

Greater Capital Region Teacher Center

Proposed Professional Development Workshops via Distance Learning

National Board Certification Awareness Session

Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Time: 4:00pm-5:30pm

Sites: Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Fort Edward, Schodack (Maple Hill H.S.)

Fee: None. Register online at www.teachercenter.org.

Presenter: Annette Romano, NBCT, National Board Coordinator at the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center and NBPTS Faculty

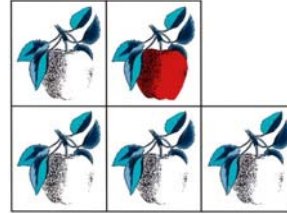
Description: This informational workshop is designed as an overview of the National Board Certification (NBC) process for teachers, union leaders, or administrators. The purpose of this session is to explain the framework of the NBC process and provide access to professional, financial, and technical supports available to candidates; timelines; fees; and a discussion of the benefits, certifications, and processes involved in certification.

Why pursue National Board Certification?

Research shows that the single most important school-related factor in raising student achievement is the quality of the teacher in the classroom. National Board Certification (NBC) concentrates education reform in the classroom – where teaching and learning takes place. National Board Certification is a demonstration of a teacher's practice as measured against high and rigorous standards.

NBC in NYS:

- NYS Education Law Part 80 3.6 allows teachers to meet the five year, 175 hour, professional development requirement for maintaining certification (effective 2/2/2004) upon achievement of National Board Certification.
 - Nationally Board Certified Teachers may teach on the graduate level.
 - Approximately 115 School Districts in New York State now have contractual language that supports NBC most include stipends or incentives to become Board Certified.
 - Join the almost 900 Nationally Board Certified Teachers in New York State who are involved in leadership initiatives in their schools and beyond. Nationally, there are almost 74,000 National Board Certified Teachers.
 - The New York State Education Department will fund all qualified public school teachers for up to \$2,500 through the New York State Albert Shanker Grant.
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Greater Capital Region Teacher Center

Gatekeeper Awareness for Suicide Prevention

Date: Wednesdays July 8 & 15, 2009

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Sites: Cohoes, Hadley-Luzerne

Fee: \$10.00. Register online at www.teachercenter.org.

Presenter: Jill Ordonez, LMSW, Program Director, Samaritans Suicide Prevention Center, a program of Family and Children's Service of the Capital Region Inc. Jill has experience as a clinical social worker as well as community organizer for individuals in crisis.

Description: In New York State, 14% of our youth in grades 9-12 report that they have seriously considered suicide as an option. In the Capital District, approximately 13 young people complete suicide every year. In 90% of these cases, suicide is the fatal end to a struggle with mental illness or a mood disorder.

Because educators are in contact with students daily for months at a time, they are uniquely positioned to notice subtle behavior changes over time. This puts teachers and staff in the important role of Gatekeeper, i.e. someone who may first recognize a person at risk and then be able and willing to make an appropriate referral for help. In this program, educators will learn the fundamentals needed to understand suicide and its impact in the youth population, along with their role in recognizing and preventing it.

This interactive program will cover the basic etiology of mental illness, myths and facts regarding the incidence of suicide, depression and mood disorders in youth, as well as warning signs, risk and protective factors for suicide, and resources for assistance and treatment. Participants will discuss, share experiences, work through case studies of students with mental health issues and become comfortable with the language and knowledge base surrounding this important topic.

Service Learning: Connecting Your Classroom and Students through Service

Date #1: Thursday, July 16, 2009

Time: 1:30pm-3:00pm

Sites: Granville, Scotia-Glenville, Wells

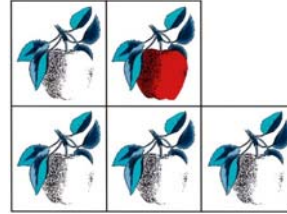
Fee: None. Register online at www.teachercenter.org.

Date #2: Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Time: 3:30pm-5:00pm

Sites: Cairo-Durham, Cobleskill-Richmondville, Schodack (Maple Hill H.S.)

Fee: None. Register online at www.teachercenter.org.



Greater Capital Region Teacher Center

Description: Service Learning is an exciting teaching methodology that is sweeping our secondary and postsecondary education institutions. Standards based service learning can empower your students to apply classroom learning to help resolve educational, human, environmental, public safety and homeland security needs and issues on a local, state, national and global arena. Participants will discover how service learning can connect their students to their peers, their school and community while they strengthen their academic, leadership, and civic engagement skills. They will learn how they can revitalize and strengthen their own classroom teaching skills using service learning.

Experienced Capital Region Service Learning Network classroom teachers and students and the NYSED Statewide Service Learning Coordinator will focus on the basic elements of service learning. Discussion will highlight current classroom applications within the Capital Region and across New York State, present existing service learning resources, materials, curricula and funding, and explore possible future service learning professional development opportunities. Service learning has been implemented with great success in the following Capital Region School Districts: Brunswick, Averill Park, East Greenbush, Schodack, Greater Amsterdam, Salem, Guilderland, Schenectady, Albany, Troy, Questar III BOCES, Scotia Glenville, South Colonie, Cobleskill-Richmondville and Ballston Spa.
