



## A Look Back as Summit County ESC Celebrates 100 Years

In 1914 Ohio's 88th General Assembly sanctioned the founding of a county board of education for each of Ohio's 88 counties. The mission was to provide administrative management and leadership to local school districts, the majority of which were small.

In Summit County, the first office was located in a small building on Grant Street in downtown Akron. It included one room that could hold about 20 people for a training—much different than the school house where the ESC is located today.

Then in 1995 Ohio legislators determined the county boards would then be called educational service centers.

The Summit County ESC continued to grow. So the office relocated to its current location at 420 Washington Street in Cuyahoga Falls in 1992.

For more than 25 years, Pat Clayton has witnessed the physical and educational transformation that has taken place at the ESC as well as throughout the districts.

"While we were at the prior office, we would frequently have to rent a room at Tangier Restaurant to hold a training back then," said Clayton, who also taught social studies in Mogadore City Schools for 25 years.



She currently provides professional development in the areas of social studies and foreign language content.

"We would hold classes four nights a week for teachers to help support the introduction of technology in the classroom," she said.

Clayton sees major differences from then to now using technology to teach.

"Back then the average teacher had basic technology skills. For example, teachers

could use PowerPoint and spreadsheets. In today's world, teachers are engaging students in the classroom through technology. They are integrating credible websites into lessons and getting their students actively involved," she said.

The ESC used to receive funds directly and determine the educational trends. Services are now tailored to each district, allowing decisions to be made based on individual needs.

Regardless of the physical location, the ESC continues to provide leadership in staff, in-services, tech-

nology, curriculum and instruction. The ESC is also instrumental in the development of current educational processes, as well as legal and fiscal developments.

Through all the changes, the constant that remains is the ESC's commitment to educating students.

## A Message from the Superintendent



Linda Fuline,  
Superintendent

During this hectic time of the year, I pause and smile when watching the awe struck faces of our children as they participate in the multitude of winter programs in our districts. The young children are ready to explode with pride and excitement as they share with us their performing abilities. As an educator I'm also impressed as I am watching them with the learning that

has been taking place in our classrooms as the teachers integrate lessons from various disciplines in each performance.

The excitement does not stop with our young children. The professionalism and pride reflected in the performances of our middle and high school students always stirs emotions inside of me. Our families have entrusted their children to all of us: teachers, bus drivers, educational aids, custodians, cafeteria workers, other classified and certified staff and administrators for their classroom instruction, safety, environment, emotional and physical growth and life lessons.

In Summit County we have a

stellar group of staff members who help develop our children to their highest potential. Additionally, the talented and hard-working staff at our Summit County ESC work tirelessly to assist district staff in meeting our mission of providing leadership and service in education.

Take a few minutes during the holiday season and reflect on all the great work you are doing every day for children. Know that it is appreciated and that our actions today speak volumes in the lives of so many for generations to come.

Best wishes for a safe and happy winter break and a bright 2015!

### Curriculum and Instruction (C & I) by Ann Phillips



Ann Phillips  
Assistant Director

The **unique feature** of the Curriculum and Instruction Department is having consultants with **core content focused areas** of

#### expertise.

The ESC employs experienced consultants in the areas of math—Evan Karnoupakis; science—Missi Zender-Sakach; social studies—Pat Clayton; and English language arts—Debbie Theirl. All consultants are members of state and national professional groups or committees.

They provide district level support, leadership and professional development in standards, assessment development, ODE-PARCC and AIR updates and technology integration.

The Teacher Leaders and Principal Academies are in full implementation under the leadership of Mike Herchik, Sharon Hall and Debbie Rohr.

Phil Hatton conducts 60 OTES evaluations for two districts each year.

All C&I Consultants are trained in OTES in order to align professional development with the specific OTES areas and make connections for teachers. Consultants are also designing professional development to assist teachers of moderate to intensive special educa-

tion students to meet the new HQT requirements. Two of the ESC consultants are trained mentors to assist with Resident Educator programs at the district level.

English language arts professional development has focused on vocabulary development and effective instruction, text-dependent questions and close reads. In January, a NEW workshop will focus on the research simulation PBA assessment based upon the tools used by PARCC.

In early spring, Herchik will provide the Child Abuse Prevention Series required by HB 276. Keep on the lookout for the date—it will be announced soon!

## Unique!

## 2014 Client Survey Leads to Improvements

Every two years the ESC asks for feedback from the districts that utilize services. From professional development to technology training, clients have the opportunity to share their experiences, as well as give suggestions on the services their staff members have participated in or attended.

