

# ACADEMIC OFFICE NEWS

March 2017



## CONNECTICUT ARTS STANDARDS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES LAUNCHED FEBRUARY 8, 2017

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Connecticut Arts Standards professional learning series launched at EASTCONN on February 8, 2017 with a workshop designed to explore and support the utilization of the recently adopted Arts Standards. Connecticut Educators Music Association President Mike Ances facilitated this session and teachers gained a deeper understanding of the Arts Standards. See other Arts Standards professional learning opportunities on the last page of this March issue of the Academic Office Newsletter.



Photos courtesy of EASTCONN

## RED, WHITE, AND BLUE REMINDER

Thank you to the schools participating in the Red, White, and Blue election program this year. This program is designed to recognize schools who did an exemplary job of teaching about the 2016 elections. Just a reminder that the deadline for submission of materials is **Friday, March 17, 2017**. If you have any questions please contact Steve Armstrong at [Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov).

## 2017 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT WEBINAR

This year the Connecticut Statewide CTE Assessment administration training will not be in person but will be available through a web-based, on-demand training. This allows district CTE test administrators to access the training at their convenience. The customized Connecticut training is located on the NOCTI Client Services Center under the Resources Tab/Videos/Webinars or can be located at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtmTqPN8YVo&feature=youtu.be>.

## FINAL CALL FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING (PAEMST) NOMINATIONS

PAEMST is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 mathematics and science (including computer science) teaching. Anyone—principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public—may nominate exceptional mathematics or science teachers who are currently teaching grades 7-12 for the 2016-17 award year. Teachers may also apply directly at [www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org). The Nomination Deadline is April 1, 2017 and the Application Deadline is May 1, 2017, for secondary school teachers (grades 7–12). Elementary school teachers (grades K–6) will be eligible to apply during a future cycle.

### What's Inside:

1. Arts , CTE & PAEMST
2. ReadConn
3. Professional Learning Opportunities
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## READCONN

On February 1, 2017, 62 Literacy Leaders and 35 school leaders came together to collaborate at the ReadConn Midyear Workshop. During the morning and afternoon sessions participants:

- developed leadership plans to support changes in foundational literacy at their schools;
- collaborated to develop solutions to crowd-sourced problems of practice using a research-based Consultancy Protocol;
- applied Reflective Listening strategies to practice “listening to understand” in order to communicate more effectively with team members and colleagues; and
- practiced providing useful and actionable feedback to provide team members with information about current performance, share observable information without judgment, and help them continue or achieve desired performance.

Educators continue to RAVE about ReadConn’s face-to-face professional learning opportunities, online learning modules and literacy leader events. Read the following quotes from literacy leaders:

- “Others should have the opportunity to learn about and then implement high leverage foundational reading strategies into their practice.”
- “I am finding that the team collaboration lends itself to improving my skill of supporting other teachers in the area of foundational literacy.”



- “We were able to collaborate with colleagues and school leaders about the direction of our school/district. Sharing solutions about a problem with other districts was also beneficial.”

Don’t miss-out on this amazing professional learning opportunity! **To register your school-based teams for the upcoming 2017-18 ReadConn cohort, visit: <http://surveys.pcgus.com/s3/READCONN-Registration>.**



## UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### Mathematics Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool (IMET) Training

February 7 & 9  
RESCHEDULED:

Due to the inclement weather, IMET trainings scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup> at EASTCONN and February 9<sup>th</sup> at CES had been rescheduled. The new dates are as follows:

Thursday, March 16,  
2017 at CES

**8:00 a.m. – 12:00  
p.m. at CES**  
40 Lindeman Drive  
Trumbull, CT 06611

Monday, March 20,  
2017

**8:00 a.m. – 12:00  
p.m. at EASTCONN**  
376 Hartford Turnpike  
Hampton, CT 06247

Wednesday, March  
22, 2017

**8:00 a.m. – 12:00  
p.m. at CREC**  
111 Charter Oak Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

*There is NO cost for the workshop but registration is required!*

Register today by clicking on the date of your choice.

**Mathematics**: COMING SOON! The 2017 INTEL MATH STATE COHORT will soon be open for K-8 teachers in any CT school district to apply! The cohort will meet Monday – Friday, June 19 - 30, 2017. This cohort class will take place at the Green Street Teaching and Learning Center in Middletown, CT. Intel Math is an intensive, 80-hour, content-based course that requires full participation including take home assignments. The course is designed for you as a learner to deepen your own understanding of the K-8 math content and connections between concepts. Applications will be opening soon and will be posted on the [CT Core Standards Professional Development Opportunities](#) webpage.

