

Director's Notes

Congratulations to Lin-Wood Public Elementary School in Lincoln, New Hampshire for being chosen as an "Exemplary Improving" school in the United States Department of Education Blue Ribbon Awards. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals, including those that beat the odds. The Blue Ribbon Schools program is part of a larger US Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices. These Blue Ribbon Schools are an example of what teachers and students can achieve.

Lori Langlois
Executive Director

Individual Registration Now Open

*Differentiating Assessment Grading
in a World of Common Core Standards and Accountability*

featuring
Rick Wormeli

What happens when it comes to assessing and grading students in the differentiated classroom? Being sensitive to students' readiness levels, interests, action plans, and special education designations while holding them accountable for the same standards can be a challenge. What's fair and leads to real student learning? Join us for a myth-busting and candid look at some of the burning issues of assessment and grading in a differentiated classroom.



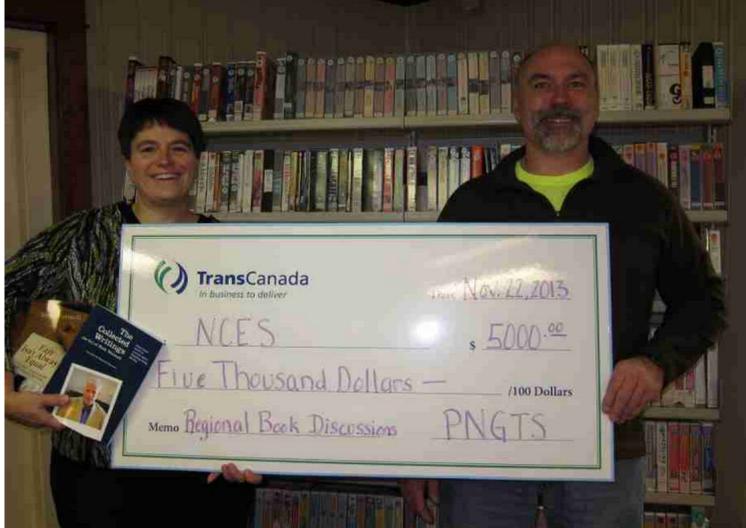
Date: Friday, March 28, 2014, 9:00 to 3:00 (refreshments beginning at 8:00, lunch provided)
Location: Berlin Middle School Auditorium

[Download full PDF brochure.](#)

[Group registration form.](#)

Now accepting [Individual Registration](#) at \$95 per person (Staff from SAUs 3, 7, 20, 23, 35, 58, 68 and 77, please check with your administrator, several group registration have been submitted.)

Local and Regional Book Discussions for Wormeli Event



Lori Langlois, NCES Executive Director (left) and Carl Nadeau, Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (part of TransCanada's network of pipelines).

Thanks to the donation by TransCanada and support through the Rural School Educator Effectiveness Collaborative, teachers throughout the North Country who are participating in the March 28th conference with Rick Wormeli will have an opportunity to participate in book discussions on works of the author. Participating teachers are slated to receive *Fair Isn't Always Equal: Assessing & Grading in the Differentiated Classroom*. Both local and regional book discussions will take place prior to the conference as well as follow-up seminars.

Anyone interested in possibly serving as a facilitator of a book discussion(s) should contact Lori Langlois as soon as possible. Stipends and a facilitator's guide will be provided.

Arts at the Core: Creating Connections Between the Arts and Common Core State Standards

A common question throughout the country is "Where do I fit in to the Common Core State Standards?" Come discover the connections between the CCSS in ELA and Mathematics and the Arts. Topics include conceptual alignment between the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the new, re-imagined National Core Arts Standards (NCAS) currently under construction; links between mathematical practices and creative practices found in the NCAS; identification of portals for cross-curricular connections; and additional tools and resources for sharing.

Who should attend?

Arts Teachers K-12 including music, visual arts, drama, dance and media arts, curriculum directors, administrators, English and theater teachers.

Outcomes

- 1. have a deep understanding of the purpose of the Common Core State Standards and strategies to incorporate these standards into their instruction without taking from their own content.
- 2. be on the cutting edge of understanding and implementing the re-imagined national standards for the arts.
- 3. gather new ideas for projects, strategies and suggestions from their peers.

Presenters: Marcia McCaffrey, Arts Consultant at the NH Department of Education and Lyn Ward Healy, Independent Consultant

Date/Time: January 30, 2014 from 9:00 to 2:30 (check-in at 8:30)

Cost: NCES full members, \$125; Associate Members, \$140, Non-Member, \$155

Registration: Contact Lisa Blais at lisa@ncedservices.org or 800-268-5437 or [register online](#).

It's not too late...attention middle schools

If your school hasn't registered a team yet for the 4th annual North Country Middle School Film Festival, there is still time. This year's theme is *Celebrate What's Right!* The films must celebrate a place, a program, a person, group or other positive asset in the community. The community could be a school, town, the North Country or New Hampshire.

The festival is open to students in grades 6, 7 & 8 from schools in New Hampshire SAUs 3, 7, 9, 20, 23, 35, 36, 58, 68, 77 & 84. For K-6 schools, you may include grade 5 students on the team. The date for the film festival is Saturday, March 22, 2014 at the Rialto Theatre in Lancaster, NH.

