



REGIONAL OFFICE *of* EDUCATION

## *Bi-County Brief*

*Monroe & Randolph Counties*

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### **BUSY DAY FOR CAREER CENTER OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS**

Over five hundred 8<sup>th</sup> graders descended upon the rural campus of CCSI for Career Day on Friday September 27. The annual event, coordinated and sponsored by the OKAW Regional Vocational System, introduced students to programs of study available in area high schools and at CCSI. The Day provided an opportunity for students to engage in interactive lessons in welding, auto mechanics, auto body repair, heating and air conditioning, child care, Web design/gaming, health occupations, law enforcement, marketing, agriculture, engineering and culinary arts. Participating schools were Chester, Evansville, Freeburg, Marissa, New Athens, PEP, Prairie du Rocher, Red Bud, Sparta, Steeleville and Valmeyer.

As if that was not enough action, CCSI concluded the school day with a ceremony to celebrate the rich 40-year history of the school and the recent improvements to all its facilities. The brightly painted campus is now adorned with signage that alerts visitors to the many state and national awards for student achievement. Attendees visited remodeled classrooms for the Beck School of Practical Nursing, which boasts the highest board scores in the state of Illinois. We congratulate everyone at CCSI for its continued dedication to students both high school and adult!

### **SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS FOCUS ON ACTIVE SHOOTER SCENARIOS**

Illinois schools are now required to annually conduct active shooter drills. Although schools have been required to conduct law enforcement drills for many years, a new law passed this summer focuses the law enforcement drills on addressing school shootings. New recommendations for these drills include a more proactive approach by staff rather than simply locking down classrooms and hiding in corners. Among the recommendations are improving internal and ongoing communication during a crisis, reinforcing the security of classroom doors during the lock-down and evacuating only when appropriate. These new insights provide opportunities for schools to take a proactive approach in preventing and responding to school shootings. The Regional Office of Education is fully committed to the safety of our schools and has engaged with local and county law enforcement to promote a strategic review of policy and practice.

### **LICENSURE UPDATES**

You may have wondered why you have not heard much lately from us about logging into the new licensure system ELIS. Since our September issue of the *Bi-County Brief*, there have been few updates to the system as ISBE continues to work on fixing problems. Although several types of educators will need to take action this year, we are not recommending that educators log in to the system unless it is absolutely necessary. If you are not registered in our region or failed to renew your certificate last year, you need to immediately enter the system to address these issues. Otherwise, we recommend that everyone stays out of the system until the “bugs” are eliminated. We will alert everyone when it is safe to log in and check your credentials. Currently there are so many critical issues with the system that ISBE needs to fix that individual issues are delaying these essential modifications. If you *must* enter the system and have any issues, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

### **AT-RISK TRUANCY PROGRAM IS AT RISK**

For over two decades the Regional Office of Education has provided services to area schools by providing a truancy interventionist to work with at-risk students identified as truants and chronic truants. Under the leadership of Dr. Marc Kiehna and piloted in the Chester community, the Regional Office of Education was grant funded to support the Right Track Truancy Program for all the schools in Monroe and Randolph counties. Currently there are over 375 students in the Right Track program, which involves case management to assist students and families to assure regular attendance and provide academic support. Unfortunately the collaborative grant among the schools administered by the Regional Office of Education that provides these services was not funded for the 2013–2014 school year. This is only the second year since its inception that the program has not been funded. One of the most significant losses to the program is the ability to utilize the credit recovery programs available for grant-funded programs. Last year without grant funding, subscriptions to the online programming that recovered over 100 courses for credit would have cost over \$40,000. These subscriptions are free for grant-funded programs.

With seriously diminished funding of schools and programs, the Regional Office of Education has begun discussing with stakeholders alternate resources to continue the Right Track Truancy Program. As the old saying goes, “You never know what you got ‘til it’s gone.” For our students’ sake we hope we do not have to find this out.

