



NEWS

March 2008

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Director's Notes

While three North Country SAUs took last week for their February school vacation, the majority has chosen the last week of February for their winter respite to rest, relax and rejuvenate their spirit. Unfortunately the last two weeks of February are also noted for the incidence of influenza in students and staff so I must add recuperate to my list of "r" words, and hope that all will return to school refreshed and reinvigorated.

On January 10, 2008, *Education Week* (Volume 27-Number 18) released its twelfth annual Quality Counts report that graded the nation and the states, plus the District of Columbia, on the basis of a number of areas of performance. If you have not yet read this article by Christopher B. Swanson, I would suggest that you do so as it is quite revealing and enlightening, especially as we in New Hampshire watch the ongoing efforts of our legislature to determine how to fund an "educationally adequate" amount of state money to lessen the burden for local communities to support their schools. Of course the term "educational adequacy" has been defined recently, nearly seventeen years after the Claremont I decision. I hope this article evokes considerable thought.

Performance and policy measures included: (1) chance for success; (2) K – 12 achievement; (3) standards, assessment and accountability; (4) transitions and alignment; (5) the teaching profession; and (6) school finance. The table below depicts how New Hampshire compared with national and New England scores.

	Overall Grade	Total Score	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Connecticut	C+	77.6	A-	D	C	C	C-	B+
Maine	C+	77.5	B-	C	C+	B-	D	B+
Massachusetts	B	84.0	A	B	A-	C	C	B-
New Hampshire	C	75.6	A-	C	C	C-	D	C+
Rhode Island	C	75.2	B-	D	B+	C-	D	B
Vermont	B-	79.5	B+	C+	B-	C-	C-	B+
United States	C	75.9	C+	D+	B	C	C	C+
Highest State	NY	NY	MA	*1	*2	*3	SC	WV
Lowest State	*4	DC	*5	*6	IA	*7	OR	*8

*1 = MA, MD (B)

*2 = NY, VA, WV, OH, SC, IN, LA (A)

*3 = NY, TN (A)

*4 = NV, NB, MI, OR, ID, DC (D+)

*5 = LA, NM, NV, MI (D+)

*6 = WV, AL, MI, DC (F)

*7 = UT, NB, ID (F)

*8 = AZ, UT, ID (D)

Grade received is in parenthesis following state abbreviations

Charles F. Thibodeau, Jr.

Executive Director

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Peer Mediation Train the Trainers

What is Peer Mediation?

The structured process of peer mediation enables the disputants (with the help of two peer mediators) to identify the conflict and any underlying feelings and issues, examine the options and agree upon a solution. Through skillful listening, questioning and creative problem solving, peer mediators facilitate the process and guide the disputants toward a mutually agreeable solution. An agreement is written up and signed by the disputants and the mediators.

Students learn to resolve conflict without adult intervention. The process helps them learn to take responsibility for their behavior. Conflict resolution, communication, listening, anger management, problem solving, respect and assertiveness are the key components taught to the student mediators. The program provides mediators, and students who utilize the mediation process, the tools for working out future problems.

Dates: March 25 & 26, 2008 from 9:00 to 3:00

Trainer: Jane Vaillancourt, Mountain View Mediation

For: School personnel interested in training/running a peer mediation program in grades 4-12.

Location: NCES, Gorham

Cost: Free to SAUs 3, 7, 9, 20, 23, 35, 36, 58, 68, 77 & 84. Lunch will be provided.

Registration: Required by phoning 466-5437, 800-268-5437 or email becky@ncedservices.org.

Concerns-Based Adoption Model

How to lead school improvement initiatives.

Presenter: Deborah Roody, CAGS

Date: Tuesday, April 15, 2008, 9:00 to 3:00

Cost: \$100 or \$80 if you register by March 31.



