

Registration Form CAS/CSDE High School Conference

Name:	()
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School:	
School Address:	
Telephone:	
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Registration Fee (includes continental breakfast, luncheon, and materials):
 \$100 - CAS members
 \$50 - Four or more from same school
 \$125 - Non members

Place the number of the **luncheon choice** next to each team member's name above: (1) London Broil (2) Grilled Atlantic Salmon (3) Tortellini & Bowtie Pasta Festival

Check one of the following for **payment**:
 Full payment enclosed (check payable to CAS)
 PO # _____ enclosed

Registration may also be accomplished via the CAS web site (www.casciac.org)

No Refunds after October 12, 2004!

4 CEU's will be awarded for FULL conference attendance ONLY

Please return by **October 5, 2004** to:

CAS/CSDE High School Conference
 Connecticut Association of Schools
 30 Realty Drive
 Cheshire, CT 06410
 203-250-1111
 fax: 203-250-1345

CONFERENCE RATIONALE

The Connecticut State Department of Education and the Connecticut Association of Schools are collaborating in order to move high school reform in Connecticut to the front burner. Why? Because

- NCLB means more than new test demands and daunting AYP requirements. Its intent is a rigorous and relevant education for every student in order to succeed in the world beyond high school.
- NASSP has just released ***Breaking Ranks II***, a real "hands-on" guidebook for principals and school leadership teams to systemically improve high schools and student performance.
- CT's new Commissioner of Education, Dr. Betty Sternberg, headed the blue ribbon task group that produced ***The Reconceptualized CT High School*** report. She is anxious to see its recommendations transformed into positive action for the benefit of students.

BRING A TEAM

Reform requires collaborative leadership that distributes responsibility for school improvement efforts beyond the principal. It is our hope that each high school attending will be represented by a team. We are suggesting the team include the **principal, a technology specialist**, and at least **two key teacher-leaders**. Please note that the conference has been priced to encourage teams from schools.

The Connecticut Association of Schools



and the



present

Strategies for Leading Reform in Connecticut's High Schools – a Conference for School Leadership Teams

Tuesday, October 19, 2004

Radisson Hotel - Cromwell
 I-91, Exit 21, 100 Berlin Road (Route 372)
 Cromwell, CT 06416

Visit our website for door- to- door directions:
www.casciac.org

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Willard R. Daggett, President of the International Center for Leadership in Education, is recognized worldwide for his proven ability to move education systems towards more rigorous and relevant skills and knowledge for all students. He has assisted a number of states and hundreds of school districts with their school improvement initiatives, many in response to NCLB and its demanding AYP provisions.

Dr. Daggett has spoken to hundreds of thousands of educators and education stake holders in all 50 states. His enlightening, entertaining, and motivating messages have helped his listeners to look at education differently by challenging their assumptions about the purposes, benefits, and effectiveness of American schools. Dr. Daggett inspires his audiences both to embrace what is best about our education system and to make the necessary changes to meet the needs of all students in the 21st century.

Pam Fisher directs the Great Maine Schools Project at the Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute in Portland, Maine. Prior to her work with Promising Futures, Pam was the principal of Noble High School during its change from a traditional comprehensive institution to small learning communities aligned with the Coalition of Essential Schools. The school has been recognized for its successful work in high school reform focusing on structures and practices which aim to guarantee equity, rigor and personalization for each student. The story of Noble's journey of change is documented in *Breaking Ranks II*.

In 1997 Pam Co-Chaired Maine's Commission on Secondary Education which produced *Promising Futures, A Call to Improve Learning*

for Maine's Secondary Students. Promising Futures' Core Principles and Practices capture Pam's passion for equity of opportunity for all Maine children to access rigorous learning through a personalized experience. This report continues to receive national attention in the arena of systemic high school reform. The implementation of Promising Futures as a model for whole school change in Maine high schools has been dramatically increased through a generous grant awarded in 2002 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Betty Despenza-Green is Director of the National High School Initiative of the Small Schools Workshop. She started at Chicago Vocational Career Academy as a teacher in 1972. CVCA, which serves a predominantly African-American student body on Chicago's south side, is one of the city's largest high schools, housed in a monolithic structure that covers 750,000 square feet. In 1991, with Dr. Betty Despenza-Green as principal, CVCA became one of the first schools in Chicago to begin the process of restructuring into small schools. CVCA has since become a nationally recognized model for small school restructuring.

This is how she describes the transformation in school culture: Teachers who once locked their doors, covered their windows, lectured for 50 minutes and then gave a pencil and paper test on Friday are now inviting administrators and other colleagues into their classrooms where students are actively engaged in cooperative learning activities, project-based learning and authentic performances. These same teachers are meeting before and after school, scripting lessons and engaging in reflective dialogue with their colleagues. They collaboratively review student work which informs their practice. They are reaching out to parents and other resources in the community. The entire school culture has changed - **isolation has turned into collaboration** and we now have the greatest school/business/community interaction that the school has ever enjoyed.

PROGRAM

7:45 - 8:30	Registration & Exhibitors
8:30 - 8:45	Welcome – Commissioner Betty Sternberg
8:45 - 9:45	Keynote – Dr. Willard Daggett
9:55 - 10:55	Keynote – Pam Fisher
11:10 - 12:10	Workshops – Session I
12:15 - 1:00	Luncheon
1:00 - 1:45	Keynote – Dr. Betty Despenza-Green
1:55 - 2:55	Workshops – Session II
3:00 - 3:30	Wrap-Up & Next Steps

WORKSHOPS

Session I: Each of the three keynote speakers will conduct a workshop that allows for follow-up questions and interaction. The focus for Dr. Daggett workshop will be the characteristics of high performing high schools, the focus for Ms. Fisher will be *Breaking Ranks II*; the focus for Dr. Despenza-Green will be personalizing learning through restructuring.

Session II: Conference attendees will be divided into heterogeneous small groups for the purpose of identifying “next steps” – activities and support that the CT State Department of Education and the Connecticut Association of Schools can provide to further the cause of reforming CT's high schools.