## ILLINOIS RTI NETWORK MEETING IN RED BUD

Are you interested in strengthening your Tier 2 support system? The I-RtI Network is pleased to announce a series of networking meetings in Red Bud focusing on Tier 2 implementation. Networking sessions are at no cost to districts. The sessions are designed to provide ongoing professional development and an opportunity to network with other districts regarding implementation of RtI. Dates and topics will include October 15 - *Procedures for Selecting Tier 2 Interventions Based on Scientifically-based Research and National Standards*, December 12 - *Logistics for Implementing Tier 2 Interventions such as Scheduling, Personnel, and Data-based Decision Making Issues*, February 18 - *Progress Monitoring for Students Receiving Tier 2 Interventions in Reading and Math*, and April 17 - *Systematically Abandoning Practices that are Redundant or No Longer Needed*. To register for the October 15 networking session in Red Bud, please use the following website: <https://area5-redbud-networkingmeeting-october-2013.eventbrite.com/>.

## TEACHER TREATS ON NOVEMBER 6

Teacher Treats for November, which were requested by teachers and provide an opportunity for networking, will be divided between two locations and two sets of grades on Wednesday, November 6. One round table discussion, facilitated by Marybeth McCormick, will be from 4–6 p.m. at Sparta Middle School library for teachers in grades K–5. Teachers should bring either an ELA or math lesson they use to teach Common Core or a challenge they are having. Another Teacher Treat, facilitated by Lyndi Davis, will be from 4–6 p.m. at Waterloo Middle School. This round table will be for grades 6–8 and primarily ELA teachers, but content teachers are also welcomed to bring ideas for incorporating the Common Core into classes. **There is no charge; however, you must register at [www.educationregistration.org/roe45](http://www.educationregistration.org/roe45).**

## THE NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS

The State of Illinois is one step closer to adopting the Next Generation Science Standards. The Illinois State Board of Education moved forward with the adoption process at its last meeting by placing the proposed changes into the public comment review period. If you would like to make comments, you may do so at [www.isbe.net/rules/proposed](http://www.isbe.net/rules/proposed). It is currently the first item “Proposed Amendments to Part 1” and will close November 18, 2013. Information and resources about NGSS are available at <http://www.nextgenscience.org>.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS: [www.roe45.net/calendars/workshop-events](http://www.roe45.net/calendars/workshop-events)

Oct. 3, 2013	Perandoe Annual In-Service	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Oct. 4, 2013	School Counselors’ Meeting	SWIC Red Bud-Room 152	11:30 am – 3:30 pm
Oct. 8, 2013	Next Generation Science Standards	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Oct. 9, 2013	Perandoe Speech and Language In-Service	Perandoe Sp. Ed. Conf. Rm.	8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Oct. 10, 2013	Next Generation Science Standards	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Oct. 11, 2013	Common Core Standards for CTE	SWIC Red Bud	8:00 am – 3:00 pm
Oct. 15, 2013	Illinois RtI Network Meeting	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	9:00 am – Noon
Oct. 17, 2013	Informational Reading Strategies	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Oct. 22, 2013	Informational Reading Strategies	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Oct. 23, 2013	Perandoe Paraprofessional In-Service	Perandoe Sp. Ed. Conf. Rm.	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Oct. 24, 2013	Informational Reading Strategies	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Oct. 24, 2013	Principals’ Meeting	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	8:30 am – 11:00 am
Oct. 24, 2013	ROE Curriculum Advisory Board	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	Noon – 3:00 pm
Oct. 30, 2013	Engaging Students with Content Vocabulary	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Nov. 5, 2013	Engaging Students with Content Vocabulary	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Nov. 7, 2013	Engaging Students with Content Vocabulary	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Nov. 15, 2013	Superintendents’ Council	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Nov. 19, 2013	Engaging Students with Questioning	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Nov. 20, 2013	Engaging Students with Questioning	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Nov. 21, 2013	Engaging Students with Questioning	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Nov. 21, 2013	Principals’ Meeting	SWIC Red Bud-Room 123	8:30 am – 11:00 am

**THE MONROE-RANDOLPH ROE IS HERE TO SERVE YOU. CONTACT THE WATERLOO OFFICE AT 618-939-5650 OR THE CHESTER OFFICE AT 618-826-5471, OR VISIT US AT [WWW.ROE45.NET](http://WWW.ROE45.NET).**