Earth Science by Design is a two-day professional development program to enhance the capacity of middle and high school teachers of Earth science enabling them to:

- Teach for deeper, enduring understanding
- Teach to the big ideas in Earth and Space Science
- Use visualizations and satellite imagery to promote student understanding

Earth Science by Design (ESBD) is based on the "Understanding by Design" approach developed by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe. Teachers learn the principles of "backward design" and create an Earth science unit they will teach.

Participants will receive a \$75 stipend, *Understanding by Design, Understanding by Design Workbook*, along with ESBD handouts.

Instructor: Dr. Mark Turski

NCES, Gorham: Saturdays, April 5 and May 3, 2008

Time: 9:00 to 3:00, registration and refreshment 8:30 to 9:00. Lunch will be provided.

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

Teaching about Ancient Japan

What do your students really know about Japan beyond their love of anime and manga? What can you learn to help enhance your lessons on ancient cultures that includes the excitement of Japanese animation and comics? Come to this special workshop that will introduce you to content information on Ancient Japan from prehistoric times to the age of the samurai. Using images, texts, and other materials that will help you bring Japan alive for your students, Professors Hockley and Dorsey of Dartmouth College will share their years of expertise with teachers who are interested in deepening their own knowledge of Japan (beyond origami and kimonos) and sharing it with their students in creative ways.

For: Interdisciplinary workshop for middle and high school teachers

Date: April 29 from 8:30 to 3:30 via video conference to NCES in Gorham (from SERESC)

Cost: \$35. Lunch will be provided.

For registration form: www.NortheastCulturalCoop.org

This workshop is offered through generous support from The Freeman Foundation, The New Hampshire Humanities Council, and The Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnerships.

How to Hold Productive IEP Meetings

Tools and strategies to become a more effective IEP team member

Date: March 13, 2008 from 8:30 to 3:00

Keynote Speaker: Diana Autin

Diana Autin is a member of the National IDEA Partnership, Creating Agreement Community of Practice and is a member of the team that developed the Creating Agreement training modules for professionals and parents.

Cost: \$120 for educators, \$100 for parents. Lunch will be provided.

Note: This is a Parent Information Center event held at SERESC and will be video conferenced to NCES in Gorham, NH. To attend and register for the Gorham location, contact NCES by emailing becky@ncedservices.org or calling 800-268-5437 by March 7, 2008.



Exploring Science Process Skills

For more than thirty years, the Exploratorium Institute for Inquiry has been educating teachers, administrators, and professional developers about the theory and practice of inquiry-based teaching and learning. We have witnessed firsthand the power of science coming alive and having real meaning for students and teachers when they focus on the questions of science, rather than just the answers.

In the Process Skills workshop, teachers will work to develop their understanding of the central role of the process skills of science in learning scientific concepts. They see what those skills look like in action by trying them out themselves. They will then see how students use them at various developmental levels. Participants will then consider how to make changes in science activities that will help students develop their skills to higher levels.

Presenter: Kim Leeman has taught life science to eighth graders at Southside Middle School in the Manchester, NH for twenty years. Her credentials include a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a Master of Science in Biology and Master of Science in Secondary Education. She has worked extensively on science curriculum revision since 1995 and is currently the Science Curriculum Chair for the Manchester School District.

Dates/Time: April 4, from 9:00 to 3:00, registration at 8:30

Cost: \$25. Lunch will be provided.

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

Concerns-Based Adoption Model

Promoting School Improvement Initiatives

You have done the research, chosen the model that you think has the most chance for success, begun the process of gathering resources for a project that has potential for improving student outcomes. Now how do you lead your staff through implementation of the initiative? How can you measure success in launching a project that has the potential to make a difference to staff, students and parents, and understand what to do when the process is not going well?

You are invited to join us for a day of orientation, information and discussion about the CBAM model. You will leave with an understanding of people's concerns when adopting something new, and information about measuring both personal and organizational progress toward implementation of a new program or practice.

Presenter: Deborah Roody, CAGS

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 15, 2008, 9:00 to 3:00, 8:30 registration and refreshments at NCES, Gorham, NH

Cost: \$100 or \$80 if registered by March 31. Lunch provided.

