

What does it really mean to be a mentor?

At first thought the response might be that a mentor is a person who shares their expertise with someone new to the profession. Indeed, checking the definition of mentor in the Encarta Dictionary, the word mentor is defined as:

- 1. experienced adviser and supporter:** somebody, usually older and more experienced, who advises and guides a younger, less experienced person

But is sharing and advising always the most meaningful way to help? In the *Continuum of Interaction* as described by Wellman and Lipton in *Mentoring Matters*, the stance in which the mentor takes this approach is called the consulting stance. It's likely the role that most people envision when they think about being a mentor.

Wellman and Lipton define two other approaches for interaction with a mentee, the collaborating stance and the coaching stance. In the collaborating stance, the mentor and mentee co-develop ideas and approaches to problems and model a collegial relationship as a standard for professional practice. Depending on the situation, the greatest learning for the mentee may be achieved by assuming the coaching stance. In this role, the mentor supports the mentee's idea production, decision-making, and reflection on their practice. Ultimately, through this stance, the mentee will increase their ability to self-coach and become a self-directed learner.

Learning when and how to move along this *Continuum of Interaction* as a mentor may not come naturally. It requires self-assessment of the mentor's tendency in taking the consulting, collaborating or coaching stance. Effective mentors employ skills such as paraphrasing to invite thinking and are practiced at the craft of knowing when and how to open the mentee's thinking and when and how to focus their thinking.

The NCES Professional Development Center is excited to announce that Bruce Wellman, co-author of *Mentoring Matters*, will be leading two institutes this summer on learning-focused interaction. There will be a three-day training for mentors on August 7, 8 & 9. A two-day institute for administrators will follow on August 10 & 11.

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Learning-Focused Relationships

Consulting, Collaborating & Coaching for Professional Excellence

Presenter: Bruce Wellman, Co-Director MiraVia

Dates/Time: August 7, 8 & 9, 2006 from 8:00 to 4:00

Cost: SAU 3, 36 & 68 teachers free, other member school staff \$200, associate member school staff \$250, non-members \$280 (includes meals, refreshments, text and materials)

This is a three-day training for mentors, peer coaches and other professionals with interest in expanding and refining their knowledge and skills for promoting adult learning and growth. The institute offers practical tools, focused templates and technical tips for educators who support others in improving their instructional practice.

Explore a continuum of interaction for:

- Consulting: sharing expertise & providing technical assistance
- Collaboration: shared planning and problem-solving
- Coaching: non-judgmental interaction which supports reflection and develops professional capacities

Participants will develop skills for applying a set of templates to structure purposeful planning, reflecting and problem-solving conversations. They will also develop a toolkit for effective communication, including non-verbal subtleties and verbal complexities. **Registration deadline:** May 31, 2006.

Learning-Focused Supervision

The Four Cs of Professional Excellence for Administrators

Presenter: Bruce Wellman, Co-Director MiraVia

Dates/Time: August 10 & 11, 2006 from 8:00 to 4:00

Cost: Free for administrators in SAUs 3, 7, 20, 23, 35, 36, 58, 68 & 77. Administrators from other districts, \$200 each.

Add calibrating to consulting, collaborating and coaching for the four C's of professional excellence. Those with supervisory responsibilities will leave this institute with skills to move from teaching-focused supervision to learning-focused supervision. You will engage in discussions on how to promote the growth of teachers toward developing greater understandings of their students' learning. You will learn standards-driven protocols for conversations that promote the four Cs of professional excellence. **Registration deadline:** May 31, 2006

ICT Standards and the Student Electronic Portfolio Institute

The new school rules require students to have electronic portfolios at the end of 8th grade and at the end of 12th grade. These portfolios need to contain student work demonstrating the ICT literacy standards, and also include information on personal interests, a student resume, and standardized test results. This presents a great opportunity to redesign the use of technology in our schools.

During this institute, teachers will work in teams by grade level. These teams will identify appropriate technology skills for their grade level, design activities to introduce students to the necessary technology skills and then create activities that include current curriculum standards as well as ICT literacy standards. Participants will leave with a continuum of skills that their school can adapt or adopt, a completed detailed lesson plan and sample product for each activity created by the class and an online resource through our moodle.

Dates: The week of July 17th through 21st at NCES PD Center
Monday, July 17 from 4:00 to 8:00
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, July 18-20th 8:00 to 4:00
Friday July 21st from 8:00 to 12:00

Cost: Members \$150, Associate Members \$175, Non-Members \$200. Graduate credit available for additional cost.

Instructor: Paula Churchill

North Country Initiative for the Advancement of Science Teaching

The NCES Professional Development Center, in collaboration with the Berlin School District, was recently awarded a grant from the NH Department of Education Mathematics and Science Partnership Program. This funding will make a variety of science related professional development opportunities available to educators. Included in the initiative are:

- Introduction to GIS/ArcView course from June 26 to 30, 2006 at NHCTC, Berlin with instructor Peg Heaney
- Life/biological sciences course for middle and high school teachers, two days in August and four evenings in the fall instructed by Sandra Kent
- Three local geological and environmental fieldtrips for teachers (for future trips with students) offered this summer
- Hands-on course for investigating science with technology, monthly evenings beginning in the fall

For more information on any of these initiatives, contact Lori Langlois at lori@ncedservices.org. Space will be limited, so potentially interested educators should contact NCES to be notified about details as they become available.

