said. “Triad truly is like a family.”

Henderson will continue to be at Triad until he assumes his new position in July. He stated that “it has been great to work in a district where everyone tries to get better every day and focus on what is best for kids. My hope is that I will be able to carry that attitude with me to my new position.”

AA #2001 Initial Teacher Evaluation Training for New Principals

This two-day academy is for educators who are seeking initial training qualification to be legally qualified to conduct evaluations of licensed personnel.

Edwardsville - April 17 & 18 or August 1 & 2 - Cost: $350.00, includes lunch both days.
Complete details and additional dates at http://www.educationregistration.org/index.php/area-v-trail.
The "Conversation Toward a Brighter Future" is happening in our Madison County middle schools and high schools. This project promotes a solution to the negative discourse that is taking place across the country. Participants continue to identify and research issues and then work together to create plans that yield positive solutions that reflect the MJCHF’s four pillars of Respect, Dignity, Understanding and Forgiveness.

Dr. Daiber speaks highly of the students and the positive impact that their projects are making. “Their outstanding work is making a big difference in the lives of fellow students and in the overall school culture. This is our main vision of Conversation Toward a Brighter Future,” said Daiber.
This year the Regional Office of Education has been pushing the “Give 30” Mentoring Program to grow our mentor pool. We are very excited to announce our recent partnership with SIUE School of Education, Health and Human Behavior and the SIUE School of Pharmacy. Since January 2019, we, at the ROE have trained over thirty new mentors from SIUE including students and faculty. Many students trained are actively involved in clubs at SIUE such as the psychology club, criminal justice club, and sororities/fraternities. This program will provide them with personal and professional development through SIUE as well as the experience to work one-on-one with an at-risk youth, which will benefit their future career paths. Additionally, we have continued our partnerships with local businesses to generate more mentors. The BANK of Edwardsville and Phillips 66 have been two of our greatest partners. We continue to speak to groups who are interested in learning more about the program. Most recently, Dr. Daiber spoke with members of the Edwardsville Rotary Club looking to recruit more mentors. In Madison County we currently have six school actively involved with the “Give 30” Mentoring Program and hope to grow as needed for students in our county. If you are interested in mentoring or know anyone who may make a great mentor and has thirty minutes one day each week to consistently designate to a student, please visit www.Give30.net or contact Taylor Donohoo at the Regional Office of Education at tddonohoo@co.madison.il.us or by phone at (618) 296-4448.

Committee Reviews and Revises STOP Program

This year, administrators from six participating districts came together to review and revise the Short Term Options Program or, STOP as it is commonly known. The STOP program has been in existence since 2008 as a vision of Regional Superintendent, Bob Daiber. The six participating districts include: Collinsville, Bethalto, East Alton Wood River, Highland, Triad, and Roxana.

The purpose of the STOP program is to provide schools an alternative educational setting to students for disciplinary infractions in lieu of out of school suspension. Students receive educational services while being placed there anywhere from one to ten days pending on the severity of the disciplinary infraction. The program helps schools address the mandates of Senate Bill 100. Senate Bill 100 was passed in the Illinois Senate January of 2015. The bill seeks to address the causes and consequences of the “school-to-prison pipeline.” by legislatively disciplining guidelines for both public and charter schools. Senate Bill 100 explicitly requires that schools minimize exclusionary discipline practices such as suspension and expulsion, while increasing use of alternatives to suspension. The STOP program also aims to keep students in attendance in an educational setting and on track toward their graduation goals.

The committee was led by committee chair, Jason Dandurand, Principal of Roxana High School. Other committee members included: Liz Weder of Highland, Caleb Houchins of Highland, Adam Miller of Civic Memorial (Bethalto), Matt Noyes of Triad, Steve Brown of Collinsville, Kimberly Jackson of Collinsville, Christie Johnson of the Center for Educational Opportunities, and Leigh Robinson of East Alton Wood River.

The committee concluded its work with revisions to the program’s procedures, implementation of addressing the social/emotional needs of students, and the implementation of a pilot program during the upcoming 4th quarter. The Short Term Options Program will look to add social work services during the 4th quarter to provide students with social-emotional supports and positively address behaviors warranting the student’s placement at STOP.

Mr. Dandurand stated, “The committee’s work together was a valuable experience.” He believes their collaboration will result in positive outcomes and benefit all students who may need to attend the STOP program in the future.

“The STOP program supports schools efforts with maintaining compliance with SB100.” The committee also provided administrators from neighboring schools an opportunity to come together and discuss situations happening in their own buildings and an opportunity to problem solve and share ideas with one another.

Thank you to all of our Madison County educators and support personnel for the hard work you are doing to bring quality education to our students.
Andrew Brendel, a Technology & Engineering Education teacher at Triad High School, was selected recently to participate in the Illinois Career and Technical Education Innovative Curriculum Resources Project 2019 Exemplary Teacher Program.

