



IU1

INTERMEDIATE UNIT I
Fayette-Greene-Washington

INTERCONNECTED

February Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 10

SPOTLIGHT ON THE STUDENTS

In western Pennsylvania, alongside traditional sports like football, basketball, baseball, and wrestling, bocce is emerging as a popular option. The region has seen a rise in Unified Bocce, where players with special needs join peers to form teams, fostering inclusivity. The program, part of Special Olympics, has gained traction, with 66 schools in the western region participating in Unified Indoor Bocce leagues. Stephanie Taylor from Special Olympics notes the sport's growth, highlighting its sanctioning by the PIAA. Washington School District exemplifies inclusive practices, with its Unified Bocce team led by Coach Ron Todd, a Special Education teacher. Todd emphasizes the team's role in building confidence and self-esteem while providing a fun learning experience.



Camilla Justice, Washington's Director of Special Education, expresses delight at the enthusiastic embrace of the game by the teenagers. "We have an exceptional cohort of students ranging from freshmen to seniors, collaborating effectively within the team. They enjoy engaging practices, acquiring diverse strategies for success, and relish the opportunity to compete against other schools' teams," Justice remarks. She emphasizes that the team's objectives align perfectly with the mission outlined on the Unified Sports website: "to foster inclusivity through shared sports training and competitive experiences, guided by the fundamental principle of training and playing together. This approach provides meaningful opportunities for both students with and without disabilities to participate as equals in sports."

REMINDER ROUNDUP!

- Central Office March Professional Development:
 - Monday March 11th from 9am - 11:30am in the Washington & Fayette Rooms
- IU1 Convention/Student Showcase
 - Tuesday March 26th from 1pm - 6pm at the Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe

TECH-TIP!

STAY ALERT AND WATCH FOR THESE TELL-TALE PHISHING SIGNS:



- Urgent action demands
- Bad spelling and grammar
- Inconsistent email addresses, links and domain names that don't quite match your organization's
- Suspicious attachments
- Emails requesting personal info
- Too good to be true messages

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

IU1 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

While it is difficult to select one staff member to highlight in a department of talented and dedicated employees, we are highlighting Candy Barnhart. Unfortunately, Candy has decided to retire from Intermediate Unit I effective April, 2024. Candy started at the IU in 2013. She has dedicated hours to the success of the business department. Her commitment to the IU and the business office has been outstanding. We will miss her daily. While we understand that the only thing constant is change, we struggle when valued staff members and friends leave. Candy leaves behind a business office that will need to fill the void in accounts payable, travel reimbursements and audit trails. We wish her well in her retirement. Our hope is that during her retirement she relaxes and enjoy days filled with grandchildren, family and friends. Best wishes Candy - don't forget us!



Candy Barnhart

FRESH FACES: GET TO KNOW OUR JANUARY NEW HIRES!

- Kristin Miller, Social Worker, Greene County Academy CTC, Central Greene School District
- Emily O'Neil, Paraprofessional, IU1 @ Waynesburg



UPBEAT UPDATE

The energy was electric at the annual IU1 Student Forum kickball tournament, held at the Southpointe Fieldhouse on Tuesday, February 13th, from 9 am to noon. Students representing Avella, Burgettstown, Connellsville, Frazier, Jefferson-Morgan, Laurel Highlands, Mapletown, Ringgold, Uniontown, Washington, and West Greene came together in spirited competition, forming combined teams to vie for victory.

With camaraderie and athleticism on full display, the event was not just about the game but also about supporting a meaningful cause. This year, the tournament raised funds for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), totaling an impressive \$1,111.00. It's moments like these that truly showcase the unity and generosity within our IU1 community.



POWERFUL PERSPECTIVES *AMY TODD* *SUPERVISOR OF ACCOUNTING*



The business department is the Powerful Perspectives highlight this month. We wanted to focus on the topic of teamwork. I need to commend the business office staff on their dedication to teamwork. During the last year, we have worked to automate multiple functions. The implementation has required the staff to collaborate, and problem solve. None of the implementations could have been achieved without the dedication to collaborative problem-solving and hard work. Collaborating on problem solving leads to improved outcomes. It also enhances the skills and knowledge of each employee. Another goal of teamwork is to reduce stress. By collaborating, we can share responsibilities and support each other on a daily basis. The collaboration leads to new ideas and challenges. While we continue to look at ways to automate the department, we are reminded that we cannot be successful without teamwork. The business department is lucky enough to have dedicated and intelligent employees who continue to strive for improved processes and accountability. As a supervisor, I appreciate the dedication and support of the staff within the business department. As a result, I am reminded daily that I need to appreciate my staff. So thank you Dani, Sheila, Rosanne, Deneen, Candy and Sandi! You are essential to the success of IU1.