

MIGRANT

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MAGAZINE



Kentucky Migrant Education Program

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Contacts:

Heather Rhorer

State Migrant Education Director
502-564-3791, ext. 4003
heather.rhorer@education.ky.gov

Christina Benassi

Identification and Recruitment
Coordinator
502.564.3791, ext. 4025
christina.benassi@education.ky.gov

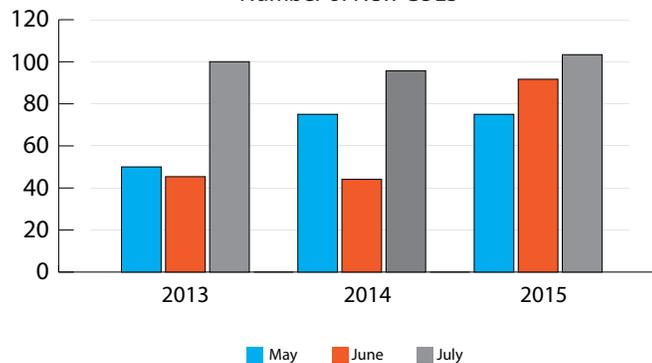
A summer of change

Heather Rhorer, Kentucky State Migrant Education Director

Summer 2015 has been full of exciting changes throughout the state. Christina Benassi, Judy Littleton and I have visited many summer programs, many of which you will read about in this newsletter, and are excited about the learning that has taken place in migrant homes, schools and fields. We've seen middle school students excited about the outdoors in Harrison County, students discussing migrant relevant questions with Kentucky state Rep. Ralph Alvarado in Clark County, students engaged in a community garden in Webster County, middle school students begging to return to survivor camp in the Bowling Green Independent school district, high school students learning about technology in the KEYS Academy at Eastern Kentucky University, an OSY showing up early for ESL lessons at lunch time in Casey County and more. All of these programs, like your program, have worked extremely hard this year and summer to ensure that migrant students are learning skills based upon the data collected during the school year.

We have also seen an increase in recruitment this summer. Christina Benassi has trained 15 new recruiters in 11 of the districts since May 1. More than \$240,000 in supplemental recruitment funds were awarded to 31 different programs. With the increased focus on recruitment this summer we have seen great results. The number of new COEs completed in June 2015 more than doubled (see the chart below), the number of new COEs statewide has increased 26 percent, and the Southeastern Region has more than doubled the number of new students recruited in the summer (47 in 2014 to 127 in 2015). These are just a few examples of what a focus on recruitment can do for our program.

Number of New COEs



This spring the KYMEP posted a request for applications for the regional centers, a process that is repeated every 2-6 years. The following institutions won the competitive regional grants: Madisonville Community College in the Western Region, Barren County Schools in the Central Region, Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) in the Southern Region,

Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC) in the Eastern Region, and Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) in the Northern Region. We are excited to welcome KEDC's Migrant Coordinator Sheila Anderson and BCTC's Migrant Coordinator Jackie Roth and their staff into the migrant family.

As of July 1, 2015, Judy Littleton relinquished her position as the Kentucky State Migrant Director. I would like to thank her for her years of service as migrant director and wish her a farewell as I begin my transition as the new Kentucky State Migrant Director. Judy has served as the KY State Migrant Education Director since 2012, has lead us through the



Service Delivery Plan and Evaluation portion of the continuous improvement process and has helped the KYMEP improve summer programming. She has touched many of us and will be greatly missed. Judy has and will continue to help me transition into the KY State Migrant Education Director position. Please know that my door, phone and email are always open to you and I will always welcome your feedback. I look forward to continuing my service to the Migrant Education Program, MEP staff and most importantly, our students and families.

Pathways to Success Summer STEAM Camp

Mardi Montgomery, Pulaski County Director of Next-Generation Programs

Pulaski County Schools' Migrant, Gifted Education, and 21st Century Afterschool Programs collaborated to host Pathways to Success Summer STEAM Camp for students pre-school through 10th grade this summer. Southern Middle School played host Monday through Thursday with a culminating graduation at Somerset Community College on Friday. Strong collaboration promoted new connections and friendships among peers with students in attendance from all three public districts – Pulaski County Schools, Science Hill Schools and Somerset Independent Schools, as well as the Somerset Christian School.

There is a growing societal need to enhance science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) instruction in classrooms, especially at the elementary and middle school levels. There is a call for integrated learning programs that allow teachers to engage students in creative and meaningful ways while also meeting today's rigorous academic standards. Stimulating interest in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics through exciting project-based learning enables all students to be better prepared for the future.



Students participated in a variety of educational learning opportunities from that included robotics, environmental classes, habitat awareness at Liberty Nature Center, multiple art mediums correlating with STEM, water safety with Corps of Engineers, designing and engineering at The Great American Dollhouse Museum, nutrition and exercise, exploration of Everyday Heroes and Superheroes at the Pulaski County Public Library, and a history

lesson at Mill Spring's historic Brown-Lanier home and historic Mill Springs.

