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# THE BEACON

Newsletter of the Western New York Educational Service Council

June - July 2012

## **ROBERT CHRISTMANN APPOINTED NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Will Replace Bren Price on October 1st**

By Jeff Rabey, President, WNYESC



“A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position.” This is a quote on leadership from John Maxwell, an American author and motivational speaker. I believe that these words exemplify the body of work that Bren Price has accomplished during his tenure as the Executive Director of the Western New York Educational Service Council. Through Bren's style of leadership that has fostered many new and positive relationships, he has taken the Council to a new level of providing first-class resources, supportive and innovative programming, on a global level, to our member schools. Mr. Price certainly maintained the prestigious reputation that the Council has established since 1966 and his presence will certainly be missed. Once Mr. Price announced his retirement this past winter, the Board of Directors worked along with Dr. Vince Coppola to select the next leader of our organization. After an extensive search for the perfect candidate, the search committee has recommended Mr. Robert Christmann to the Board of Directors for the position. Most recently, Bob has been the Superintendent of Schools for the Grand Island Central School District and prior to 2007, he was the Superintendent of the Newark Central School District.



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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Mr. Christmann has held several administrative positions in Central and Western New York and most impressively, he is the immediate past president of the New York State Council of School Superintendents. It is important to note that Mr. Christmann led the NYSCOSS organization through one of the most tumultuous times our profession has ever seen, and through his leadership promoted the office of the superintendency. Bob's experiences throughout his career, have focused on the support and development of leadership within schools. It has never been more important than now to have a leader with Mr. Christmann's skill set, one which is focused on the support and development of educational leadership in our schools. We are very excited to have Bob's expertise available to the Council and its membership as we move this organization into the future.

The Board of Directors is now eager and positioned to enter into this new phase of Council leadership. It is our goal, as we prepare for the future, to assess the needs of the schools in our region schools in order to develop and implement a focused strategic plan. Please be thinking about how the Western New York Educational Service Council can assist you. Meanwhile, I hope that you will join me in congratulating Bren on his retirement and welcoming Bob to his new position as the Executive Director. I wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer season.

## **COUNCIL AFFILIATION MATERIALS IN THE MAIL**

Be looking for WNYESC 2012-13 affiliation materials in the mail or on-line. Council affiliation continues to be a great value, whether through discounts on professional development and impartial feasibility studies, the Annual Awards Banquet or leadership seminars and networking opportunities. Many may want to use 2011-12 funds by June 30. If your Boards are a bit reluctant, just give us a call and we'll even attend one of your Board meetings to explain the benefits.

### **Dr. Mary Gresham**

**Mary H. Gresham, dean of the Graduate School of Education (GSE) for the past 11 years, has announced she will step down as dean to take on a new role at UB facilitating educational engagement within the broader community. Gresham will become vice provost for educational collaboration and engagement, effective July 1. The Service Council deeply appreciates many years of support from Dr. Gresham.**

## WHAT'S GOING ON THIS SUMMER AND FALL ????

### Legal Issues for Non-Instructional School Leaders

Do your Transportation, Buildings and Grounds, and Food Service Supervisors struggle with the demands of supervision and personnel issues? For those who may not have any training or little experience in the grievance or arbitration process, or how to deal with job actions, work to rule, layoffs and seniority, this is the workshop for them. Our legal team from the Hodgson Russ LLP Education Law Group will lead the program AND offer an opportunity for the participants to bring questions that are on their minds. It is scheduled for July 18, 2012 at the Millennium Hotel.

### 34th Annual Educational Law Conference

This year's Educational Law Conference will once again be held at Salvatore's Italian Gardens on Wednesday, August 1st from 8:15a.m. - 3:00 pm. Topics ranging from the "Property Tax Levy Cap", and "Effectively Managing Absenteeism" to ERS/TRS and "Employees with Disabilities." Register online at [www.wnyesc.org/professionaldev.html](http://www.wnyesc.org/professionaldev.html)

### Carl Wilkins to Keynote 3rd Annual Global Citizens Conference

The third annual Global Citizens Conference will be held November 2nd at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown Buffalo. It's primary mission is 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 Conference will feature Keynote speaker, Carl Wilkins, who is the former head of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency International in Rwanda. In 1994, he was the only American who chose to remain in the country after the genocide began. His choice to stay and try to help resulted in preventing the massacre of hundreds of children over the course of the genocide. He is the author of "*I'm Not Leaving: Tales of the Rwandan Genocide*," and he will speak on the topic, "The World Outside My Shoes," inspiring attendees to reflect upon how one person really can ignite change when he/she discovers the power of choice.

Following the keynote there will be two content-related breakout sessions before and after lunch, including: Rwandan Sister City relationships, The Afghanistan Project, Incorporating Japanese Literature into Common Core classroom instruction, a session on human rights and one on service learning. The conference will conclude with panel commentary from Carl Wilkins and the other presenters.

K-12 teachers/administrators, and university students/professors welcome.

## Thanks to the UB Graduate School of Education

The WNYESC recognizes its invaluable partnership with the Graduate School of Education at SUNY Buffalo. We welcome Dr. Jaekyung Lee as the interim dean, and thank the entire Faculty and Staff for their collaboration, encouragement and participation in the Council programs and activities.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dean, Ed. Outreach Network,

### UPCOMING CALENDAR

#### July

18th Legal Issues for Non-Instructional  
School Leaders 7:45am - Noon Millennium

#### August

1st Educational Law Conference 8:15am - 3:00pm Salvatore's

#### September

12th Board Meeting 11:30am Eagle House  
19th Alberti Center Conference (Cyberbullying) 8:00am - 3:00pm Millennium

#### October

2nd School Administrator Seminar Series 7:45am - 10:00am Millennium  
4th Executive Leadership Study Group 8:00am - 9:30am Millennium  
23rd School Administrator Seminar Series 7:45am - 10:00am Millennium

#### November

2nd Global Citizens Conference 8:30am - 3:15pm Adams  
Mark Hotel  
8th Executive Leadership Study Group 8:00am - 9:30am Millennium  
14th School Administrator Seminar Series 7:45am - 10:00am Millennium

#### December

5th Board Meeting 11:30am Eagle House  
12th School Administrator Seminar Series 7:45am - 10:00am Millennium  
13th Executive Leadership Study Group 8:00am - 9:30am Millennium

### WNYESC STAFF

**Bren T. Price, Sr., M.S.**  
Executive Director

**Debra Bridon** - Executive Assistant

**Bonnie Domogala** - Bookkeeper

**Jane Swain** - Office Assistant

**Vincent Coppola, Ed.D.**

**Thomas Ramming, Ed. D.**

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