



# Hancock County Educational Service Center



“Meeting Student Needs Through Cooperative Efforts”

Larry J. Busdeker, Superintendent

## YES, the ESC is ready for a fresh start...ONWARD!

After completing a very challenging and demanding school year, the summer respite was definitely warranted and welcomed by one and all. However, as is always the case, numerous preparations continued during this recess to assure that everything would be in readiness for a productive and successful educational experience for the young people that the ESC and the local schools are entrusted to serve. Clearly, the Hancock County Schools (**Arcadia, Arlington, Cory-Rawson, Liberty-Benton, McComb, Riverdale, Van Buren, and Vanlue**) have shown time and time again that they are resilient and high-performing. More than ever before, the ESC is committed to assisting these constituents in continuing to achieve this success. Please accept my sincere best wishes for a positive and safe school year.

Larry J. Busdeker, Superintendent  
Hancock County ESC

## Two Liberty-Benton Students Receive Rieck's Gallery Award

Beginning with the 1998-99 school year, the Rieck's Gallery Award was initiated in order to honor an art student who has shown outstanding talent in the area of visual art. Importantly, for 2022 the award has been renamed to the Legg-Rieck Gallery Award, recognizing **Harolyn Legg**, recently retired ESC Enrichment Programs Coordinator, for promoting the continuation of this prestigious award. In exchange for a monetary donation, the recipient of this award is asked to permanently display the selected piece of his/her artwork in the main hallway of the Hancock County Educational Service Center. Currently, twenty-three pieces comprise this special exhibit.



**Jaden Wadding**

This year the 2021 Rieck's Gallery Award is shared by **Kylie Giofreddo** and **Jaden Wadding**, recent graduates of Liberty-Benton High School. Kylie and Jaden are students of art teachers Carrie Arnold, Jack Quisno, and Lance Stevens. Their mosaics, “Abstract” by Kylie and “Sunrise” by Jaden are now hanging in the ESC hallway. Kylie will attend Bowling Green State University majoring in Psychology, and Jaden plans on enlisting in the Air Force.



**Kylie Giofreddo**



## Transition Coordinator to Enhance ESC Services

Thanks to the financial assistance of the Blanchard Valley Center/DD, the position of Transition Coordinator will begin providing much-needed services to special needs students for the 2021-2022 school year. The primary purpose of this role is to assist the students in the development of a suitable Transition Plan to be followed upon graduation from high school. This plan will focus in three areas: (1) employment - *Students will maintain a job they are successful in, enjoy going to each day, and choose themselves*, (2) education/training - *Students will continue to learn new skills and concepts as they move into adulthood*, and (3) independent living - *Students will successfully perform functional self-care and household management duties to be as independent as they are capable of being*. Therefore, the objective of the Transition Coordinator is to help students, families, teachers, related services, community agencies, and businesses collaborate through multi-agency planning and partnerships to accomplish successful student outcomes for these three goals.

The Hancock County System of Care (SOC) first priority identified in January 2021 is to increase emphasis on programs and services for transition-aged youth. Furthermore, as of February 2021, 333 students on IEPs throughout Hancock County Schools are eligible for transition coordination and services. Last but not least, IDEA requires a transition plan and services on Section 5 of the IEP and it is to drive the IEP starting at age 14. Clearly, the need for a Transition Coordinator exists.

Taking on this role is **Angie Toland**. Angie comes to Hancock County having served as a Transition Coordinator, as well as an Occupational Therapy Assistant, for the Allen County ESC. She is a graduate of Rhodes State College, as well as the University of Cincinnati. This past school year, Angie was a Medical Assistant at McComb. As is evident, Angie has the skills and experience necessary to successfully fulfill this new role at the ESC.

## ESC Focused on Accomplishing Six Priorities

In order to maintain necessary direction and accountability to its various constituents, the Hancock County Educational Service Center is committed to addressing the following six priorities. As in the past, a mid-term report will be provided to the ESC Governing Board on the progress being made in these areas, with the final summary of accomplishments provided to all stakeholders in May.

1. To continue to enhance the numerous **services** that are provided to **special needs** students and their parents in the eight local school systems.
2. To provide relevant **general education services**, with an emphasis on professional development, curriculum revision, and technical assistance.
3. To develop pertinent countywide **resource materials/programs**.
4. To maintain and strengthen the **educational partnerships** with the Findlay City Schools, Findlay Digital Academy, St. Michael's School, the Millstream Career Center, the Blanchard Valley Center/DD, The University of Findlay, Bowling Green State University and Owens Community College.
5. To build upon **community collaborations**, such as the Family-Children First Council, Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation, ADAMHS, United Way of Hancock County, Raise-The-Bar, Hancock County Sheriff's Office, Findlay Rotary Club, and Challenged Champions Equestrian Center.
6. To maintain the ESC's primary commitment to **team building** and **continuous improvement** in all areas of operation, with an emphasis on **cost effectiveness** and **efficiency**.



## ESC Welcomes New Members to the Service Team

Assuming a *Speech-Language Pathologist* position is **Debra McClung-Giano**. She received both her BS and MAED in Communications Disorders from Eastern Kentucky University. After serving for nine years in two hospital settings, Debra worked at Concepts Rehab Inc. in Toledo for five years and Encore Rehabilitation Services in Ottawa for nine years. For the past four years, she has assisted at The Center for Autism and Dyslexia in Lima.

