# ACADEMIC OFFICE NEWS

May 2017

CSDE
CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## JOE ARESIMOWICZ RECEIVES EDUCATIONAL CHAMPION AWARD


On March 27, 2017, Joe Aresimowicz, State Representative and Speaker of the House for the Connecticut General Assembly, received a 2017 educational Champion award from The New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC) at the annual School Redesign in Action Conference. Representative Aresimowicz was recognized for his unique contributions to the effort to raise graduation rates, lower dropout rates, and send more students on to college and postsecondary-certification programs in Connecticut (CT). Speaker Aresimowicz was one of six Champions recognized for their extraordinary commitment to ensuring that public-school students across New England have a chance to succeed in school, live a fulfilled and meaningful life, and make a positive contribution to the world.

## POSTSECONDARY CATALOG OF PROGRAMS FOR MANUFACTURING

A catalog of programs at CT public and independent institutions of higher education that offer training in the field of manufacturing is available on the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Manufacturing Committee Web page at http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2618&Q=336436. Schools and districts may consider using the catalog to bolster:

- Student Success Plan (SSP) development and career interest inventory activities;
- secondary Program of Studies documents and/or post-secondary documents;
- school/district Web pages (e.g., Guidance, Career and Technical Education, College Connections, and Adult Education);
- career awareness information and student internship planning;
- adult education communication (e.g., program fliers); and
- family communication (e.g., include in the "Family Connections" page of Naviance).

If you have any questions, please contact the Manufacturing Committee co-chairs James Lombella, President, Asnuntuck Community College at 860-253-3003 and/or Dr. Melissa Wlodarczyk Hickey, CSDE, Reading/Literacy Director, at 860 -713-6680 or melissa.hickey@ct.org.

**What's Inside:**

## UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

**ReadConn**: The CSDE has designed "ReadConn," a series of professional learning modules, to support the implementation of the Connecticut Core Standards in English Language Arts: Foundational Skills regardless of instruction approach. This series is designed to support school-based teams consisting of one K-3 school-based literacy leader, three K-3 teachers and an administrator. The K-3 literacy leader is defined as a school-based individual with a formal literacy role and is responsible for supporting K-3 teachers in reading skills and knowledge.

School-based teams participating in 2017-18 ReadConn will have their learning supported through online modules, face-to-face events, virtual coaching, and webinars to assist teachers in increasing their knowledge and expertise in identifying necessary foundational skills, spotting student skills gaps, direct instruction in reading foundational skills, and monitoring students' progress.

**Don't miss-out on this amazing professional learning opportunity!** Register your school-based teams now for the upcoming 2017-18 ReadConn cohort. Alliance Districts will have priority registration.

**Social Studies:** This summer the CSDE and Connecticut Council for the Social Studies will be co-sponsoring two summer institutes: one from June 26-29 and one on August 7-10. These institutes are aimed for all teachers who teach social studies as well as curriculum leaders (special sessions will be held for elementary teachers). Workshops will be held on inquiry instruction, effectively leading discussions in politically divided classrooms, cutting-edge uses of technology and other critical topics. For additional information contact Stephen Armstrong, CSDE social studies consultant, at Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov.

**Arts:** Register for the CSDE Summer Arts Conference! This exciting four-day conference will occur at Central Connecticut State University from Monday, June 26, 2017 - Thursday, June 29, 2017. Session topics include cornerstone assessments aligned to the new arts standards, cultural responsiveness, curricula writing, media arts, and an institute track for deeper curricula work. Register here.

Webinars: There are a series of webinars occurring for CT arts teachers, curriculum leaders, and arts administrators. These webinars will be "run live" on May 8, 15, 22, 2017 and June 5, 2017; they will also be archived for those individuals who are unable to watch them live. If you wish to register for the following webinars, contact Olivia Traina, CSDE intern, at AcademicIntern1.CSDE@ct.gov.

- *Responding in the General and Ensemble Classroom* (Elementary): Monday, May 15, 2017, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- *Design Thinking for Digital Arts* (Middle and High School): Monday, May 22, 2017, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- *Weaving Knowledge and Skills through the Music Standards* (All Levels): Tuesday, May 30, 2017, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- *Visual Art Old to New: Realigning Assessments to meet the New Arts Standards* (Middle and High School): Monday, June 5, 2017, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Connecticut Science Center are pleased to announce continued registration for several Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) professional learning opportunities.

- **Next Generation Science-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; Eleven (11) modules are available offering 16 to 60 hours of structured professional learning for groups of educators.
- **NGSS Storylines**: CT science educators are finding they need to find, adapt, or create new curriculum materials to support the three-dimensional approach to science learning required by the NGSS. The Next Generation Science Storylines project is dedicated to providing tools that support teachers in developing, adapting, and teaching with strongly aligned NGSS materials in classrooms around the country. Check out the latest Storylines at http://www.nextgenstorylines.org.
- **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.
- **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. Expert-facilitated; tuition fee; 30-36 hours of seminar-style learning for groups of teachers. Plans for several more cohorts in 2017 have been announced.
- **Why NGSS ?:** Designed to be a "hands-on" introduction to NGSS, this 2-day workshop leads participants through immersive NGSS experiences as adult learners.
- **Curriculum Unit Development Institute** (CUDI): Designed for educators possessing a working knowledge of the pedagogical shifts required by the NGSS, this five-day workshop will equip participants with the skills and tools needed to develop three-dimensional units. As part of the workshop, participants will work in teams to develop a three-dimensional unit at a grade band of the team's choice. It should be noted that all units developed as part of the institute will be collected by the state and vetted for potential statewide sharing. Look for workshop opportunities of the CUDI in Spring/Summer of 2017 through the state RESC system.

### A New NGSS Resource

- **Using Phenomena in the NGSS-Designed Lessons and Unit** A new resource has been developed for educators to provide guidance on how phenomena can be used in NGSS classrooms to drive teaching and learning. As a companion to the document, Brian Reiser, a professor at Northwestern University and one of the writers of the Framework for K–12 Science Education, conducted a video interview to introduce phenomena and their connection to the NGSS and three -dimensional learning. Click here to learn more about using phenomena in NGSS-designed lessons and units and to watch the three-minute video.

**For more information contact CSDE Science Consultant, Ronald.Michaels@ct.gov.**

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