



*Education colleagues compare notes during one of many recent TEAM training sessions at EASTCONN's Hampton facility, where educators from across the state are learning how TEAM works.*

## TEAM Trainings Begin Across Connecticut as Districts Work To Support New Teachers

TEAM professional development trainings have begun at RESCs across Connecticut as school districts prepare to implement the state's exciting, new professional-growth program, designed to support and retain beginning teachers.

With the help of teacher-mentors, a new self-reflection process, and user-friendly, Web-based software, the TEAM program will support new teachers as they hone their teaching skills over time.

TEAM, which stands for Teacher Education And Mentoring, replaces BEST, the state's former new-teacher support and assessment program.

"TEAM breaks learning into small, meaningful components and enables beginning teachers to develop and apply new learning, with the ultimate goal of seeing successful student outcomes in their classrooms," said EASTCONN's Nancy Celentano, who directs training for the TEAM initiative across the state.

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## Futurist to Deliver Keynote At EASTCONN Annual Meeting

Author and futurist Gary Marx will be the keynote speaker at EASTCONN's Annual Meeting in late May, when the agency will celebrate its 30th year of serving northeastern Connecticut schools and communities.



*Author Gary Marx will share his perspectives on future trends in education during EASTCONN's Annual Meeting this spring.*

"We're very pleased that Gary Marx has agreed to share his insights about the future of education," said Paula M. Colen, EASTCONN's Executive Director.

"His astute observations about future trends will challenge us all."

Marx, who has been called an "intellectual entrepreneur who is always pursuing ideas," will deliver a keynote titled "Sixteen Trends...Their Profound Impact on Our Future."

Not just a successful author, educator and public speaker, Marx is also

president of the Center for Public Outreach, an organization he founded in 1998 to provide counsel on future-oriented leadership, communication, education, community, and democracy.

But as pleased as EASTCONN staff are about having Marx deliver their 30th anniversary keynote, Marx is just as pleased about visiting EASTCONN.

"For 30 years, this exemplary organization has been helping create critical mass for school systems that want to provide the very best education for their students," Marx said recently.

"EASTCONN is also a convening point for educators to share their experience and their genius.

"The agency is using its 30th anniversary not only to celebrate its three decades of contributions to education, but also to provide a launching pad for the future in a fast-changing world.

"I feel fortunate to be part of the celebration and to have an opportunity to spend time with so many dedicated and accomplished educators," Marx said.

Marx has worked with educators, business people, and other community and government leaders in all 50 states and

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View the EASTCONN Calendar  
at [www.eastconn.org](http://www.eastconn.org) and  
Click on "Workshops, Events & Classes"

## Invitation-Only Summit on Regional Collaboration is Slated for NE Connecticut

EASTCONN-region administrators were invited to ask their administrative teams, boards of education, community members and key stakeholders to attend the Northeastern Connecticut Summit on Regional Collaboration II on April 1st.

Participants will discuss the most pressing issues facing northeastern Connecticut's public schools and explore ways in which regional collaborations and cooperation can provide solutions.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Joseph M. Cronin, a published author who has served as Massachusetts Secretary of Education, Illinois State Superintendent of Education, President of Bentley College, and Associate Professor/Associate Dean at Harvard University.

Following Cronin's keynote, a moderated panel discussion will take place with Twyla Barnes, Superintendent, Educational Service District 112, Vancouver, WA; David J. Calchera, Director of Public Policy, The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS); state Sen. Donald E. Williams, District 29, President Pro Tempore; and state Rep. Joan A. Lewis, Assistant Majority Whip, District 8; other panelists TBA.

Afterwards, participants will break into groups and review results from last winter's first-ever Regional Summit, as well as relevant issues for this year's group. A facilitated small-group discussion and task force formation will also take place.

The first Summit on Regional Collaboration took place in February 2009; about 80 people from the region attended.



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"TEAM provides opportunities for beginning teachers to develop and implement professional growth action plans that will help them improve not only their classroom learning environment, but also their planning, teaching, student assessment, and their own professional practice," said Celentano. "TEAM enables new teachers to work closely with a mentor and collect data on their own learning and student outcomes through a specially designed online program, which makes information-gathering and reflection much easier."

