

PRINCIPALS' CENTER UPDATE

New Leaders Academy

We are moving into session four of this year's Academy offerings and attendance is holding well for both the presentation sessions and facilitated discussions following. Session Four on January 25th is entitled, "Crisis in the Schoolhouse" and while planned this last fall, this session is timely due to the tragic circumstances at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Our panel of veteran educators will talk about how they handled crises such as the death of a student on campus, lockdowns as police combed the neighborhood, the untimely and tragic death of a staff member, and multiple student deaths occurring in a short time. Participants will share their crisis manuals and discuss what they have learned from this particular session.

Teacher Evaluation Series

This annual five-part series, beginning January 14, meets the CEU requirement for staff supervision for school administrators. This year we have switched out Kim Marshall's presentation to provide time for a two-part presentation on the SEED teacher evaluation model. The cost of the series is \$200, constant with previous years; however, attendance is about 50% of the usual registrations. Our thought here at CAS is that the current uncertainty over teacher evaluation plans may be resulting in a "wait and see" attitude by administrators who already foresee intensive work on this subject. We had moved this series from a mid-spring to a mid-winter timeframe with the thought that the need to learn about SEED might generate a demand. However, the CSDE's timeline for submitting plans may have thrown a bit of a monkey wrench into our planning. Even with the decreased attendance, we should make a profit from this series.

Meriden Future Leaders Academy

For the second year, we have been contracted by the Meriden Public Schools to run a leadership academy for teacher leaders within their district teaching ranks. Each session is evaluated by the participants, 20 in number, and this year's evaluations are following the same successful pattern as last year. One thought is to offer this type of 24-hour workshop series at

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CAS or through the RESC's to other districts who may not have the financial resources or number of staff to make this an in-district program as is the case with Meriden. This was our plan for this year, but the work with SEED has taxed our resources. It remains a possibility for next year if the level of CSDE work decreases as SEED is implemented.

Educator Evaluation Work (SEED)

Mike Galluzzo and Ev Lyons continue to bear the bulk of the work with pilot district support and non-pilot district orientations. To date all ten pilot districts have been trained and follow-up support activities are heaviest in Norwalk. By the end of January ten non-pilot districts will have had a half-day orientation on the evaluator model and one district has already reserved time in late June and early July for CAS to train their administrative staff on both the teacher and administrative models. Discussions are underway with both CCSU and SCSU to provide similar workshops on campus which will be open to area school leaders.

CAS collaborated with CREC in November to publish a quick guide to the SEED administrative evaluation process and we are now in our second printing as the booklet is distributed to all participants in any of our workshops. Funding for this project comes from the CSDE as does reimbursement for the trainer work time.

Mike and Ev also serve on the developmental team which supports the rollout of SEED and is charged with making recommendations for improving the process and making the model more "user friendly".

Breakthrough Coach

This year's two-day session of Breakthrough Coach was fully attended with a waiting list. This program has been very successful in the past and usually is fully subscribed with educators from both Connecticut and neighboring states. Dates have already been booked for next year's workshop in late November.