

## Building Communities. Rebuilding Lives.

Peggy Young, Director

Jennifer Schorr, Associate Director

### Mission

The mission of the Education Division of Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is to establish strong public community schools by adhering to quality authorizing practices, ensuring responsible oversight, and setting high standards for school performance.

### Vision

The Education Division's vision is strong communities of healthy, well-educated students, and a future in which all students have access to a high quality public education. Ohio thrives as increasing numbers of schools graduate students equipped to assume a positive role in society.



## June Legislative Update

by Jennifer Schorr

The Senate Primary and Secondary Education committee passed Sub. H.B. 583 earlier this week, which includes amendments designed to provide additional help and relief to schools, educators, and sponsors.

Highlights from this bill include:

- Allowing schools to continue to employ substitute teachers according to the school's own educational requirements (which could include people who lack a bachelor's degree) on an annual license through 2023-24 to assist with the teacher shortage.
- Ensuring community schools designated as Community Schools of Quality in 2019-20 retain that designation and accompanying supports for 2022-23.
- Relieving sponsors from sanctions and penalties on the sponsor evaluation for the 2021-22 school year.
- Prohibiting ODE from implementing an internal business rule that has negatively impacted the overall rating for sponsors for years on their evaluation.
- Delaying the requirement to conduct tier one dyslexia screenings of students in grades K-6 to the 2023-24 school year to provide more time for schools to obtain the proper training and be better prepared for what will be an annual requirement. (Please note: if your school is ready to conduct these annual screenings, you may start them).

The bill will go to the full legislature on June 1. It is anticipated to pass and move on to the Governor's desk for signature. You can find the full analysis of the Bill here:

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=19221&format=pdf>

BCHF continues to meet with legislators in both the House and Senate to share the challenges our schools face and to brainstorm possible legislative solutions as we all want to move all students toward academic success. If at any time you wish to share issues or concerns and discuss possible legislative solutions, please reach out to Jennifer Schorr at [jschorr@buckeyehope.org](mailto:jschorr@buckeyehope.org).

In other news, the Ohio Supreme Court once again rejected proposed redistricting maps for the Ohio House and Senate. This marks the fifth time the state's highest court has found the maps proposed by the Republican-dominated redistricting commission unconstitutional. As a result, the seven-member Commission must reconvene and pass new maps that meet constitutional requirements by June 3. The maps previously submitted in the third round of re-draw will likely be the maps used for the upcoming elections, even though they were also found unconstitutional by the Ohio Supreme Court.

## Board Member Spotlight

by Peggy Young



Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (BCHF) recognizes the important work that governing board members do in supporting their school community. In recognition and support of this hard work, BCHF is highlighting one board member each month in our sponsor newsletter.

This month, we are shining a light on Debra Davis, board president of The Horizon Science Academy Youngstown (HSAY). HSAY is a K-8 school located in Youngstown

Ohio, whose mission is to foster an environment of inquiry and a love of learning, so students are prepared to thrive in STEM-focused high school, college, and the world. Ms. Davis is semi-retired after working over 25 years in the health insurance claims industry in Cleveland. She returned to Youngstown in 2010, lives near the school, and is very involved in the community.

Debra has been a member of the HSAY board for nine years. She has six grandchildren, three of which attended HSAY. Debra graduated in 2018 with an Associate Degree in Business Management. We asked Debra to share her story on what it has been like to serve as a community school board member.

**Can you share with us what you've learned over the years about running board meetings, and what changes have you made as a board member that help meetings run more efficiently?**

Preparation is important. Our board is well organized and prepared. Prior to our meetings, we receive all documents on the agenda so that we may review and be prepared for discussion and questions at the meetings.

**How do you solicit and retain new board members?**

When we look for a new board member, we accept recommendations and then review

their resumes. We strongly consider where they live to be sure that they will be available for meetings. We currently have one founding member on our board since opening our school in 2010. We have a diverse board including an engineer, a prior teacher, a parent, a business owner, and a Horizon Science Academy alumnus.

**What are some of the proudest moments you have had as a board member?**

There are so many proud moments I have had at graduations, award ceremonies, robotic competitions, and spelling bees. Also, we recently expanded our school with an outdoor classroom, new playground, basketball and volleyball courts, and an outdoor garden. Our school was designated as a “Community Schools of Quality” from ODE and was awarded support funds. Also, the school scored a Value-Added score of 'A' on the ODE Report Card!

