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## THE BEACON

Newsletter of the Western New York Educational Service Council

**January 2010**

### **GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP INSTITUTE ORGANIZES Planning Group Prepares for Regional Conference in 2010**

A diverse group of educators from the area, including Superintendents, Jeff Rabey and Mark Crawford, have joined forces with the Council to organize what will likely be the 1st Annual Global Citizenship Institute Conference on October 6-7, 2010 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Downtown Buffalo. **The primary mission of the GCI is to promote global understanding, literacy and social responsibility among students, school staff and leadership, parents and communities. We intend to focus on education, culture, business/technology, and human rights.**

The group recognizes there are many varied partnerships, visitations, exchanges, and other learning activities taking place in 2009. Our purpose is to facilitate the exchange of those ideas and activities among all school constituencies and communities in the region. We want to engage all these parties in conversation in order to expand their awareness and to take action.

There are two major themes within this mission. One is **social justice and social responsibility**, especially as they relate to basic human rights and even genocide issues commonplace in third world countries. The other is **educational and cultural understanding**, as it relates to people here and around the world – primarily in the industrialized, growing economic countries.

The Conference will have several keynote speakers and at least a dozen breakout sessions in these two strands that represent our mission. **SAVE THESE DATES: OCTOBER 6-7, 2010**



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)**

## "Helping Educators Embrace the Vision of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning"

### **Dr. Kathleen P. King's Research Provides Foundation for Her Approach to Professional Development with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning**

On Thursday, October 1, 2009, Dr. Kathy King was the keynote speaker and afternoon workshop leader for the Council. Her presentations engaged participants in thinking about and planning for the integration of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning: wikis, blogs, podcasts, and video into their teaching and leadership roles. In a fabulous demonstration of collaboration, the WNYESC also invited Neil Rochelle (Iroquois) and Kimberly Moritz (Randolph) to share their experiences as superintendents using technology to communicate with their constituency, learn more, and cultivate learning organizations.



King's research revealed that K-12 teachers experienced a unique transformative journey (King, 2002, 2005, 2009) in their instructional technology learning when supported and guided with specific strategies. Key transformative teaching strategies include: nurturing, supporting, mentoring, modeling, contextualization, collaborative groups, experiential learning, critical thinking, reflective practice, and journaling. At the heart of the approach is a combination of individualized, collaborative and on-going support and guidance. In great school districts such a climate thrives in synchronicity; in many others, this approach is a balm of renewal.

The McGraw-Hill Companies further complemented the learning experience by providing participants hands-on experiences with some of the newest curriculum-based digital tools they have developed. Beth Ann Walck and Edward M. Wright had laptops set up and guided interested participants through personal discovery of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning tools. Thank you to McGraw-Hill Education for sponsoring the day, and to all the participants and collaborators for creating a spectacular learning experience.

**Superintendents, Neil Rochelle and Kimberly Moritz** are dynamic users of Web 2.0 technologies. They invite others to join their blogs and ask for any support they need to advance their technology skills for the 21st Century.

## **CIDEL SUCCESSFULLY SPONSORS TWO LEADERSHIP EVENTS**

Salvatore's Italian Gardens was the site of the "Call to Leadership" panel discussion and dinner meeting on November 2nd. Designed to encourage teacher leaders to consider school administration, nearly 60 teachers were invited by their supervisors to hear a panel of three discuss their paths to leadership. The panelists (Howard Smith of Williamsville, Casandra Harrington of Buffalo and Diane Klein of Amherst) also talked about the rewards and challenges of their positions. Dr. Laurel Schmidt completed the formal presentations by sharing insights from her book, "Gardening in the Minefield."

Dr. Schmidt then conducted a full-day "Leadership Academy" on November 3rd at Salvatore's, urging participants to tap their abilities to achieve a positive climate, peak performance and personal satisfaction - not only for themselves, but also the people they lead. "Great Leaders are Power Brokers" was the theme, and Dr. Schmidt delivered dozens of practical strategies to create toxic-free environments and peak performance among staff. Thanks to CIDEL President and Eden Central School Superintendent, Ron Buggs, and his committee for two great events this year.

