

## Writing is Every Teacher's Responsibility

The Neglected "R", a report of the National Commission on Writing, calls for educational reform to expand to include the ability of students to think, reason, and communicate. If students are to make knowledge their own, they must struggle with the details, wrestle with the facts, and rework raw information and dimly understood concepts into language they can communicate to someone else. In short, if students are to learn, they must write. The report lists the findings from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (the nation's "report card"). While most students develop basic writing skills, most students at all grade levels are unable to produce writing at the high levels of skill, maturity, and sophistication required in a modern economy.

Among the recommendations of the report is doubling the amount of time students spend writing by assigning writing across the curriculum. In response to this recommendation, NCES is offering a course geared to middle and high school teachers on writing across the curriculum (see page 2). Whether or not you consider yourself to be a good writer, this course will help you develop strategies that will not only teach your students to be better writers, but that will make them better learners through writing.

The full report is available at [www.writingcommission.org](http://www.writingcommission.org).

## NH Distinguished Math Educators to Teach Series for Educators

**Series begins in February 2008.**

**See page 2 for details.**

## The Ancient Middle East: Egypt, Persia and Mesopotamia



Northeast Cultural Coop, in cooperation with Harvard University Center for Middle Eastern Studies, is sponsoring this workshop on tools and ideas for developing content, curriculum and using available resources for teaching the history, literature, geography, art, religion/belief system and sociology of the Middle East.

The workshop will be lead by Paul Beran. Paul received his MA in Political Science and PhD in International Public Policy from Northeastern University. He is a researcher, writer, and teacher on civil society in the Middle East region and the West, Middle East politics and democratization, and regional human rights and development. Paul has worked in public education on the Middle East region with Northeastern University, Bentley College, Teachers As Scholars, The Education

Cooperative, the National Council on U.S. Arab Relations, the University of the Middle East Project, and others. In addition to teaching and researching, he has served as a consultant on global education and development programs in Jordan, Israel, the West Bank, Egypt, Sudan, and the United States. Paul has lived in the United States, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Cairo, Egypt.

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 15, 2008  
8:30--3:00

Location: SERESC, Bedford, NH and video conferenced to NCES, Gorham, NH.

Registration Fee: \$50.00

**Registration form available from  
Northeast Cultural Coop at  
[www.northeastculturalcoop.org](http://www.northeastculturalcoop.org)**

## Distinguished Math Educators Series

Co-sponsored by the North Country Education Services Professional Development Center and the Greater Manchester Professional Development Center, this series of math workshop will be led by NH distinguished math educators.

**Graduate credit option:** Graduate credit is available for those who attend the entire series. Additional coursework and fees apply (\$135/credit x 2 times plus \$25 registration fee). Contact [matt@ncedservices.org](mailto:matt@ncedservices.org) for more information.

### Algebra Across the Grades

Presenter: Betty Erickson, Educational Consultant  
Focus: Grades 3-8  
Dates/time: February 7 and 8, 2008 from 9:00-3:00  
Cost: \$75.00

Using the Navigations Series, participants will come away with instructional strategies focusing on repeating and growing patterns, concepts on variable and equality, examine functions and relations, construct growing patterns using the Isosceles triangle, analyze situations with constant or varying rates of change and observe and represent patterns in an array.

### Mathematical Tools & Strategies for Integrating the Process Strands

Presenter: Connie Upschulte, Pennichuck Middle School  
Focus: Grades 3-8  
Dates/time: March 10 and 11, 2008 from 9:00-3:00  
Cost: \$75.00

This session will introduce participants to select tools and strategies that can be used to enhance instruction of the mathematical process strands. Participants will explore mathematical research through a tool called "Curriculum Topic Study Guides." In addition, a protocol for examining student work will be introduced which enables teachers to identify misconceptions and adapt instruction as needed. Based on the research, diagnostic probes emphasizing the mathematical process strands will be shared and designed for use before, during and after classroom instruction. Finally, various formative assessment strategies will be highlighted throughout this session.

### Proportionality: More Than Two Equal Ratios

Presenter: Christine Downing, Math Consultant NH DOE  
Focus: Grades 3-10  
Dates/time: April 1 and 2, 2008 from 9:00-3:00  
Cost: \$75.00

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in their Principles and Standards for School Mathematics (2000) pro-

poses an emphasis on proportionality in the middle grades. Proportional reasoning is evident through many areas of the elementary and middle level mathematics curricula, such as percents, similarity, scaling, linear equations, slope, and probability. Several of the GLEs have connections to proportionality. Join in this session and gather materials that you can share with colleagues and use in the classroom to promote proportional reasoning with all students.

