

FALL 2010

CENTERPIECE

Center for Teacher Education and Research



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BULLY PREVENTION CONFERENCE

On 6/14/10 - 6/15/10, the CENTER hosted a bully prevention conference, "Schools as Bully Proof Zones", which marked the beginning of a series of related workshops. The conference was filled to capacity and included school administrators, counselors, teachers, and students.

The conference was designed to frame the issue of bullying, share among colleagues, and guide the initial phases of bully prevention & intervention. The voice of students was particularly moving and offered an insight into their thoughts and feelings concerning bullying situations and how their schools handle them.

Highlights were keynote speeches by Sirdeaner Walker, mother of Carl Walker-Hoover, an 11-year-old Springfield boy who committed suicide in 2009 after months of bullying; and Kevin Jennings from the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools in Washington D.C.

The program was a collaboration between the CENTER, faculty from the WSU Criminal Justice Department, the Director of Prevention and Intervention Resources in Springfield Public Schools, the former Superintendent of West Springfield Schools, school administrators, and area social workers.



Kevin Jennings, Office of Safe & Drug Free Schools, with elementary & middle school students.

OLWEUS BULLY PREVENTION

In August, the CENTER hosted a "Train the Trainer" seminar for the Olweus Bully Prevention Program, a school-wide program aimed at preventing or reducing bullying behavior. The three-day training included participants from all over New England, as well as from as far away as California, Texas, & North Dakota. Attendees were introduced to the latest research on bullying, the importance of bully prevention & intervention, and learned key strategies to address bullying in their schools.

The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is an evidence-based model, which has received recognition from the US Department of Health & Human Services, the US Department of Justice, the US Department of Education, and the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado.

VISIONS OF LIBERTY & EQUALITY PROGRAM

Seneca Falls, NY – the birthplace of the Women’s Rights Movement – was the travel destination for the year two kick-off of the Visions of Liberty and Equality (VLE) Teaching American History program. This year’s theme is **Women’s Rights from the Colonial through the Modern Era**. Thirty-two K-5 educators spent three days in July touring numerous Seneca Falls sites sponsored by the Women’s Rights National Historic Park, including the homes of some key players in the suffragette movement such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Mary Ann M’Clintock.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton

In September, the group visited the Boott Cotton Mills, which is a fully restored textile manufacturing site in Lowell MA, with buildings that date back to 1835. The VLE group toured a museum with living recreations of the textile manufacturing process. It was a great way to gain insight into the working conditions for women employed by cotton mills in the 19th century.

Other components of this program include a series of book discussion groups, full day seminars, learning showcase projects, and additional travel to historic sites.

MENTOR PROGRAM FOR TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PARTICIPANTS

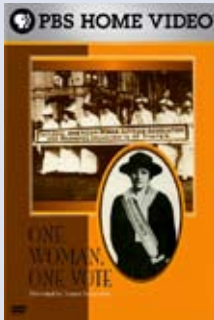


The CENTER received approval from the Department of Education to extend the Gateway Teaching American History (TAH) Mentor program for a 4th year. The purpose of this program is to train a cohort of TAH participants in mentoring and to develop teacher leaders in teaching American history. This strategy is designed to extend and expand the knowledge, skills, and learning beyond the life of the grant.

Components of this program include two full days of mentor training led by the New Teacher Center from Santa Cruz, CA, a series of mentor forum workshops, and two day trips with a colleague to the Springfield Armory in November and the Boston Museum of African American History in May.

FEATURED RESOURCE FROM OUR LIBRARY

One Woman, One Vote



From Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s electrifying call for women’s rights at Seneca Falls in 1848, to the last no-holds-barred fight in 1920, this film illuminates the story of the fledging alliances that grew into a sophisticated mass movement. Crusaders faced entrenched opposition from men and women who feared that the woman’s vote would ignite a social revolution.

This film portrays the movement’s leaders, among them Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, and Alice Paul, who gave their lives to making America a true democracy. This PBS Home Video is in black and white and runs 106 minutes.

Our Lending Library: We have over 1,200 history and science books available as well as a variety of educational DVDs, games, and periodicals. All items are available for a two-week checkout.

Library Link: www.wsc.ma.edu/center/resources/resources.html

NEW HISTORY GRANT FOR GRADES 7-12 TEACHERS



Korean War Memorial

A new Teaching American History, five-year grant has been awarded the CENTER, along with Gateway Regional Schools and other partners.

The theme of the program is **Memorializing Promise and Conflict: A Monumental History of American Democracy**.

It focuses on American Democracy, its inception, its broadening inclusiveness, and the promise and conflict required to preserve and extend it.

The grant will fund trips to historic sites, full-day seminars, pedagogy and analysis of student work, after-school book discussion groups, and technology training.

