4th Annual Connecticut Data Conference

…to recognize and replicate our best practices

May 13, 2009
Holiday Inn, Waterbury

Times

Registration 7:45am - 8:45am
Conference 8:45am - 2:45pm

Fees

Full registration fee $60.00
(fee waivers will be applied during registration)

Keynote Speaker: Nancy Love
Director of Program Development, Research for Better Teaching

Sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools,
the Connecticut State Department of Education, and the RESC Alliance.

Register online at http://registereastconn.org/ds/

Registration questions, please contact the EASTCONN Conference Office at (860) 455-0707.

Nancy Love, Director of Program Development

at Research for Better Teaching in Acton, Massachusetts, leads this education-consulting group's research and development. She is the former Director of the Using Data Project, a collaboration between TERC and WestEd, where she led the development of a comprehensive professional development program to improve teaching and learning through effective and collaborative use of school data. This program has produced significant gains in student achievement as well as increased collaboration and data use in schools across the country.

Love has authored several books and articles on data use, including *A Data Coach's Guide to Improving Learning for All Students: Unleashing the Power of Collaborative Inquiry* (2008, Corwin Press) and *Using Data to Improve the Learning for All: A Collaborative Inquiry Approach* (2009, Corwin). She is also well known for her work in professional development both as a presenter and author of articles and books, including *Designing Professional Development for Teachers of Science and Mathematics (Second Edition)* with Susan Loucks-Horsley, Kathy Stiles, Susan Mundry, and Peter Hewson (2003, Corwin Press). In 2006, she was awarded the prestigious Susan Loucks-Horsley Award from the National Staff Development Council in recognition of her significant national contribution to the field of staff development and to the efficacy of others.

Keynote: Unleashing the Power of Collaborative Inquiry - Connecting Data to Results

Schools serving poor students in a rural county in Tennessee doubled the percentage of special education students reaching proficiency in mathematics and reading, virtually eliminating the achievement gap between regular and special education students. Urban middle and high schools in Ohio demonstrated significant improvement in the percentage of students proficient in mathematics on the state assessment among both White and African American students. A school serving 100% Native American students cut their failure rate in half. Learn about the professional development, leadership, tools, and processes that are unleashing the power of data teams to improve student learning.

Morning Breakout Sessions

Engaging in Data-Driven Dialogue with Student Work

In this session, participants will gain skills in facilitating powerful conversations about student work using a structured, four-phase dialogue process. Through a simulation, participants will experience first-hand how to make student-work analysis a positive, collaborative, and productive experience for teachers, leading to instructional improvement for students. Learn how to work with data teams to:

1) deconstruct the knowledge and skills in an assessment task;
2) activate their prior knowledge and surface assumptions;
3) separate observation from inference;
4) create colorful and visually vibrant data displays;
5) invite multiple perspectives; and
6) plan for re-teaching and extending learning based on evidence.

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Introduction to "Instructional Best Practices for English Language Learners"

"Instructional Best Practices for English Language Learners," a new CALI component, is a ten hour workshop developed by Southern CT State University's Training for All Teachers Program. Participants will be introduced to topics covered in the workshop's four modules to include: debunking myths about ELLs, employing research-based sheltered strategies to make course content comprehensible, and practicing instructional strategies to increase ELL's opportunities to engage with the content and to develop their academic language abilities. As part of the workshop introduction, participants will successfully engage in an interactive sheltered science lesson in a foreign language, thus illustrating many of the proposed instructional strategies.

Presenters: Marisa Ferraro and Lorrie Verplaetse, SCSU

Morning Breakout Sessions

Creating, Selecting and Assessing Curriculum Benchmarks – Glastonbury's Efforts at the District and School Levels.

Since the release of national and state standards and benchmarks in most curricular areas, the Glastonbury Public School district has created several efforts at setting common benchmarks in curricular areas and then planning for the assessment and data analysis of student performance against the benchmarks. This presentation will focus on the graduation benchmarks, rubrics, and related assessments at Glastonbury High School as well as benchmark assessments underway in Language Arts, Music and Science.

Presenters:
Christine Brown, Assistant Superintendent
Matthew Dunbar, Principal, Glastonbury High School
Catherine Buchholz, Director of Language Arts K-12
Patti Lignelli, Director of Music K-12 and
Fred Myers, Director of Science K-12

"Time Flies When You Are Talking Data - Getting More From Your Building Schedule!"

