



Hancock County Educational Service Center



"Meeting Student Needs Through Cooperative Efforts"

Richard Van Mooy, Acting Superintendent

Larry J. Busdeker July 9, 1948 - February 23, 2022



This newsletter begins on a sad note. Long-time Hancock County Educational Service Center Superintendent, Larry J. Busdeker, passed away in late February. All of us within the Hancock County Education Community are saddened by his death. He was a true friend of public education and we at the ESC will remember his guidance and the confidence that he had in all of us.

Larry's legacy in Hancock County was the spirit of cooperation he fostered with all the Hancock County Schools we serve. We will continue his legacy of "Meeting Student Needs Through Cooperative Efforts" and we will heed his favorite mantra, "Onward."

Christopher Cortez Selected as the 2022 Franklin B. Walter Scholar

For the past thirty-three years, the Ohio Educational Service Center Association has sponsored the Franklin B. Walter All-Scholastic Award. This award was established to commemorate Mr. Walter's tenure as the Ohio State Schools' Superintendent from 1977-1991. The purpose of the award is to recognize student achievement and promote academic accomplishments. One senior is chosen from each of Ohio's counties to be recognized as their Franklin B. Walter scholar from their county. These students are the best and brightest of the Class of 2022.

In Hancock County, one application is solicited from each of the nine school districts served by the Hancock County ESC. The material submitted by each of the outstanding students is evaluated by an ESC selection committee that examines the students based on school and community involvement, extra-curricular activities, GPA, class rank, ACT scores and a personal goals statement. The committee selected Arlington Senior, Christopher Cortez, as the Hancock County Franklin B. Walter award recipient.

Christopher is ranked first in his class with a GPA of 4.0. He is president of the National Honor Society, president of his senior class, president of the National Science Honor Society as well as the French National Honor Society. He has received numerous awards and recognitions connected with academics. These include awards for outstanding work and effort in biology, mathematics, French, physical education, and English.

Christopher's athletic awards include being a four-year letter holder in football and being defensive captain and receiving BVC and regional recognition. Additionally, Christopher was one of ten students from all over the nation who was a Gold Recipient of the Hispanic Heritage Youth Award in Sports and Fitness and was highlighted as a Youth Awardee at the Super Bowl LXI Week Por La Cultura Celebration in Los Angeles, CA.



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Christopher is also an accomplished musician and has been recognized for both his instrumental prowess and his vocal abilities by virtue of being a member of several Arlington High School bands and vocal ensembles.

Outside of the classroom, Christopher is very active in Boy Scouts and has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. His scouting activities include being a patrol leader and helping with many community service projects. Christopher is also active in his church and donates hours of volunteer time supporting the church.

In his essay, Christopher recognizes the positive impact that his teachers have had on him. He states, "the positive influence, vast knowledge, and role model tendencies that teachers provide have a ripple effect through their students . . ." He plans to return the favor by becoming a secondary science teacher after graduation from BGSU.



To appropriately recognize Christopher's selection, he will be honored at a luncheon in Columbus hosted by the Ohio Educational Service Center Association. Additionally, he will be locally recognized by the Hancock County ESC at a similar luncheon in Findlay and at a Governing Board meeting where he will receive a \$500 scholarship.

Once again, on behalf of the Hancock County ESC, sincere congratulations are extended to Christopher for his many fine accomplishments.



Ian Vargas is Spelling Bee Champion

On the evening of January 27, sixteen students from the area elementary and middle schools participated in this year's Findlay/Hancock County Spelling Bee. Ian Vargas, a sixth grader at Glenwood Middle School, Findlay City Schools, was the Champion of this yearly event by correctly spelling "cephalopod." The Runner-Up was 8th grader Alex Aukerman from Cory-Rawson Middle School. Plaques were awarded to the top two finishers, medals were given to those who placed third through seventh, and certificates were awarded to all participants. The program is locally sponsored by the Hancock County ESC and coordinated by Lauri Cedar.

Riverdale is Quiz Bowl Champion

Riverdale was the Tournament Champion, with the team from Liberty-Benton finishing as Runner-Up. Members of the Riverdale team are pictured as follows: (Front) Abby Mellott, Johannah Thacker, David Borkosky, Olivia Bolenbaugh, (Back) Alex Eaton, Colton Klingler, Coach Kristie Thacker, and Brody Bolenbaugh. (Not in attendance were Sydney Bickford and Zachery Fletcher.) Members of the Liberty-Benton team included: RJ Coldren, Brandon Maag, Cam Criblez, Connor Troxel-Spears, Lola Flick, Laura Romeiro, Aiden Delehoy, and Ben Leichty, with Kelley Foltz serving as Coach.



Students participated in this special competition from the eight local school districts: Arcadia, Arlington, Cory-Rawson, Liberty-Benton, McComb, Riverdale, Van Buren, and Vanlue. The Quiz Bowl program was once again offered through the Hancock County Educational Service Center, with coordination provided by Lauri Cedar.