Science Framework Revision: Curriculum Planning Sessions

For the past two years, more than 150 New Hampshire educators have been working on revising the NH Science Frameworks, which were originally approved in January 1995. During this same two year period, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island have worked together to develop science assessment that would meet the needs of NCLB and be given jointly in all three states.

The NH Framework for Science Literacy (K-12) is in draft form and the Tri-State Science Assessment pilot is coming in May of 2007. In an effort to assist districts in looking at their current science curriculum and planning the process of "how to make changes or modifications," the state will offer a series of two-day work sessions for teams from school districts around the state.

School districts are invited to send a cross-district team to take part in two curriculum planning sessions. Each cross-district team should have 5 to 7 members and should have teachers from each of the levels: K-4, 5-8, 9-12 plus a curriculum specialist or administrator. Teams and team members should be the same for both sessions. Space is limited to four teams.

North Country Curriculum Planning Session, Day One: April 20 from 9:00 to 3:00

This session will feature an in-depth look at the NH Frameworks for Science Literacy (K-12), discussions about specific grade level concerns and challenges, and a look at national and local resources which can assist in the process. Teams will be given time to plan - next steps for their district which may include the development of benchmarks and an implementation timeline.

North Country Curriculum Planning Session, Day Two: May 25 from 9:00 to 3:00

Teams will return on this session to discuss how initial plans have gone, share ideas about ways to leverage resources across specific groups and spend additional time refining local plans for professional development and curriculum work.

The sessions will be led by Jan McLaughlin, Science Education Consultant for the New Hampshire Department of Education. To register a team for the session, contact NCES.

Informational Sessions on the NH Science Framework Revisions

Teachers and administrators are invited to hear about the changes coming in science and share their ideas and challenges. Jan McLaughlin will lead the sessions.

Grades K-4, May 23 from 9:00 to 12:00 at NCES
Grades 5-8, May 30 from 9:00 to 12:00 at NCES
Grades 9-12, May 31 from 9:00 to 12:00 at NCES

Call NCES to register, 466-5437.

NCPDD Call for Proposals

The North Country Professional Development Day Planning Committee is accepting proposals for presentations for the October 6, 2006 conference. Presentations may be for 2.5 hours or a combined five hour session. The conference is held in Whitefield for teachers K-12 in all subject areas. A proposal form is available at www.ncedservices.org/ncpdd.htm. Proposals should be submitted to Lori Langlois by May 1, 2006 at lori@ncedservices.org. Suggestions or requests for presenters/topics can be made at this time as well.

Tools for Learning™

Presenter: Kathleen McClaskey, EdTech Associates

Date: May 24 & 25, 2006

Time: 9:00 to 3:30

Cost: Members \$100, Associates \$125, Non-Members \$140

Lunch: Meal and snacks provided. NCES may not be able to accommodate special dietary requirements.

The daily challenge for educators is to teach to diverse learners in a single classroom. This hands-on workshop will demonstrate how to use desktop software and “free” online tools to support students who have difficulties in reading, writing, organizing and expressing ideas through language. Activities will include developing a Plan for Learning Diversity™ by applying instructional strategies with the use of the common desktop software and online tools. Handouts will include a comprehensive list of web sites used to support all learners in the classroom.

For: Geared primarily towards grade 6-12 teachers, but others are welcome.

AIDeIng Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

This three-day autism series will be video conferenced to NCES from SERESC.

August 8, 2006

8:30 - 11:45: **Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders** with Teresa Bolick, Ph.D.

How do children with autism vary in their development from their peers? What are reasons for difficulty in regulating behavior, understanding their environment and communicating? How can we use their strengths to help them understand their environment, work efficiently within their environments, and to learn how to interact with others? What do educators and families need to understand in order to be helpful?

12:30 - 3:45: **Sensory Processing Considerations** with Traci Gilman, OTR. Ms. Gilman will talk about Autism Spectrum Disorders from an Occupational Therapist’s point of view. Her presentation will include sensory regulation; sensitivities to taste, smell, texture, noise, and visual stimulation; differences between sensory processing and sensory integration; social and academic behaviors relating to sensory processing dysfunction; and strategies for coping with “sensory overload” in educational settings.

August 9, 2006

8:30 - 2:00: **Positive Behavioral Supports** by Tom Benjamin, M.S., BCBA. Tom will describe a practical team approach to problem solving when behaviors become a concern in the child’s environment. PBS incorporates systematic observations of when, where, and why the behaviors occur, and results in strategies that can be incorporated into the child’s environment.

2:15 - 3:45: **Parents Perspective** by Abby Collins, Parent. Abby will talk about her observations and experiences, and give examples of sensory motor and communication challenges her child faced throughout his early development.

