

## Program

**7:45 am - 8:30 am**

Registration, Refreshments & Exhibitors

**8:30 am - 10:00 am**

### Keynote Presenters

Kati Haycock, President, Education Trust

Mark McQuillan, Commissioner  
of Education

**10:00 am - 10:20**

Refreshments & Exhibitors

**10:20 am - 11:20 pm**

Workshop I

**11:30 am - 12:30 pm**

Workshop II

**12:30 pm - 1:15 pm**

Luncheon

**1:15 pm - 2:00 pm**

Keynote

David Carter, Chancellor, Connecticut  
State University System

**2:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

### Roundtable Discussion

Commissioner McQuillan and the chairs  
of the ad hoc and working committees  
will entertain comments and questions.

## Who should attend?

- ✓ Key Teachers
- ✓ Building Administrators
- ✓ District Administrators
- ✓ BOE Members

## Why Attend?

- ✓ To learn about CT's  
Secondary Reform Plan
- ✓ To place this initiative  
within the national reform  
context
- ✓ To witness Connecticut  
examples of key  
components of the plan

## Registration

Register online at  
[www.casciac.org/register](http://www.casciac.org/register)

### Registration Fees

CAS Member - \$65  
CAS Non-Member - \$85

(includes continental breakfast,  
luncheon, and conference materials)



CEU credit will be awarded for  
full conference attendance/

# The Connecticut Association of Schools



In collaboration with

## The CT State Department of Education



presents

## The Annual CAS Fall Conference

CSDE Secondary  
Reform Summit

*The Connecticut State Board  
of Education's Secondary  
Reform Initiative and its  
Impact on Schooling in CT*

**October 20, 2008**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel  
100 Berlin Road  
Cromwell, CT**

## Guest Speakers



### Kati Haycock

Ms. Haycock is one of the nation's leading child advocates in the field of education. She currently serves as President of the Education Trust. Established in 1992, the Trust does what no other Washington-based education organization seeks to do - speaks up for what's right for young people, especially those who are poor or members of minority groups. The Trust also provides hands-on assistance to educators who want to work together to improve student achievement, pre-kindergarten through college.



### Mark K. McQuillan

Dr. McQuillan was appointed as Commissioner of Education by the Connecticut State Board of Education, effective April 16, 2007. Since then, working with the State

Board of Education and a broad representation of stakeholders, Dr. McQuillan has advanced an ambitious secondary reform initiative designed to prepare all of Connecticut's students to graduate with the skills and attitudes needed for success in the world of today and tomorrow.



### David G. Carter

Dr. Carter has served as the chancellor of the Connecticut State University System since February 2006. He is responsible for providing oversight for the management and operations of its four universities, the leading consumers of Connecticut's school systems admitting more graduates than any other higher education institutions in the nation.

## Workshop I

### *Creative Leadership for Collaborative Practice*

Jim Collin, Principal, Silas Deane Middle School, Wethersfield, will focus on the guiding of the essential collaborative practice required for effective professional learning communities. He will present practical strategies for increasing teacher leadership and instructional capacity that is grounded in focused intention, quality relationships and the use of data to create information.

### *Changing the Shape of the Senior Year through Senior Projects*

Capstone Experiences as graduation requirements enable students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge that they have gained. Several Connecticut schools have developed successful senior demonstration programs. A panel of high school principals representing those schools will summarize their experiences, including Eugene Horrigan, Shepaug High School, Washington; Paul Smith, Bolton High School, Bolton; Louis DeLoreto, Principal, E.O. Smith High School, Storrs.

### *Odyssey - An 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Demonstration Project*

"Students learn best when they see strong connections both among the content areas and their own lives." The Canton Eighth Grade Odyssey Project is an eighth grade demonstration project that obliges students to apply skills and knowledge they have acquired to a real life experience of their choosing. This session will be led by Cheryl Adams and other Canton Middle School faculty members and will provoke creative thinking about designing demonstration projects. Participants will leave with information needed to incorporate similar programs in their schools.

### *Personalizing the High School Experience via Advisory*

The Connecticut Secondary School Reform proposals include engaging students in their own education by creating small groups working with an advisor/mentor. A panel of high school principals will discuss how they initiated, implemented, and supported their advisories, including Jeffrey Mathieu, Bacon Academy, Colchester; Donald Macrino, Waterford High School; and Matthew Ryan, East Hartford High School.

### *Using 21st Century Technology To Get Better Results in the Classroom*

As technology evolves, so does classroom instruction and the richness of experiences for students in the content areas. Ellen Albro, Tammy Russo, Larry Stowe, and Brenda Windsor of the Frenchtown Elementary School in Trumbull will show how objectives are brought to life through interactive activities. The evaluation and critique of websites will also be included.

## Workshop II

### *Personalizing the Middle School Experience via Advisory*

Dave Russell, Principal, John Winthrop Middle School, Deep River will present the Advisory Connect Team (ACT) initiative, a social development program designed to assist students in their personal growth and development. Through a variety of team-building and introspective activities, students strive to become more aware of the positive role they hold in their school, home and town. The planning, curricular design and implementation of this program will be discussed and modeled.

### *Reform and the Revised NEASC Standards for Accreditation*

Pamela Gray-Bennett, Director, Commission on Public Secondary Schools, will explain proposed revisions in the accreditation standards and how Connecticut's Secondary School Reform proposals relate to NEASC expectations for high schools.

### *It Can Be Done - Breaking the Cycle of Academic Underachievement*

Josephine Smith, Principal of the Dr. Ramon E. Betances School in Hartford and recipient of the CAS Outstanding First Year Principal Award, will discuss the importance of creating an overall organizational strategy to prevent the cycle of academic underachievement. These strategies will be addressed within an evidence-based and Response to Intervention framework.

### *Student Success Plans for Every Student :*

An individualized success plan for every student is a means of planning and monitoring student progress. It provides early identification and remediation for students who demonstrate one or more risk factors for failure. A panel of distinguished school principals will discuss planning, implementation, and results. The panelists are: Sally Biggs, Hartford Magnet Middle School, Kelly Lyman, Irving Robbins Middle School Farmington, Paul Osypuk, Granby Memorial Middle School

### *Using The Virtual Learning Academy To Ease The Transition To High School*

Interdisciplinary Coordinator Tim Smith will describe how Stonington High School offers on-line and drop-in summer classes to a selected group of students to ease their transition to high school. Course offerings included language arts, Spanish, several levels of math, family and consumer science, and student leadership.

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