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THE BEACON

Newsletter of the Western New York Educational Service Council

May 2009

Thanks for Your Support...

Did you know that this year the Council has offered or partnered with other groups to offer ten different professional development workshops in the region? The Educational Law Conference, Digital Video Composing Workshop, the WNYMATH Conference and the Digital Wave Technology Conference each had between 230-310 participants. The other six workshops averaged just under 100 in attendance. Add to this another hundred who were involved in the morning and afternoon school leadership seminars and we think it has been pretty significant...especially in this environment. Finally, we had 350 attendees recognize our 17 winners at the Annual Awards Banquet. These programs clearly fit with our mission and commitment to provide meaningful activities and services to you, our affiliates.

...and 2009-10 Looks Better Yet!

A Threat Assessment Planning session, a NEW series for Non-Instructional Leaders, more Legal Seminars for building leaders, and an Interactive Web 2.0 School Leaders workshop are already scheduled. We will continue our popular New Administrators' series, and other activities which qualify for NYS professional development certification credits. Add to this our consultant services and many partnerships, and you can see we have the flexibility and capacity to serve you in many ways. Soon we will be sending all affiliates information on our programs and services for the next school year. We hope you will continue to collaborate with us.



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.

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Susan Paulson Retires from the Council



Executive assistant Susan Paulson, who served the Council for 10 years, retired on April 14, 2009. Susan came to the Council, together with Dr. Vince Coppola, just after Dr. Bob Heller retired in 1999. For a short time she and Vince were housed at Erie I BOCES, until the current accommodations within the Graduate School of Education at UB were made available.

A familiar, friendly and helpful voice, Susan developed many telephone and email relationships throughout the region. It was always fun for her to meet people in person at our big events like the Education Law Conference and Awards Banquets. "Susan was a driving force behind the scenes that made the Council what it is today!" said Vince Coppola. Have fun in retirement Susan.

Legal Issues for School Administrators Draws Huge Crowd

More than 170 school administrators attended the Legal Issues Seminar at the Millennium on April 22nd. Partners from the Hodgson-Russ LLP law firm led the program with "Stories From Around the Water Cooler." The sessions on Handling Student Discipline Issues, Allegations of Inappropriate Staff Conduct and Special Education Issues were very well received by the participants, as was the Q&A session that completed the morning seminar. The Council is planning another one of these for November.



SAVE OR PASS ALONG THESE DATES

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| June 4, 2009` | Minerva Professional Development Overview for '09-10
7:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.. With free breakfast
Millennium Hotel, Galleria Rd., Cheektowaga |
| July 20, 2009 | "Safe Schools: Successful Responses to Threats and Emergencies"
8:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. Center For Tomorrow
University at Buffalo North Campus |
| July 22, 29, 2009 | Non-Instructional Leaders Seminar Series
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. With Breakfast
Millennium Hotel, Galleria Rd. Cheektowaga |

Upcoming Professional Development this Summer

July 20th: Successful Responses to Threats and Emergencies

Are you and/or your school buildings prepared for a threatening incident or significant community emergency? Does your staff know the difference between “Lockout,” “Lockdown,” and “Shelter in Place?” Are they familiar with the State’s new regulations for “Threat Assessment ?”

This full-day workshop is designed for **Building or School District teams** who want to review, update or fully develop their Safety Plans. The first part of the day will be informational and share through a CD and other documents:

Lessons Learned from the 12/08 Amherst High School Threat Simulation A Review of the State’s Regulations

The second part of the day will be an opportunity for school teams to meet by district to assess where they are and develop action-plan strategies and procedures for the upcoming school year. Finally, the groups will share what they have learned and plan to do.

Members of the Amherst High School staff and law enforcement personnel will be there to assist with information and suggestions for completing or updating your Safe Schools action plan.

July 22nd and 29th: Seminars for Non-Instructional School Leaders

Calling all Transportation Directors, Building and Grounds Supervisors, Cafeteria Managers and other Non-Instructional School Leaders! Are these folks in need of training in Evaluation and Supervision? Do they understand Civil Service laws and sexual harassment issues? Do they communicate effectively with their staffs? All of these topics will be covered in a two-part breakfast series on July 22nd and July 29th.

The top attorneys and human resources professionals in Western New York will be leading the discussions, and the feedback we’ve received is that all these folks could benefit from information generated at these two sessions. So, watch for more information on this series in the near future.

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 programs and activities.

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UPCOMING CALENDAR

May	8th Southern Tier Seminar Series	10:15am - 3:00pm	Holiday Valley
	21st E-N Scholastic Achievement Dinner	6:00 pm	Marriott
June	4th Minerva Overview Session	7:45 am. - 10:00pm	Millennium
	9th Board Meeting	11:30 a.m.	Eagle House
July	20th Safe Schools: Successful Responses to Threats and Emergencies	8:30am - 2:30 pm	Millennium
	22nd Non-Instructional Leader Series Pt.1	8:00am - Noon	Millennium
	29th Non Instructional Leader Series Pt. 2	8:00am - Noon	Millennium
August	5th 30th Educational Law Conference	8:30am - 3:00pm	Millennium
September	17th Board Meeting	11:30 a.m.	Eagle House
October	1st Unleashing the Power of Instructional Leadership through Web 2.0 Tech.	9:00 - 2:30	Hilton Garden
	4th - 6th NYSCOSS Conference		Rochester
November	5th CIDEL Call to Leadership Dinner	4:15 pm - 6:00pm	Salvatores
	6th CIDEL Laurel Schmidt Workshop	8:30 am - 3:00 pm	TBA

WNYESC STAFF

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