TEAM is being developed through a close, ongoing collaboration among the Connecticut State Department of Education, Regional Educational Services Centers (RESCs), American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Connecticut, the Connecticut Education Association (CEA), and representatives from teacher-preparation institutions.

Look for more TEAM stories in future *Connections* newsletters. Or, contact TEAM's Director of Training Nancy Celentano at 860-455-1507, or at [ncelentano@eastconn.org](mailto:ncelentano@eastconn.org).

## New Northeast Regional Program Hosts Lively Open House in Putnam



*In the photo above, students, parents and staff looked on as Northeast Regional Program (NRP) Director Denise Davis-Resonina, far left, joined EASTCONN Director of Education Services Tom Cronin, to her right, as he gave the signal to cut the red ribbon.*

EASTCONN recently celebrated the opening of its new Northeast Regional Program (NRP) in Putnam with an open house for NRP students, teachers, family and friends. About 50 people attended.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the opening of the new facility as students vied for a chance to cut the ribbon across the main entrance. Tours were offered and everyone enjoyed refreshments.

The new, 8,000-square-foot NRP facility can serve about 36 non-traditional learners in grades K-12 with social, emotional or behavioral challenges. Call NRP at 860-963-3328.



## Putnam Head Start Program Is Re-Accredited by NAEYC

The EASTCONN Head Start program at Putnam Elementary School, 33 Wicker Street, Putnam, has achieved re-accreditation from the highly prized National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

NAEYC accreditation is a voluntary process that includes an extensive self-study process, allowing a program to reflect on how they meet criteria based on 10 national standards, ranging from relationships, curriculum and physical environment to leadership and management.

The Putnam Head Start program also received support from EASTCONN's Accreditation Facilitation Project, through group and individual consultation, as program staff worked toward achieving NAEYC re-accreditation.

For more information about NAEYC or the Head Start program in Putnam, contact Head Start Assistant Director Kimberly Lewendon at 860-455-1532, or at [klewendon@eastconn.org](mailto:klewendon@eastconn.org).

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## EASTCONN Professional Notes:



*Elizabeth Aschenbrenner*

to include intentional teaching paradigms within and across coursework, using the lens of NCATE/NAEYC/CEC standards.”

EASTCONN's Director of Early Childhood Initiatives, **Elizabeth Aschenbrenner**, will make a presentation at NAEYC's 19th National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development in Phoenix, Ariz., in June. The Institute's theme is "Emotional Intelligence: A 21st -Century Skill for Children and Adults." Aschenbrenner's presentation will explore the topic "Redesigning higher education early childhood programs



*Richard Tariff*

EASTCONN Director of Adult Services **Richard Tariff** has been chosen to co-present a workshop on "Stabilizing and Strengthening the Adult Education Workforce" at the COABE/ProLiteracy Joint Conference 2010, which will take place in Chicago this month. COABE stands for Commission on Adult Basic Education.



## Andover's Zeuschner Named CAS's 2010 Assistant Principal



*Dr. Michelle Zeuschner*

established in 1990 to bring recognition to the assistant principalship and to spotlight the critical role that assistant principals play.

Zeuschner said receiving the award was a wonderful surprise.

"How did I feel?" said Zeuschner, laughing. "I was absolutely shocked! It's absolutely an honor.

"But I think the award is a true reflection of the whole community we have here in Andover. Everyone is so supportive. It starts with the board, the administration, and, of course, the teachers and all their follow-through and efforts. You can't be successful without everyone working together. It's been a true group effort."

Zeuschner, who is also Andover's special education director, has been an educator for 18 years, and has been Andover's assistant principal for four years.

She resides in West Hartford with her husband and two children.

Dr. Michelle Zeuschner, assistant principal of Andover Elementary School, has been named the 2010 Elementary School Assistant Principal of the Year by the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS).

The award, sponsored annually by CAS and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, was

## Killingly Students Ranked No. 1 on NOCTI Assessment



*Left-to-right, Killingly High School students Christopher Dorsey, Gabriel Violette and Joshua Berube had top state scores.*

Thirteen Killingly High School computer science and animal science students have earned a No. 1 ranking on a statewide assessment test, out-scoring larger districts across Connecticut.

