



February 2015 Update for District Contacts for Paraeducator Issues



National Resource Center for Paraeducators (NRCP) Conference Updates Early Bird Registration Rates Still Available

The NRCP Conference will be held Thursday thru Saturday, April 16-18, 2015, at the Hilton Hartford Hotel. This is an excellent professional development opportunity for paraeducators and teachers. Early bird registration rates are still available. These include discounted rates for Teacher-Paraprofessional teams. Participants can register for the full conference or for a single day. Thursday morning will feature a panel of Paraeducators of the Year, including two Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducators of the Year: current para of the year Geri Lavalley from Simsbury and 2014 Paraeducator of the Year, Georgina Cabrera from Wallingford.

Here is the link to the conference Schedule:

<http://www.nrcpara.org/conference/schedule>

Here is the link for general information, registration, and updates:

<http://www.nrcpara.org/conference>.

University of Bridgeport School of Education Substitute and Paraprofessional Information Sessions

The University of Bridgeport is hosting information sessions for those substitute teachers and paraprofessionals (who have an undergraduate degree) interested in learning more about a *tuition-free Masters Degree*. The session will describe the University of Bridgeport School of Education's Internship Program. Sessions will be conveniently held in three regional areas (Bridgeport, Stamford and Waterbury) on the following dates all from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport Campus, Wednesday, March 25, 2015, and Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

University of Bridgeport, Stamford Campus, Thursday, March 19, 2015, and Wednesday, April 22, 2015.

University of Bridgeport, Waterbury Campus, Thursday, February 26, Wednesday, March 18, 2015, and Thursday, April 30, 2015.

To RSVP or for more information, please contact Karen Ringwood at 203-575-2091 or Pat Phillips at 203-576-4219/paphilli@bridgeport.edu.

RESCs (Regional Educational Service Centers) offering Internet-Based ParaPro Assessment.

(Capitol Region Education Council) and LEARN continue to offer the Internet-Based Parapro Assessment. For dates and additional information, please contact:

CREC, Hartford Upcoming Dates: March 5, March 19, and April 15, 2015.

For more information and to register: www.crec.org/parapro-assessment/index.php.

Contact: Rosemary Nichols, Program Coordinator at: rnichols@crec.org or at 860-524-4040.

LEARN, Old Lyme

For more information on how to register, please contact Yvonne Tobey at ytobey@learn.k12.ct.us or at 860-434-4800 ext. 167.

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), established the District Contacts for Paraeducator Issues to disseminate information of importance to paraeducators and their supervisors. The focus of this newsletter is to provide resources for more effective teacher and paraeducator collaboration.



February 2015 Update for District Contacts for Paraeducator Issues



District Procedures for Selecting District Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year

The 2016 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award Nomination Packet was sent to all district superintendents and district contacts for Paraeducator Issues, last month. The nomination packet is available on the CSDE Paraeducator Information and Resources page: www.ct.gov/sde/para-cali. As part of the application process, the CSDE asks each districts to include their process for identifying their district paraeducator of the year with the nomination packet. The School Paraprofessional Advisory Council is seeking models of the nomination process. The CSDE does not mandate one specific process, but we do ask that the district selection process be viewed as inclusive by the public. If you have any questions about the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Program, please contact, Iris White, Education Consultant, at 860-713-6794 or via e-mail at iris.white@ct.gov.

Paraeducators Viewing Student's Individual Education Programs and Attending Program and Placement Team Meetings

Four years ago, the CSDE developed a brief regarding confidentiality and the appropriateness of paraprofessionals viewing student's individual education programs (IEPs) and attending IEP team meetings. The purpose of this brief was to clarify the "myth" surrounding confidentiality of certain student information and inform public school districts of their responsibilities under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). It is important that district or school personnel explain their policy on the attendance of paraprofessionals at planning and placement teams (PPTs) to both parents and schools staff. If a paraprofessional is required on the IEP and not attending a student's PPT meeting; it is the responsibility of the student's teacher and the paraprofessional's supervisor to communicate in detail with the paraprofessionals about the student, before the IEP team meeting (Connecticut Guidelines, p. 29). The brief is available on the CSDE Paraeducators Information and Resources Page: www.ct.gov/sde/para-cali.

Revised CSDE Paraeducator Information and Resources Page

The CSDE is currently streamlining the Paraeducator Information and Resources page to make it easier to find information related to: Professional Development Opportunities, the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award, ParaPro Assessment Dates and Locations, Connecticut Regulations and Legislation, and General Resources and Information. Please visit the webpage, www.ct.gov/sde/para-cali next month to view the revised layout.