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# THE BEACON

Newsletter of the Western New York Educational Service Council

**September 2008**

## **30th Annual Education Law Conference a Huge Success**

The Annual Education Law Conference drew the largest audience in its 30-year history - 231 attendees - and 91% of them gave the conference a very positive response. The August 6th event featured keynote, Roseanne E. Johnson, Erie County Deputy District Attorney for the Special Victims Bureau. Her expertise in sexual assault, child abuse and domestic violence set the stage for the conference theme, "Preventing, Addressing and Responding to Staff Misconduct."



Concurrent sessions followed on a variety of related topics, including "3020a Overview" with Dave Farmelo and Tom Rinaldo, "Tightening Tenure" (Ron Mendrick), "Tightening Hiring Procedures" (Tracie Lopardi and Tom Ramming), "Mandated Reporting" (Don Budmen, pictured left), "Educator Discipline" with SED's Deborah Marriott (pictured below) and the "NYSUT Perspective" (Mike Preskop). There was also the standard update on Special Education from Andrew Freedman. "Perspectives and Updates" from NYSSBA's, Jay Worona, and "Legal

Crossfire," a panel of attorneys moderated by Hodgson Russ' Dave Farmelo, completed the day. Once again, the Council and the Erie County Association of School Boards coordinated the day. Remember to thank ECASB'S Jane Burzynski and her staff for all their efforts in coordinating the day. Look for next year's 31st annual conference the first week in August.



The Western New York Educational Service Council is proud of its partnership with the law firm of Hodgson Russ LLP Attorneys. We appreciate their support as our Corporate Sponsor and recognize their outstanding service to the schools of Western New York.

**Visit Our Website: [www.wnyesc.org](http://www.wnyesc.org)**

# Professional Development Programs

## For Practicing Administrators Throughout Western New York

### The New Administrator Breakfast Series ... In Cheektowaga or LeRoy

New administrators need strong assistance and continuing professional development to help them grow and be successful. All administrative positions are becoming more challenging and complex each year. So the **New Administrator Breakfast Series** deals with timely and relevant topics, such as Effective Communication and Collaboration, Using Data to Enhance Accountability, Dealing with Discipline Issues, Best Practices in Hiring, and Managing Time and People Effectively.

Again this year, the Council is offering two regional series ...one at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga and the other at the Genesee Valley BOCES in LeRoy. All the sessions begin at 7:45 a.m. and end by 10:00 a.m. so participants don't lose too much time out of the office. There will be five sessions and a variety of speakers at each site. The Buffalo (Cheektowaga) program will be coordinated by former West Seneca Superintendent, Jim Brotz, and the LeRoy series will be coordinated by Council Executive Director, Bren Price.

If anyone is interested in the series, they can check out the website for dates and topics at: [www.wnyesc.org](http://www.wnyesc.org) or call the Council office at 716-645-2932.

### The Afternoon Seminar Series at the Marriott in Amherst

The **School Site Group**, under the coordination of University at Buffalo professor and Associate Dean, Dr. Steve Jacobson, consists of 40+ school principals and assistant principals who gather six times per year to hear and interact with speakers from the area who share their expertise in leadership topics or exemplary school programs. They meet at the Marriott Hotel on Millersport Hwy. in Amherst at 4:00 p.m. to hear the speaker and then engage in related conversation over dinner. The program ends by 6:00 or 6:30 p.m.

For 36 years, the **Administrative Study Group** has met six times per year from 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. to hear engaging and timely speakers on a variety of topics related to school leadership and management. Designed for school superintendents and other central office personnel, the sessions provide a professional development opportunity for even the most experienced school leaders. The presentations are followed by a question-answer period and table top discussion with dinner. This year's program will also be at the Marriott.

### **SAVE OR PASS ALONG THESE DATES**

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|-----------------|---|
| Sept. 26, 2008: | "Digital Video Composing for Improving Student Achievement"<br>8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. WNED Studios at 150 Lower Terrace in Buffalo |
| Oct. 2, 2008:   | "Data Driven Decision Making for Central Office Leaders"<br>10:00 a.m. to Noon at Holiday Valley in Ellicottville                 |
| Oct. 3, 2008:   | "Data Driven Decision Making for Central Office Leaders"<br>8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga                |
| Oct. 8, 2008:   | "Response to Intervention"<br>8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga  |

**With information technology changing dynamically, you should know about:**

## **U.B.'s Department of Library and Information Studies**

Library and Information Studies became the fourth department in UB's Graduate School of Education in 2007. The department's faculty are experts in librarianship, information science, and interdisciplinary specialties from the natural sciences to social sciences and humanities. Their teaching is informed by both professional experience and cutting-edge research in topics such as database design and management; information behavior of school children; Internet-mediated social environments; web-based information management; digital resources; information literacy; youth services, literacy, and reading. Examples of their funded research projects include "A National Study of Users and Potential Users of Online Information," "The Impact of Children and Teen's Use of the Internet on Their Public and School Library Use," and "The Future of Public Libraries."