The small group of KHS students took the National Occupational Competency Testing Computer Information Systems (NOCTI) test last spring.

"We're very proud of these students, but we're also proud of their teachers," said Killingly Superintendent of Schools William Silver. "It's a general credit to our Career Pathways Program."

The NOCTI assessment measures the skills of students who have completed coursework in a secondary or post-secondary technical program. The test is built on nationally validated workplace-based standards, according to Cindy Bradley, KHS's computer science instructor.

Top-ranked KHS computer science students included seniors Joshua Berube, Christopher Dorsey, Devon Hatfield, and Gabriel Violette, as well as students who have already graduated: Trent Clements-Joubert; Patrick Meagher; Kevin Yang; Joel Lenoir; and Connor Milikin. All five graduates are enrolled in four-year colleges. KHS's top-scoring animal science students included Tanya Seace, Sarah Bodo, Michelle Wood and Ryan Broad. All four have graduated and gone on to college.



## Early Childhood Advocacy Day in Hartford



*EASTCONN Director of Early Childhood Initiatives Elizabeth Aschenbrenner, left, joined state Sen. Don Williams, D-29th Dist., center, and Putnam Family Resource Center's Patricia Bryant for Early Childhood Advocacy Day on March 3rd in Hartford.*

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Teddie Sleight, 860-455-1553, [tsleight@eastconn.org](mailto:tsleight@eastconn.org).

## Free Mac Laptops in Killingly Help Teach 21st-Century Skills



*Killingly High School students attend a math class, where they worked on their new MacBooks, donated by a local benefactor.*

Thanks to a generous local benefactor and Killingly's forward-thinking administration, 400 freshmen and sophomores at Killingly High School are toting something extra-wonderful to school each day – free MacBook laptops, part of the district's unique One-to-One Laptop Program, now in its second year.

Local philanthropist Patricia Morgan approached Killingly school officials in the spring of 2008 and asked how she could help Killingly students.

"I told her that computers had been cut from the budget," said Dr. William Silver, Superintendent of Killingly Public Schools.

Through her family trust, Morgan agreed to support KHS's underfunded One-to-One Laptop Program, donating \$130,000 by the end of 2010-11. "She's been remarkably generous," Silver said.

As a result, in the fall of 2008, every KHS freshman and Vocational/Agriculture student received a MacBook laptop. This year's incoming freshmen and Vo/Ags also received new MacBooks.

Silver said the first year was a great success and he expects nothing less this year.

"The program has exceeded our expectations," Silver said.

Students bring their Macs to class and take them home each night, using them to reinforce critical 21st-Century skills like creating multimedia presentations, writing, and doing online research. Students also work on Macs with teachers in class.

"Personally, I think it helps when I'm doing my homework" said Casey, a KHS freshman. "I love it. There are so many things you can do with it."

"This is 21st-Century learning at its best," said KHS Principal Peter Micari. "This program is just one more way of integrating every subject in this school."

"Without this program, many of our kids couldn't afford these computers," Micari added.

Each summer, the Macs will be collected in order to refurbish and update them. Each fall, the Macs will be returned to students – a system that worked very well the first year, according to Silver.

"National data shows that when kids own their own computers, the break-loss ratio drops, and that's exactly what we're seeing," said Silver. "That sense of ownership is very important."

Since the program began, there has been "virtually no loss and no theft," Silver said.

Silver said it will take several years to assess the effects the program has had on students and their academic performance.

## 86 Latino Supervisors at Prides Corner Farms in Lebanon Finish Workplace ESL Course

Eighty-six Spanish-speaking supervisors at Prides Corner Farms, the largest wholesale nursery in New England, have successfully completed an EASTCONN workplace English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) course in what may have been the biggest program of its kind in Connecticut.

"Many other employers in northeastern Connecticut have taken advantage of our workplace ESL training," said EASTCONN Adult Services Director Richard Tariff, "but in my professional, 30-year career as an educator and a member of the statewide Workplace Coordinating Committee, I have never seen an ESL workplace program this large."

"I applaud Prides Corner Farms for providing their supervisors with an opportunity to increase their ESL skills and become more effective supervisors, employees, parents and community members," Tariff said.