**What part of the school’s mission do you most connect with?**

Our mission includes preparing our students for high school, college, and the world. This is so important in today's quickly changing world.

All of us in the Education Division of BCHF appreciate the dedication that Debra Davis has shown in promoting public education and the impact the school is making on improving the lives of students in Youngstown. We hope, in sharing these stories, others will consider serving as community school governing board members.

## School Shoutouts

**Concept Schools Ohio** is adding a new regional position, Director of Teaching and Learning, next year. As announced by Superintendent Yasar Bora, **Mrs. Lea Hammond** will be the Regional Director of Teaching and Learning for schools in the Concept Network in northern Ohio. Superintendent Murat Efe also announced that **Mrs. Jessica Shoaf** will assume the same position for Concept Schools in central and southern Ohio. We congratulate both and wish them well in their important new positions!

**Focus Learning Academy of Southwest Columbus** recently hosted a Science Fair with its partner schools, Focus Learning Academy Southeast, and Focus North High School. The Fair was complete with a rocket launch and robotics demonstrations. The event was coordinated by science teacher, **Dr. Patricia Clay-Black**. Focus Schools also recently hosted an Arts Fair, complete with a mural by students on “Phenomenal Women” and joint Prom. The schools are looking forward to graduations on June 1 and 2.



**Ms. Allie Byrne** with Tatonka Education and Eagle Academy of Akron recently completed the Wilson Reading System Dyslexia Practitioner certification program. Congratulations on being one of the earliest professionals in the BCHF portfolio to meet training requirements under the new Dyslexia law!

Both **Horizon Science Academy Lorain** and **Horizon Science Academy Dayton High School** added an inter-generational theme to their tradition of graduating senior “clap outs.” Seniors walk at HSA Lorain walked out, together, with the “graduating” kindergarten students. Seniors at HSA Dayton High School were clapped out of the building by students in the neighboring elementary school who held posters and banners. BCHF (Buckeye Community Hope Foundation) extends congratulations to all 2022 graduates!



## Central Ohio Group Aims to Connect Students and Communities

Erase the Space is a non-profit dedicated to connecting students, teachers, and

communities in a collaborative exchange. The organization works in collaboration with Otterbein University to bring students from different Central Ohio schools together with the hope of allowing students find common ground that helps generate productive discourse on pressing issues facing them and their community. It began in 2016 when Derek Burtch, a teacher at Olentangy Liberty High School and Amelia Gordon, then a teacher at Columbus South, met at a conference and came up with an idea of a program that facilitated writing exchanges between their classrooms. Students share letters and use social media to explore topics like segregation and the future of education. Now, the program has expanded to include more grades and schools, including charters.

If you are interested in learning more, the next information session will be is June 1 from 4 to 5 p.m. In addition, Erase the Space helps connect teachers from Central Ohio thorough summer reads. This summer, the book is *Fugitive Pedagogy* by Jarvis R. Givens, which focuses on Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Black History Week (which later became Black History Month) and is an outgrowth of Erase the Space's previous study of Gholdy Muhammad's *Cultivating Genius*. To learn more about Erase the Space and to find registration links to the events mentioned above, please visit <https://www.erasethespace.org//>

## Passing the Torch at Hollingworth



As the school year comes to an end, calendars fill up with graduation ceremonies and parties. But our students are not the only ones moving on to bigger and better things. Many of our school staff also find themselves graduating from one role and moving up to another.

So it is for Megan DeSloover, the Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator at L. Hollingworth School in Toldeo. Highly-acclaimed school leader and founder Terrence Franklin is stepping aside as head of school and passing the torch to DeSloover.

“I think she is the right person at the right time,” Franklin said of DeSloover. “I’m

always looking to advance from within [because] they know what our heartbeat is about. I turn inward first.”

The promotion came as a surprise to DeSloover. “The role was initially presented to me as assistant principal, overseeing things when Terrence was not in the building,” she explained. Although there are few things about the new role that keep her up at night, she’s ready for the challenge. “I know I have so much to learn, but I also know that I have the support needed to succeed. I am excited, I am anxious, but I am not nervous.”

DeSloover noted interesting similarities between Franklin’s path to leadership and her own. Neither one of them ever saw themselves as school leaders. Neither one began college as an education major. DeSloover was pre-med before switching to education. She started her teaching career in Sidney, Ohio, but never thought of leaving the classroom.

