



DR. DIANNA R. WENTZELL, COMMISSIONER

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State Department of Education to Hold Regional Conference

Putting Research-to-Practice in Teacher Preparation

(HARTFORD, CT)— Nationally renowned educators and researchers, Deborah Lowenberg Ball, former dean of the School of Education at the University of Michigan, and Kenneth Zeichner, professor at the University of Washington, are keynote presenters at a regional conference hosted by the Connecticut State Department of Education on September 29, 2017. The conference, *Putting Research-to-Practice in Teacher Preparation: Learner Ready Day One*, is funded as part of the grant from the Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform (CEEDAR) Center at the University of Florida and from the U.S. Department of Education. Other sponsoring organizations include the American Institutes for Research (AIR), Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education-CT, Connecticut Council of Administrators of Special Education, and the Council for Exceptional Children-CT.

This one-day conference will highlight the notable accomplishments in teacher preparation in Connecticut. The conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Registration will be open until September 15.

The CEEDAR grant was originally awarded to Connecticut in 2013, as just one of five states to receive a grant from the CEEDAR Center, a technical assistance center funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and directed by the University of Florida. Notably, Connecticut was the only state in 2013 to receive both a CEEDAR grant and a grant from the Network for Transforming Educator Preparation (NTEP) directed by the Council of Chief State School Officers, both of which focus on the important effort to rethink and enhance teacher and school administrator preparation programs.

“The grant specifically focuses on preparing teachers in evidence-based practices to improve instruction for students with disabilities, English language learners, and others who are struggling to learn, so they can meet standards that will prepare them for success in college and careers,” Commissioner of Education Dianna R. Wentzell said. “The members of our state’s CEEDAR leadership team—Department staff, public and private universities, local school districts, and other educational organizations—have been collaborating to ensure that teacher candidates in pre-service programs are learner ready on day one. In recognition of Connecticut’s success, the CEEDAR Center has awarded

additional funding to continue its work with teacher preparation institutions in the 2017-18 academic year, which will focus on improving clinical experiences and district partnerships.”

“To improve the achievement of students with disabilities, struggling learners and English learners, we must ensure students receive thorough access to rigorous, rich content and effective, research-based instruction from their teachers,” said Mary Brownell, University of Florida professor and director of the CEEDAR Center.

“CEEDAR has informed revisions of CCSU's masters of arts in teaching program for secondary and special education candidates to better meet the needs of struggling learners and students with disabilities in the general education classroom through rigorous training in evidence-based practices in literacy and pedagogy. Our end goal is to embed this work into the larger redesign efforts of our school’s teacher preparation programs,” said Dr. Michael Alfano, dean of education at Central Connecticut State University.

Faculty and candidates from Connecticut teacher preparation programs will be featured during the conference. It will also serve as a kick-off for scaling up the lessons learned from the CEEDAR grant to all other institutions statewide and to initiate a new phase and new grant funding that the CSDE received to focus on improving clinical experiences and district partnerships.

For more information or to register, [visit the conference website](#).

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