Northumberland Transition Conference held at SU

SELINS Grove — The Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) and the Northumberland County Transition Council welcomed more than 200 students in Susquehanna University’s Stretinsky Commons Hall for the 2020 Northumberland Transition Conference.

The objective of the annual conference is to recognize special needs junior and senior students from the region who have gone above and beyond in their efforts and preparations for life after high school.

Students from Milton, Warrior Run, Shikellamy, Mount Carmel, and Mifflinburg school districts participated, along with students throughout CSIUs Work Foundations+ program. Also participating, were student nominees from Midd-West and Selinsgrove Area school districts.

The conference commenced with keynote speaker Ken Allenbach, a leadership and team building coach, encouraging students to rid themselves of the burden of “labels placed on them by society.” “One thing we need to understand is that when we put labels on people, it becomes another voice inside your head and if we’re not careful, it can take on a life of its own,” said Allenbach.

Prior to the conference, students can be nominated by their transition coordinator to receive the Dr. Cynthia Schloss Transition Education Award and/or the Andrew Hergan Transition Education Award.

To honor the memory of Dr. Cathy Podzielny, the Dr. Cynthia Schloss Transition Education Award is presented annually to a nominated student from a school district in the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit region who demonstrates “a strong personal work ethic and commitment to preparation for adult life.”

Three students received the Dr. Cynthia Schloss Transition Education Award. They were Colton Wehry from Line Mountain School District and CSIUs Work Foundations+ program. Also participating, were student nominees from Midd-West School District and Isaiah Harris from Selinsgrove Area School District and SUN Area Technical Institute.

The fourth award was to be presented during the Columbia Montour Transition Conference. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 outbreak and out of an abundance of caution, the venue decided to cancel that conference. The award has been presented to Hope Mullery of Danville Area School District.

When asked what the award means to her, Kaitlin said, “It means a lot; it means the world!” After graduation, Kaitlin plans on attending Wilson College in the Veterinary Medical Technology program. Dr. Spangler, Kaitlin’s transition coordinator said she couldn’t be prouder of Kaitlin.

The Andrew Hergan Transition Education Award is presented to a nominated student from a school district in the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit region who demonstrates “a strong personal work ethic and commitment to preparation for adult life.” This award was presented to Josh Stanchick.

Stanchick is a junior from Mount Carmel Area School District, who attends the Northumberland County Career and Technical School in the construction trades program. Josh is employed part-time at CVS and also part-time for a landscaping company. In addition to his employment, Josh volunteers his time and carpentry skills by building dugouts for his high school baseball team, building a shed for a local church and helping to build a tiny house that will be auctioned when completed.

Following the awards ceremony, students attended breakout sessions on various topics including employer expectations, social media and cyber offenses, interviewing techniques, financial literacy, stress and expectations of the college experience, among other topics.

One of this year’s conference was “Believe, Achieve, Lead, Succeed.” The conference program cover art was designed by Aden Lewis of Selinsgrove Area School District and Work Foundations+.

The conference has continued each year because of generous donations from sponsors and donors. To learn more about the Transition Conference, or to be a sponsor or donor, contact Misty Harris, CSIUs Educational Consultant at 570-523-1155, extension 2251.

Northumberland Transition Conference held at SU

Melissa Keegan: ‘Education, as we have known it, has been greatly impacted.’

BY KEVIN MERTZ
The Standard-Journal

MILTON — Milton Area School District staff members have been working “diligently” to prepare for virtual learning, according to Superintendent Dr. Cathy Keegan.

As a result of the mandated statewide school closure due to the coronavirus pandemic, students in the district will resume their education Monday via the worldwide web.

“The district has worked diligently to prepare our community for a brand new, virtual learning experience,” Keegan said. The district’s web page is live with answers to many questions our students and families will certainly be asking. A link to ask further questions is also available for our community.”

She said the district’s current learning plan will include daily virtual face-to-face time between teachers and students.

“Our staff are working around the clock to address every new situation or need that arises,” Keegan said.

“Educators are getting ready to teach virtually, a whole new experience for them,” she continued. “They are innovating and creatively developing engaging lessons for our children.”

Superintendents from across Pennsylvania have been meeting virtually daily to discuss challenges arising daily as a result of the pandemic, Keegan said.

“Schools in Pennsylvania continue to wrestle with the complex challenges of their school calendar,” she said. “Discussions about graduation are not yet occurring. Until the unknown becomes known and controlled, many decisions will be placed on hold.”

With Milton launching into virtual education on Monday, Keegan noted that “the home will now become the classroom.”

“That is a big change for families,” she said. “We thank the community in advance for their patience and understanding... The support we have felt has been amazing.”

Warrior Run outlines distance learning plan

TURBOTVILLE — With public schools across Pennsylvania closed through at least April 6 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Warrior Run School District has outlined its plan for distance learning days (DLDs).

According to information posted by Superintendent Dr. Alan Hack on the district’s website, Warrior Run’s DLDs will begin Monday, with teachers providing assignments and resources for students through Google Classroom, Sapphire Class Pages, email or another platform already established by the classroom teacher.

While our intent is to deliver as much of the content/activities virtually, paper packets will be provided as requested, particularly for families without internet access,” Hack wrote, in the release, “Information on distribution of paper packets..."