Mr. Franklin received a Bachelor of Science degree before studying communications in graduate school. His switch to education came when he applied for a position as office manager for a Detroit elementary school. He was not offered the position, but as he left the interview, Mr. Franklin recalled, the principal said, “Where are you going? I have something else for you.” That “something else” was an assistant principal role. And the rest, as they say, is history.

DeSloover and Franklin reflected on the importance of sharing their own non-linear career paths with students. “It may not be what you went to school for, but it’s okay to evolve,” noted Franklin.

Elevating people and developing their leadership is one of Franklin’s many strengths. “I understand how the parts work together. My goal is to excite and bring out everyone’s talents.”

DeSloover has a strong vision to continue the success of the school. “I hope to see a place that stands out from everywhere else,” she said. “I hope when I say where I work, everyone has heard of us. I’d like to see a spot where everyone feels included. I want to see us continue to grow our students.”

*As for Franklin, he is excited to focus on other things he cares deeply about, including his work as the only charter representative on the Educator Standard Board. He also will focus on deepening partnerships with universities and helping schools of education and others better understand charters. Helping schools grow their own leaders is a primary goal of Franklin. With the promotion of DeSloover—one of Hollingworth’s own—to head of school, he is off to a great start.*

## Upcoming Professional Development Events

*As school winds down, BCHF (Buckeye Community Hope Foundation) also ends its year of professional development opportunities. However, you will not want to miss these final offerings as we end 2021-22 and look ahead to 2022-23!*

To register for a session, just click on the blue links below. Or, you may go to our catalog

**BCHF Annual School Leadership Summit – LAST CALL!! - June 9 and 10, 2022 – virtual via Zoom**

BCHF is making a last call for registrations for its annual School Leadership Summit, the premier professional development event of the year. The theme for this year, “Always Lead~ Lead All Ways,” focuses back on the importance of effective school leadership to student and school success. Prepare for some thoughtful discussions and presentations about critical areas of leadership, and about YOU as a school leader.

We are also announcing our slate of presenters for the Summit:



We are pleased to welcome:

**Agnes Aleobua** – Ms. Aleobua is the successful turnaround principal at Citizens Academy East, a Breakthrough Community School in Cleveland, Ohio. Agnes began her career in education with Teach for America in the Miami-Dade area. In 2009, she returned to her hometown of Detroit to serve as the founding principal of University YES Academy, a new charter school serving scholars in one of Detroit’s most impoverished neighborhoods. In 2012, Agnes was selected by TFA Indianapolis as a distinguished Principal Fellow. Through the fellowship she completed her master’s in educational leadership through Columbia University’s Teachers College. Her specialty has been leading teams in



**Kim Jones** – Ms. Jones now serves as Director of Strategic Partnerships and External Affairs at Central State University. She is well-remembered though as a former specialist with BCHF’s Accountability and School Improvement team! Prior to coming to BCHF, Kim served as Director of an urban Drop Out Recovery Program. She has extensive experience in teaching, supervising, coaching and leadership/administration. Kim holds a B.S. in Education from Central State University and an M.A. in Early and Middle Childhood Education and K-9 Principal Licensure from The Ohio State University. Kim’s area of focus for her master’s degree was Multicultural Studies.

efforts to turn around previously underserved schools.

**School Leaders, including Ms. Amy Jordan, Ms. Dwan Moore, and Dr. Mouhamed Tarazi** will lead us in a panel discussion of their successes and challenges as school leaders.

**Mind-Ed** – Watch for a special presentation from Ms. Sabrina Walters and Ms. Sharon Collaros of Mind-Ed, an organization dedicated to self-care of leaders, teachers and staff, and students.

If you have not registered yet for the Summit, please do so now to benefit from all advance materials!

---

**Successful Onboarding of New Teachers – June 14, 2022; 10:00 A.M. to Noon –virtual via Zoom**

What is YOUR system for onboarding and supporting new teachers? A clear system of supports is the most desirable element for teachers seeking employment in schools. This session will cover elements of successful onboarding programs as well as ongoing support for new teachers in your schools. We will also invite discussion of YOUR success stories and creative onboarding solutions.

