

# Summit Connect

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER



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### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe that spring is here and another school year is winding down. I'd like to share a few updates with you in regards to all of the great things that have been happening at Summit ESC as well as some upcoming opportunities for you.

We enjoyed celebrating Autism Awareness Month with a variety of programs throughout the month of April. Some of the highlights being featured on Summit 98.1 radio to promote our Summit Preschool Program's Sensory Sensitive Event on April 5 and hosting the LAMP Words for Life Training.

Summit ESC is also looking forward to hosting Dr. Karen Hess in October, who is an international leader in developing practical approaches for using cognitive rigor and learning progressions. Please register for this and other professional development events online. A full list of our upcoming offerings can be found in this newsletter.

We truly appreciate your commitment to improve students' lives and your willingness to collaborate. As always, please let us know if there's any way we can further assist your district.

**- Joe Iacano**



## FEATURED CONSULTANT: JACQUELINE GALLO



Finishing up her first year at the Summit ESC, Jacqueline serves as an intervention specialist for the First Start Classroom – a program designed for students diagnosed with autism who require specialized instruction.

Specifically, Jacqueline heads the classroom as the lead teacher, managing the students IEPs and teaching as well as observing potential new students. Each day, Jacqueline and the First Start team create a supportive learning environment that fosters growth and assists students and families in the areas of: communication, social opportunities, positive school experiences, specialized training, parent connections and behavior supports.

Jacqueline is a valuable part of Summit ESC, and we are glad she joined our team this past year. She states that her favorite part about working at the Summit ESC is the difference she gets to make in the lives of her students.

In her free time, Jacqueline notes that she and her fiancé love to travel. So far this year, they have visited Sonoma, California, for wine country and recently traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, for spring break. Jacqueline also enjoys practicing yoga a few times a week, as it helps her unwind after a work day.

The Summit ESC looks forward to our next year together, Jacqueline.

## FEATURED CONSULTANT: MARY LYNN MACK



Mary Lynn has been a part of the Summit ESC family off and on for the past seven years. While going through school to become an occupational therapist, Mary Lynn was first a substitute teacher and also served as a 1:1 assistant for the Kids First program. After passing her occupational therapist licensure, Mary Lynn was hired on as the Summit ESC's first and only occupational therapist. In Mary Lynn's own words: she has always loved working at the ESC and can't stay away!

In her current role as an occupational therapist, Mary Lynn provides occupational therapy support for First Start, Kids First and TOPS program at the Summit ESC. These are all specialized programs that support students three to 22 years of age with autism spectrum disorder and other complex developmental disabilities. Mary Lynn offers her services as an embedded and integrated approach within the classrooms in order to provide the highest level of support to students, staff and parents. This approach allows her to collaborate and work side-by-side in academic and leisure environments best suited for students.

The students and staff are what Mary Lynn enjoys most about working at the Summit ESC. Specifically, she enjoys the staff's willingness to go above and beyond for the students,

ensuring students have positive experiences throughout their schooling and life.

In her free time Mary Lynn enjoys spending time with her husband, pets, family and friends. She also enjoys yoga, drawing and painting. Additionally, Mary Lynn is a freelance photographer and has been the Kids First and TOPS' volunteer school photographer for the past two years.

The Summit ESC is happy you are a part of our team, Mary Lynn!

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: FIRST START

First Start is an intensive preschool program for children with autism or risk factors associated with autism. This classroom is reserved for children who are unable to be served or may not have access to preschool curriculum in one of Summit ESC's other classrooms. First Start also serves as an option for children in this space who may need a more intimate child to adult ratio and an extended learning day. Children in this classroom generally have significant language deficits (often non-verbal), social skill delays and other needs as related to behavior or sensory integration.

First Start has a diverse set of staff to meet the various needs of the children and families in the program. Among the program's main staff are two classroom assistants and First Start's early childhood intervention specialist, Jacqueline Gallo, who has worked in this space her entire career. Jacqueline heads the classroom as lead teacher, managing the students' IEPs, teaching and observing potential new students. The Summit ESC also has an in-house speech-language pathologist, RyAnn Heller, who conducts as needed speech-generated device assessments to target functional communication in students.

This First Start program is different from other Summit ESC's classrooms, as there is only a max of six children with IEPs. In the morning, the instruction is intensive and specifically targeted toward the six students, then in the afternoon, two peers are integrated as models and for opportunities to carry over.

Throughout the school week, students participate in two full days of speech-language therapy and one full day of occupational therapy services, which are conducted by the Summit ESC Occupational Therapist Mary Lynn Mack.

With the extended day that First Start offers, class is in session from 8:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Included in the day is a "lunch bunch" where students take a break, eat and work on communication and social skills.

First Start's partner classroom, Next Step, is a half-day integrated program which supports the transition of students into First Start, and then potentially, out of First Start if students show progress.

The ultimate goal of First Start is to develop students, so as to eventually integrate general preschool curriculum into their lives as well as get them ready for a successful transition to kindergarten.

## SUMMIT ESC WELCOMES SEAN FREMON TO BOARD

Summit ESC is excited to welcome Sean Fremon as the newest board member, who began his new position on March 19.

