

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

The Sixty-Fourth Annual Meeting

June 2016

2015-2016 Annual Report

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

Submitted by Andre Hauser, Chair, High School Board of Control

■ **Redesigned SAT and PSAT:** Last year the High School Board of Control invited Alan Bernstein of the College Board to present various workshops on the redesign of the SAT and PSAT to align with SBAC, a workshop that proved so popular that it was followed by additional workshops. This year's workshops included 5 Redesigned PSAT and SAT Overview workshops, 2 Redesigned PSAT and SAT for Math and Science workshops, 2 SAT Math and Science "Train the Trainer" workshops, 3 SAT Language Arts/Social Studies workshops and 3 SAT for Social Studies workshops.

■ **New England Association of Schools and Colleges:** This year, we scheduled two NEASC workshops, each of which was two days with presentations by Jonathan Costa, Scott Leslie and Dave Maloney. This year, more than a dozen Connecticut high schools attended. Each workshop's focus has been, among other things, the imminent change of the decennial self-study to a digital format.

■ **High School Reimagined:** The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, the Connecticut State Department of Education, and CAS have invited the state's high schools to participate in a project that asks the questions:

- How should communities redesign the education program in their high school(s) so that all graduates are prepared to be productive citizens in the 21st Century?
- How do communities redesign high school education programs to ensure that all students graduate college, career and life ready and are globally competitive?

The purpose of this project is to engage approximately 25 school districts in a discussion of the transformation of CT high schools. Through research, community input and debate each participating district will have a framework to use as a basis for high school transformation.

■ **High School Arts Awards Banquet:** On April 5th, CAS, along with sponsors Jostens and Bearingstar Insurance, honored 296 students from 149 member high schools at the 21st Annual High School Arts Awards Banquet. The keynote speaker was Jonathan Gilman, head of the theater department at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, the director of Looking In Theatre, a "teen interactive social issue" theater group, and the author of the highly acclaimed book *My Father, Humming*.

■ **Governor's Scholars Program:** Revisions were made to the application process this year with the elimination of the class rank requirement and the rollout of the redesigned PSATs. The new online application is still a work in progress. Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C. signed on as the program's new sponsor. Following the review of 139 applications by the Governor's Scholars Committee, thirty students were selected and honored at the 20th Annual Governor's Scholars Luncheon on May 19th.

PRINCIPALS' CENTER ACTIVITIES

■ **Summer Leadership Institute:** The theme of the June 2015 institute was: *It's Personal: A Coherent, Student-Centered Approach to Preparing Students for Life and Learning in the 21st Century*. As a follow-up to last year's theme, the 2016 institute will focus on the leadership skills and practices that will bring personalized learning to life in schools and school districts. Presenters will include Lyle Kirtman, Joel Kaplan and Matt Geary; and, breakout sessions will be hosted by Connecticut school districts that have made progress with respect to personalized learning.

■ **Principals' Leadership Series:** Forty high school administrators participated in the year-long Principals' Leadership Series, sponsored jointly by CAS and the CT State Department of Education. The year-long leadership training program was composed of workshops based on Bryan Goodwin's *Simply Better* and Michael Fullan's *The Principal: Three Keys to Maximizing Impact*.

■ **Mastery Based Learning Community of Practice:** As a follow-up to the 2015 Summer Leadership Institute, *It's Personal: A Coherent, Student-Centered Approach to Preparing Students for Life and Learning in the 21st Century*, Allison Zmuda presented a four-part community of practice on student-centered learning this past fall.