The ESL course at Prides Corner, which is headquartered in Lebanon, was intended to improve Spanish-speaking employees' ability to communicate with management, with nursery customers, and the hundreds of seasonal workers who will soon be hired for the 2010 growing season. Most of their workforce is of Mexican descent and resides in Willimantic, according to Prides Corner Farms Human Resources Director Toni Ruiz.

"We are true believers of promoting from within our company," said Ruiz. "Before we hire out, we want to do everything we can to help our staff move ahead. That was our motivator and learning English is key to realizing that goal."



*EASTCONN ESL teacher Robin Miyashiro, seated in green, beams with pride as the ESL students from one of her several Prides Corner classes pose with their certificates of completion in Lebanon.*

Nearly all of the 86 Prides Corner supervisors who earned their certificates of ESL completion attended a graduation ceremony at the Lebanon Fire Complex hall in mid-March.

"I think that it was a great opportunity to learn more English," said Jose Luis Linares, a supervisor who attended the ceremony. He carefully held his ESL certificate of completion on his lap.

See **ESL PROGRAM**, back page

## EASTCONN Expands Autism Program's Capacity

EASTCONN has expanded its ability to serve children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and related disabilities by adding another expert to its Columbia-based, comprehensive evaluation and diagnostic team.

"With the addition of behavioral psychologist Dr. Bob Worsham, we continue to refine and expand the EASTCONN Autism Program and our ability to serve our districts," said Tom Cronin, EASTCONN's Director of Education Services.

**[Editor's Note: Please See Worsham Story at Right.]**

Now EASTCONN can serve students' needs both at its Commerce Drive facility in Columbia and/or provide consultative support for districts' in-school ASD programs.

"EASTCONN's Autism Program is fully prepared to send its expert consultants into the field to help school districts build and sustain their own autism programs so that students don't have to leave their hometown schools," Cronin said.

The EASTCONN Autism Program, headquartered at 10 Commerce Drive in Columbia, includes a director, a behavioral psychologist, a variety of related services personnel, assistive technology experts, and a full range of evaluation tools, said Cronin. The program also has access to a consulting psychiatrist and EASTCONN's on-staff school psychologists.

The autism program's home base on Commerce Drive includes diagnostic and evaluation offices; consultation offices; rooms equipped for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and assistive technology; classrooms with personalized learning cubbies and indoor play spaces; and an outdoor, fenced-in playground.

For more information, contact EASTCONN Autism Program Director Dyer at 860-228-3240, or [ddyer@eastconn.org](mailto:ddyer@eastconn.org).



*Holly Bebyn on staff*

### Bebyn Joins EASTCONN As School Psychologist

EASTCONN welcomes school psychologist Holly Bebyn to its staff. Bebyn will provide school psychology services for EASTCONN programs and interim services for EASTCONN-region school districts.

"We're very pleased to have Holly on staff," said Ron Morin, EASTCONN's Director of Special Services. "She brings a broad range of experience to her work." Bebyn is well-versed in conducting PPTs and 504 meetings, conducting individual counseling with K-12 students, including IEP counseling, crisis counseling and group anger management counseling.

Bebyn, who has 10 years' experience, obtained her master's and a Sixth Year Degree in school psychology from UConn and is also a Nationally Certified School Psychologist. She has worked as a school psychologist at Great Path Academy in Manchester, in Tolland and at Windsor High School. She has worked as a learning specialist for post-secondary students with learning disabilities and has been a crisis counselor for victims of domestic violence.

## Autism Program Welcomes Dr. Robert Worsham



*Dr. Robert Worsham joins Autism team, expanding service options*

Dr. Robert W. Worsham, a behavioral psychologist and applied behavior analyst, has joined EASTCONN's Columbia-based Autism Program.

"We are very pleased that the highly regarded Dr. Worsham has joined our program," said EASTCONN's Autism Program Director Doris Dyer.

"His experience with evidence-based treatment and teaching methodolo-

gies adds important depth and richness to the treatment options and consultation we can provide for all EASTCONN-region students and their families."

A licensed psychologist in the State of Connecticut, Worsham has for many years been in private practice, consulting and working in schools and providing in-home services to young children and adults with ASD, behavior disorders, and/or developmental disabilities.