EARTH SYSTEMS SCIENCE PROGRAM

In September, we kicked off another year of the Earth Systems Science (ESS) program, a popular and highly rated, inquiry-based professional development program for grades 5-8 educators. The theme for this year is **Building Connections between Earth, Life, and Physical Sciences**. This program, now in its 3rd year, includes full day seminars, after-school workshops, free teacher materials, and curriculum support.



CONNECTICUT VALLEY STEMNET

As the leadership of the newly formed Connecticut Valley STEMnet, we recently held our first meeting. The goals of the network are to boost the interest and success of elementary and secondary students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); to bring more students to STEM classes and majors; to retain undergraduates in STEM degrees; to train and support effective teachers in the STEM subjects; and to develop connections with local businesses and STEM partners.

We are excited to be collaborating with Springfield Technical Community College (STCC), Western New England College (WNEC), Springfield College, the Regional Employment Board of Hampden County, as well as many public school districts. In the coming year, we plan to establish an effective and sustainable infrastructure and to host at least one event that draws upon the skills and resources of our partners.

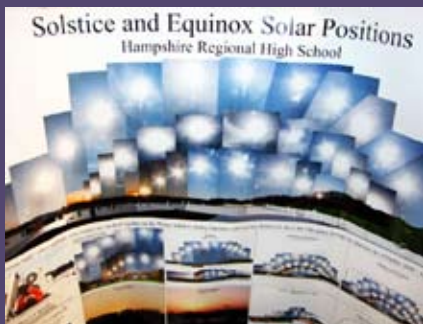
SUMMER EVENTS RECAP

Teaching Science in your Watershed - The CENTER partnered with the Westfield River Environmental Center to offer a workshop called "Using Simple, Scientific Methods to Evaluate Ecosystems". The training covered the basics of field ecology, ecosystem quality indices, ecological variables, and the effects of invasive species. Dr. Jennifer Hanselman and Dr. David Christensen instructed this three day, hands-on workshop.

Differentiated Instruction (DI) - The CENTER hosted a two-day DI workshop, which was attended by a cohort of 30 participants from Westfield Public Schools. Participants learned how to: employ DI techniques in the classroom; plan lessons that flexibly provide reteaching, practice, & extension; write effective class objectives; and gauge student performance. Elayne Gumlaw of Ribas Associates facilitated the program, which includes follow-up sessions in October and December.

MELA-O QMA Training - The CENTER offered training to certify teachers in administering the MELA-O (Massachusetts English Language Assessment – Oral), a required statewide assessment for limited English proficient students. Participants had the opportunity to take the Qualified MELA-O Administrator (QMA) Test, which qualifies them to measure student proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking English. Dr. Teresa Benedetti, the ESL Director of Westfield Public Schools, facilitated the training. Participants came from Westfield and Boston public schools.

Instructional Mentoring - The CENTER wrapped up July with its annual two-day Instructional Mentoring workshop, led by the nationally recognized New Teacher Center of Santa Cruz. This workshop provided teachers and administrators with essential knowledge and skills for assessing and supporting beginning teachers.



Earth Systems Science project



Science Seminar



Earth Systems Science project

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/10/10 Train-the-Trainer Workshop for Bully Prevention

The CENTER has teamed up with Dr. Elizabeth Englander, founder of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) at Bridgewater State University, to deliver a Train-the-Trainer workshop. This program will provide the tools that participants need to train their own colleagues in bully prevention. The workshop will address bullying/cyberbullying prevention and intervention and cover the specific topics mandated by the new bullying law.

Peer Leadership and Facilitation Training for Bully Prevention

The CENTER has teamed up with the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) at Bridgewater State University to offer peer facilitation sessions to partner school districts. Trained WSU graduates and undergraduates will work with student leadership groups to help them address the bullying issues at their schools. Trainings will take place at selected schools this fall. As part of this project, students trained will be invited to take part in the Youth Summit at BSU in the spring of 2011.

Upcoming Conference: Setting Bully Prevention Policy

POSTPONED!

The following topics will be covered: (1) Aggressor and Target: A New Paradigm for Bullying in Schools, (2) Alternatives to Suspension: Reparation vs. Apology, (3) Confidential Reporting, and (4) Handling the Media. Schools should attend this conference in teams of 2-3 staff members. **This conference, which was originally scheduled for October, has been temporarily postponed. Watch for further details.**

1/25/11 Conference: Implementing Bully Prevention Policy

The following topics will be covered: (1) Cyberbullying, (2) Reporting and False Reporting, (3) Developing Media Campaigns in Your School, and (4) Bullying and the Special Education Community. Participants should attend this conference in school teams. There will also be an evening presentation by Dr. Sameer Hinduja, Associate Professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Florida Atlantic University and Co-Director of the Cyberbullying Research Center. You can register at <http://tinyurl.com/jan-bully-conf>.

For details & registration information on any of these events, please see our web site at www.wsc.ma.edu/center. You may also contact Kathy Wicks at (413) 572-8150 or via email kwicks@wsc.ma.edu.