

Weekly Bulletin

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

TST BOCES
TOMPKINS • SENECA • TIOGA

School Improvement Services

Leading and supporting school communities in their efforts to provide the best possible learning environment for all students.



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FOCUS OF THE WEEK

Student-Centered Learning

Whether you are working in education this summer or taking some much needed time off, ask a few friends, colleagues or young people what they think students should be learning in school that will help them build meaningful and healthy lives.

FOR TEACHERS

Cultivating Curiosity in Your Classroom

This free webinar will take place at 3 p.m. July 28. "In this webinar, Dr. Wendy Ostroff, author of the ASCD book, '[Cultivating Curiosity in K-12 Classrooms: How to Promote and Sustain Deep Learning](#),' will describe how you can create a structured, student-centered environment that allows for openness and surprise, where inquiry guides authentic learning. When a classroom is grounded in curiosity, teachers have the unique opportunity to mine students' deepest held wonder, making their engagement natural and effortless and allowing them to fully open up to learning." More information, including registration, can be found [here](#).

[C3 FRAMEWORK
NEWSLETTER](#)

Teacher Research Fellows

The Teacher Research Fellows Inquiry Group is a small community of teachers from across the TST BOCES region engaged in systematic study about their own teaching. This teacher research community is a collaboration between TST BOCES and Ithaca College and grounds our work in the perspective that teachers are uniquely situated to investigate and analyze their own practice.

Teachers who serve as 2016-2017 Teacher Research Fellows will find the opportunity to conduct inquiries in response to pressing questions they develop about their classrooms, curriculum and students' learning. Teachers are engaged in inquiry on a daily basis in their classrooms, but they rarely are afforded the time to systematically document and consider what they are learning or to do so with the explicit and regular support of others. The Teacher Research Fellows Inquiry Group offers time, space, community and methodological support for teachers to conduct their own teacher research projects, which aim to enrich students' learning experiences and to help our colleagues think in new ways about our practices. Fellows will share their projects with others in the inquiry community and with a broader audience of teaching professionals. The ultimate purpose of the inquiry projects teachers carry out is to enrich their students' learning and life chances.

Click [here](#) for more information about this program and to apply to serve as a Teacher Research Fellow for 2016-17.

Quote of the Week

"Do we have a vision of the power of high-quality learning to help young people build lives?"

-- Tomlinson & McTighe

THERE'S MORE ↓

tstboces.org

FOR PRINCIPALS

Backwards Design

“How Should Backwards Design Apply to School Reform?” [Click here](#) to read more about this method and its application.

Lead Evaluator Recalibration

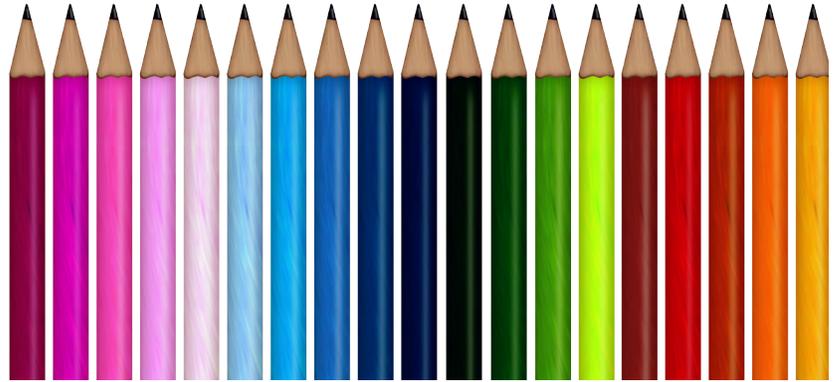
Recalibration sessions intend to help districts develop a shared vision and collective understanding of teacher evaluation, along with deepening/honing lead evaluators' skills in facilitating all aspects of the teacher evaluation process. Grounded in the specific needs of participants, this series can focus on any of the following aspects of the evaluation process: The pre-observation conference; scripting, linking evidence, and/or scoring of the observation; the post-observation conference; the summary evaluation evidence collection and write-up; the summary evaluation conference. Specifics of the series will evolve, based on the input and expertise of the lead evaluators who participate.