The department offers a Master of Library Science (MLS) degree which prepares professionals for the cutting edge of information technology. *US News and World Report* selected "Librarian" as one of thirty-one best careers of 2008, citing high job satisfaction and strong employment demand. Equally facile with print or digital media, librarians and information professionals are sought by academic, public, and school libraries and by specialized libraries and information companies such as archives, film collections, hospitals, law firms, museums, or news media. **Optional specialization in school librarianship results in certification as a School Library Media Specialist by the New York State Education Department. A post-Master's Advanced Certificate draws librarians wishing to update their skills and school librarians wanting to take courses required for NYS certification.**

The interdisciplinary Music Librarianship program merges the MLS with an M.A. in music history. Students gain experience with selection, cataloging, classification, archives, physical processing, circulation and reference, personnel, library planning, and historical research through internships, special projects, and coursework.

**For more information contact Dr. Judith Robinson at [lisrobin@buffalo.edu](mailto:lisrobin@buffalo.edu)**

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## **Council to Coordinate P-16 Initiative in the Region**

Most of us know that the Regents have adopted a P-16 Education Plan for Action. This summer, a group of superintendents from Depew, Cleveland Hill, Cheek-Sloan, Cheek-Central, Lake Shore, Orchard Park, West Seneca and Holland met with the Presidents of 12 Colleges/Universities in the area to discuss how we can better collaborate and communicate to enhance opportunities and achievement for students. The Council is helping to coordinate several specific initiatives ranging from Professional Development to Summer Institutes and Career Academies. If any other schools are interested in learning more about this, please contact Bren Price at the Council office.

**Thanks to the UB Graduate School of Education**

**The WNYESC recognizes its invaluable partnership with the Graduate School of Education at SUNY Buffalo. The Council deeply appreciates support from Dr. Mary Gresham, Dean of the Graduate School of Education. We also thank the Faculty and Staff for their encouragement and participation in the Council.**

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**UPCOMING CALENDAR**

<b>Sept</b>	17th	Board Meeting	11:30 a.m.	Eagle House
	18th	Administrative Study Group	4:15 - 6:30 p.m.	Marriott
	23rd	New Principals Group - GV BOCES	7:45 - 10:00 a.m.	LeRoy
	26th	“Digital Video Composing for Improving Student Achievement”	8:30 - 3:00p.m.	WNED
<b>Oct</b>	2nd	“Data Points” Workshop - J. Hughes	9:00 - Noon	Holiday Valley
	3rd	“Data Points” Workshop - J Hughes	8:30 - 11:30a.m.	Millennium
	8th	“Response to Intervention” Workshop	8:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Millennium
	14th	New Admin Group - Buffalo	7:45 - 10:00a.m.	Millennium
	15th	School Site Group	4:15 - 6:30p.m.	Marriott
	20th	New Principals Group - GV BOCES	7:45 - 10:00a.m.	LeRoy
	23rd	Administrative Study Group	4:15 - 6:30p.m.	Marriott
<b>Nov</b>	6th	CIDEL’s “Call to Leadership”	4:15 - 6:30 p.m.	Salvatore
	7th	New Admin Group - Buffalo	7:45 - 10:00a.m.	Millennium
	15th	WNY Math Conference	9:00 - 3:00p.m.	Clarence HS
	17th	New Principals Group - GV BOCES	7:45 - 10:00a.m.	LeRoy
	20th	ASG and SSG Seminar Groups	4:15 - 6:30 p.m.	Marriott
	20th	“Ethical Dilemmas” Workshop	8:30 - 3:00p.m.	Hol. Valley
<b>Dec</b>	3rd	Board Meeting	11:30 a.m.	Eagle House
	16th	New Admin Group - Buffalo	7:45 - 10:00a.m.	Millennium

**WNYESC STAFF**

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**Membership Commitment**

It is our goal to provide high quality, cost-effective programs and services for our members. Whether it be professional development, consultant studies, data-driven studies, superintendent searches, connections to research and higher learning or leadership development, the Council is dedicated to supporting all educators and schools in Western New York.