

# Educational Highlights for Leaders

Volume 1, Issue 1

August/September  
2013

*Special points of interest:*

- MS Transition Training  
September 20, 2013
- Autism Awareness  
Days @ COSI  
October 26, 2013  
9 am—Noon
- IEP & ETR Annotations  
no longer in effect.
- September 19, 2013 -  
Last Day to Register  
Online for Ohio's 2013  
Special Education Lead-  
ership Conference

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*Supporting Erie, Huron and Lorain Counties*

## Introducing the newest members of the State Support Team for Region 2...

### Darren Conley

Darren comes to the region with years of experience in the field of special education. Prior to being the Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports Consultant for SST 2, Darren was an Intervention Specialist for the Elyria City School District, and the building principal; at Elyria High School. Darren has been helping at-risk students for over twenty-six years and coordinated the Juvenile Offenders Program at the Lorain Correctional Institution.

Darren is a graduate of Kent State University and received his Master's degree from Bowling Green University. He loves the outdoors and spending time with his family.

**Darren's Contact Info:**  
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### Martin Linder

Martin comes to the region with years of experience in the field of general education and special education. Prior to being the OIP Consultant for SST Region 2, Martin was the Principal at New London Elementary School.

### Jackie Plantner

Jackie comes to the region with years of experience in the field of special education. Jackie was the Jackie is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and received her Master's degree from Cleveland State University in Curriculum & Instruction – Early Childhood Education.

Jackie is passionate about Early Childhood Education. She believes that all young children deserve a solid foundation of social, emotional, and academic support that will lead to self confidence and success throughout their school years. She hopes to be a strong support to Early Childhood Education Teachers and Administrators throughout our region.

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Darren  
Conley



Jackie  
Plantner



Martin  
Linder

Martin is a graduate of the University of Dayton and received his Master's degree in Education Administration from Ashland University.

He enjoys biking and gardening and follows the Cleveland Browns, Cavaliers, and Indians as well as Ohio State and University

of Dayton's basketball team. He is passionate about helping students grow and learn.

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## The R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award Recipient is ... Audrey Costilow



**Audrey Costilow**

Audrey is a very hard-working, involved, dedicated and kind student inspiring other students to do their best. At Amherst sister schools Audrey's goal of becoming a teacher's Aide is becoming a reality. Audrey's jobs include lunch duty, office aide, helping teacher's reading papers, making copies, reading to students performing flash card labs and more.

Audrey has applied what she has learned in functional math class with banking in her home life. Audrey, with the help of her parents, opened a checking account,

making purchases and paying bills and balances the check-book monthly keeping a yearly expense log. Audrey works hard with her mother and teacher to adapt all the recipes in her Life Skills 2 class to make them gluten free as she has Celiac Disease.

Audrey is involved in many extracurricular activities such as theatre, both on stage and behind the scenes, often helping other cast members learn and practice their lines. Audrey is in Special Olympics with swimming, bowling and cheerleading. Audrey has volunteered at the Amherst Pub-

lic Library twice a week for three years. Audrey was the Amherst Grand Marshal in the 2012 Amherst Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony riding in the sleigh with Santa.

## The Franklin B. Walter 2013 Team Award Recipient is ... Midview Middle School

The teaching team of Marsha Pavlenda, Bryan Szczepanski, Troy Bunner and Vic Prosac use whatever time they can get to plan, collaborate or simply talk about how to better serve their students. Their planning time is constant whether it's in the hallway between classes, before or after school or during class, this team makes use of every minute. The team focuses on learning and insists on growth. Each student is an individual in the eyes of this tri-teaching partnership and the work is truly split amongst these three wonderful educators. As Midview Middle School dove head first into a true co-teaching model, the team

of Marsha, Bryan and Troy pitched the tri-teaching idea as a way to not only provide support for students with disabilities but also to provide support for struggling students as well as those that need enrichment. While the 50 students are divided amongst Marsha and Troy officially on the roster, they are grouped and re-grouped daily based on needs of the students. The students quickly accepted the fact that they basically had 3 math teachers. Tri-teaching has been effective because it has remained focused around the students and developed out of a true caring for their students, not just the students'



test scores. The team thinks outside the box to provide a unique delivery model that benefits students of various levels and all with varying needs.