## Legal Issues For School Building Administrators - Year 2

As a result of its popularity, the “Legal Issues” workshop will be offered again this spring, on April 7th at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga. “The middle managers” and school building administrators who attended last year wanted a follow up, and the Hodgson Russ legal team has an eye-opening program ready. It will include Special Education stories heard “Around the Water Cooler,” advice for “Investigating Third Party Complaints” and “Limiting and Preventing Liability Related to Sports.” Stay tuned for the brochure and registration forms, which will be on our website.

### Study Groups



Some of the most popular Council activities for school administrators are the morning and afternoon study groups for school administrators. The **New Administrator Group**, coordinated by Joe Gentile, has 45 members who attend five, two-hour breakfast meetings to hear and interact with seasoned or retired administrators on a variety of practical topics. Pictured on the left with Joe (in back) are Joe Podgorski, Paul La Fornara, and Bob Farwell, whose topic, “Lessons They Don’t Teach You in Grad School” was a big hit. Participants enjoy these morning sessions because they don’t spend too much time out of the buildings and district.

This year Dr. Vince Coppola is leading the **Executive Leadership Study Group**, designed for School Superintendents from the region. Pictured on right with Dr. Coppola are Dr. Walter Polka and Dr. Peter Litchka, talking about Dr. Polka’s latest book, “The Dark Side of Educational Leadership: Superintendents and the Professional Victim Syndrome.” Dr. Catherine Battaglia and Dr. Mary Alice Price are scheduled to round out the series in the new year.



**The School Site Leadership Group**, conducted this year by Dr. Stephen Jacobson and Dr. Thomas Ramming from the University at Buffalo, includes more than 25 seasoned administrators. Their program includes topics that balance a university/research base with a practical application. Speakers Karl Kristoff, Karen Karmazin, Bob Farwell and Julie Gorlewski all teach at the university level, and they all have strong practitioner experience. Williamsville’s Fran McGreevy and Dan Walsh’s (Casey Middle School) 9/22 presentation on “Building a Positive School Culture” was very well received. Aside from the speakers, the networking opportunities in these groups have proved invaluable.

### SAVE OR PASS ALONG THESE DATES

March 11, 2010      **5th Annual Awards Banquet**      **MAKE NOTE NEW LOCATION**  
**Marriott Hotel** 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
All Nomination Forms found at [www.wnyesc.org/awards.html](http://www.wnyesc.org/awards.html)

April 7, 2010      **Legal Issues for School Building Administrators**  
Millennium Hotel 7:45 am - 12:30 pm  
Information, Registration found at [www.wnyesc.professionaldev.html](http://www.wnyesc.professionaldev.html)

**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**

<b>January</b>	8th Orchard Park Superintendent Search closes		
	9th -11th NYSCOSS Conference		Albany
	14th Exec Leader Group - Cathy Battaglia 7:45 - 10:00 am		Millennium
	15th Keshequa Superintendent Search closes		
<b>February</b>	15th Award Banquet Nominations close		
	15th - 21st Mid-Winter Break Erie BOCES		
<b>March</b>	24th New Administrators Series	7:45 - 10:00 am	Millennium
	2nd School Site Leadership Study Group	4:00 - 6:30 pm	Marriott
	10th Board Meeting	11:30 am	Eagle House
	11th Safe Schools Conference - UB	9:00 - 3:00 pm	Center for Arts
<b>April</b>	11th Awards for Excellence Banquet	5:30 - 9:00pm	Marriott
	30th School Site Leadership Study Group	4:00 - 6:30 pm	Marriott
	7th Legal Issues for School Administrators	7:45 - 10:00 am	Millennium
	15th Exec. Leader Group - Mary Alice Price	7:45 - 10:00 am	Millennium
<b>May</b>	4th School Site Leadership Study Group	4:00 - 6:30 pm	Marriott

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