### Opening Up

Presenter: Caroline Herold, Educational Consultant  
Focus: Grades 3-8  
Dates/time: April 7 and 8, 2008 from 9:00-3:00  
Cost: \$75.00

Many years of research indicate that most questions that are asked in the mathematics classroom are at a low cognitive level. By solving open-ended problems, students create and adapt solution strategies that better develop and connect their mathematical knowledge. Attendees will look at how to develop open-process and open-ended questions from closed, skill-based problems often found in traditional programs.

### Analyze This!

Presenter: Phil Loud, Former Mathematics Educator  
Focus: Grades 3-8  
Dates/time: May 8 and 9, 2008 from 9:00-3:00  
Cost: \$75.00

Analyze This! Since the inception of the NCTM Standards, probability, statistics, and data analysis have more and more become an integral part of our mathematics curriculum. In this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to take a closer look at probability, statistics, and data analysis with particular emphasis given to their role in and how they span the GLEs. Finally, participants will work together in small groups on several "hands-on" activities including using the Probability Application that comes built-in to the TI-83/84 graphing calculators.

### Location & Registration Information

The presenter for these sessions will be at the GMPDC in Manchester, and participants at NCES in Gorham will attend via video conference on the following dates: February 7 and 8, March 10 and 11, April 7 and 8, May 8 and 9. Kristine Downing, NHDOE Math Consultant will be on-site at NCES to facilitate all sessions. The presenter for April 1 and 2 will be at NCES in Gorham, and participants at the GMPDC in Manchester will attend via video conference.

To register for the Gorham site, contact Becky Ring at [becky@ncedservices.org](mailto:becky@ncedservices.org) or 466-5437 or 800-268-5437. To attend and register for the Manchester location, visit [www.gmpdc.org/workshops](http://www.gmpdc.org/workshops).

## Writing Across the Curriculum in Middle School and High School

In Writing Across the Curriculum, David Yacavace of TeachingLearningConnections (TLC) will lead participants in how to teach the writing process through implementation practices in specific content areas. This course will teach you how to use writing as

- 1) a teaching tool
- 2) a learning strategy
- 3) an assessment measure

Geared to practical classroom practices, this course on writing in the content area will teach you strategies that minimize teacher correcting time by engaging students in the correction/evaluation process. Not simply an add-on to an already overloaded teaching agenda, the strategies you will take away from this course create the time necessary for a teacher to monitor 'students at work.' Major topics include: the writing/reading connection, teacher correcting and peer editing, Collins types of writing, open response strategies, graphic organizers, rubrics, and portfolios.

All tools, practices, and techniques emphasize process over product as well as measurement of progress over time rather than a one time testing strategy. Concentrating on the learner-writer as opposed to the master-writer, writing in content specific disciplines emphasizes the role of the coaching-teacher in contrast to the teaching-sage.

**Instructor:** David A. Yacavace

**Dates/time:** January 16 & 17, February 6 & 7, March 12 & 13 from 4:00 to 8:00 and March 31, 2008 from 8:30 to 4:00 (last class only) .

**Location:** NCES PD Center, Gorham

**Cost:** \$105 Members, \$130 Associates and \$150 for Non-Members

**Registration:** Contact Becky at 466-5437 or becky@ncedservices.org.

**Credit option:** Three credits available through Plymouth State University for an additional \$135/credit for in-state residents (plus \$25 registration fee).

## Advising Meetings for PSU's Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study

Possibly interested in joining the North County cohort for the CAGS program? The core program courses are being offered in Gorham at NCES. Cheryl Baker will be available to advise potential M.Ed. or CAGS students at NCES on Thursday, January 10 and Thursday, March 13. Appointments are typically 20 and 30 minutes and are available from 3:30 – 5:30. Those interested in an advising meeting should call Plymouth State Graduate Studies at 535-2636 to set up an appointment.

## PSU CAGS Course at NCES in Gorham

### LEGAL ISSUES IN POLICY MAKING

EP7060.NF CRN: 20042

**Instructor:** Theodore Comstock

**Location:** NCES, Gorham, NH

**Dates/Time:** Thursdays 5:00 to 9:00 on 1/3, 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28/2008. This course has an online component using Blackboard (WebCT).