Currently, Fremon serves as president for PLX Industries, Inc. and Logo.me LLC Promotional Products, overseeing the daily business, financial operations and sales and marketing of the businesses. He also founded Cole Industries in 2002, a multiple winner of business awards including the Inc. 5000 and Weatherhead 100.

Fremon graduated from California State University, San Bernardino, with a bachelor's degree in communication. He also served in the Armed Forces as an Air Force journalist and public affairs specialist during the Panama Conflict.

In line with his new role on Summit ESC's board, Fremon showcases an extensive background in community service and involvement, including positions such as: founding president and current board member of the Coventry Schools Foundation; vice president of the Coventry Financial Planning and Supervision Commission, which he was appointed to by Gov. John Kasich in 2016; and board and committee member of Habitat for Humanity of Summit County, Akron Community Foundation, Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, Akron Rotary Camp, Autism Society of Greater Akron and more.

"I'm excited to be on the Summit Educational Service Center's board," said Fremon. "It's great seeing all of the support services that ESC supplies to its member schools in Summit and the surrounding counties, and its 39,000 students."

Fremon presently lives in Portage Lakes with his wife, Michelle, and has three children and one stepdaughter. In his free time, Fremon enjoys competitive running, triathlons and boating.

We look forward to the positive impact he will have on our board and wider community.



## BASA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

On March 18 and 19, BASA hosted its 14th annual Celebrating Women in Leadership Conference. The event was attended by more than 200 female leaders from across the state of Ohio, including Summit ESC's very own Dr. Christina Dinklocker and Angela Terella.

This year's theme, "Our Stories, Our Journey: Living. Learning. Leading," was the backdrop for a day and a half of experiences with women who have risen to the top of their professions by challenging themselves, overcoming barriers and becoming experts and role models in their fields.

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Deb Delisle, President and CEO of the Alliance for Excellent Education, opened the conference with a compelling speech on the value of reaching back to help someone move forward. Deb is a recognized trailblazer in Ohio as she has also served as past State Superintendent of Public Education as well as Assistant Secretary of Education to President Obama and CEO of ASCD.

Attendees also heard from Romona Robinson, eight-time Emmy Award-Winning journalist. Romona shared her journey of a rural Missouri childhood to becoming the first black female to anchor an evening broadcast in Cleveland.

Throughout the day, many more inspiring stories were shared, including attorneys Carolyn A. Davis, Nicole Donovan and Christina Peer with their message of facing and overcoming adversity in a male-dominant business and Ohio leaders, Kelly Spivey, Char Shyrock, Jodie Hausmann and Michelle Kalish, with their message of grit and perseverance in the "real" world of school administration. Additionally, Tami Chapek, the founder of WelnspireWe, engaged the audience with a compelling presentation on "the art of telling your story while networking."

The conference ended with a rousing presentation from Miranda A. Beard, who outlined a story of perseverance while holding true to your own ideals and living what you value.

The growth of this event in the past 14 years is a testimony to the need for specific professional development and the leadership growth challenges women must still explore to inspire and establish equity within the administrative ranks. Special recognition is accredited to Scholastic Education, Discovery Ed and American Fidelity as partners in this event.

## SUMMIT ESC HIGHLIGHTS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH THROUGH NUMEROUS PROGRAMS

April is Autism Awareness Month and this year, the Summit ESC held a number of events and training sessions to bring awareness to autism, especially in an educational setting.

Here's a snapshot of some of the highlights from this month:

- *The Summit Preschool Program held its Sensory Sensitive Event on Friday, April 5, at Get Air in Akron. This was a family event that was open to all preschool families to commemorate the month. Everyone that came had a great time and want to do it again. We had a great turnout from community providers to share information regarding community outreach and other sensory sensitive events.*
- *Kristen Nowak, Student Services Coordinator, promoted the Sensory Sensitive Event, as well as Autism Awareness month, on The Summit 98.1 radio station.*
- *The Summit ESC hosted the LAMP Words for Life Training as a feature training for Autism Awareness on Friday, April 12. There was a great turnout and the sessions were at capacity!*
- *Throughout the month, the Summit ESC also featured Autism Awareness activities on Social Media featuring programs targeted toward Autism. Summit ESC staff, departments and preschool sites were also featured wearing blue throughout the month!*



## SUMMIT ESC HIGHLIGHTS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH THROUGH NUMEROUS PROGRAMS - CONT.



## SUMMIT ESC HOSTS MEETING TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

On April 3, Summit ESC organized a meeting to discuss updates related to the new school funding formula proposal for the state of Ohio. Summit ESC welcomed two lawmakers – Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) and Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) – who have recently been traveling around the state to present their new formula to different teachers and school administrators.

The proposal represents a comprehensive, revised school funding plan for primary and secondary education in Ohio. For some background, in 1997, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled Ohio’s school funding system unconstitutional, but no major changes have occurred since that ruling.

Cupp and Patterson convened local superintendents and treasurers to develop what they believe is a comprehensive plan with feedback from other frontline educators. After 15 months of work, a proposal was built from the ground up by

the educational leaders.

