



Commissioner's Back-to-School Meeting

Connecticut State Department of Education | August 22, 2016

Academic Office Updates

The Connecticut State Department of Education Academic Office is committed to the goal of creating equity and excellence in education for all students in the state. This document includes important information about upcoming professional learning opportunities within the Academic Office. We also want to take this time to introduce our new Interim Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Isabelina Rodriguez.

Professional Learning Opportunities

K-3 Literacy: SAVE THE DATE! September 20, 2016

The CSDE, in partnership with Public Consulting Group (PCG) and LearnZillion, has designed "ReadConn," a series of professional learning aligned to the teacher reading survey objectives and in support of the implementation of the Connecticut Core Standards in English Language Arts: Foundational Skills. Dr. Timothy Shanahan is a keynote speaker. To register: <http://surveys.pcgus.com/s3/READCONN-Registration> or if you need additional information, contact Joanne White at 860-713-6751 or e-mail at Joanne.White@ct.gov.

Social Studies: COMING SOON... "Teaching the 2016 Elections" and "Teaching about the Middle East and Teaching about Terrorism." If you need additional information, contact Stephen Armstrong at 860-713-6706 or e-mail at Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov.

Science:

Next Gen Science-CT: No-cost, web-based, self-paced modules offering structured professional learning for groups of educators

- An introduction to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and a broad overview of the changes to science teaching and learning envisioned in the *Framework for K-12 Science Education* (National Research Council, 2012).

Next Gen Science Exemplar System (NGSX): Expert-facilitated; 36 hours of seminar-style learning for groups of teachers.

- A web-based, expert-led cohort experience of a "3-Dimensional" culture of science learning, where students use science "practices" and "crosscutting concepts" to co-construct scientific explanations of real-world phenomena.

Curriculum Unit Development Institute (CUDI): Five-day workshop

- Designed for educators possessing a working knowledge of the pedagogical shifts required by the NGSS; will equip participants with the skills and tools needed to develop NGSS aligned units.



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Coming Soon: Why NGSS? An initial introduction to NGSS. Two-day workshop

- Participants will be led through an immersive NGSS experience as adult learners.

For more information, contact Ronald Michaels at 860-713-6851, or e-mail at Ronald.Michaels@ct.gov.

Career and Technical Education:

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| Unpaid Experiential Learning Program Mandatory Safety Sessions | 10/3/16 and 10/4/16 |
| Perkins 101 | 11/9/16 |
| Annual Career and Technical Education Conference | 11/30/16 |
| Cooperative Work Education (1/2 day at CREC) | 1/24/17 |
| Cooperative Work Education (1/2 day at CREC) | 2/10/17 |

Connecticut Core Standards Online Learning Modules:

The CSDE, in collaboration with PCG, is offering anytime, anywhere access to professional learning content focusing on the Connecticut Core Standards. To register, please visit <http://surveys.pcgus.com/s3/connecticut-core-standards-online-course-registration>.