Are you struggling to find time for your data teams to meet? Are your teams meeting but work production stymied? Hear how three principals have approached finding the time for their grade level and data teams to meet within the school day at all three levels: elementary, middle and high school. Administrators will share both the struggles and successes of their building schedules and the creation of meeting times.

Presenters:
Catherine M. Carbone, Principal, Chippens Hill Middle School, Bristol
Steve Strand, Assistant Principal, New Britain High School
Linda Boyle, Vice Principal of Robert J. O'Brien School, East Hartford

Morning Breakout Sessions

Engaging Families for Student Success: Lessons from Connecticut Data

This workshop will highlight successful strategies at the school and district levels that are engaging families in their children's education. These strategies are built on social marketing research from Connecticut that reveals the messages and messengers that parents find most credible and include models from the National Network of Partnership Schools and the Welcoming Schools assessment. The panel will discuss both the quantitative and qualitative data being gathered to document progress. Sample tools for planning and evaluating parent engagement activities will be provided.

Presenters:
Joe Cassella, Principal, Wesley Elementary School, Middletown
Donna Marino, Parent Resource Coordinator, Middletown
Carol Marinaccio, Instructional Specialist for Grants, Norwalk
Mary Peniston, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Norwalk
Mary Budrawich, Instructional Specialist for Early Childhood, Norwalk
Barbara Slone, Consultant, CT Parent Information and Resource Center, SERC
Judy Carson, Consultant, CT State Department of Education

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

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- ❖ invite multiple perspectives and
- ❖ plan for re-teaching and extending learning based on evidence

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Building Teacher Capacity Through Data Teams

Are you doing data teams, but feel like you are just going through the motions? Join us to fine tune your practices and make data the driving force behind your instruction. Learn about data teams through the perspectives of Middletown reading coaches and classroom teachers who have experienced success as one of ConnCAN's TOP 10 SCHOOLS in 2008.

Presenters:
Kristen Bradley, External Literacy Facilitor
Suzanne Shippee-Lopez, Internal Literacy Facilitator
Joanne Manginelli, ACES Data Facilitator
Second Grade Teachers: Nancy Liquori, Erin DeToro, & Julie D'Amico

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Improve Your CAPT Scores: High (and Middle) School Data Teams that Raise Achievement

This session will present a model of three data teams that have helped students dramatically raise CAPT scores in all four CAPT areas. The model can be adapted to work at the middle-school level. The three teams are an English/Language Arts Team, a Math Team, and a Content Area Team. The latter focuses on teaching reading strategies to improve reading of academic material in each subject area. Participants will learn about this model and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of teams initiated at other schools.

Presenters:
Oliver Barton, Director, Common Ground High School, New Haven, CT
Liz Cox, Dean of Students, Common Ground High School, New Haven, CT

Using Data to Improve School Climate

The CT Technical High School System has launched a district-wide school climate improvement effort (17 schools, 10,000 students). The content of this session will be devoted to sharing the decisions behind this initiative as well as the process and challenges involved in moving the data collection process forward and incorporating the results into school and district improvement action plans.

Presenters:
Jo Ann Freiberg, CSDE Consultant, School and District Improvement/School Climate
Patricia A. Ciccone, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction CTHSS
Carrie Leib, Consultant, Special Education CTHSS
and members of the CTHSS Data Teams.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

**Developing a District-wide Accountability System –
Building Capacity for Change in Every Classroom**

Members of Middletown's District Data Team will review the process the district has implemented to assure that SRBI's Tier II Goals - "Adult Work" established in the District Improvement Plan and each of the eleven School Improvement Plans - is occurring in all classrooms. Panel/district data team members from central office, school administration, and classroom teachers will discuss the challenges, pitfalls and successes of the process and its implementation at their level. The panel will also respond to questions from participants.

Panel:
Ms. Barbara Senges - Assistant Superintendent for Administration - District Data Team Facilitator
Dr. John Hennelly - Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum
Mr. Craig Creller - District Mathematics Supervisor
Ms. Laurie Slade - Supervisor for Special Education
Mr. Robert Fontaine - Principal, Middletown High School
Mr. Jim Gaudreau - Principal, Snow Elementary School
Mr. Martin Skelly - Fourth Grade Teacher, Bielefield School
Ms. Lisa Sherman - Grade Eight Language Arts Teacher, Woodrow Wilson Middle School
Mr. Harold Panciera - Science Teacher, Middletown High School
Mr. Jared Morin - District Data Manager