## Our Digital Upgrades

We at SST Region 2 are always looking to improve. One of the many improvements that we have been working on is our presence in the digital world.

The website for the SST Region 2 is currently under construction with an anticipated launch date being the beginning of October. The new website will reflect the latest in educational research, current training opportuni-

ties, and outreach for the entire three county region.

It is the goal of SST Region 2 for our website to be comprehensive, user friendly and customer centered. The simplistic, interactive design allows visitors to access services, resources, and contacts with ease.

The new website address is [www.sstr2.org](http://www.sstr2.org) and currently users will be redirected to the old

website until the new website is launched.

We also have a presence on Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. The inspiration for this digital expansion is to make ourselves accessible to everyone.

SST Region 2 welcomes input and suggestions from users of the website.



## Alternate Assessment

Ohio's new Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD) was administered for the first time in spring 2013. Student scores from 2013 can be compared to the AASCD Performance Standards found here: [http://oh.portal.airast.org/OH\\_Alt/wpcontent/uploads/2013/06/AASCD\\_Performance\\_Standards\\_June2013.pdf](http://oh.portal.airast.org/OH_Alt/wpcontent/uploads/2013/06/AASCD_Performance_Standards_June2013.pdf).

The new AASCD marked a significant change in Ohio's alternate assessment. The AASCD is aligned to Ohio's Academic Content Standards –Extended (OACS-E) and is designed to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in an appropriately rigorous assessment.

Even though students who are alternately assessed are measured by the OACS-E, teachers must provide rich, academic instruction. To avoid predetermining levels of student achievement, instruction should be provided using the Ohio's New Learning Standards for all students using appropriate instructional strategies and assistive technology to provide access to the content. The OACS-E are used as a rubric to determine student achievement after instruction.

Professional development to help teachers move to this framework was offered in the fall of 2012, summer of 2013 and will be offered again in

November 2013. Stay tuned to your email for further information regarding that training. In addition, ongoing support can be obtained by contacting Jennifer Heim, Autism/Low Incidence/ Assistive Technology Consultant at State Support Team, Region 2 at [heim@sstr2.org](mailto:heim@sstr2.org).



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We are on Facebook!  
Search State Support Team  
Region 2

*New Website Coming Soon ...*  
[www.sstr2.org](http://www.sstr2.org)

## ***WHAT IS THE STATE SUPPORT TEAM?***

The goal of the State System of Support (SSoS) is to build the capacity of local and related education agencies to engage in systemic and sustainable improvement.

SSTs are integral to implementing this goal. The Regional SSTs are the means of delivering a unified system of support that meaningfully connects research based processes to the work of early intervening and prevention, early learning and development and special education functions with a focus on improving instructional practice and student performance on an on-going basis.

## **Have your voice heard . . .**

*Never allow someone  
to be your priority  
while allowing  
yourself to be their  
option.*

The State Support Team for Region 2 is looking for a few good men or women to serve on an SST Region 2 advisory committee. The purpose of this committee is to allow educators in the three county region to have a voice in the planning of regional professional development. The committee will also allow the SST to have a pulse on the needs of the region.

The advisory committee will consist of two representatives from each county, a representative from each ESC, a representative from each Career Center and a maximum of three representatives from the State Support Team.

The committee would meet quarterly to plan future high quality professional development and technical assistance based on the regions identified needs. If interested please contact Tracy Lichtenfels, Director of SST 2, at [lichtenfels@sstr2.org](mailto:lichtenfels@sstr2.org) or 440-324-5777 Ext. 1136.

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