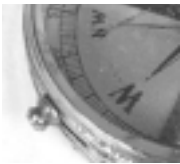


WestWinds

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST 40 INTERMEDIATE SERVICE CENTER NO. 2

Discover West 40's New Professional Development Catalog

A new school year has begun and with it comes a fresh new look for the West 40 Professional Development catalog (see photo) and for this newsletter! Schools received the catalog the first week of September; if you haven't seen it, make sure you do. The catalog is filled with great courses and programs that enhance teaching skills and help educators meet state and federal requirements. Among the catalog highlights are:

Ruby Payne Poverty Training

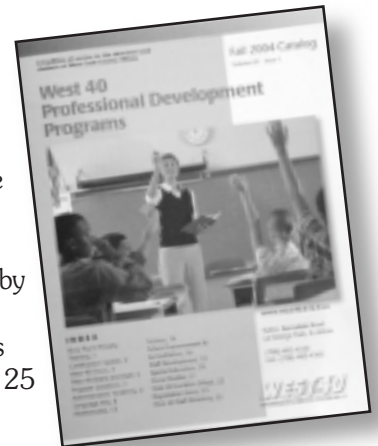
Ruby Payne, a former Illinois principal, has developed insights into the culture of poverty that are helping educators work effectively with children and adults from that culture. The core of her message is that schools and businesses work from middle class norms and use the hidden rules of the middle class. In this workshop, you'll learn all about

them, and how to make these rules explicit to poverty students. Achievement increases are noted in schools using Ruby Payne's techniques. Districts are encouraged to send teams to this special event. October 25 and 26, Willowbrook Holiday Inn. \$260 fee. Presented by Kim Ellis.

Raising Student Achievement Conference 2004: "Moving All Children Forward."

December 6-8, Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles. For all educators.

The conference will deliver high-quality instructional sessions to district teams on subgroup populations, content

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New! Certification Update

Changes and updates to Illinois' teacher and administrator certification processes were enacted this summer. The requirement to develop a professional development plan was eliminated for teachers with Standard Certificates and for administrators. Local Professional Development Committees and reviewers for administrator's activities are no longer required.

What has **NOT** changed are the professional development requirements for teachers and administrators. Teachers must complete 120 hours of professional development during each certification cycle and the administrative requirement is 130 hours. Both Standard certificated teachers and administrators are encouraged to maintain a portfolio documenting their participation in professional development activities, which may be subject to audit at the time of certification renewal. CeRTS is still the recommended way for teachers to track their professional development hours and use of CeRTS is required of administrators.

Beginning with their next certification cycle teachers will receive reductions in their professional development requirements if they hold Master Certificates, Master's Degrees and additional advanced degrees. The apportionment of a percentage of a teacher's professional development to Least Restrictive Environment-related topics remains in effect.

The options for completion of the professional development requirements for Initial Certificate holders has expanded significantly and now include: completion of 12 semester hours toward a Master's Degree and the elimination of the "X" Continuing Professional Development Unit requirement.

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Educators' Accolades

Congratulations to Dr. Raymond Kuper, Superintendent of Union Ridge High School District 86, who is also past board president and a current member of the West 40 Governing Board. Dr. Kuper recently received a prestigious award from the Italian Government for his efforts and strong commitment to the success of the district's Italian Language Program.

By the order of Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Dr. Kuper was honored with the "Cavaliere" designation in the "Order of the Star of Solidarity of Italy." Dr. Kuper also acts as fiscal agent for Union Ridge and several other area school districts involved in the "Italian Language Grant Program" that includes over 4,000 students.

Eugenio Sgro, Consul General of Italy in Chicago, conferred the award at the Newberry Library on June 2 in celebration of Italian National Day. Dr. Kuper remains committed to the success of the Italian Language Program that has been very successful.

Teachers and administrators: Educators in 38 school districts will see your name in print in this column when you tell West 40 your accomplishments. If you earned a higher degree, presented at a conference, developed a new program or curriculum, wrote a book, won an award, or realized a unique accomplishment for yourself or your district, West 40 wants to know!

Send your name, title, school and district with an explanation of your accomplishment to West 40 and you could appear in the next WestWinds. Send E-mail to Kay Poyner Brown at kpoynerb@west40.k12.il.us and indicate it is an "Educators' Accolade." Or fax info to "Accolades," Attn: Kay Poyner Brown at (708) 482-4365.