The outstanding culmination of graduation at the Somerset Community College enabled students to experience a college setting; hence, promoting strong transition goals for the post-high school career and/or college readiness. The keynote speaker, Mr. Colby Hall, Pulaski County Summer migrant program recruiter and recent University of Kentucky graduate, capped the week off with a special message to for parents and students – “Be proud you are from Pulaski County and know now have a clean slate to create and accomplish anything you desire for the future!”

For more information about Pulaski County Migrant and/or Gifted Education Programs, please feel free to contact Lynn Ashbrook, director of Gifted Services, Mardi Montgomery, director of Next-Generation Programs, or Samantha Smith, Tina Purcell or Colby Hall at the Pulaski County Migrant Program, (606)679-1123.



Want to write a song?

Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator

The students in Todd County recently had an opportunity to write their own songs – and hone their rhyming and literacy skills. They listened to several songs, decoding the rhyming words, syllables and parts of a song. The students began by listening to “Happy” by Pharrell Williams. They were given the lyrics and told to circle the parts of the songs in various colors: verses, chorus, bridge, and hook. They counted the number of syllables in each line and identified patterns in rhyming words at the end of each line.

I was impressed by how much the students were learning while having fun creating their own songs. This is no easy task! I assisted two determined first grade students, Juliana and Cadence, with writing their song. They picked the topic swimming. We had to figure out three verses or activities

related to the topic. They decided the first verse should be about friends playing in the water, the second about jumping in the water and the third about splashing in the water. We thought of each verse, rhyming words and counted the number of syllables per line. They had fun while learning!

Upon completion of their songs, the students took a field trip on July 7 to the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tennessee, where the experts will put each of the student’s songs to music.

This is Laura Voth’s third year collaborating with the Hall of Fame. Previously, Laura was a Spanish teacher for 13 years and now is the advocate/recruiter for the Todd County migrant education program.

Using city resources to enhance your summer program

Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator

I visited Hopkinsville on June 25 to see Fowlen Bolinger and Lisa Champion, Christian County’s recruiter advocates, and assist with their migrant students. They have a unique program since they mainly have out of school youth (OSY), who Lisa visits on the farms in the evenings. During my visit, the H2A workers had not arrived to Christian County so they had very few OSYs at that time. However, they had several school-aged children who they served during the day.

The day that I came to visit, Fowlen and Lisa used Griffin’s Art Studio, an art gallery and gift shop in Hopkinsville, as the site of a week-long camp where migrant students learned about art and made a variety of projects. The children were very excited to work on their art projects at the studio.

The first project the students did was draw a giraffe using crayons and water colors to create a resistance background effect. Secondly, the children designed their own city with construction paper and foam pieces. The students had a great time and enjoyed the activities.

Griffin Moore, owner of the studio, received her BFA in packaging design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and her MAT in Education from Austin Peay State University. She is a former high school art teacher and is also a freelance artist and graphic designer. A link to the studio can be found [here](#).



Migrant students showing off their art work at Griffin’s art studio in Hopkinsville, KY



DCPS hosts Camp Curiosity

Lora Wimsatt, Public Information Officer, Daviess County Public Schools

The Daviess County Public Schools district hosted “Camp Curiosity,” an exciting summer education opportunity for migrant students in grades K-9 this summer. Migrant students are those who experience significant interruptions in schooling due to frequent moving caused by agricultural-related job opportunities for their guardians. These students represent a wide variety of diverse ethnic backgrounds, from Hispanic to Burmese. The camp is designed to nurture a sense of commonality and camaraderie.

The DCPS summer program, now in its fifth year, provides migrant children the opportunity to enjoy a variety of experiences in areas such as fine art, technology, science, physical education, music, dance, literacy and theater. Last year’s camp was a rousing success! Students not only made significant

gains in reading fluency and math computation, but, more importantly, developed a spirit of community.

The camp has three goals: Help each student achieve reading fluency on grade level; help students achieve math computation fluency on grade level; and have fun through creating curiosity!

Students work on hands-on activities in small groups to improve their reading fluency and math computation skills. In addition to a focus on math and reading, Camp Curiosity allows students to participate in art and science classes as well as health education classes.

Two family fun nights were held during the camp. The camp rented a theatre at the Malco for a special showing for students and their families of “Inside Out.” Everyone enjoyed popcorn and soft drinks and an evening of fun and fellowship.

The second family fun night was a

science night at East View Elementary School. Students and their families enjoyed hands-on activities and fun science experiments. Demonstrations and experiments included a volcano, dry ice and magnets and other creative activities.

