Technology for School Administrators

By: Ann Richards

"Honor the past, challenge the present, and look to the future" – Walt Disney

Technology for School Administrators was the focus of the Annual Spring Advisory Council for the Leadership Project held April 29, at Ohio University Chillicothe Campus. Ohio University Leadership Project was privileged to have a panel of experts to address the various aspects of technology.

James Watkins, Assistant Dean, College of Education, Youngstown State University, presented ideas on administration for the next century and school district technology. He stressed to be successful, each district needs to find a niche and a vision. The niche he chose was technology with a vision of computers being tools to enhance learning. Educators need to instruct students on how to use the tools. He recognized the cost of implementing technology and shared, “there is never enough money; administrators have to find money and make it a priority and grow the program by adding a little each year.” Watkins discussed the importance of people, recruiting a good staff, then supporting them with technical support they need in a timely fashion. In looking to the future, Watkins sees 3-D conferencing, designing interactive web pages, and interactive video to be skills the next generation will need and use.

Bruce Hawkins, CEO, Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network, looked at the history of technology and how far it has advanced. He reminded us that the last forty years has brought about computerized cash registers, robotics within factories, and changes in school structures (charter schools, home schooling, vouchers, privatization, and cyberschools). With these advances, he stressed the importance of adapting. One statistic he shared: 85% of today’s kindergarten students will hold jobs that currently do not exist. With

Ohio University Leadership Project has as its purpose the identification, development, and implementation of needed professional development programs for current and aspiring school administrators.

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Five Year Forecast – March Session

By: Debbie Ratliff

I have been attending the Ohio University Leadership Project Seminars for treasurers since 1983. I think the one this spring was absolutely the most challenging one that I have attended. We divided into groups and each group developed a five-year forecast for a public presentation. We presented our forecasts to a panel of five community members. The panel consisted of two school board members, a radio broadcaster, a newspaper journalist, and a banker. It was one of the greatest experiences I’ve had, even though it raked my nerves a little.

Ernie Strawser, treasurer, Jackson City Local, assists participants of the Five Year Forecast Seminar in the computer lab.

The panel provided terrific input concerning how these forecasts should be presented to lay people. As school treasurers we tend to use school jargon such as SF3, SM2, and EMIS, which mean nothing to the members of the community. The feedback on these presentations was invaluable to each of us.

I have never missed the Spring Leadership Seminar at the Chillicothe campus. If you have not made it to one, I would encourage you to try to. They are a great experience for treasurers!

Debbie Ratliff is the treasurer for Gallia County Local Schools and a participant in the OULP Treasurer’s Professional Development Program.

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the rapid rate of change, he believes administrators need to be leaders in using and modeling technology and to “Honor the past, challenge the present, and look to the future.”

Sandra Turner, Professor, Educational Studies Department, Ohio University brought a presentation of critical issues for instructional technology. 1) Preparing pre-service teacher with technical skills by modeling its use, integrating technology into lessons plans, and providing technology rich environments for student teachers; 2) providing professional development for in-service teachers; 3) establishing technology support at the building level as well as the district level; 4) creating a systematic effort focusing on integrating technology with curriculum, and 5) administrative support.

Shawn Clemmons, Director, South Central Ohio Computer Association (SOKA) described the role of an A-Site. The A-site is designed to help districts with Internet access, filtering, library automation, and provides assistance with EMIS and report card (continued on pg. 3)
Five Year Forecast – May Session

By: Sharron Moon

I had the opportunity to attend the Ohio University Leadership Project Seminar on Five Year Forecasting May 11 through May 13. This was one of the most impressive and informative work sessions I have had the opportunity to attend. The work session included group participation, group learning sessions, and role playing activities.

The purpose of the seminar was to learn techniques of how to build and prepare your Five Year Forecast and how to present your forecast to your Board of Education. The presenters in work sessions included John Fernbaugh, Executive Director of Ohio Association of School Business Officials, current and past members of the Chillicothe School District, and Steve Neal, Ross County Auditor. Each of these sessions provided excellent input on matters that influence and affect the projections that appear in the five year forecast as well as the daily operation of the school treasurer’s office.

This seminar was very well organized, very informative, and highly recommended to all treasurers and business managers.

Sharron Moon is the treasurer of Lockland City Schools, Cincinnati.

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Information.

SCOCA is there to design a plan to meet the needs of individual districts and to work closely with them. Clemmons shared the capabilities and advances of technology SCOCA has to offer and what they hope to offer in the future.

Andrew Qualtaire, Executive Director of the Ohio Education Computer Network concluded the presentation with a legislative and governmental perspective of technology. He shared an overview of Ohio Schools and where they stand in the area of technology. He stressed the state’s role in providing aggregated data analytically.

A question and answer session concluded the meeting. The Leadership Project intends to take the insight of this panel to develop Professional Development Seminars for school administrators during the next school year. The next meeting of the advisory council will be held in the fall.

A special thanks to our panelists, Brian Kirkendall, Charles Taylor, Jodie Van Winkle, and those who assisted in making this meeting a success.
New Professional Development Program for Elementary Principals

by: Ann Richards

This year the Leadership Project, along with the help of Johanna Lunsford, Lawrence County ESC, developed a professional development program to meet the professional development needs for elementary principals.