August 10, 2006

8:30 - 11:45: **Visual Supports** with Teresa Bolick, Ph.D. Strategies to support and maintain active participation in school, home, and community.

12:30 - 2:30: **Encouraging Socialization and Communication through Play** with Teresa Bolick

Dr Bolick will explain why play is a key to progress and will show how to use play to encourage early skill development in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

2:45 - 3:45: Wrap up

Location: Video conferenced to NCES (Gorham) from SERESC (Bedford). Kelly Desilets, OTR, will serve as the local facilitator for the NCES site.

Cost to attend at NCES: Member school staff \$250, Associates \$275, Non-Members \$300. Payment must be made at time of registration. Registration deadline in July 21. Contact NCES to register for the Gorham location. For registration information to attend in Bedford, contact SERESC at 206-6816.

Registration is required for all events by call 466-5437 or 800-268-5437 or emailing becky@ncedservices.org. All events are held at the NCES Professional Development Center, Gorham, NH unless otherwise noted.



Teaching Thinking with Technology

Building on the ideas of effective technology integration and student inquiry, this hands-on face-to-face workshop focuses on using technology to enhance students' higher-order thinking skills. In this 40-hour professional development course you will learn to use free online thinking tools to engage students and help them to communicate their understanding of complex concepts.

Attend this course to:

- Examine a framework for thinking skills and identify those that are most relevant to your curricular goals
- Learn instructional strategies for addressing thinking skills using technology
- Support your students' deeper understanding of core content
- Learn to use one or more free online thinking tools (Seeing Reason, Showing Evidence, and Visual Ranking) to create visual representations of student thinking and demonstrate growth in student thought over time

Upon completion of this course, you'll be prepared to effectively implement a ready-to-use unit plan that is aligned to standards. The unit plan incorporates Curriculum-Framing Questions, an online thinking tool project, and an assessment plan and tools. It also supports student-centered learning and authentic inquiry.

Visit www.intel.com/education/teach/workshop to learn more.

Dates/Time: August 7-11, 2006 from 8:00 to 4:00

Cost: Free

Location: Video conferenced from CACES (Penacook) to NCES (Gorham).

For more information, contact: Matthew Treamer, 466-5437 or matt@ncedservices.org

NHCSS Call for Proposals

The NH Council for the Social Studies is accepting proposals for their October 26, 2006 conference until May 1st. The theme of this year's conference is "Better Together: Practical Applications of the Social Studies". Sessions are sixty minutes in duration. The conference is held in Manchester. Persons interested in presenting may contact Ken Relihan at krelihan@ed.state.nh.us for a proposal form. Questions should be directed to the NHCSS President, Audrey Rogers at apgr@aol.com.

Overview of the ICT Literacy Standards for NH K-12 Students

All of the NH School Minimum Standards were updated and became effective July 1, 2005, including the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy Standards (formerly Computer Literacy). The ideal ICT Literacy Program weaves technology experiences into all content areas and all grade levels and supports students in building digital portfolios of their work. Join us at this first in a series of periodic work sessions to be offered at the Local Educational Support Centers to create a consensus of thought and action around the new ICT Literacy Standards.

On May 18, 2006 from 1:00 to 3:00, Cathy Higgins, Educational Technology Consultant at the NH Department of Education, will lead a discussion and exploration of ways to adapt your current school program to the new standards. Ideas for creating common ICT assessment rubrics will also be discussed. Tech Coordinators, library media specialists, computer teachers, curriculum coordinators, teachers, and administrators are encouraged to attend. Call NCES to register.

FIRST Open House for Teachers

Perhaps you know about the multi-national robotics competitions organized by FIRST, but are you aware of FIRST Place, in Manchester? Teachers are invited to attend an open house at FIRST Place on Tuesday, May 9 from 3:00 to 5:00. FIRST Place, located in the Manchester Millyard, is an innovative and creative learning and development program designed to let everyone discover and explore all types of science, math, and technology on their own terms and in an energetic environment.

Attend the FIRST open house to learn more about the inventive fieldtrips they offer to local schools. These exciting team-based half-day to 5-day programs can be scheduled any week-day for 10 or more students. If you are interested in attending the Educator Open House from 3:00 to 5:00 on Tuesday, May 9, RSVP by sending an email to firstplace@usfirst.org or calling 603-666-3906 x427.

Write Now! Conference

Inside the Writing Teacher's Craft

Presenters: Donald Graves & Penny Kittle

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 2, 8:30 to 2:30

Location: Heritage Commons, Plymouth State University

The Arts Alliance of Northern NH's annual *Write Now!* conference on the teaching of writing is for educators at all grade levels. Experience quick writing exercises that help students find topics that are personally meaningful, rereading strategies for intentionally crafting a piece of writing, student conferences that are focused and effective, and the teaching journeys of teachers who have used this approach. To download a registration form, go to www.aannh.org, or call the Arts Alliance at 323-7302 or 726-8843 or email info@aannh.org.