Worsham was previously a behavior specialist at Lake Grove at Maple Valley, in Wendell, Mass., where he co-developed the school-wide individual behavioral programming system known as Day-at-a-Time. While a psychologist in Durham, Conn., Worsham was responsible for the development of the school behavioral programming system known as "Program on a Page" and its associated data summarization and charting system. Worsham worked as a psychologist at the Judge Rotenberg Educational Center, Canton, Mass., and was a consulting psychologist with the Connecticut Department of Mental Retardation, Southbury Training School.

He was also the director of psychology and a consulting psychologist for the state Department of Mental Retardation, Region 3, for many years. There, Worsham provided evaluation, functional assessment, skills training and behavioral support plans, counseling, consultation with residential and day program staff, including evaluations for children, birth-to-three, and ongoing consultation with teachers regarding services for children.

An adjunct faculty member at Assumption College in Worcester, Mass., and a tenured assistant professor of psychology at the School of Theoretical and Applied Science at Ramapo College in N. J., Worsham has taught courses in behavior modification, applied behavior analysis, precision teaching, direct instruction, standard celeration charting, statistics, information processing and introductory psychology.

Worsham earned a B.A. in psychology from the University of Virginia, an M.S. from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a Ph.D. in psychology from Rutgers University. He is widely published and has presented at many professional conferences.

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on six continents. He has visited 74 countries. As a futurist, he has directed a number of futures studies.

His most recent books include *Sixteen Trends...Their Profound Impact on Our Future*, and *Future Focused Leadership...Preparing Schools, Students, and Communities for Tomorrow's Realities*.

Marx has spearheaded several studies and publications that are used in environmental scanning, in stimulating discussion, and in envisioning alternative futures.

Prior to starting his own firm, Marx served for nearly 20 years as a senior executive for the American Association of School Administrators (AASA). He was a television and radio "on-air" broadcaster and station owner before moving into education, serving as a school administrator in Nebraska and Colorado.

Marx received the President's Award from the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) in 1999, the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) in 2000 and the Ambassador's Award from the Horace Mann League in 2009 and 2010.

He is accredited by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA), the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), and the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE).

Marx currently resides in the Washington, D.C., area.

## ESL PROGRAM, continued from page 4

"They may be doing this every year. It would be good."

"It makes it better for understanding your reading, writing and helping your kids, and for communication with other people," said Faviola Rodriguez, of Willimantic.

Partially funded by a competitive grant that EASTCONN received from the state Department of Education, the Prides Corner ESL program used EASTCONN ESL teachers. Prides Corner workers learned work-related terms, concepts, safety practices and general communications skills, four hours a week over a nine-week period. Employees attended class two hours a week on their own time, while Prides Corner paid them for the other two.

"For the employer, ESL workplace training increases safety, job performance, quality control, efficiency, productivity and positive employer-employee relations," Tariff said.

"For the employee, ESL on-the-job training improves the ability to convey safety guidelines and information, as well as opening up job advancement opportunities, contributing to personal growth, increasing workers' pride in learning the language, and being a good role model for other staff members."

To learn more about EASTCONN's ESL workplace training, contact Tariff at 860-455-1562, or [rtariff@eastconn.org](mailto:rtariff@eastconn.org).

## Free History Program on "The Patriot Act" on May 11th

Educators are invited to a *free Public History Program Tues., May 11, 4-6:30 p.m.*, at EASTCONN, 376 Hartford Tpke., Hampton. Part of the Teaching American History Project (TAHP), the history program will focus on The Patriot Act. Presenters include **Peter Chase**, director of Plainville Library and chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee for the CT Library Assoc., whose patron records were demanded by the FBI; and **Dr. Christopher Finan**, historian, author, and president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression. Finan wrote "From the Palmer Raids to the Patriot Act: A History of the Fight for Free Speech in America." Contact TAHP's Dan Coughlin at 860-455-1511, or at [dcoughlin@eastconn.org](mailto:dcoughlin@eastconn.org).



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*EASTCONN, one of six Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) in Connecticut, has been serving the educational and training needs of schools, organizations, and individuals of all ages in northeastern Connecticut since 1980.*

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