

School Improvement Services Weekly Bulletin - March 13th, 2018

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

[Link](#) to the TST BOCES School Improvement Services Catalog. [Link to prior bulletins.](#)

Quote of the Week: “A distinct constellation of practices and classroom features emerged that fostered identity safety and better performances... positive relationships with students; more child-centered teaching; use of their diversity as a classroom resource rather than following a strict strategy of colorblindness; teacher skill, warmth, available, and so on” (Claude M. Steele, 2010).

Focus of the Week: This week, let choose one of the items listed in today’s quote to focus on improving, sustaining, or even initiating in our work with students and/or colleagues.

News & Notes:

- Cornell has been awarded [NYSTEM Research Experience for Teachers \(RET\)](#) funding for a second summer! The program supports local teachers to work in faculty labs for 8 weeks in the summer to develop stem cell-related curricula that will then be used in their classrooms. The program builds off of the success of the Cornell Learning Initiative in Medicine and Bioengineering (CLIMB) with a strong focus on middle and high school teachers. (<http://climb.bme.cornell.edu/>). [Please see this flier for specific details](#), including application information.
- ***Francis J. Cheney Educational Leadership Conference:*** Friday, July 13, 2018. This summer’s collaboration between TST BOCES, OCM BOCES, and SUNY Cortland Education Leadership Program features *A Day with George Couros*, author of *The Innovator’s Mindset*.

Outcomes:

- ❖ Learn how to distribute and share leadership
- ❖ Harness the creativity and skill set of teacher leaders
- ❖ Create a collaborative environment with stakeholders
- ❖ Build a regional network to support inclusive and excellent schools
- ❖ Cost: \$15.00 BOCES Aidable

Register now, [via Frontline/MLP.](#)

Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities:

- NYSED [Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Think Inclusive](#)

Our 2017 - 2018 Regional Priorities help us support every student.

Research & Resources connected to each priority (a work in progress):

1. Supporting students' mental health and their social & emotional well-being
 - a. ["A Meta-Analysis"](#)
 - b. Jennifer Astles and her Youth Development team have created a [Social and Emotional Learning Benchmark Rubric](#) that provides clear and specific look-fors connected to each of the five Social and Emotional Learning Competencies identified by CASEL as the core elements to supporting student's social and emotional well-being. We hope this tool will be useful to teachers and administrators in your efforts to do this work.
 - c. [Social and Emotional Learning under ESSA - Evidence Review](#)
2. Student-driven learning
 - a. [Learning Personalized](#)
3. Questioning and discussion techniques
 - a. [Danielson Rubric – Teacher Uses a Variety of Questions \(8-video set\)](#)
4. Engaging students in learning
 - a. [The Case of Brain Science and Guided Play – A Developing Story \(NAEYC\)](#)
5. Using assessment in instruction
 - a. [Formative Assessment and Self-Regulated Learning: A Model and 7 Principles of Good Feedback Practice](#)

Links, Articles, & Books: (Contact Barry if you would like to borrow a book or article)

- <https://robindiangelo.com/resources-2/>
- [What Does It Mean to Be White? Developing White Racial Literacy](#), by Robin DiAngelo, 2016
- *Embedding Social and Emotional Learning in High School Classrooms*, Lieber, Tisiere, and Bialek 2017

Teachers:

- [Brene Brown on Empathy](#)
- [Change the Mascot](#) could be an excellent resource to help you promote students' cognitive engagement and to foster student-driven learning.
- Do you have any students who live in the country? Do you have any students whose friends or families live in the country? Do you or your students have any stereotypes about people who live in the country? Check out these culture-generate and affirming videos from [Appalachian Media Institute](#), as well as [these additional resources](#) from Appalshop.

Principals:

- [NYS Next Generation Learning Standards Roadmap and Implementation Timeline](#)
- Do you want to help the teachers in your building promote Black History more than just in February? If so, [this resource](#) from Black Perspectives could help.
- If you would like to work on creating an identity school, [these resources](#) from Edutopia are practical, free, and effective.

Workshops and Conferences:

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES:

- ***Connect, Create, Innovate*** - March 16th, 2018. *Connect:* Connect participants to resources, research, programs and artists, and each other as well as connect students to best practices and cutting edge pedagogy. *Create:* Many of the workshops are based in experiential learning. Participants will be actively doing while they learn. Many are hands-on and integrated with project and problem based learning that investigate the intersection of creativity and experience. *Innovate:* Innovation is sparked by collaborative creative thought and engagement. Participants will have opportunities to network with teachers in their content areas as well as integrate and connect with new educational partners. There will be tabling by artists and vendors from throughout the region.

More information regarding presenters, sessions, and an agenda for the day can be found on our webpage connectcreateinnovate.wordpress.com. Please complete the session registration [here](#).

