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THE BEACON

Newsletter of the Western New York Educational Service Council

September 2010

Global Citizenship Institute Conference



The GCI's inaugural conference will be held October 6-7, 2010 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown Buffalo. Superintendents, Jeff Rabey (Depew) and Mark Crawford (West Seneca) pictured left, are co-chairs of the Institute and are working with a diverse group of educators from the area to **promote global understanding, literacy and social responsibility among students, school staff and leadership, parents and communities. Their intent is 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 2010. Its purpose is to facilitate the exchange of those ideas and activities among all school constituencies and communities in the region. The GCI hopes to engage all these parties in conversation in order to expand their awareness and to take action.

There are two major themes within this conference. One is **social justice and social responsibility**, especially as they relate to basic human rights, genocide, and issues commonplace in third world countries. The other is **educational and cultural exchange and understanding.**

The Conference will feature two keynote speakers: Dean Mary Gresham, Ph.D. Graduate School of Education, University at Buffalo; and Aimable Twagilimana, Ph.D. Professor of English, Department Head, African Studies, Buffalo State College. In addition there will be fourteen breakout sessions on 10/7. Registration forms at: <http://www.wnyesc.org/professionaldev.html>.



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

Educational Law Conference Draws Large Crowd

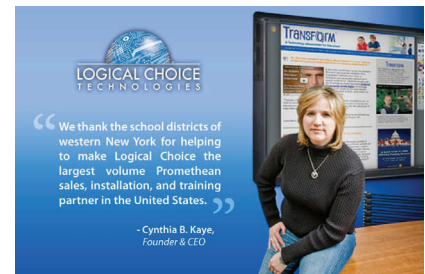


The theme of the 32nd annual conference, “Strong Foundations: Fundamentals in Finance, Law and Governance” attracted nearly 250 people on August 4th to Salvatore’s. Keynote speaker, Don Ogilvie, opened the conference with a compelling talk on the critical nature of school leadership, particularly the vital work and partnership of Boards and Superintendents. Organizational adaptability is key, especially considering high superintendent turnover, a volatile economy and the challenges of legislation or regulations.

There were nine other breakout sessions covering topics such as bargaining, health insurance, open meeting laws, comptroller audits and special education. The conference concluded with NYSSBA’s Jay Worona and his annual legal update with positive reactions from all. Mark your calendars tentatively for Wednesday, August 3, 2011.

Meet one of the proud new sponsors of WNYESC.

Long before technology gained its current foothold in education, Cynthia Kaye was student teaching in Florida. She soon realized that her true path and passion was to help schools utilize technology to enhance student learning. In 1994, Cynthia developed Logical Choice Technologies in her basement with 5 employees. Now after 16 years, Logical Choice has grown to over 250+ employees with a 48,000 square foot headquarters based in the Atlanta metro area plus regional offices in San Diego and New York. “Our company is dedicated to bringing *transformative technologies* to the education marketplace,” said Cynthia Kaye, founder and CEO of Logical Choice ... “technologies that will *improve learning, achievement and security* in today’s 21st Century learning environment.”



One of the most recognizable faces from Logical Choice is that of Andy Ziemba, the company’s local Promethean specialist for Western New York. Before Logical Choice, Andy was a dedicated teacher and principal in New York, so he shares Cynthia’s concern for student achievement. He often sees how the Promethean ActivClassroom is helping NY teachers engage their students in meaningful learning activities that reach students at multiple levels. More senses are involved (sound, sight, touch, emotions, etc.) with the Promethean ActivBoard and Promethean ActivExpressions than in traditional classrooms. That clearly brings about a more powerful learning experience.