Jason Powers, administrator for the DCPS Migrant Summer Program, said, “We are excited about the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our students. We want to create a family environment where everyone is valued, encouraged and appreciated.”

The staff of Camp Curiosity developed the following Mission Statement to guide the instruction: “A nurturing and passionate team of educators and lifelong learners who motivate our students by providing engaging, real-world experiences that afford success in the classroom and community.”

Summer in Stanton

Deborah D. Rose, Director of Special Education

The Powell County Migrant Education Summer School program has had another successful summer, with the highlights being two all-day mathematics and science camps and a trip to the Hummel Planetarium in Richmond, Kentucky. Working in collaboration with the Powell County Extension Agency and Food Services Program, students completed activities such as designing and building model rockets and robots and nutritional snack robots, and working with circuit boards.

All students were fed a delicious breakfast and lunch provided free by the Powell County Food Service staff. Summer school staff also have been completing home visits to each family to work on individual student reading and mathematics goals to reduce the summer slide. Student participation and completion of reading logs was rewarded with a field trip to the Hummel Planetarium.



Seen here are middle school students working to program their robots to complete the obstacle course.

My trip to Garrard County

By: Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator

In July I had the opportunity to visit Garrard County to see what they were doing for their migrant students during the summer. Collaboration is a strong suit for Sue Ballard and Claudia Lucas, both recruiter advocates for Garrard County. They work with the health department and local public library to bring in guest speakers. The day I visited Tonya Watkins from the Garrard County Health Department showed the students the importance of eating healthy and trying new foods. She showed them the sugar content of several soft drinks and juices. The students sampled fruits and vegetables from her garden. They tried cucumbers, tomatoes, carrots, and blackberries. She was very impressed that several of the students actually tried the vegetables even though they had never tasted them before.

Garrard County received additional funds it received this summer to recruit. The program was able to hire an aide and a certified teacher to meet the individual needs of each student. This freed Claudia and Sue up to recruit in the afternoons. On the day I visited, we went to one farm, where they had recently recruited an OSY. This particular OSY was an H2A worker and his two year old son was in Mexico. We took this opportunity to show him how to download Skype® from the Google Play Store® and how to use it. I had an iPhone® and was able to show him Face Time® by calling my mother. The OSYs were able to see the benefits of using a system like this. Even something simple can be a mini-lesson for the OSYs.

End-of-summer Program

Macie Dye, Logan County Migrant Tutor

The Logan County Migrant Program decided to have an end-of-summer program for families this past July. The program was intended to educate the children and families on the importance of earning a high school diploma and postsecondary education.

Before the program, the children answered questions about their hobbies and interests, what they wanted to be when they grow up, and what they were the most proud of in their lives. They practiced their speeches in their native language to present to their family on the night of the program. They were also photographed in a cap and gown so that they would be inspired and encouraged to graduate.

The night of the program was all about



getting together, eating, and talking about the summer. After the staff talked about their own graduation experiences, and the students gave their speeches; summer awards were given. Each student was given a certificate and a small gift if they participated in the summer program and meet their required hours. This Completion Award was given to 15 students. An Attendance Award was given to three students for attending everything that was offered, including home instruction, the library program, and field trips. Lastly, a Leadership Award was given to two students who demonstrated responsible and caring behavior during the summer.



Left Photo: Leslie Hernandez, Preschooler
 Bottom Row: Rennie Hardin, Jonathan Santiago-Garcia, Dayana Cabrera-Garcia, Nataly Hardin, Jairo Santiago-Garcia, Angel Lara. Back Row: Franklin (Kevin) Santiago-Garcia, Kendrick Santiago-Garcia, Hayden Hardin, Alan Duncan, Haylee Hardin.

We thought it was important to give the students their cap and gown pictures so they could cherish the fact that they will be graduating one day. We stressed the importance of determination and will in accomplishing their goals. This program shined a light on the students and we were able to see how proud the parents were of their children. We wanted to compel the parents to be a model for their children and attain what they want in life.

Important Dates to Remember

August 24-28, 2015, statewide re-interviews conducted by contracted vendor

September 10, 2015, last day to mail paperwork to current regional centers

September 15-18, 2015, Fall Academy Lexington

September 21, 2015, Begin Mailing Re-certifications and COEs to NEW regional center

October 6-8, 2015, National ID&R Forum, Louisville

October 17, 2015, State PAC, Frankfort Kentucky History Center

November 9-10, 2015, Title I Conference, Pike County

April 24-27, 2016, NASDME, San Diego, California



The newest recruiters

Yadel Gonzalez, Todd County

Dylan Carter, Todd County

Deborah Bourland, Western Regional Center

Robert Bell, Clark County

Heather Bloodworth, Caldwell/Trigg Counties

Brenda Hernandez, Eastern Regional Center

Brock Baber, Eastern Regional Center