

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

The Sixty-Fourth Annual Meeting

June 2016

2015-2016 Annual Report

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION

Submitted by Deane Renda, Chair, Middle Level Board of Control

■ The Connecticut Association of Schools 2015-2016 Middle Level Award winners are:

- Principal of the Year: Dr. Judy DeLeeuw, East Lyme Middle School, Niantic
- First-Year Principal of the Year: Dr. Frank LaBanca, Westside Middle School Academy, Danbury
- Assistant Principal of the Year: Dr. Krista Bauchman, Irving Robbins Middle School, Farmington
- Educator of the Year: Janet Rossi, John Read Middle School, Redding
- Middle School of the Year: Wamego Middle School, Litchfield
- Arthur Director Leadership Award: Nathan Hale Middle School Norwalk

■ The Middle Level Boards created two new exemplary practices designations that will be available to schools in September. The new designations are for Exemplary Advisory Programs and Exemplary 21st Century Skills.

■ Seven Connecticut Core Community of Practice sessions were presented during the 2015-2016 school year. The topics were:

- *CT Core Practices that Succeeded: A Practitioner's Perspective*
- *Next Generation Science Standards in Connecticut*
- *Utilizing Inquiry in the K-12 Social Studies Classroom*
- *Looking at the Impact (CCSS) on Student Progress and School Climate*
- *Problem-Based Learning, Connecticut Core Standards and Technology*
- *How After School Programs Support Connecticut Core Implementation*
- *Understanding the Mathematics Interim Assessments (webinar)*

■ A highlight of the Connecticut Middle Level Student Leadership Conference at Trinity College was a closing activity entitled "The Dream Achiever" led by internationally acclaimed presenter A'Ric Jackson. A record number 500 students and more than 80 advisors from 44 schools participated in team-building activities, responded to role playing situations, talked with recognized student leaders from Connecticut high schools and universities, and shared leadership ideas and experiences with their peers.

■ The fifteenth annual middle school arts conference entitled "Arts in the Middle" added some new offerings to an already impressive array of hands-on workshops. New this year were "Kaleidoscope" and "Bot Joy." The latter involved building "little objects of Joy that help people feel better and have conversations with themselves that they need to have." Originally the handiwork of Oregon artist Gary Hirsch, the CAS creations will be donated to patients at the Connecticut Children's Hospital. The final new presentation was about "Unified Portraits." Participants learned how Unified Arts collaborative art projects celebrate what makes each individual person unique and valued.

■ The Scholar-Leader Banquet was held on Sunday, May 22, 2016 at the Aqua-Turf Club. A'Ric Jackson regaled those in attendance with humor and pathos, and led students in a pledge to leave a legacy. Furthermore, he charged teachers, administrators and parents to pledge to support and challenge the young leaders to "make a difference."