

## BVC Third Annual Conference

### Safety, Security, and Support: Everybody Has a Right



For the third year in a row, Dr. Mildred Pearson has been spearheading the cause of raising our voices against bullying. She has led this cause by putting together a team called **Bridging Voices in Our Community (BVC)**. This group organized its third annual conference in October, 2013 and this year the theme was: "Safety, Security, and Support: Everybody Has a Right." Rooted in the state of Illinois' Common Core Social and Emotional Learning Standards, this conference united learning communities in an effort to promote bullying prevention through the sharing of scholarly research, creative resources, and strategies which go beyond simple awareness of bullying. The keynote speaker for this year's conference was Dr. Justin Patchin, a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire where he teaches in the Political Science Department. He is the co-director of the Cyberbullying Research Center. In 2011, he received UW Eau Claire's Excellence in Scholarship Award. He has spoken at the White House and received the FBI Academy Award. He spoke on "Bullying beyond the Schoolyard." This presentation provided an overview of the current ways that teens are using technology to harass, humiliate, and harm their peers. Along with Dr. Patchin, there were 14 additional concurrent sessions presented by our EIU faculty, students, and administrators, joined by surrounding community administrators, teachers, and counselors