This course presents a discussion of ways institutions and their communities must deal with the legal and political environment in which they exist. Topics include current legal issues and how the stakeholders in society can use the law as a tool for social change. Institutions must advocate for positive change through the development of thoughtful legal policies and practices.

### CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL TRENDS

EP7070.NF CRN: 30107

**Instructor:** Richard Ayers

**Location:** NCES, Gorham, NH

**Dates/Times:** Fridays from 5:00 to 9:00 on 3/28, 4/11, 4/25/08 and Saturdays from 9:00 to 3:00 on 3/29, 4/12, 4/26/08.

Contemporary social, economical, political, and educational issues are the core of the course. They are identified in a forum that provides opportunities for the students to research current methodology together to address problems that relate to the specific roles of the course participants in their work inside or outside of the educational field. Working collaboratively, course candidates explore short-range and long range problem-solving strategies directed toward increasing their awareness of community perception and expectations, techniques for facilitating institutional change, and responding to the nature and culture of internal and external political systems and environments as they apply to their work sites.

## Differentiated Instruction:

### Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners

Teachers will explore ways to provide multiple pathways to learning so that both advanced and struggling learners are challenged yet not frustrated and ways to scaffold instruction for struggling learners, divergent learners, and second language learners.

Learn how to:

- Use pre-assessment and task analysis to plan differentiated instruction
- Gather and use on-going assessment data
- Scaffold instruction
- Build in student choice
- Teach students to self-assess and self-adjust

**Instructor:** Louise Thompson

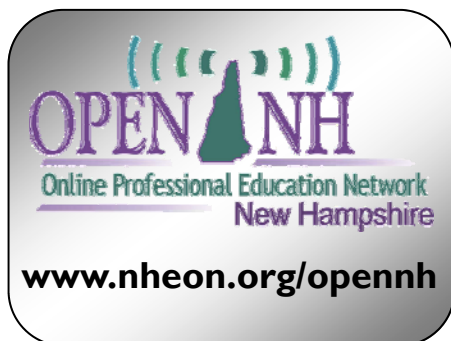
**Dates/time:** March 11, April 1, May 8 & 28, 2008 from 8:00 - 3:00

**Location:** NCES PD Center

**Cost:** Members \$460, Associate Members \$510, Others \$560

(includes textbook and meal)

**Credits:** Two graduate credits at PSU: additional \$135 total (in-state)



## Classroom Technology Grants Awarded

Twenty-five schools were recently awarded classroom technology grants funded through the No Child Left Behind Title II-D Program. The recipients for 2007-08 are listed below. To learn more visit <http://www.nheon.org/oet/nclb/Phasell/>

SCHOOL	PROJECT TITLE
Alton Central School	Strategy Connections
Ashland Elementary School	Multicultural Digital Animation: Composing Music & Creating Dances...
Josiah Bartlett School	Where Is My Travelbug? A GPS Geocache Adventure Journey.
Chester Academy	See It, Hear It, Read It!
Bluff School	Melodic Math
Stevens High School	SHS and the City: a Documentary Film
Kennett High School	The Hip Hop Influence
Dover Middle School	Show Me the Math: Using Technology to Display and Review Student Work
Acworth Center School	Math FM
Charlestown Middle School	Visual Representations of Cultures Across Time
Henry Wilson Memorial	Martian Rover
Ossipee Central School	Place Value: Researching and identifying the resources of a place...
Inter-Lakes Middle School	On The Wings Of Inquiry
Jaffrey Grade School	A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words: Digitally Animated Storytelling
Pleasant Street School	Flying Into the Digital Age
Lafayette Regional School	If I Were in Charge of the World: Giving Voice to Our Students Through Digital Stories
Milford High School	Motion and Sound: Applications of the Sine Wave
Nashua High North, Nashua High South	The Bailey Project: ELL Culture and Transformation
Danbury, Bristol, Bridgewater-Hebron Village, New Hampton	Digital Storytelling in the Content Area
Moharimet Elementary School	The Sap is Running... Saving Our Maple Trees
Oyster River High School	A community-wide conversation about contemporary media landscapes
Profile School	Learning through flight
Belmont Middle School	I Spy With My Magnified Eye
Warren Village School	Explorer Extravaganza
Lancaster Elementary School	Collecting Ideas, Connecting Communities: Lancaster and Surrounding Communities