This year’s results have been compiled, and, thanks to thoughtful feedback, a few areas have been identified where services can be improved.

Three major areas of the survey included Evaluation of the SCESC as an agency, Evaluation of interactions with each department and questions and comments regarding programming and services.

“We’re looking to implement the changes that need to be made in each of our departments to better serve our districts,” said David Jones, Director of Business Operations, Special Projects and Technology.

The Summit County ESC continually strives to improve services and better meet the needs of districts and all of those served.

For more information on the survey, visit [www.cybersummit.org](http://www.cybersummit.org).



## ESC Implements Start Talking! Grant to Help Prevent Drug & Alcohol Use

Mike Herchik, Summit County ESC Leadership Consultant, and a team of local educators were recently awarded one of 22 grants totaling \$1.5 million from the State of Ohio’s Building Youth Resiliency program through the Start Talking! Initiative.

“Since 2007 drug overdoses have been the leading cause of unintentional deaths, even surpassing motor vehicle crashes,” said Marcie Seidel, Executive Director Drug Free Action Alliance.

The grant is aimed at helping strengthen school-based alcohol and other drug prevention and

resiliency programming for at-risk youth in 19 Ohio counties.

The Building Youth Resiliency grants are an important part of Start Talking!, Ohio’s new youth drug prevention initiative.



Building Youth Resiliency, a partnership between the Office of the First Lady, the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based Initiatives and the Departments of Aging, Job and Family Services, and Mental Health and Addiction

Services, targets at-risk students in grades 5-9.

Five area districts are working with the ESC through the grant.

According to the Start Talking! website statistics, a majority of substance-free adolescents credit their parents for the decision not to use illegal substances. Likewise, teachers and other authority figures can have a similar influence on youth and their decision-making.

For more information on the StartTalking! Initiative, visit [www.starttalking.ohio.gov](http://www.starttalking.ohio.gov).



## All-Star Teaching Team Recognized at 7th Annual Education Celebration



2014 Summit County All-Star Teaching Team

Summit County's 2014 All-Star Teaching Team was honored during the Seventh Annual Summit County Education Celebration at St. George Family Center, October 27. Eric Mansfield, Exec. Director Media Relations at Kent State University was guest speaker, and he shared the importance of how caring teachers impacted his education and future while he was a student. He thanked all the educators in the room for their daily efforts with students.

Former Barberton Local Schools Superintendent, **Dr. Jerry Pecko**, was the recipient of the Lifetime Educator Award. Dr. Pecko was also Springfield Local School District's Superintendent, where he created a Distance Learning Lab in partnership with The University of Akron. Additionally, he served as Superintendent of Toledo City Schools.

The All-Star Teaching Team members were nominated by the community and chosen to represent their school districts by a selection committee, comprised of superintendents of each Summit County school district. The 2014 All-Star Teaching Team members are: Sandra Neidert, Akron Public Schools; Sydnee Ortman, Barberton City Schools; Amy Belles, Copley-Fairlawn Schools; Danny Savage, Coventry Local Schools; Courtney Rubino, Cuyahoga Falls City Schools; Elaine Totten, Green Local Schools; Marie Rourke, Hudson City Schools; Richard Harper, Manchester Local Schools; Matt Beresh, Mogadore Local Schools;

Jennifer Gruber, Nordonia Hills City Schools; Dennis Oswald, Norton City Schools; Dale Dunlevy, Portage Lakes Career Center; Melanie Stuthard, Revere Local Schools; Becky Burtoft, Springfield Local Schools; Ed Borsuk, Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools; Debbie Dodson, Greater Summit County Early Learning Center

*(Education Celebration continued page 5)*



*(L-R) Rookie of the Year Chelby Coddling, Lifetime Educator Dr. Jerry Pecko, Teacher of the Year Elaine Totten and Summit County ESC Superintendent Linda Fuline.*

## Summit County ESC HR Department Sees New Faces

After 13 years at the ESC, Melissa Habowski will retire from her post as the Human Resources Director at the end of this month.

“When I came to work for the Summit County ESC in August 2001, I barely knew what an ESC was nor did I understand the work an ESC does. Now, as I prepare to retire, I am very well aware of the importance of the work we do. What we do matters – it matters to all the children who are directly and indirectly impacted by people who are part of the ESC and the programs we operate; it matters to the teachers and administrators we train and coach and inform so they are more knowledgeable and skilled in the work they do

with children and colleagues. How fortunate I have been to be a part of an organization that is dedicated to leadership and service in education,” said Melissa.

