



November 2013 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.

“Paraeducators help children access the lesson that is delivered by the teacher...they are a safe place for students to try and try again!”

Dedication of the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award

On Thursday, November 14, 2013, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), in collaboration with the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council and the State Education Resource Center (SERC) held a ceremony to announce the dedication of the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award and its first awardee; Georgina Cabrera from Moses Y. Beach School in Wallingford. Commissioner of Education, Stefan Pryor announced the dedication and acknowledged the important role that paraeducators play in student achievement. Lt. Governor Wyman spoke personally to the family of Anne Marie describing what it meant to the family of 6 year old Dylan Hockley to know that he died in her loving arms. The ceremony also included remarks from Dr. John R. Reed, Interim Superintendent of Newtown Public Schools, a group of paraeducators from Sandy Hook School who shared fond memories of Anne Marie and Mr. Michael Murphy, her widower.

Commissioner Pryor presented Georgina with the first Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award. Georgina told the paraeducators in the audience that although she received the award, “we are all one and this is a celebration for all of us.”

Last year’s Paraeducator of the Year, Tenisha A. Baker from Sunset Ridge Elementary Academy for Arts and World Language, was on hand to present certificates for three of the award finalists. District nominees also received certificates during the ceremony. Pictures from the event, as well as the videotape of the ceremony will be posted soon on the SERC Web site at www.ctserc.org.



*SERC’s Paraeducators as
Partners Initiative 2014
Paraeducator Learning Seminar on
Autism and Challenging Behaviors
SERC Classroom
Middletown*

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Saturday, January 25, 2014

*Autism
A.M. Session
9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.*

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*Understanding Challenging Behaviors
P.M. Session
12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
Fee: \$30.00 per person*

Closing Date: January 9, 2014

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*Register Online at
www.ctserc.org/catalog*

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*Contact Person:
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32nd National Conference on the Training and Employment Coming to Hartford, April 2015

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the 32nd National Conference for Paraeducators & Related Service Providers sponsored by the National Resource Center for Paraeducators (NRCP).

Join us in Hartford, Connecticut in April 2015 with hundreds of other paraeducators, parents, policymakers, and administrators in state and local education, personnel developers in 2- and 4-year colleges, as well as many stakeholders and service providers. This is the second time that the conference will be in Hartford. The first time was April of 2008.

For over three decades, this conference has responded to the professional development needs of these varied individuals and provided the opportunity to bring together a broad range of audiences. It is anticipated that over 500 will attend this conference including paraeducators, representatives of unions and professional organizations. Participants will gain knowledge of new dimensions in the roles, preparation, supervision, and career mobility for the paraeducator workforce. Session topics will address:

- Research Initiatives focusing on paraeducator effectiveness, training and supervision, one-on-one use of paraeducators, or other pertinent topics.
- Hands-on training designed to strengthen on-the-job performance of paraeducators
- Incentives for retaining a skilled paraeducator workforce

The CSDE and the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council will collaborate with the NRCP to plan this conference.

In addition to these sessions, the 10th annual “National Leadership” session will be open to people engaged in activities to promote paraeducator leadership at a variety of levels in states, e.g., state staff; state or regional training and TA staff; higher education personnel; persons promoting leadership through involvement in various state activities, labor organization, committees, advisory groups; etc.

Further information will be posted on the NRCP Web site at www.nrpara.org and the CSDE Paraeducator Information and Resources page at www.ct.gov/sde/para-cali.

Call for Papers-Conference Registration-Hotel and Travel Information-Exhibitor Applications

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