Gary Heimbach, principal at Vernon Primary School, Bloom-Vernon LSD, shares his experiences with the program. "This program has been very informative and helpful to me as an elementary principal. One of the aspects of this program that has made it very worthwhile is that principals from five difference counties come together to share common concerns and work together to determine how we can do a better job for the children back in our own buildings. The major item addressed on our agenda the last two meetings was, 'How are we going to comply with the mandate of the fourth grade guarantee?' Hearing from colleagues from twelve to fifteen different buildings was very helpful to me. The various ways of intervention being used gave each of us new ideas to share back in our own buildings."

The Elementary Principal's Professional Development Program meets on the Ohio University Southern Campus. Proposed topics for the next school year include: safety and security issues, fourth grade guarantee, and special education. Please see the back of this issue for next year's meeting dates.
Spring Seminars
The school year has come to a close and summer is finally here! I have enjoyed my first year with OULP and have had many opportunities to meet and get to know so many of you. I look forward to next year and the challenges it will bring.

OULP would like to congratulate Crystal Gips on her new position has Dean at St. Rose College in Albany, New York. Crystal was instrumental in getting the Leadership Project started when she was with Ohio University.

We would also like to extend congratulations to Amy Van Der Schriek, former editor of Extra!, on her position as Operations Supervisor for Credential Corporation in Cleveland.

We wish both of you the best as you begin your new positions. If you are changing jobs for the next school year, we would like to know so we can add your name in the fall edition of Extra!.

Article submissions are welcomed and encouraged. They may be edited for content and length. Please send comments, suggestions, and submissions to: Ohio University Leadership Project, 1804 Liberty Avenue, Ironton, OH 45638, Attention: Ann Richards or fax to (740) 533-4632.

Have a great summer!

Washington-Nile and OULP Join Hands on CIP

By: Debra Queen

"Increasing Student Achievement" has become the slogan at Washington-Nile Local Schools in Scioto County. The continuous improvement process has been embraced to achieve this motto. Patricia Ciraso, superintendent, has assembled a 60 member team of community members, parents, board members, teachers, and administrators to plan for the district's future in the areas of teaching and learning, assessment, professional development, parent involvement, resource leveraging, educational environment, and technology.

Many connections have been made to the larger educational community in order to provide the basis for the planning process. William Larson, director of Ohio University Leadership Project, and Debra Queen, school improvement facilitator, are the co-facilitators for the Washington-Nile Continuous Improvement Plan. Rena Allen and Henrietta Keysor, both from Ohio University, have provided valuable information on professional development and parent involvement. Each building principal has presented the data on proficiency testing and the activities that are occurring in the district to enhance student performance.

Henrietta Keysor meets with committee members to discuss parent involvement.

The Continuous Improvement Planning team has investigated the data, analyzed the strengths and areas of need, and developed the critical issues for the school district. The team is on a hiatus for the summer but will return to its task in the fall. Increasing student performance will continue to be the order of the day as the CIP team plans for the new millennium of education in Washington-Nile Schools.

Debra Queen is the School Improvement Facilitator for South Central Ohio ESC.
From the Director

Dear Readers of Extra:

It seems difficult to believe that another school year is over. Regardless of the number of years that I have worked in schools, very special feelings come over me particularly at the beginning and at the end of the school year. The culture of schools in the spring with proms, graduations, recognition ceremonies, retirements, musical concerts and so much more represent a phenomenon like no other. I think it is important to maintain our traditions. Among other things, they provide structure and maybe even an oasis of sorts as we struggle with inevitable changes of the future. On the other hand, the enormous transformation that is occurring in our society, including its schools, with the onset of the information age is very exciting.

The Leadership Project also has struggled and hopefully flourished with change, in the form of growth of the professional development programs provided for school administrators. The superintendent, high school principal, middle school principal, and treasurer cohorts (groups) continued with nearly monthly seminars. A second cohort of treasurers and a cohort of elementary principals began addressing professional development this year. Another new cohort is in the planning stages and is scheduled to begin with the next school year. In addition, professional development activities were coordinated with the administrative teams of two school districts. An annual seminar for school business officials had to be copycatted on additional dates in order to accommodate the overflow registration from each corner of this state.

The basis and the manner in which the professional development programs have been established seem to have been particularly effective. Their operation has been based upon the notion of providing ongoing (multi-year) development programs for the participants. In other words, the project and its participants are working together for their long-range professional development. The focus and topics of the programs are evaluated throughout the course of the year and modifications and outright changes are made in order to be in sync with the ever-changing needs of the participants. All of the planning and the arrangements are in concert with the participants.

There is much room for improvement with the initiatives of the Leadership Project. We are always striving to identify better ways in which to address the professional growth needs of school administrators. Your input is appreciated and needed. Please do not hesitate to contact me during the summer; your ideas augment the development of our plans for the next school year. I can be reached at (740) 533-4580 or at larsonw@ohio.edu.

Until then,

Bill Larson
Director
Ohio University Leadership Project
### 1999-2000 Proposed Dates for Professional Development Programs

*All dates are tentative*

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