Joe Petrarca, will become the Human Resources Director, effective Jan. 1. Joe brings 20 years of experience in the areas of student services and administration. Joe has a natural ability for identifying talented individuals and working in conflict management. I look forward to his work in



Joe Petrarca

the department.

N’ecole Ast will become Director of Student Services. N’ecole joined the ESC staff this year, and prior to her current role in Student Services, she was the Director of Special Needs Initiatives at Medina County ESC. She also served as Behavior Autism Specialist and Preschool Support Staff for several years.



N’ecole Ast

“I hope you will join me in extending warm congratulations to them both!” said Superintendent Linda Fuline.

## Welcome New ESC Staff



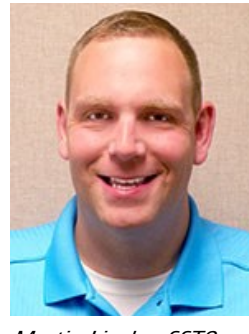
Tracie Collins, HR Specialist



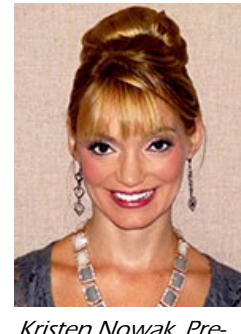
Stephanie Denham, SST8 Educational Consultant



Sharon Hall, Gifted Consultant



Martin Linder, SST8 Educational Consultant



Kristen Nowak, Preschool Coordinator



Jacquie Mazziotta, Communications Coordinator

### Education Celebration continued from page 4

(SCOPE Academy); Lynn Williams, Tallmadge City Schools; Kristin Dehil, Twinsburg City Schools and Ashley Jurkowski, Woodridge Local Schools.

Green’s Elaine Totten was named Teacher of the Year; and the Rookie of the Year is Chelby Coddling, a high school art teacher at Woodridge Local Schools.

Event sponsors include the Akron

Beacon Journal, Akron Children’s Hospital, Brennan, Manna & Diamond, FirstMerit, McGown & Markling, Co., LPA, PNC Financial Services, Safe Schools Helpline/Jay Morgan, Summit County Children’s Services, Summit County Developmental Disabilities board, Summit Education Initiative, Summit County Educational Service Center and WOMX.



### Barberton Welcomes New Administrators



*Mike Andric, College Career Coordinator*

Mike Andric began the school year as Barberton's College/Career Coordinator at Barberton High School.

Pauletta Gemind was appointed as Barberton's Transportation Supervisor.



*Pauletta Gemind, Transportation Supervisor*



### Cuyahoga Falls Welcomes New Administrators



*Kris Gajjer, Associate Principal*

Cuyahoga Falls High School has two new Associate Principals this year. Kris Gajjer and Hillary Freitag began their new roles in administration this fall.

Prior to his current post, Kris was a social studies teacher at Cuyahoga Falls High School.

Hillary joins the high school staff this year from Bolich Middle School, where she was a science teacher.



*Hillary Freitag, Associate Principal*



### Revere Welcomes New Administrators

Julie Gully began the year as Hillcrest Elementary Principal.



*Julie Gully, Principal*

Kim Hussing was appointed as Assistant Principal at Hillcrest.



*Kim Hussing, Assistant Principal*

Bill Conley is the District's Athletic Director.



*Bill Conley, Athletic Director*



### Springfield Welcomes New Administrators



*Chuck Sincere, Springfield Assistant Superintendent*

Chuck Sincere is Assistant Superintendent at Springfield through January 31, 2015, when he will assume the role of Superintendent.

Chuck previously served

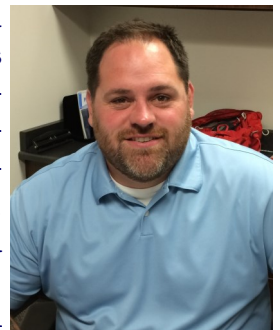
as Director of Special Services.

Brad Beun now holds the position of Director of Special Services. He was previously Assistant Principal at the Jr. High/High School.



*Brad Beun, Director of Special Services*

Todd Lovell is the current Assistant Principal, Springfield Jr. High/High School. Prior to his new role, Todd taught art at Springfield.