Introducing Ann Williams

West 40 recently welcomed a talented new staff member. Ann Williams will share responsibilities for West 40's financial operations with Linda Rogers. Previously, Linda held the position full-time. Each is now employed in a 3/5 capacity and has clearly defined duties. Ann's include overseeing the budget, creating management reports for the Governing Board and monitoring all grant expenditures.



Ann Williams (L) and Linda Rogers are sharing responsibilities.

Ann brings considerable expertise to her new position of Business Manager. She came to West 40 from CNA Insurance where, at various times she worked as Finance/Operations Manager, Senior Project Analyst and Manager of Financial Analysis. Currently, this busy lady also works as an adjunct instructor for Colorado Technical University Online, teaching courses in finance, operations, human resources, marketing and e-business. She has also been an adjunct instructor at ITT Technical Institute.

She earned a BS in Business Management from NIU, an MBA in Strategic Management from DePaul, and a Type 75 Administrative Certification with Chief School Business Official Endorsement from Governors State University.

Ann believes strongly in "giving back to the community." Toward that end, Ann's goal has been to apply her considerable skills in an educational environment. Coming to West 40 is the culmination of that goal.

"It's wonderful to be working at West 40," Ann remarked. "There is a great family feeling. Everyone is very personable. I am truly happy to be here and have the opportunity to work in education."

Ann is also a very active volunteer for a number of community organizations. She also combines her love of fitness with education: she is

a volunteer cheerleading coach for the Richton Park Youth Athletic Association.

The entire West Cook community extends its welcome to Ann Williams, the newest member of the West 40 team.

West 40 Welcomes...

Six West Cook school districts recently welcomed new educational leaders. Congratulations to:

Mr. Jon Bartelt, River Grove 85^{1/2}

Ms. Cynthia Broughton, Maywood District 89

Dr. Marlene Kamm, River Forest District 90

Mr. John Belmont, Berwyn North District 98

Dr. Patricia Wernet, Berwyn South District 100

Dr. Mike McElherne, LASEC

Safe Schools are Here to Help

Two regional safe schools continue to help at-risk students from West Cook County school districts. They are the West Cook Regional Safe School/ Middle School, and, for high school students, HARBOR Academy.

The West Cook Regional Safe School/Middle School

The West Cook Regional Safe School/Middle School has begun its fourth year of service. This successful, effective full-time school provides intensive services to middle school students in West 40's service area who are in danger of being expelled, have had multiple suspensions, or are in some way disconnected from the education process. Seventy-three students have attended the school to date. Director Karen Tiemann urges school districts to be pro-active: the best time to send a student to the school is when problems first surface. Thirty-one West Cook districts can send students to the school. The curriculum includes parent programs, counseling, academics, community service, daily physical education, and counseling services. The school also has partnered with community agencies to offer a continuum of care and provides follow-up to students and their families after the students have completed the program. "The school has done a remarkable job of reconnecting students and families back to the educational system," Director Tiemann stated. The school is located at 4315 S. Joliet Avenue in Lyons.

To get more information on the West Cook Regional Safe School/Middle School, ask questions, or schedule a tour, contact Karen Tiemann at (708) 447-2515

HARBOR Academy

HARBOR Academy, a second-chance program for high school students, is beginning its second year. It serves all high schools within the West 40 service area. Students attend school full-time, earn high school credits, and get what they need to return to their high school and be successful. Students receive a holistic approach to education that includes both teacher and computer facilitated classes in a core curriculum, an advisory program, community service, daily physical education, and individual and group counseling. Each day, students identify and examine their short and long-term goals to keep on-track. "In this smaller, therapeutic and nurturing environment students learn the strategies they need to succeed," stated Director Esther Lieber.

HARBOR Academy is located at 6525 W. North Avenue in Oak Park. To get more information, ask questions, or schedule a tour of HARBOR Academy call Esther Lieber at (708) 660-0147.

Winning With Reading First!

Reading First! is the cornerstone of the NCLB legislation, and West 40's Reading First! Academy is preparing teachers for classroom success. With Reading First! children are taught to read early and well using instruction based on the five components of a comprehensive reading program: phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.

This Academy is a requirement for all districts participating in the Reading First! grant. However, all K-3 grade teachers will benefit by attending.