This offering will be held Aug. 10 and Aug. 29. Sign up for one of these options in [mlp](#).

UNITED WAY UPDATE

Cans Along Cayuga a Success

Cans Along Cayuga - Cayuga Radio Group, local elementary schools and United Way of Tompkins County joined together for this year's successful Cans Along Cayuga food drive! Check out the full [press release](#) about the results of this effort.



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

CAST UDL Symposium (Aug. 8-10)

“Engagement is essential for learning. How do we design learning experiences that engage all learners? Join CAST's second annual UDL Symposium. Together we'll explore the latest research and UDL strategies for motivating and engaging learners. The symposium brings together curriculum designers, technology leaders, researchers, educators, administrators and advocacy groups. Presenters include experts in UDL practice, research, instructional design and learning analytics. Attendees will be active participants, constructing and sharing strategies and experiences.” More information is available [here](#).

Lead Evaluator of Teachers Series (Session 1: Aug. 8)

This series intends to help lead evaluators develop a vision and deepen their understanding of teacher evaluation, along with developing lead evaluators' skills in facilitating all aspects of the teacher evaluation process. Lead evaluators will be trained in all nine required criteria identified in the NYSED Lead Evaluator Certification regulations, with a focus on the following aspects of the evaluation process: pre-observation conference; scripting, linking evidence, and scoring of the observation; post-observation conference; summary evaluation evidence collection and write-up; and summary evaluation conference.

Aspects of the content and instructional delivery of the series will evolve, based on the input and expertise of the lead evaluators who participate. Sign up for all five sessions in [mlp](#).

If you're looking for even more professional development opportunities,

please check out our catalog via My Learning Plan. The catalog contains dozens of workshops, trainings and conferences.

Click [here](#) to access the catalog online.

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [What Kids Can Do](#)
- *Racism as a Determinant of Health: A Systemic Review and Meta-Analysis* (Parities et. al. 2015).
- [Fostering Resilient Learners](#) (Souers & Hall, 2016).

Contact Barry if you would like to borrow a book or article.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

21st Century Learning for all Students (8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 30 -- SUNY Cortland)

Presenter Matt Bergman is a technology integration specialist, an experienced classroom teacher, teacher educator and a member of Harvard's CAST Professional Learning Cadre, experienced in working with educators around the country to implement the Universal Design for Learning (UDL). In this workshop, he will support K-12 teachers to:



workshop

- Design learning experiences that promote communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and digital citizenship
- Use technology to assess and analyze student performance
- Use technology to make learning accessible for ALL students
- Develop a toolbox of technology resources and practical examples of application
- Use technology integration models and standards to design powerful learning experiences for all students.
- Understand what brain research indicates about the relationship our students have with technology and how it is wiring their brains

This workshop is FREE, but space is limited and registration is required. Click [here](#) for more information or contact Alexis Abramo at alexis.abramo@cortland.edu To register, go to [MyLearningPlan](#) at TST BOCES.

Poverty is not a Culture (9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 23-24 -- SUNY Cortland)

This workshop will help educators gain a better understanding and develop support systems for students facing economic insecurities. It is designed for all educators who are interested in:

- Participating in conversations about poverty, the demographics of our region and the connections between economic insecurity and school experiences
- Identifying where ideas about poverty come from and articulating the connections between ideas about poverty and classroom/school practice
- Identifying practices in their classroom/school that do not reflect best practices for students living without economic security.
- Sharing their input and expertise so that workshop content and processes evolve to meet their needs and reflect their personal experience with economic security/insecurity
- Developing concrete actions that they can take to ensure that all students are successful

The workshop will be facilitated by Anne Burns Thomas, SUNY Cortland professor in the Foundations and Social Advocacy Department and Director of Cortland's Urban Recruitment of Educators (CURE) Project. Each participant will receive a \$300 stipend and "Fostering Resilient Learners" by Soules and Hall. Lunch is included and free parking is available. Space is limited and registration is required. For more information click [here](#) or [register](#) via MyLearningPlan.

TST
SIS Weekly Bulletin

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Barry Derfel, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

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