**Early Data: What it Means to You as a School Leader – June 29, 2022; 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. – virtual via Zoom**

Why MUST a school leader review preliminary data during the summer? There are many reasons but a compelling one is that there may be an error. Once EMIS (Education Management Information System) data is finalized, that error may not be corrected. In addition, preliminary data provides useful information about priorities for the coming school year. This session will cover both "how to" and "why to" access your school's preliminary data early and often. This will be a hands-on session so participants must have access to ODE's REPORTS PORTAL.

**BCHF New School Leader Orientation 2022-23 – July 26, 2022; 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. – in person – BCHF training room, 3021 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43231**

Join us as we welcome all new school leaders (and even returning leaders who may need a refresher)! This in-person learning opportunities will introduce you to the BCHF team which supports you as a school leader. We will review roles and responsibilities of Sponsors and Schools as well as the **ABC's** of compliance, fiscal monitoring, and school academic incubation/improvement. Previous attendees have felt this orientation was most worthwhile in getting the year started successfully. Lunch will be provided. Please let us know any food restrictions or accommodations needed.

---

[View the 2021-2022 Professional Development Catalog](#)

---

## SEEKING FREEDOM

*Buckeye Hope Awards Exceptional Student Writers*

“Finding Freedom” was the theme of the seventh annual Buckeye Community Hope Foundation’s Writing Challenge. The challenge is held each year, inviting student writers from grades three through twelve to respond to the writing prompts. Each school may submit one representative writing per grade level. The writings are then scored by multiple judges from the education division of BCHF.



Students in grades three through five were asked to read or listen to a recording of Ellen Levine's *Henry's Freedom Box* and to write an opinion piece based on the book. The book chronicles the story of Henry, a slave in the South who has been separated from his family, as he takes the extreme measure of shipping himself in a box to a location in the North so that he can be free. The writing prompt asks the students, "How important is freedom to you, and would you take risks for your freedom?"

The highest scoring third grader was Nikayla Mathews from Constellation Eastside Arts Academy. The fourth-grade highest score belonged to Sagal Said from International Academy of Columbus, and the fifth-grade winner was Madison Valek from Constellation Westpark Community Middle School. Madison was the highest scoring writer for all third through fifth grade writers.

The middle school students (grades six, seven and eight) were asked to write an argumentative essay defining freedom and what true freedom would look like in their future. They were also asked what historical character was the greatest builder of freedom?

The sixth-grade winner was Aiyanna Todd from Horizon Science Academy Lorain, followed by the seventh-grade winner, Jayrianis Carrion, also from HSA Lorain. The winner of the eighth-grade trophy was Skylaar Hettinger from Constellation Westpark. Skylaar was also the highest scorer for all the middle school writers.

High school writers were asked to research the history of Black Literary Societies and their importance in American culture. They then were asked to project what a similar literary society might look like in modern culture for an oppressed group of any kind.

All the high school winners were from Horizon Science Academy Lorain. The ninth-grade winner was Lillianna Vaughn; the tenth-grade highest score went to Sierra Vandersommers. Kennedy Short (a past winner as well) was awarded the eleventh-grade crown and Benjamin Brooks was the first ever senior winner. Mr. Brooks also won the high school overall prize and had the highest score over all ten grades (our first senior ever to accomplish this!).

Mr. Brooks is a senior at HSA Lorain and has received a full-ride academic scholarship to The Ohio State University, where he will study computer science. He says that he would like to eventually own his own cyber security business. Mr. Sum and Mr. Bendix, the school leaders, said the senior is student council president and often initiates improvements in the school. He is one of only two students in HSA history who has been inducted into their academic hall of fame in the "Leadership" category. Mr. Brooks' motto is, "Leave things better than you found them."

Thank you to all of the teachers, school leaders, and students who participated in this year's Writing Challenge. We looking forward to the 2022-23 challenge.





*Sagal Said, IAC, 4th Grade Winner*



*High School Winners from Horizon Lorain*

## Buckeye Community Hope Foundation

3021 E Dublin Granville Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43231  
(614) 942-2030

Get In  
Touch



Share This Email



Share This Email

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation | 3021 E Dublin Granville Rd, Columbus, OH 43231

[Unsubscribe jschorr@buckeyehope.org](mailto:unsubscribe_jschorr@buckeyehope.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent byjschorr@buckeyehope.orgin collaboration  
with



Try email marketing for free today!