

**THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS**  
*The Sixty-Fifth Annual Meeting*  
June 2017

2016-2017 Annual Report

**MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION**

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

Highlights of the 2016-2017 school year include:

- The Connecticut Association of Schools 2016-2017 Middle Level Award winners are:
  - Principal of the Year: Dr. Judy DeLeeuw, East Lyme Middle School, Niantic
  - First-Year Principal of the Year: Susan Czapla, Silas Deane Middle School, Wethersfield
  - Assistant Principal of the Year: David Caruso, East Hartford Middle School
  - Educator of the Year: Daniel Peterson, Leonard J. Tyler Middle School, Oakdale
  - Middle School of the Year: Bethel Middle School, Bethel
  - Arthur Director Leadership Award: Sage Park Middle School, Windsor
  
- The Middle Level Boards created two new exemplary practices designations. One is Exemplary Advisory Programs and one is Exemplary 21st Century Skills. Soon we will be looking to visit schools that are promoting exemplary programs in Advisory and 21st Century Skills.
  
- Five Connecticut Core Community of Practice sessions were presented during the 2016-2017 school year. The topics were:
  - a) Executive Function and Common Core
  - b) Artistic Literacy: Connecting CCSS with the Arts
  - c) Commissioner's Network Schools: What we can learn from their successes – Lincoln Bassett School, New Haven (Internet Seminar)
  - d) John Barry Elementary School, Meriden (Podcast)
  - e) School Climate and the Common Core
  
- We had another great year at the Connecticut Middle Level Student Leadership Conference at Trinity College. We again were lucky to have "The Dream Achiever" led by internationally acclaimed presenter A'Ric Jackson. Middle School students and 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 16th annual middle school arts conference entitled "Arts in the Middle" was held at the University of Hartford Art School on May 23rd. Thank you to the University of Hartford Art School for welcoming our young aspiring artists to its campus.
  
- The Middle Level Scholar-Leader Banquet was held on Sunday, June 4th, 2017 from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Aqua-Turf Club. The speaker this year was "Positive Energy Coach" Chris Williams. A new presentation format afforded additional time for the student leaders to interact with the keynote speaker.