**Social Studies**: On Friday, March 17, 2017, at Central Connecticut State University the CSDE and Connecticut Council for the Social Studies will be co-sponsoring a full-day workshop on “[Integrating Inquiry into the Social Studies Curriculum](#)”. Our special guest will be Dr. John Lee, co-author of the C3 social studies frameworks. In the morning we will discuss concrete ways to integrate inquiry into lessons and units of instruction. In the afternoon we will be dividing by discipline (e.g., high school world history, civics, etc.) and taking a deeper dive into the implementation of inquiry. We will also be holding a special session of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers on the teaching of Connecticut history providing them with both content and resources to assist in the teaching of state history. For additional information contact Steve Armstrong at [Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov).

Special Note: We will be sponsoring two social studies institutes this summer: June 26-June 29 and August 7-10, 2017. More details forthcoming!

**Science**: The CSDE and the [Connecticut Science Center](#) are pleased to announce continued registration for several Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) professional development opportunities. Click on the links for more information:

**Next Gen Science Exemplar System** (NGSX): a web-based, expert-led experience of a “Three-Dimensional” culture of science learning, where students use science “practices” (specifically modeling and arguing with evidence) and “crosscutting concepts” to co-construct scientific explanations of real-world phenomena. Plans for several more cohorts have been announced

**Next Generation Science Standard-CT**: an introduction to NGSS and a broad overview of the changes to science teaching and learning envisioned in the *Framework for K-12 Science Education* (National Research Council, 2012). No-cost; web-based; self-paced. Six modules have been released thus far. Current production of several more modules are underway.

**Why NGSS?**: Designed to be an introduction to NGSS, this 2-day workshop will lead participants through immersive NGSS experiences as adult learners. Sign-up for the March 21 -22, 2017, workshop NOW!

**Transitioning to NGSS, A Video Collection**: This set of over two dozen video clips shows experienced Connecticut educators making good-faith efforts to shift their instruction to support the NGSS. It is recommended that educators reflect on these clips in local professional learning communities.

## CONNECTICUT ARTS STANDARDS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

In partnership with the Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA), the CSDE established the Connecticut Arts Standards Team (CAST) to assist in the creation of quality professional learning and resources to support districts and arts providers in better understanding and utilizing the newly adopted Connecticut Arts Standards (Arts Standards).

Register NOW for the following upcoming professional development opportunities!

- \* **Free regional workshop.** This 2 ½ hour workshop was designed by teachers for teachers to explore and utilize the recently adopted Arts Standards. The workshop will be presented in each RESC region and will include introductory information to familiarize teachers with the Arts Standards and include activities for those who have started integrating the standards into their daily instruction. The workshop is geared for elementary and secondary teachers (including all five arts disciplines: Visual Art, Music, Dance, Theatre, and Media Arts). Please email the following contacts to register:
  - March 23, 2017, 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at ACES: contact Ruth Feldman – [rmfeldman09@gmail.com](mailto:rmfeldman09@gmail.com)
  - April 5, 2017, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. location TBD, CES Region: contact Mark Ribbens – [ribbensm@ces.k12.ct.us](mailto:ribbensm@ces.k12.ct.us);
  - April 6, 2017, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at LEARN: contact Michele Hammond – [MHammond@westbroocketschools.org](mailto:MHammond@westbroocketschools.org) and Leah Stillman – [StillmanL@newlondon.org](mailto:StillmanL@newlondon.org);
  - April 7, 2017, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at EdAdvance: contact Sue Palma – [palma@edadvance.org](mailto:palma@edadvance.org); and
  - March 22, 2017, 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at CREC: contact Dawn Marie Conroy – [conroyd@region1oct.org](mailto:conroyd@region1oct.org).
  
- \* **Workshop for Curriculum Leaders and School Administrators: *Unpacking the CSDE National Core Arts Standards: What do the New Arts Standards Mean for District Curriculum Leaders and School Administrators?*** This full-day conference will occur Thursday, March 30, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Hartford Marriott. Sessions have been designed to assist district curriculum leaders, building level administrators and arts supervisors in better understanding the new Arts Standards and artistic literacy as well as explore implications on curricula development and classroom practices. [Register](#) here.