



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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**CONTACT:** Richard Deemer  
Public Relations Department  
Berks County Intermediate Unit  
610-987-8569; ricdee@berksiu.org

### **Classrooms for the Future Starting to Show Results**

*BCIU Hosting CFF Coaches and Teachers from Area High Schools April 14*

READING, PA – The results are starting to come in: Classrooms for the Future (CFF) is raising student engagement and learning in Pennsylvania’s classrooms.

CFF is one of several initiatives created by the Rendell administration in 2006-2007 to ensure that Pennsylvania’s high school graduates are, according to the CFF section of the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Web site, “ready for college and careers in the global economy, [and]... highly skilled and better prepared than before.

Part of the Commonwealth’s \$491 million 2008-2009 education budget, CFF “changes the way teachers teach and students learn in Pennsylvania by putting laptops on student desks in core classes and providing teachers with intensive training so that they can effectively use the power of the Internet to engage the Technology Generation and make learning come alive,” the Web site continued.

Some findings from a 2008 preliminary report by educators at Penn State, Ohio, and Towson universities, comparing high schools across the state who have participated in CFF since its beginning:

- “Teachers and student surveys and interviews with CFF leaders all provide evidence that teachers are more likely to engage students in activities requiring higher order thinking as a result of the CFF program.
- “Significant increases from...[before CFF came to their schools to the end of Year Two] were observed in time spent focusing on the development of the identified 21<sup>st</sup> century skills....”
- As a result of having CFF in their schools, “...teachers are working in ways that are more directly associated with increasing student achievement.”

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Fifteen Berks County school districts participate in the CFF reform initiative, which entails bringing technology to four “core” high school subjects – math, English, science, and social studies. Each high school also hires one of its current teachers to be a “CFF coach” to help train teachers on how to integrate CFF into their classroom curricula. Those coaches participate in a total of 16 days of professional development on CFF each year.

The Berks County Intermediate Unit provides a mentor to the CFF coaches. Dr. Robert Lipton, technical project manager, Educational Technology Services, acts as that mentor.

Dr. Lipton is hosting one of those professional development opportunities for CFF teachers and coaches April 14 at the BCIU’s administration building, 1111 Commons Boulevard, Reading.

“These are the teachers who are in the CFF trenches,” Dr. Lipton said. “They are firm believers in how much CFF will transform students’ education. We’re going to get together to learn from each other, swap ideas and get advice from each other about what works best. It’s going to be a lively day.

“Students today are digital natives,” he continued. “We must teach them differently. Schools haven’t been teaching 21<sup>st</sup> century students **for** the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With CFF, we will.”

For more information on how CFF is transforming Pennsylvania’s high schools, or to get in touch with a CFF coach or teacher, contact Dr. Robert Lipton at 610-987-8481 or [roblip@berksiu.org](mailto:roblip@berksiu.org).

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