



IU1 INTERCONNECTED

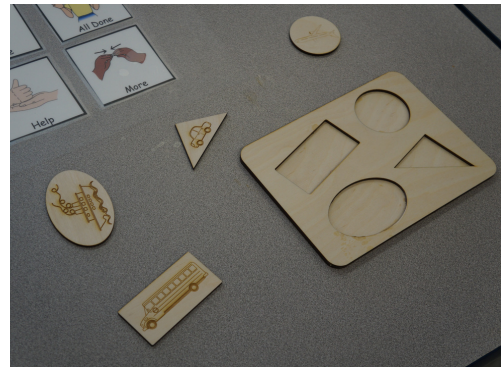
March Newsletter
Volume 1 Issue 11

SPOTLIGHT ON THE STUDENTS



At our IU1 Redstone Campus, Early Intervention students were given a unique opportunity to work on a special project, all thanks to the guidance of FabLab instructors John Kopp and Kevin McKee. With their expertise, wooden puzzles were handcrafted and laser-engraved for each child, featuring designs including a bus, a car, a boat, and the FabLab logo. Each child was provided with daubers and encouraged to express their creativity by painting their individual puzzles.

The fun atmosphere resonated as the students eagerly worked on their projects, enjoying the process of assembly and personalization. When they were finished, they proudly admired their masterpieces, excited to take their creations home. This joint project not only fostered creativity but also provided a memorable and rewarding experience for each student involved. Way to go!



REMINDER ROUNDUP!

- Central Office April Professional Development:
 - Tuesday April 9th from 9am - 11:30am in the Washington & Fayette Rooms



TECH-TIP!

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

When prompting generative AI for better responses:

- Try to provide clear and specific questions or prompts
- Include relevant context and details to guide the conversation effectively
- Additionally, using open-ended questions encourages more conversation

CONNECT WITH US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA:



EXCELLENCE IN ACTION *IU1 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH*



Rikki Swaney

The Operations Department would like to recognize Rikki Swaney as IU1 Employee of the Month. Rikki Swaney has dedicated 20 years of her career with Intermediate Unit 1 and is a standing member of ACAPA (Attendance/Child Accounting Professional Association). She began in the Special Education Department providing support in several areas at which time she moved into the role of Assessment Coordinator/Student Information Specialist. She currently is the Data Assistant for IU1. Rikki's knowledge in Special Education and student information is an integral part of the Operations Department. Her experiences have allowed her to develop strong problem-solving skills using analysis and investigation which is a contribution to the strategic direction of IU1. Rikki is always willing to take on additional responsibilities to ensure accurate and timely report submissions for state and local reporting during crucial deadlines. She is eager to learn to gain knowledge in other areas of Data Reporting taking on additional responsibilities when needed. Her strong work ethic and honesty are also attributes that justify this recognition. Thank you, Rikki, for all your HARD WORK!

FRESH FACES: *GET TO KNOW OUR FEBRUARY NEW HIRES!*

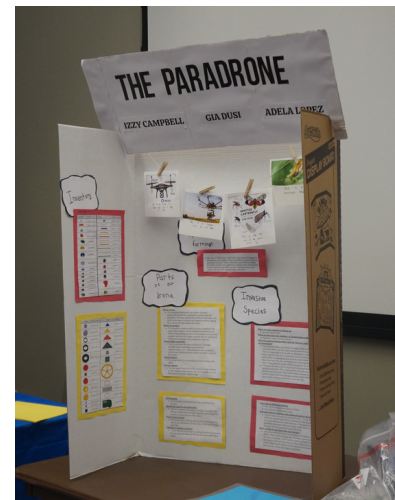
- Kimberly Magulick - Administrative Assistant II - IU1 @ McMurray

≡ Welcome ≡

UPBEAT UPDATE



The STEM design challenge, held on Wednesday, March 20th at PennWest California, brought together 29 teams comprising 115 students from 12 schools. Tasked with aiding Pennsylvania farmers through innovative solutions, participants crafted agricultural robots and high-tech farming equipment. We're thrilled to announce Peters Township McMurray Elementary School as the winner of the 4th-5th Grade Division and Madonna Catholic as the winner of the 6th-8th Grade Division. These victorious teams will advance to the 2024 State STEM Design Challenge, scheduled for Friday, May 3 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. Congratulations to all participants and best of luck to our winners at the state level!



POWERFUL PERSPECTIVES

As the Operations Supervisor overseeing various programs within IU1, I'm proud to highlight the incredible efforts of our teams. Due to the hard work of Kathy Yarnevich and Susan Melzer, the ACCESS program seamlessly transitioned to a new vendor, ensuring Medicaid reimbursement for health services in IEPs across 19 contracted districts. In transportation, Tami Kite's coordination of over 120 field trips and assistance to outside districts exemplifies our commitment to student mobility. In the area of Occupational/Physical Therapy Services, Lori Keffer and Pennie Daugherty have efficiently handled 403 referrals, supporting students with motor needs. Meanwhile, Miranda Thomas and Rikki Swaney of the Data Department have not only provided crucial support to districts but also represented us at the recent PDE Data Summit, showcasing our dedication to excellence in data management. The collective dedication and outstanding performance of our teams reflect our unwavering commitment to excellence and the continuous enhancement of educational services within IU1.

AMY KELLER

SUPERVISOR OF OPERATIONS