Registration: Becky Ring at 466-5437 or email becky@ncedservices.org

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 & task analysis to plan DI
- 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: March 11, April 1, May 8 & 28, 2008 from 8:00 - 3:00 at NCES PD Center, Gorham, NH

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

Credits: Two PSU graduate credits. Special pricing: additional \$135 total (in-state).

PSU Courses at NCES

TOPICS IN CALCULUS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Instructor: Gregory Superchi

Dates/time: Mondays 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19 from 4:30 – 8:00

CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL TRENDS

Instructor: Richard Ayers

Dates/Times: Fridays from 5:00 to 9:00 on 3/28, 4/11, 5/2 and Saturdays from 9:00 to 3:00 on 3/29, 4/12, 5/3/08.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND TRANSPORTATION

Instructor: Doug MacDonald

Dates/Time: July 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 from 9:00 to 3:30

QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY & APPLIED RESEARCH

Instructor: Dr. Pamela Clark

Dates/Time: July 22, 23, 24 & 25 from 9:00 to 4:00

Registration information and course descriptions at:

<http://www.plymouth.edu/graduate/>

Advising Meetings for PSU's M.Ed. and CAGS Programs

Cheryl Baker will be available to advise potential M.Ed. or CAGS students at NCES on Thursday, March 13. Appointments are typically 20 and 30 minutes and are available from 3:30 to 5:30. Those interested in an advising meeting should call Plymouth State Graduate Studies at 535-2636 to set up an appointment.

Collaboratively Inquiry for Data Teams
with Bruce Wellman, July 29 & 30 at the Grand Summit Resort, Bartlett, NH
More details soon at www.lescn.org

Strategies in English: Writing Tactics Using SOAPStone

The focus of this workshop is on classroom tactics that help students to analyze good writing and to apply this knowledge when creating their own texts. Teachers will learn activities that can benefit their students. Participants will discuss and understand the concepts underlying these activities, such as the writing process, narrative, the persuasive essay, analytical writing, and assessing student writing. The workshop provides:

- A strategy for students to use in the planning and creation of their compositions
- Skills of successful writers
- Activities for students across grade levels
- Activities to illustrate good pedagogy (instructional approaches, including cooperative learning)
- Connections between one activity and another
- Practice in assessing student writing
- Substantial content background for teachers

Date: Thursday, March 20, 2008

Location: Laconia area, exact location to be determined

Cost: There may be a minimal fee to cover lunch.

Registration: Contact Lori Langlois at lori@ncedservices.org to reserve your spot or to be notified when final details are available.

Residential Summer Institute on Holocaust and Genocide

The New Hampshire Humanities Council and the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies are sponsoring the 2008 Residential Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide. Applications are now being accepted for the July 13-19, 2008 summer institute. This is an internationally recognized institute that attracts overseas educators, scholars, and witnesses. This year's keynote speaker will be Sibylle Niemoeller von Sell, widow of Hitler's only personal prisoner, Pastor Martin Niemoeller.

The institute will take place at Keene State and participants will be housed in the brand new Pondsides III residential hall.

The registration fee is \$150 for NH teachers and \$400 for out of state educators (possibly less if other grants are secured) and will cover room and board, all meals, and all texts.

More information on the summer institute is available at: www.keene.edu/cchs/summerinst.cfm

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Lesley brings top faculty right to your area, providing high quality Master's degree programs in a convenient, one weekend a month format.



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
FOR SUMMER ENROLLMENT.

JOIN US AT AN INFORMATION SESSION!

March 3, 2008 | 4:00 pm OR
March 24, 2008 | 4:00 pm
North Country Education Services
300 Gorham Hill Road
Gorham, NH 03581

Learn about Lesley's Literacy: Language, Reading and Writing (C&I), M.Ed.

This program trains experienced elementary, middle, and high school teachers to use a variety of methods and strategies central to teaching students to read, write, speak, and listen.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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