Brendel was selected as one of Illinois’ exemplary professionals based on one or more of the following criteria:

• Pedagogy—this professional works well with students. They have an appropriate relationship with everyone and are respected and effective. They somehow seem to rise above discipline problems and have created an excellent environment for learning.

• Curriculum—this professional has developed (or compiled) engaging and interesting curriculum that integrates content from several academic disciplines into their own.

• Community relations—this professional has a great reputation in the community (including parents) and enjoys their support.

• Business and Industry Partnerships—this professional has created a dynamic support group from local leaders and regularly looks to them for input in curricular decisions.

• Assessment—this professional knows how their students are doing in an accurate and authentic manner.

• Technical Ability—this professional is skilled in the technical aspects and safe conduct of the workplace.

The nomination and selection process for the exemplary teachers was completed by the teacher’s Career and Technical Education Regional System Director.

Over 50 of Illinois’ exemplary teachers participated in the professional development program on February 15-16, 2019 in Bloomington, Illinois. This program was developed to further the leadership capability of these exemplary teachers and featured Dr. Michael K. Daugherty from the University of Arkansas.

The goal of the exemplary teacher program is to foster the development of teacher-leaders who can effectively share their expertise with others. The exemplary teachers will have the opportunity to participate in several events planned throughout the next year to help them further develop as teacher-leaders.

For more information about the program and the Illinois Career and Technical Education Innovative Resources Project, please visit www.ilcte.org.

Triad High School Principal Dr. Rodney Winslow said the school is very proud of the accomplishment of its CTE Department.

“We have an excellent faculty who challenge students to develop their skills in Career and Technical Education,” Winslow stated in an email. “Part of this is due to the leadership that we have in our CTE director, Andy Brendel.”

### 2019 Directions Conference

Monday, June 11 from 9:00 - 3:00, and will be facilitated by the homelessness liaisons from each of the ROEs in Area 5.

Group rates are available for 5+ people from the same school/district.

The Directions Conference is hosted each year by the Area 5 Regional Offices of Education in their continued effort to improve instruction and pedagogy, with the ultimate goal of impacting student learning.

For more information and to register, please visit www.directionsconference.com.

Call for Proposals

Everyone is an expert in something. We invite you to share your expertise at the Directions Conference as a breakout presenter on Wednesday, June 12. We are on the hunt for quality, innovative, engaging discussion leaders or presenters. Your session can be 1 or 2 hours in length in pretty much any format - in fact, we are also looking for people to continue their session into the online space afterward for maximum application.

We also want to highlight existing programs in our schools. Does your district have a program that provides support for kids and/or adults with traumatic experiences? Do you have a cool curriculum you use to foster online safety? What about your crisis team? Community outreach? Have you started a mindfulness initiative? We would be excited to have you come to talk about it as a session.

This is a win-win opportunity. We get to put quality stories from the field on our program, and you (and a co-presenter if presenting a school program) will get a complimentary 2-day pass to the conference.

Please visit www.directionsconference.org for proposal submission details.

We look forward to working with you!
Dr. David Keel, Director of Secondary Education at the Granite City School District, has recently opened the doors to an alternative graduation program to benefit students in district who have a need. The program opened in full force this fiscal school year with seventy four students with a focus on junior and senior students. The Evening Academy school day runs from 4:00-9:15 P.M. Monday – Thursday with Fridays being reserved for work studies or online courses.

Evening Academy Objective: Provide a non-traditional path to graduation for promising students ready for employment opportunities, continued education, or military service. We want our graduates to achieve economic self-sufficiency, remain in their community and invest in its growth and revitalization.

Dr. Keel speaks highly of the program's early stages and successes. “I met with Superintendent Greenwald in May of 2017 about implementing an Evening Academy program, in order to reduce the number of students dropping out and to offer an alternative for students with anxiety and other issues that prevent them from being successful in the traditional day program. Mr. Greenwald was behind it immediately and has supported me and this program, since that first conversation. My next step was to meet with Andrea Gannon from the Belleville East School District and Nicole Marconi from the Alton School District. Each of those districts have had long-standing night school programs and Andrea and Nicole were able to provide me with more than enough information to get started. Steve Mathes is the assistant principal who oversees the Evening Academy and he has done a great job this year. The staff is fantastic and have really bought in to helping these students and wanting to see them succeed. The students are excited about the program and are having much more success through the Evening Academy then they were the traditional day program. Many of the students in this program have jobs and the schedule is actually easier for them to attend classes in the evening.”

- The academy had 12 students that had previously dropped out of high school that entered the Evening Academy (two graduated in December)
- The academy had 7 students graduate in December and another 24 are on pace to graduate in May
- Numerous guest speakers have been brought in to help students prepare for life after graduation (college, military, work force)
- The focus is not just graduating students, but to help them with those “next steps” after graduating. This is the most important part of the Evening Academy!