The proposal is designed to achieve a fairer, more predictable and more workable school funding framework that helps to prepare all students for life as well as the demands of the 21st-century workforce. The plan will address students’ critical needs, including providing basic instructional resources, adding funds for poverty and mental health, helping special needs, gifted and English-language learners, improving security and safety and investing, in career-tech centers, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) skills and Ohio’s educational service centers.

Their plan, which ends up increasing school funding by \$720 million, would need legislative approval. For more information, visit the Statehouse News Bureau online.

# Summit ESC to Host Dr. Karin Hess in October 2019

The Summit ESC is pleased to host Dr. Karin Hess on Oct. 23, 2019. Dr. Hess will be speaking on "Promoting Deeper Learning with Depth of Knowledge," providing an overview of depth of knowledge (DOK) and its influence on instruction in the classroom and overall student achievement.

Specifically, Dr. Hess will address the following topics:

- ✓ Properly designing assessment items at different DOK levels: This will include examples, a template for the design and how to determine and design different items at various depth of knowledge levels.
- ✓ Influence for instruction: As the teacher and student roles shift, the classroom looks different. Dr. Hess will discuss how the role of the teacher and the student shifts as the level of DOK changes.
- ✓ Increasing overall student achievement: This will focus on how to engage students in productive struggle and increase their resiliency and stamina with more rigorous item tasks.

"We have been looking forward to hosting Dr. Hess at the Summit ESC for quite some time now," said Summit ESC Director of Curriculum and Instruction Matt Young. "Her focus on depth of knowledge through cognitive rigor has benefits to both teaching and learning, inspiring reflection and changes to instructional and assessment strategies."



Dr. Hess has over 35 years of experience as an international leader in developing practical approaches for using cognitive rigor and learning progressions as the foundation for formative, summative, and performance assessments.

For almost 15 years at the Center for Assessment in Dover, NH, Dr. Hess distinguished herself as a content and curriculum specialist, as well as an assessment expert in multiple content areas. She has effectively guided many states and U.S. territories in the development of grade-level expectations and test specifications for general education and alternate assessments for significantly cognitively disabled students.

Register online at: [www.summitesc.org/events](http://www.summitesc.org/events)

## Questions?

Contact Holly Schmunk at **330.945.5600 ext. 511270**  
or [hollys@summitesc.org](mailto:hollys@summitesc.org)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

### Strategizing Sessions: Analysis of Recently Released Testing Data and Implementation of Plans

June 5 OR 6, 2019 | 8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

For: District/school administrators and central office staff

Bring your team to analyze the recently released state data and enhance instructional leadership strategies. Support will be provided on how to access the reports and how to determine areas of strengths and growth. Additionally, we will discuss how to present the data to stakeholders as well as how the data supports your plan for the following year.

Please bring: An electronic device, any trend data and printed reports you have accessed from current or past years.

### PAX Good Behavior Game

June 6, 2019 | 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Description:

PAX GBG is a classroom-based preventive intervention that provides teachers with the skills and strategies to create nurturing environments in their classrooms through self-regulation, co-regulation and group regulation throughout their daily instruction.

Specifically, the PAX Good Behavior Game teaches students skills in delayed gratification that have been

shown in multiple controlled trials to dramatically improve behavioral, academic and lifetime outcomes.

Benefits for teachers and students:

- Major improvement in engaged learning by students.
- 60-90 minute more time to teach and learn each day.
- 75-125 fewer disruptions per hour in classes.
- Improved benchmark scores that predict success on standardized tests.
- 20%-30% less need for special education.
- Improved family life because of children's improvements at school.
- Improved benefits of other prevention efforts.
- This is for Summit County districts only

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### MAY 2019

- May 1:** *Special Education Forum*
- May 7:** *Treasurer's Lunch Bunch Support Group*  
*Aspiring Building Leaders*
- May 9:** *Food Service Network*
- May 10:** *Literacy Leaders Network*
- May 16:** *Curriculum Directors' Roundtable*

### JUNE 2019

- June 6:** *Special Education Directors' Roundtable*  
*Women's Leadership Network*  
*Transportation Leader's Network*

For more information or to register for an event, please visit [Summitesc.org/Events/Daily.aspx](http://Summitesc.org/Events/Daily.aspx)



# 2019 LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

**SAVE**  
— the —  
**DATE**

August 1-2  
2019

*Marriott Cleveland East*

TAKING IT TO THE **NEXT LEVEL**

**Where:** Marriott Cleveland East  
*26300 Harvard Road, Warrensville Heights*

***We look forward to seeing you there!***

**DETAILS ON REGISTRATION COMING SOON**





**SUMMIT ESC**  
**EDUCATION CELEBRATION**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DATE:

**OCT. 22, 2019**

LOCATION:

**GUY'S PARTY CENTER**

(500 E Waterloo Rd, Akron, OH 44319)

TIME:

**SOCIAL HOUR: 5 P.M.**

**DINNER: 6 P.M.**

**AWARDS CEREMONY: 7 P.M.**

Registration and payment are required for this event. For any questions, please contact **Tracie Collins** at [TracieC@summitesc.org](mailto:TracieC@summitesc.org).

To register, visit [2019 Education Celebration Registration](#)