



2020-21 Annual Report
CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION
Submitted by Dr. Bill Silva
CAS Associate Executive Director and CLI Director

The Connecticut Association of Schools established the Center for Leadership and Innovation to address the professional learning and related needs of aspiring and practicing school leaders. CAS Associate Executive Director Bill Silva is the director of the Center. The Center is served by an advisory committee of experienced principals, as well as representatives of graduate and undergraduate educational leadership and education programs.

Leadership Academies

The Meriden Leadership Academy, suspended in March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, was completed with four virtual sessions conducted between January-April 2021. Eight teacher leaders from Meriden completed the virtual program focused on teacher leadership skill development.

The inter-district CAS Leadership Academy (including eight teacher leaders from Bethel, Ellington, Hebron, Orange, and Windsor) also completed four virtual sessions between January-April 2021.

Leadership Series Offerings

All CLI offerings were virtual this year, typically in a webinar format, on a variety of topics and issues of interest to school leaders, including school law, social-emotional learning, mental health, equity and inclusion, teaching and learning, resources for remote and virtual instruction, health and wellness for administrators, and others. Overall attendance was greater than for previous in-person workshops, and all webinars were recorded and posted on the CAS website.

Women in Leadership Conference

CAS hosted a virtual Women in Leadership Conference for middle and high school students from across the state on May 18, 2021. The students heard presentations from seven women in leadership positions in the fields of education, health care, and athletics.

Administrator Evaluation Training

The Center was charged by the Connecticut State Department of Education with the

training of school and district leaders on the administrative evaluation and support model as well as the *New Leader Rubric 2015* and the *2020-21 Flexibilities*. These sessions were conducted virtually.

Recognition Programs and Events

Many of the Center's traditional recognition programs and events were impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, including the cancellation of some recognitions and the modification of others:

- The **Middle Level Scholar Leader Recognition** program distributed certificates of achievement to nominees selected by their schools.
- A virtual **Elementary Arts Festival** was held on March 30, 2021.