Upcoming School Improvement Workshops

Registration now open at www.roe41.org (workshops/events tab)

March 19: Girl, Check That Attitude
April 3: Throw Out the Text
April 10: Growing Up Wild and Early Childhood Experiences in Project Learning Tree
April 25: SIUE STEM Sampler
June 4: Kindergarten Smorgasbord with Greg Smedley-Warren
June 28: Building Deeper Readers & Writers with Kelly Gallagher

Registration coming soon!

June 3: Minutes to Win It: Maximize the Beginning and Ending of Each Class (1/2 day – morning)
June 5: The Dance of Successful Feedback
June 7: Underprivileged Students – Leave Nothing to Chance
June 10: Mindful Instruction-Teaching the Standards with Intention
July 29: What You Need to Know About Dyslexia
July 30: Restorative Practices with Trauma Affected Students
July 31: Stressed Brains Can't Learn
August 1: You, the Parents, and the Child with ADHD
August 2: Feedback Matters – Helping Students and Teachers Respond to Student Writing in Ways that Work (1/2 day–morning)
August 5: Better Beginnings to Ban Boredom (1/2 day - morning)
August 6: Girl, Check That Attitude
August 7: Stop the Bleed – Disaster Planning & Critical First Aid Response for Mass Casualties
August 8: Instructional Coaching
August 9: Engaging the Unengaged Student
August 12: Grit and Growth Mindset Build Student Resilience
October 16: A Day of Mindfulness

The U.S. Census Bureau is seeking people to work for the 2020 Census and is committed to hiring people for jobs in their own communities. This may be a great opportunity for your senior class students.

Field positions are temporary and will start this summer with different opportunities through 2020. You may work flexible hours either full, part-time or evenings and weekends. Jobs will start at $19 an hour and .58 for mileage reimbursement.

APPLY ONLINE: 2020Census.gov/jobs
High school and college educators and students learned more about the latest machining industry technology at the Southern Illinois and Missouri Annual HTEC Conference on Feb. 22, at the Southwestern Illinois College Sam Wolf Granite City Campus.

At the Haas Technical Education Center conference, students and educators toured the SWIC Precision Machining Technology labs and seen demonstrations of HAAS CNC equipment, heard from industry leaders, took part in roundtable discussion and learned more about possible industry/education partnerships. Teachers who attended were awarded five hours of professional development.

**Alton Works to Ensure New Teacher Success with Their Mentoring Program**

Wendy Adams, Human Resources Director and the Alton District Mentoring Program Director, describes the new teacher program that puts incoming teachers on the road to success in the Alton district.

The Alton Mentoring Program is a collaborative model developed to help new teachers transition into their new roles. The integrity of the model is maintained through the building of a relationship of trust and mutual respect between the mentor and the mentee. Confidentiality between the mentor and mentee is essential so that honest dialogue and feedback may occur between the two colleagues. An ideal partnership would result in both parties reaping benefit from the mentor program.

The Mentoring program provides new teachers with the opportunity to become familiar with the school culture and traditions and enhances collegiality and collaborations. New teachers earn their Induction Program certification in 2 years.

During the first year and second year of the program, the new teacher will observe their mentor teacher three times each year. During the observation, they take notes focusing on strategies, materials, classroom management and etc. The mentor will also observe the new teacher twice each year. The lesson is prepared in advance and a pre-conference meeting is held between the mentor and new teacher. The new teacher will also specify areas where they would like to receive feedback.

After successful completion of the program, the new teacher and mentor will earn 22 CPDUs per year.

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**45th ANNUAL Regional Office of Education Teacher Appreciation Golf Tournament**

Spencer T. Ollis Golf Course – 4 person scramble
Wednesday, June 5, 2019 – Registration 7:30 a.m.
8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start – $19 per player ($20 per team)
Full dinner will receive:
• One re-play card for a free round of golf
• Lunch and awards meal • Refreshments on the course

Please help us plan by pre-registering by mail. Send in your registration form and check payable to ROE #41 to ROE #41, 137 N. Main St., Ste. 3B, Edwardsville, IL 62025. For more information, please call Rachel Lewis at 296-4155, email rlewis@mad.show.us. All registration forms with fees due in by May 30th, 2019.

**License Renewal will open April 1.**
Spencer T. Olin Golf Course
Registration: 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
4-person scramble $55 per player ($220 a team)

Pre-register by mail. Send registration form (see page 7 of this newsletter issue) and check (payable to ROE #41) to ROE #41, 157 North Main St., Ste. 438, Edwardsville, IL 62025. For more information please call Rachel Lewis at 296-4535 or email: rllewis@co.madison.il.us. All registration forms with fees are due by May 31th, 2019.

2019
Madison County ROE

June 17-21, 2019 - $50
9:00AM to 3:00PM
For more information or to register your Fall 2nd - 6th grader visit - http://bit.ly/roe41stem18

July 15-19, 2019 - $40
9:00AM to 2:00PM
Open to Fall 4th & 5th Graders
For more information or to register your Fall 4th or 5th grader visit - http://bit.ly/roe41ag