"Last year, we trained nearly 300 teachers in Reading First! strategies," said Gert Johnson, West 40's Gifted Education/Reading/Language Arts consultant. "I have never seen anything as powerful as this training. Teachers are going back to the classroom empowered and districts are being transformed by application of the Reading First! strategies."

Schools receiving the Reading First! grant select a reading coach who completes the Reading First! Academy. The coach then trains teachers at the school, so that all teachers learn the Reading First! methods.

In addition to understanding the five components of a successful reading program, the Reading First! Academy teaches how to use various types of assessments to plan and guide instruction based on students' needs.

All K-3 teachers who haven't attended a Reading First! Academy are encouraged to do so. For further information please contact **Gert Johnson** at West 40: **(708) 482-4350.**



Mark Your Calendar - TALENT SEARCHES

Plan now so your students can participate in these West 40 events:

Writing Talent Search
Due date: January 26, 2005
(Award Presentation TBD in Spring 2005)

Junior Math Olympiad
February 12, 2005

Speech and Drama Festival
February 26, 2005

School Citizen of the Year (SCOTY) Awards
March 16, 2005
Mannheim School District 83

West 40 Governing Board

George Beranek,
Retired Principal
Cicero District 99

Kim Crawford,
Teacher
Rosemont District 78

Linda Gilmore,
Teacher
Lyons Township High School

Dr. Barry Greenwald,
School Board Member
Oak Park-River Forest
High School District 200

Bob Ingraffia,
Superintendent
Regional Office of Education for
Suburban Cook County

Lilane Koehn-Mace,
Math Division Chair
Lyons Township High School
Board Secretary

Dr. Raymond Kuper,
Superintendent
Union Ridge District 86

Dr. Ray Lauk,
Superintendent
Lyons District 103

Dr. Myra Sanders,
Superintendent
Westchester District 92½
Board President

Judith Sayre,
Teacher
Riverside District 96

Dr. Phyllis Walden,
Dean of Adult Education
& Faculty Development
Morton College
Past Board President

Dr. Arleen Armanetti,
Superintendent
LaGrange Highlands District 106
Administrative Agent for
West 40, Ex-Officio

Discover West 40's New Professional Development Catalog *Continued from page one*

instruction, data analysis for school improvement planning and school culture. This four-pronged program has over 140 sessions, daily keynote speakers, four Administrators' Academies and featured speakers. All content has been carefully selected for sound, research-based user-friendly strategies for students of all abilities. There will also be exhibits of education-related products.

Among the Administrators' Academy presenters is West 40 consultant Kay Poyner Brown, whose topic is "NCLB and the SIP Process." Each Academy meets the six-hour requirement.

The conference is sponsored by the Regional Offices of Education in collaboration with the Intermediate Service Centers and ISBE EBD/PBIS. Deadline to send in registration is November 19.

Registration form and fees are available on:

www.roeachievementconference.org/rsac_registration.htm

Math & Science Curriculum Analysis Workshops

Need direction in selecting the best standards-based curriculum? Turn to these valuable one-day workshops from West 40. Learn a curriculum-analysis process and examine three or four of the best available core curricula that support the Math and Science Learning Standards.

Mathematics Curriculum Analysis Workshops:

Grades K-5 — April 21, 2005
Registration deadline: April 7, 2005
Grades 6-8 — January 26, 2005
Registration deadline: January 12, 2005

Science Curriculum Analysis Workshops:

Grades 6-8 — November 17, 2004
Registration Deadline: November 3, 2004
Grades K-5 — February 23, 2005
Registration deadline: February 9, 2005

All workshops are held at Fermilab in Batavia. Each class is \$35. Includes lunch.

**For information on these and
on all West 40 programs call
(708) 482-4350.**

New! Certification Update *Continued from page one*

Final rules and required forms to put the changes in certificate renewal into effect are still being developed. Watch the Illinois State Board of Education website, **<http://isbe.net/certification/default.htm>** for information as it is released.

Don't forget: Many teacher and administrator certificates will expire in 2005. Professional development should be completed by March 2005 in preparation for recertification. Educators can check their certificate expiration date using the Online Teacher Information System, OTIS, which can be found at **<http://www.isbe.net/otis/default.htm>**



For West 40 Information...

Visit the West 40 website:

www.west40.k12.il.us

Phone:

(708) 482-4350

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(708) 482-4365

WEST40