

April 2015 Update for District Contacts for Paraeducator Issues

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.



SERC In-District Job-Embedded Professional Development for Paraeducators:

This technical assistance is designed for Paraeducators and certified staff who work with students, especially students with disabilities. The goal: students with disabilities working with Paraeducators will receive appropriate instructional and related services. For more on the range of professional development for Paraeducators: www.ctserc.org/paras.

For general technical assistance on preparing your educators please contact Anthony Brisson, Consultant, at 860-632-1485 ext. 315 or via e-mail at brisson@ctserc.org.

SERC's Technology in Education initiative provides technical assistance specifically for Paraeducators. For more information, contact Smita Worah, Ph.D., at 860-632-1485, ext. 319 or via e-mail at worah@ctserc.org.

National Resource Center for Paraeducators Conference Coming to Hartford! April 16-18, 2015

"The Power of Paraeducators: A Pathway to Excellence"

There is still time to register for the National Resource Center for Paraeducators (NRCP) Conference April 16-18, 2015, at the Hilton Hartford Hotel, 315 Trumbull St. in Hartford, CT. On Thursday morning, Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Interim Commissioner of Education, will offer a welcome to attendees, followed by Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman who will lead a dedication to Anne Marie Murphy, for whom our Paraeducator of the Year Award is named. This dedication will be followed by a Panel of Outstanding Educators, moderated by Anthony Brisson, Consultant, from SERC.



Friday morning will feature welcomes from Melodie Peters, President, AFT Connecticut and Gary Mala, Superintendent of Avon Public Schools. Dr. George Sugai will be the keynote speaker. Diverse workshops focused on Assistive Technology, Behavior Management, Autism, Inclusion, Reading, Writing and Math Skills will be offered. Educators from across the state, country and from around the world will be in attendance.

The Early Bird rate is still in effect for Paraeducators who register for the conference. To register, please visit: www.nrpara.org/conference/registration. On-site registration during the conference will also be available.

The NRCP is a non-profit organization who's mission is to address policy questions and other needs of the field, provide technical assistance and share information about policy questions, management practices, regulatory procedures, and training models that will enable administrators and staff developers to improve the recruitment, deployment, supervision, and career development of Paraeducators.

The State of Connecticut Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, mental disorder, past or present history of mental disability, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, Connecticut State Department of Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457, 860-807-2071. Levy.Gillespie@ct.gov

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University of Bridgeport School of Education Substitute and Paraprofessional Information Session

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 from 6-7:30 p.m.

University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport Campus: Wednesday, April 15, 2015

University of Bridgeport, Stamford Campus: Wednesday, April 22, 2015

University of Bridgeport, Waterbury Campus: 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.

Revised CSDE Paraeducator Information and Resources Page

The CSDE has completed its revision of the Paraeducation Information and Resources page. Please click here: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2618&q=321752&sdeNavPage=%7C> for information about Professional Development Opportunities, CSDE Publications, the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year, past editions of the *District Contact for Paraeducator Newsletter*, ParaPro Assessment Locations and much more!

Let's Team Up! A Checklist for Teachers, Paraeducators, and Principals

A new edition of Let's Team UP! A Checklist for Teachers, Paraeducators, and Principals, by Dr. Kent Gerlach is now available from National Professional Resources, Inc., 1-800-453-7467, www.NPRinc.com, Item #LTUC. "Let's Team Up!" is intended to respond to the changes in school policies and practices that have led to today's focus on improved teamwork and communications in team settings.