SAVE THE DATE ... DECEMBER 9, 2010... LOGICAL CHOICE/PROMETHEAN PRESENTS: SONNY MAGANA... “EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION THAT WORKS”

**Marriott Hotel Millersport Highway Amherst, NY 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Complimentary hot and cold hors d’oeuvres and beverages**

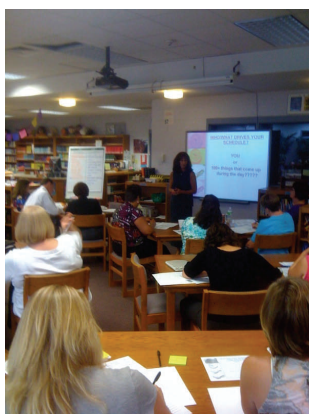
Non-Instructional Leader Summer Seminar..... Year 2

About 65 non-instructional supervisors attended a workshop on July 21st at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga. Transportation and Facilities Supervisors, Cafeteria Managers and others attended the session to learn more about the legal and practical elements of supervision. The Hodgson Russ legal team, pictured left, presented three short seminars. The kickoff session, by Ryan Everhart and Dylan Pauly, encouraged school leaders to exercise their authority and pay serious attention to the ever-changing Special Education regulations and issues, especially as they relate to IDEA and RtI. Karl Kristoff presented “Investigating Third Party Complaints,” and offered advice on what to do before, during and after the investigations, including a four page checklist. Since we live in such a litigious society, Dave Farmelo offered dozens of ways to protect department supervisors and districts in his session on “Limiting and Preventing Liability Related to Sports.” Overall, it was a very informative day.



Organizing an Effective School Office... A Principal and Secretary Partnership

Do you work late into the evening hours and on weekends? Is your office cluttered with stacks of reading materials, memos and file folders that never seem to go away? Are you late to many of your meetings? And most of all, do you long for the days you can spend meaningful time as an instructional leader? Jill Pellis, veteran principal at Williamsville Transit Middle School, lived that scenario for many years ... until she found a way to organize herself and the office.



Jill shared an inspiring story of organizational transition with 15 office teams on July 28th. She demonstrated how she and her secretary, Laurie Wachowiak, de-cluttered, reorganized, and virtually restructured their communication system so that Jill could spend two full days per week doing what all principals want to do: get into the hallways and classrooms to lead instruction. The overall reaction was so positive that most participants wanted a follow-up session. As a result, the Council will be conducting another workshop. Interested? Contact us at 645-2932.

The 2nd Annual GSE Faculty-Superintendent Luncheon originally scheduled for September 16th has been postponed. Another date later in the fall will be announced.

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

September

| | | | |
|------|--|------------------|-------------|
| 22nd | Board Meeting | 11:30am | Eagle House |
| 23rd | “A Tiered Approach for Challenging Student Behaviors-RtI in Action” | 8:30am - 2:30pm | Millennium |
| 28th | School Administrators Seminar Series | 7:45am - 10:00am | Millennium |
| 29th | Executive Leadership Study Group | 8:00am - 9:30am | Millennium |

October

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|-----|----------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| 6th | Global Citizens Conference | 5:15pm - 9:00pm | Adams |
| 7th | Global Citizens Conference | 8:15am - 3:00pm | Mark Hotel |

23rd WNYMATH Conference

8:00am - 3:00pm West Seneca
East H.S.

26th School Administrators Seminar Series

7:45am - 10:00am Millennium

28th Executive Leadership Study Group

4:00pm - 6:30pm Millennium

November

1st CIDEL's "Call to Leadership" 4:00pm - 7:00pm Salvatore's

2nd CIDEL's Leadership Academy 8:30am - 3:00pm Salvatore's

December

1st School Administrators Seminar Series 7:45am - 10:00am Millennium

2nd Executive Leadership Study Group 8:00am - 9:30am Millennium

8th Board Meeting 11:30am Eagle House

9th Promethean Seminar/Social 4:00pm - 6:30pm Marriott

WNYESC STAFF

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Bonnie Domogala - Bookkeeper

Nancy Coppola - Office Assistant

Vincent Coppola, Ed.D.

Thomas Ramming, Ed. D.

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