- ***Next Generation ELA Awareness Session*** - March 21st at TST BOCES. Learning Targets: 1. I can clarify the changes between the NYS CCLS in ELA and the NYS Next Generation Learning Standards in ELA; 2. I can make informed decisions regarding future curricular adjustments. Hard copies of session resources will not be distributed. Participants can download/print resources by title [by clicking here](#). Morning session from 8:30 - 11:00. [Sign up here](#). Afternoon session, from 12:30 - 3:00. [Sign up here](#). [See this flier](#) for more information.
- ***Social Studies - What's Up with That?*** Co-facilitated by Karen Adams and Barry Derfel on April 4th, from 8:30 - 2:30. "The primary purpose of Social Studies is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world" (New York State Social Studies Framework). In this series you will have fun collaborating with other teachers from the region. You will learn a new model of curriculum design that will save you time. By planning an inquiry, you will focus teaching and learning in

your classroom. All participants will get a copy of Integrating Differentiated Instruction & Understanding by Design (Tomlinson and McTighe).

Learning Targets: I can generate compelling questions, navigate the NYS Social Studies Framework, collaborate, plan and teach an inquiry, and have fun. [Sign up here.](#) Optional after-school coaching sessions will be offered on Thursday, April 19th and Monday, April 30th from 4:00 - 5:30.

Offered by other organizations and/or our consultants:

- **Re: Thinking** - The Reimagining Schools conversation continues this spring. This is a follow-up to the collaborative work we started this summer and continued working on together this fall. Join area K-12 school professionals, college faculty, students and Educational Leadership Interns for a screening of the critically acclaimed documentary Re:Thinking. Thursday, April 19th from 6:30 – 9 PM at SUNY Cortland in Sperry 105. RE:Thinking is a locally produced documentary film that challenges us to rethink what school is and can be. Featuring area school teachers and school leaders, the film explores principles of modern learning that confront the status quo. This SUNY Cortland premiere screening of the film and the panel discussion accompanying it kick off SUNY Cortland's 2018 Blackbird Film Festival, a showcase for film as an artistic and critical medium.

Panel discuss before and after after the screening featuring: Director/Producer Deborah Hoard, ICSD Superintendent Dr. Luvelle Brown, Ithaca College Staff Development Director Chris Sperry, School of Education Dean Dr. Andrea Lachance, and Blackbird Film Festival Director Sam Avery, MFA. [Sign up here.](#) [See this flier](#) for more details.

- Please join us for an important experiential training opportunity! **Building Trauma Responsive and Resilient School Environments.** May 15th and May 16th from 8:30am – 2:30 pm at the Racker Learning Center 3226 Wilkins Rd, Ithaca NY 14850. This workshop will be led by the Expanding Possibilities Team: Tamie Pushlar, LCSW-R, Jaydn McCune, LCSW, Nora Rucker, M. Ed., Sally Manning, M.S.

School personal in all positions are invited to join us as we learn ways to work together to create school cultures that are resilient and responsive to students and staff who have experienced trauma or toxic stress. Through interactive discussion, videos, lectures and experiential exercises we will explore: 1) How trauma and toxic stress effect the brain and learning 2) Ways to build staff and student resilience 3) Practical strategies to use within classrooms and schools that are trauma and resilience informed. Schools may want to consider sending a multidisciplinary team to this event. Registrants must attend both days. Coffee, water and light snacks will be available but participants will be asked to bring their own lunch. Please register through TST BOCES in [Frontline](#) (mlp), and [see this flier](#) for more details. Feel free to call Jaydn McCune at 607-351-3436 with

questions. Hope to see you there!

- ***Courage to Teach - Adirondack Teachers' Retreat.*** August 12 – 15, 2018 at Camp Huntington, SUNY Cortland's Outdoor Education Center on Raquette Lake. Teachers and school staff at all levels are invited. For more information [see this flier](#), or email alexis.abramo@cortland.edu. [Sign up here](#).
- ***Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain*** at GST BOCES on 3/14/18.. [Sign up here](#). Participants will explore the basic tenet of cultural awareness and culturally responsive instruction through discussion, case studies, and activities. Special emphasis will be placed on research into how instruction, culture, and the brain interact. This workshop is based on the text *Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain* by Zaretta Hammond. Participants will: Increase awareness of culture and culturally responsive teaching. Explore how brain research can help you become a more culturally responsive teacher. Obtain tools and techniques for promoting more engagement and rigor among culturally and linguistically diverse students. Program: RBE-RN (Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network). Audience: All Educators of ELLs.
- ***Long Term ELL's*** on 3/15/18. Participants will engage in hands-on practice of research-based strategies which move secondary long-term English Language Learners (LTELLs) 'stuck' at intermediate fluency towards proficiency in academic English. These innovative strategies and amplifications of current practices help students build comprehension and control of linguistic features unique to science, math, social studies and language arts. The session progresses through cycles of 'Learning, Doing, Planning' in which the presenter: shares research and multimedia resources; models strategies and allows for participants' direct practice; and provides time for table discussions on how to implement the strategies according to individual teaching/learning environments.

Assignment due prior to workshop: Must administer writing prompt to at least 1 student and bring writing sample w/you to the workshop. [Use this link](#) to access the assignment. [Sign up here](#).

Program: RBE-RN (Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network). Audience: High School Educators of ELLs. Facilitator: Elizabeth Hartung-Cole (MA Applied Linguistics/TESOL UCLA)