

**Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**  
**Fall 2008 Student Support Conference**  
**Monday, October 6, 2008 ~ DCU Conference Center, Worcester ~ 8:30am-3:30pm**  
**1:00-2:15 Breakout Session**

**NOTE ON ROOM LOCATIONS:**

*Rooms A-E will be for workshops 1-5 (#1 in A, #2 in B, etc.)  
Workshop 6 is in the Jr. Ballroom, and 7 is in the Grand Ballroom - South*

**1. ROOM A - The Creation, Collaboration and Execution of a Transitional Support Programs for Students from the Middle School to the High School Level**

Come to learn about the steps taken to design, coordinate, and implement innovative and successful summer high school transition programs in North Adams and Framingham. Both programs aimed at building a strong foundation to prepare and support incoming freshmen for their transition by offering engaging activities that enabled students to realize gains in their MCAS skills and familiarize themselves with people, places and systems of the high school.

Session Leaders from North Adams: [ameehan@napsk12.org](mailto:ameehan@napsk12.org) / (413) 662-3240  
Noreen Donnelly – District Coordinator, Special Education/Pupil Services  
Molly Meczywor – Lead Teacher, Drury HS Summer Transition Education Program for Success  
Amy Meehan – Drury HS Principal  
Deb Rosselli – District Service Learning Coordinator, and Planning Partner for Drury HS Summer Transition Education Program for Success  
Anne French - Drury HS School Adjustment Counselor/Service Learning Liaison

Session Leaders from Framingham: [dmendels@framingham.k12.ma.us](mailto:dmendels@framingham.k12.ma.us) / (508) 626-9115  
Dawn Mendelsohn, Director of Community Resource Development  
Esta Montano, Director of Equity and Achievement  
Heather Conroy, Framingham High School English Teacher and Coordinator of transition program, "What's In It for Me? The Inside Scoop at Framingham High School"

**2. ROOM B - Growing Community CONNECTIONS: Accessing, developing and sustaining the potential of partnership**

Although the small city of Holyoke has many big challenges, the Holyoke Public Schools CONNECTIONS After School Program has successfully developed and sustained a nationally recognized 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) program. Through partnering with teachers, school administrators, parents, community agencies, arts groups, the community college and others, this program provides many Holyoke school children with an engaging, enriching and creative after school environment. The process of developing and maintaining these partnerships has not been without its own challenges, however. Through lessons learned and time for Q&A, this workshop session will allow participants to hear, from four different perspectives, how this program has, over time, worked through its partnership challenges to develop a continually evolving set of structures and relationships. This workshop session will be of interest to all program coordinators or school administrators with responsibility for maintaining a local council or community partnership.

Session Leaders: [ean54@aol.com](mailto:ean54@aol.com) / (413) 259-1620  
Eileen Cavanaugh, Director of CONNECTIONS Program for Holyoke Public Schools  
Karen Guillette, Community Partnership Coordinator for the CONNECTIONS Program  
Melany Mendoza, Director of After-School Programs for Holyoke Community College  
Beth Newell, Consultant, ESE, 21stCCLC

**3. ROOM C - Accessibility to Algebra and Geometry for ALL Students**

Come to learn strategies that can help teachers of grades 6-12 support all learners, including special education students and English Language Learners in their study of algebra and geometry. The presenter will model the use of graphic organizers (Link Sheets, Sorts, Concept Splashes, Webs) that are designed to help students make connections based on their prior knowledge and communicate what they know and can do. Participants will gain access to more than 100 organizers created by Massachusetts math and special education teachers.

Session Leader: [hynesc@comcast.net](mailto:hynesc@comcast.net) / 774-696-0333  
Carol Hynes, Director of Curriculum (retired), Leominster Public Schools

4. **ROOM D - Mission Possible: When there's a will, there can be a way!**

A small school with a big agenda gets things done by taking its mission to the community! This workshop will introduce you to the creative programs and new initiatives that are the result of what it means to **Think, Care** and **Act** at the North Central Charter Essential School. Restorative justice, school wide stress management, martial arts, community safety assessments, therapeutic horses and even Dance Dance Revolution have all found their place. Come see what else can be in store for your students and staff!

Session Leader: [fernandess@ncces.org](mailto:fernandess@ncces.org) / (978) 345-2701 x412

Sara Fernandes, School Counselor, North Central Charter Essential School

5. **ROOM E - Engaging Students in Academic Support Summer Programs through Community Service Learning (CSL)**

Come to hear about Pittsfield Public Schools' summer Academic Support/CSL pilot program where in-coming at risk 9<sup>th</sup> graders applied their learning through various service projects in the community. Two projects that will be highlighted involve adventure based activities and a community garden. The projects helped get students reengaged in academics and allowed them to apply their knowledge to core content class assignments.

In addition, Central Berkshire Regional School District will share highlights from their Academic Support/CSL summer program, where young people engaged in ELA and Math connected CSL projects. The program offered credit recovery and other academic support to students in need of these services.

Session Leaders: [kgrady@pittsfield.net](mailto:kgrady@pittsfield.net) / (413) 499-9520; [cwest@cbrsd.org](mailto:cwest@cbrsd.org) / (413) 684-2225 x101

Kimberley Grady, Community Placement Coordinator, Pittsfield Public Schools

Connie West, Director of Special Services Central Berkshire Regional School District

6. **JR. BALLROOM - Serving Youth with Intensive Needs: Learner-friendly teaching routines and how to help them get on a meaningful and motivated track**

Come to learn about research findings on effective interventions with high-need youth. The first part of this session will focus on learner-friendly instructional practices that educators can use to teach critical content that is often difficult to learn. The second part of this session will focus on addressing barriers to learning and success, and will share specific strategies to help youth develop key life skills as well as set meaningful goals and work towards achieving them.

Session Leader: <http://soe.ku.edu/Donald-Deshler/>

Dr. Donald Deshler, U. of Kansas Professor and Director of the Center for Research on Learning

7. **GRAND BALLROOM / SOUTH – Building a Collaborative Website for Project Based Learning**

The Department is partnering with the Skills Library to create a contextual learning website to be used as a tool for programs serving struggling learners, students with disabilities, English language learners and other youth who are both in and out of school, as they strive to meet the high standards of secondary education, post-secondary education and high performance workplaces. The intent of this website is to provide an opportunity and a space for school districts, community organizations, non-profit educational groups, and other youth-serving agencies in the Commonwealth to share projects and lessons to support contextual teaching and learning. All content will be provided by programs and will be free of charge. Programs interested in contributing to and using this [website](#) are invited to come to this session to learn more, as well as to offer feedback and suggestions.

Session Leaders: [skillslibr@aol.com](mailto:skillslibr@aol.com)/781-321-7894; [nfuentes@doe.mass.edu](mailto:nfuentes@doe.mass.edu)/781-338-3593 ; [kwestrich@doe.mass.edu](mailto:kwestrich@doe.mass.edu)/781-338-3902

Jennifer Leonard, The Skills Library

Nyal Fuentes, Educational Specialist, ESE

Keith Westrich, Connecting Activities Director, ESE