Taking over as *School Psychologist* for the Riverdale Local Schools is **Abby Musgrave**. A Magna Cum Laude graduate, Abby received her BA from Bowling Green State University. Also, she is a recent graduate of Miami University with an Educational Specialist degree in School Psychology. After completing her two Practicums, Abby served as an Intern School Psychologist at Mason City Schools (Mason Middle Schools and Mason Early Childhood Center) this past year.

Joining the instructional team is **Kathy Brown** as the *High School Multiple Disabilities Teacher* at Van Buren. Kathy received her BS from Ohio Northern University. For the past four years, she has been a primary instructor at Simon Kenton School in Kenton. She has also served as a long-term substitute at Ada High School, as well as an intervention specialist at Lima West Middle School for nine years.

Assuming the position of *Elementary Multiple Disabilities Teacher* at Van Buren is **Jenna Mundy**. Jenna was awarded a BA from Heidelberg University in Music Education, and a MAED in Early Intervention Mild to Moderate from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Besides being a musical orchestra director and an instrumental lessons instructor, she has served as a paraprofessional aide and Special Needs Provider for Upper Sandusky Schools.

Accepting the position of *Part-time Special Needs Preschool Teacher* at Vanlue is **Rachel John**. Rachel is an honor graduate of Bowling Green State University, with a BS in Inclusive Early Childhood Education. For one year, she served as a kindergarten intervention specialist, and for the past two years Rachel has been an instructor of a kindergarten inclusive classroom for Van Wert City Schools. Furthermore, Rachel is also taking on the role as *Part-time Special Needs Itinerant Preschool Teacher*.

Assuming the position of *Fulltime District/Building Substitute Teacher* is **Katherine Sheridan**. Katherine received her BS from Bowling Green State University, and she is currently enrolled in a MAED program through Grand Canyon University. She has served as a substitute teacher for the past six years. Katherine has also been a pre-school aide and a K-1 teacher at The Center for Autism and Dyslexia in Findlay.

Last but not least, becoming the *Treasurer's Clerk* is **Kathy Davidson**. Kathy attended the University of Northwestern Ohio in Secretarial Studies and Office Administration. For fourteen years she worked as an Administrative Assistant for Schroeder & Co., C.P.A.s in Ottawa and for eighteen years as an Accounting Bookkeeper for St. Peter & Paul Church, Ottawa.



## "Service" is Our Middle Name

Since the Hancock County Educational Service Center is committed to "meeting student needs through cooperative efforts," the ESC diligently works to accomplish this mission by assisting and supporting the eight local schools in the following service areas:

**General Education Improvement:** Specialized help is provided with curriculum review, the textbook/classroom resources selection process, the Resident Educator program, and intervention strategies. Technical assistance is also given to the Hancock Literacy and Leader-In-Me initiatives, as well as facilitating pertinent professional development for both teachers and administrators in OIP (the Ohio Improvement Process) and OTES (Ohio Teacher Evaluation System).

**Gifted/Enrichment Program:** The ESC coordinates the High School and Middle School Quiz Bowl programs, the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society Inductions, and the countywide Spelling Bee. Assistance is provided with the identification of gifted students and the maintenance of the local service plans, as well as extensive professional development. The ESC coordinates the Marie Berry Scholarship program, and it is also actively involved in the selection process of numerous scholarship programs through the Hancock County Community Foundation.

**Special Needs Services:** Besides directly supervising the ED (*emotionally disturbed*), ID (*intellectually disabled*) and MD (*multiple disabled*) programs, the ESC provides critical services to special needs students through occupational therapy, physical therapy, adaptive physical education, behavioral specialists, and a parent mentor. Specific programming by the Challenged Champions Equestrian Center (*therapeutic horseback riding*), as well as ABLLS-R program (*Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills-Revised*) and the assistance of a Transition Coordinator are also offered to these youth.

**Special Needs Pre-Schools:** A total of fifteen state-funded special needs pre-school classes are operated and supervised by the ESC, which are located at all eight schools. The services of an itinerant preschool instructor are also provided. Additionally, due to Community Foundation and United Way funding, a pre-school program for low socio-economic students is offered at Riverdale, as well as a county-wide preschool scholarship program for needy young people and their families.

**Psychological Services:** Five fulltime and one part-time school psychologists, as well as a "Teacher on Special Assignment", provide a wide variety of necessary technical assistance to the local schools.

**Speech/Language Therapy:** Seven fulltime speech/language therapists provide these required services to PreK-12 county students.

**Community Collaboration:** The ESC actively collaborates with the Findlay City Schools, The University of Findlay, Findlay/Hancock County Community Foundation, United Way of Hancock County, Findlay-Hancock County Chamber of Commerce/Alliance, Hancock Literacy, the Findlay Rotary Club, the Hancock County Sheriff's Office, and the Findlay/Hancock County Workforce Development Coalition (Raise-The-Bar).

**Miscellaneous Services:** The ESC manages the Hancock County School Insurance Consortium, directs the Hancock County Alternative Opportunity Center/Digital School, and it coordinates the Hancock County Schools Business Advisory Council. It also provides the services of a part-time attendance officer and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages) staffing.