*Todd Lovell, Assistant Principal*



### Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools Welcomes New Administrators

Mark Fritz joined Stow-Munroe Falls as Director of Operations.



*Mark Fritz, Director of Operations*

Julie Obraza began the school year as Director of Academic Achievement.

Prior to her new appointment she was principal at Fishcreek Elementary School.

Mike Love joins the Kimp-ton Middle School staff this

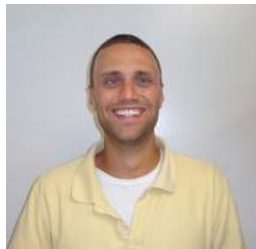


*Julie Obraza, Director of Academic Achievement*

year as Assistant Principal. He taught at Stow-Munroe Falls High

School prior to becoming an administrator.

Happy Bengston began the school year as Principal at Fishcreek. Prior to her current role,



*Mike Love, Assistant Principal*

Happy served many years in the district as Principal and Interim Principal.



*Happy Bengston, Principal*



### Tallmadge Welcomes Mike Bluey

Mike Bluey was appointed to the post of Assistant Principal at Tallmadge High School.



*Mike Bluey, Assistant Principal*



## Twinsburg Welcomes New Administrators



Belinda McKinney began the year as Twinsburg's Director of Human Resources.

*Belinda McKinney, Director of Human Resources*



Jim Ries was appointed as Principal at R.B. Chamberlin Middle School.

*Jim Ries, Principal, R.B. Chamberlin Middle School*

Scott Astey is Wilcox Primary School's Assistant Principal.



*Scott Astey, Assistant Principal, Wilcox Primary School*



Chad Welker took over the role of Director of Business Services.

*Chad Welker, Director of Business Services*

Scott Winter is Assistant Principal at Samuel Bissell Elementary School.



*Scott Winter, Assistant Principal, Bissell Elementary*



---

## Woodridge Welcomes New Administrators



*Beth Harrington, Principal, Woodridge Primary School*

Beth Harrington was named Principal of Woodridge Primary School, and Kristin Jagger was appointed to the role of Principal of Woodridge Intermediate School. Prior to joining Woodridge, Kristin served as a middle school Principal in Summit County.



*Kristin Jagger, Principal, Woodridge Intermediate School*





## The University of Akron Welcomes New Administrators



*Dr. Susan Clark,  
Interim Dean*



*Dr. Sandra Coyner,  
Interim Assoc. Dean*



*Dr. Phillip Martucci,  
Director of Teacher Ed*



*Dr. Peggy L. McCann,  
Interim Department Chair*

## ESC Partners With Christian James Salon for Children with Autism

With specialized training and communications support through the Summit County ESC, parent advocate and business woman, Georgeann Pinter, turned her passion for helping children with developmental disabilities into a personal service business for people with autism in Summit County.

"Education goes beyond what takes place in the classroom. The SCESC is happy to work with Georgeann as she provides a unique service to children with disabilities. Parents have an opportunity to have a basic need of their child's met in an appropriate and understanding environment. We are pleased that we have the opportunity to collaborate with Ms. Pinter and wish the Salon great success," said SCESC Superintendent Linda Fuline.

After several attempts at trying to locate organizations or businesses that specialize in personal care services for individuals with special needs, Pinter said she was unable to find a salon

that catered to people with special needs locally or across the United States.

"What average people experience as a trip to a salon can be a major and sometimes impossible undertaking for people with special needs," explained Pinter.

A basic haircut can be daunting for children or adults with special needs, as sometimes only those with first-hand experience can understand. So Pinter sought support from the ESC and founded Christian James Salon in Cuyahoga Falls.

Parents often find the only solution to a haircut for their child is to forego a traditional appointment and postpone a cut altogether until the last possible moment when they have no choice but to cut their child's hair themselves.

Located at 2041 State Road, Christian James Salon offers traditional salon services, including, but not limited to hair and nail services for all clients – those with developmental disabilities as well as the general public – by

professionally trained stylists in a setting designed for those with special needs.



The ESC supports the salon by providing personnel background checks, CPR and First Aid training, effective communication support, autism education as well as an education of all disabilities, including positive behavior supports. The collaboration also includes field trips for students in grades K-8 who attend KIDS FIRST (located in the Copley-Fairlawn School District), a school that focuses exclusively on children with autism. Students of the transitional age group who attend the TOPS Program in Tallmadge also visit the salon.

For more information about Christian James Salon, visit [www.christianjamesalon.com](http://www.christianjamesalon.com).