Guidelines are available for download on the NCES website or [click here to download the packet](#).

All it takes to win is a video of no more than 2 minutes. Over \$2,500 in prizes will be awarded.

Schools participating thus far are:

- Berlin Middle School
- Errol Consolidated School
- Groveton Middle School
- Haverhill Cooperative Middle School
- Jefferson Elementary
- Lafayette Regional
- Lancaster Elementary
- Lisbon Regional
- Milan Village School
- Monroe Consolidated School
- Pittsburg School
- Profile Jr High School

Attention School Leaders, 1 Seat Left in NISL Cohort II

At the time of publication, one seat remains in the second cohort of the National Institute for School Leadership's *Executive Development for School Leaders* program. The program employs an extensively tested and internationally benchmarked curriculum.

The Executive Development Program for School Leaders focuses on the areas that are critical to successful school leadership:

- Strategic Thinker
- Visionary
- Instructional Leader
- Data Master
- Team Leader
- Coach and Mentor
- Creator of Just, Fair and Caring Culture
- Driver of Change

This is an exciting, yet intensive, 26-day program. The cohort will be comprised of 22 school leaders.

Cost: \$1,300 (includes materials, including texts, and meals for all 26 sessions) for NH educators.

Dates: Begins January 23 & 24, 2014 and concludes in February 2015 ([download brochure for schedule](#))

Time: 8:30 to 3:00

Registration: Contact Lori Langlois, lori@ncedservices.org or 603-466-5437

The second cohort of the NISL program at North Country Education Services is made possible through support of the Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund and NH Department of Education. The first cohort was made possible through the Jane's Trust and the NHDOE.

Online Assessment Feature of PerformancePLUS

Did you know that PerformancePLUS includes an **online assessment tool called OLA**? Using the content library or developing your own questions, this tool can be used for benchmark assessments. Plus it is an online assessment - giving your students practice and familiarity with computer based tests in advance of the Smarter Balanced Assessment. That's right, these are web-based assessments, built, delivered, and scored completely online. [Learn more about OLA](#)

Come with your myNHDOE Single Sign On login information for hands-on participation.

Trainer: Paula Churchill, NHDOE State Longitudinal Data System Coach & NCES Technology Integrator

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013 from 12:30 to 2:30

Location: NCES, Gorham, NH

Cost: No charge

Registration: Please [RSVP here](#)

North Country Classrooms Partner with Winchester School

NCES has worked with Keene State College faculty through the Rural School Educator Effectiveness Collaborative (RSEEC/SAHE grant) to partner classrooms in Berlin and Stratford with the Winchester School in Winchester, NH. The project is to foster the creation of a Community of Scientists for inquiry-based science co-investigations. One of the co-investigations underway is on the use of hydroponics to grow food rapidly in small areas. A simple classroom hydroponics station, pictured below, will be used to explore the best way to plant lettuce seeds to produce lettuce hydroponically. Variables such as light, water flow (moisture) and nutrient solutions will be investigated. The classrooms will video chat with their co-investigators and share their findings using Skype.



Keene State Education Professor Deborah Black (left) standing near the mobile hydroponic system that has been stationed in Mrs. Brenda Wallace's (second from left) 3rd grade classroom at Hillside Elementary School in Berlin.

Build Connections, Advance the Region



Coös NetWorks is here to support people of the region, the cultural and natural resources, future community and economic development of the region. This network is comprised of **people who share a common passion for the greater Coös Region**. If you're one of those people, please consider joining today.

Have you joined The New Hampshire Network?



The New Hampshire Network is an online platform with features let users connect to educators, reach out to experts in the field, explore hundreds of curated resources in its KnowledgeBase library and join the communities and networks that are being launched across the state.

Access to The NH Network is through NH DOE Single Sign On System. Certified educators likely already have an account. Login at the following link: <https://my.doe.nh.gov/myNHDOE/Login/Login.aspx>

For those who do not hold certification through the NHDOE, you may still join the network. Follow the link above, go to "Create New User Account" and choose "No - I am not a New Hampshire Educator" then continue to follow the prompts accordingly.

[FAQS and more information on The NH Network](#)

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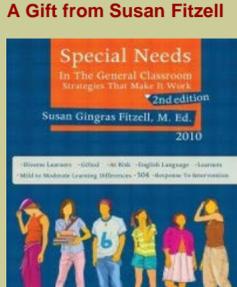
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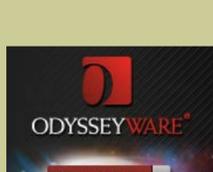
[Have you joined The New Hampshire Network?](#)

FOLLOW US ON [twitter](#)

A Gift from Susan Fitzell



As a small "Thank you" for all that you do to make a difference for children, [Susan Fitzell](#) is giving away her premiere teaching strategies book, *Special Needs in the General Classroom, Strategies That Make it Work*, just for you. Download for free through December 4th. [Click here.](#)



Member Status

Not sure if your school is a member of NCES? [Check here.](#)

Contact Info

For more information:
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Gorham, NH 03581
nces@ncedservices.org
800-268-5437
603-466-5437
www.ncedservices.org

[Directions](#) to NCES