

A message from the Executive Director

CELEBRATING IMPORTANT ANNIVERSARIES

During the 2016-2017 school year, the Six District Educational Compact celebrated two important anniversaries:

The **Diane Burbick Math and Science Conference** marked its 20th year of encouraging middle school girls to consider careers in math and science and to take challenging courses in high school. Approximately 1,500 young women, as well as 1,800 parents, have taken advantage of the opportunity to learn from professional women about their career paths. For 20 years, women keynote speakers have inspired the audiences with stories about their lives and their careers. These included physicians, pilots, various types of engineers, veterinarian, CEO of the Cleveland Natural History Museum and many others. We express our appreciation to Ron Burbick and the Burbick Foundation for funding this annual event, along with a “thank you” to Summa Health for allowing us to use their facilities at the Professional Center South location.

Our annual **Reading and Writing Festival** celebrated its 30th anniversary of bringing literature to life for middle school students across the region. Each year, a nationally known author speaks candidly to the group about his or her writing routines and inspiration. They also have 19 breakout options to select for their participation on the Festival day at Kent State University. Students are required to read six specially selected books in order to participate. A huge “thank you” is extended to the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library staff for working with the Planning and Book Selection Committees.

IMPLEMENTING THE FOUR E's INITIATIVE

After the Compact was awarded an Ohio Department of Education Office for Exceptional Children grant totaling more than \$225,000, the real work began. It has been so rewarding to see the culmination of efforts and ideas we have been talking about for the past 20 years as part of COMPACT COMPASS: THE FOUR E's INITIATIVE. Thank you to all who participated in a wide array of focus areas from district team members to a grant advisory committee; to the EXPLORE middle school teams to the representatives of the ENACT and ENGAGE components. This work will continue as we make a sustainable difference with the career development of all students as well as with secondary transition services. The EMPOWER software that was developed with grant funds will be a major asset to all parties as we assist students be more ready for post-secondary employment.

HIGHLIGHTING NEW INITIATIVES

The Compact is one of the educational partners involved in ConxusNEO, a group dedicated to cultivating a network of manufacturers, educators, economic development professionals and public sector leaders throughout Summit County. Numerous Compact district representatives attended the ConxusNEO ALIGN event in March which provided an opportunity for leaders to imagine a shared vision and purpose for promoting manufacturing careers. The Compact was one of the co-sponsors of this important conversation for the region's economic development.

In other initiatives, an IDEA group for Superintendents continued in order to provide peer support, information and assistance for those in the top positions in school districts. This year, Saturday Family Workshop coordinators, along with members of the Compact C.A.R.E. and Principal's Committees, studied the possibility of adding a new program focusing on anger management/conflict resolution; this will begin in September.

SAYING GOODBYE

We said goodbye to supporters of the Compact this year, including:

At Roosevelt: **Deb Rutzky**, School Counselor

At Stow-Munroe Falls: **Marty Saternow**, Director of Special Services; **David Osborne**, Treasurer

At Tallmadge: **Kelley Smith**, Family and Consumer Sciences

At Woodridge: **Deanna Levenger**, Treasurer; Sally **Elvitsky**, School Counselor

As you read the Annual Report I know you will be proud of the work that your students and staff have accomplished during the 2016-17 school year.

Sincerely,



Mary Jane Stanchina
Executive Director