

# West Winds

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST 40 INTERMEDIATE SERVICE CENTER NO. 2

## Online Registration is Here!

Now you can register for any West 40 Professional Development Course 24/7, from any Internet-connected computer, anywhere! Just go to the West 40 website [west40.org](http://west40.org) and click on "online registration"—the seventh item in the left hand column. It will bring you to a page with online registration information. From there, in order to register online you must establish an account by indicating your email address and choosing a password. You can then search the current Professional Development Catalog online, select your courses, and register. An email confirmation is sent with each registration.

If you prefer, a registration form can be downloaded from the website, printed, completed, and faxed back to West 40. Also, you can still register using the registration form included in the printed Professional Development Catalogs that were mailed to your school.

Check out the West 40 website to see how easy registering for classes can be: visit [www.west40.org](http://www.west40.org)



## West 40's Summer Professional Development Catalog Has Arrived

West 40's Summer Professional Development catalog has arrived at schools and is filled with exciting programs to hone teachers and administrators' skills. (The catalog can also be viewed on the West 40 website.) Here's a sampling of summer courses:

### **Gifted Education Institute: An Overview of Gifted Education**

Individuals interested in a comprehensive overview of Gifted Education dealing with gifted students will benefit from this course taught by Sally Walker, Illinois Association for Gifted Children. Topics include a rationale for Gifted Education, historical perspective and program prototypes. Identification, characteristics and social/emotional needs of the gifted child are covered in depth. Meets Monday through Friday, July 17 through July 21, at West 40. Register by July 13. Earn eight CEUs for professional development. Fee: \$440.

### **Gifted and Diverse Learners: The Parallel Curriculum**

Design rigorous and highly motivating curriculum that attends to student differences through the National Association for Gifted Children's Parallel Curriculum Model. Become familiar with the model, work with the model in a guided setting, and learn to apply facets of the model to curricular areas in order to meet students' needs. Presented by Sally Walker, Illinois Association for Gifted Children. Meets Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, August 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9 at West 40. Register by July 20. Earn 8 CEUs for professional development. Fee: \$460.

***New! Two staff development programs based on skills that underlie the standards-aligned classroom project. Cynthia Baranowski, West 40 Administrators' Academy Specialist, teaches both programs. Each offers 1.3 CEUs for professional development, has NO FEE and meets at West 40:***

### **Improving Student Achievement by Setting Clear Targets**

Students cannot reach a target if they do not know, or understand, what the target is. Communicate learning targets to students and parents using this proven technique.

Thursday, June 15 (register by June 1), OR Tuesday August 22 (register by August 8).

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## Emerging Issues: High School Reform Conference for Educators in June

Among the emerging issues the State Board of Education has identified as key and is currently addressing is High School Reform. The ISBE has begun the research phase for this issue. The results of its work to date can be seen at: [www.isbe.net/board/html/emerging\\_issues.htm](http://www.isbe.net/board/html/emerging_issues.htm) under "the context and status of High School Reform in Illinois."

This year, West 40 held a study group for high school and junior high school educators. Developed by West 40 NCLB Specialist Leslie Wilson, about 70 teachers and administrators from System of Support Schools met throughout the year. The book, "The Handbook of Research on Improving Student Achievement," was the catalyst for the class. Not only did participants explore best practices in reading, math, science, special education and leadership, but learned that their colleagues at other schools often were confronted with the same challenges and problems. "The course has provided lenses for practitioners to examine their practices and make adjustments in their building," explained Dr. Wilson. "It's been a great opportunity for all of us, providing a good network between West 40 and the participants, and among the participants themselves."

received by the Illinois Principals' Association by June 12. There is a \$165 workshop fee per person. Register online at: [www.ilprincipals.org/ssl/registration.php?id=47](http://www.ilprincipals.org/ssl/registration.php?id=47) or print out a registration form to mail or fax at [isbe.state.il.us/assessment/pdfs/hs\\_challenge.pdf](http://isbe.state.il.us/assessment/pdfs/hs_challenge.pdf). Questions? Call 217/391-0848.

Supporting that issue is an upcoming two-day conference for Illinois School leaders: "**High School Challenge: Rigor and Relevance Meet Reality.**" The conference's goal is to create statewide awareness of the changing global economy and the need to prepare Illinois students for the world in which they will live and work. Guest speakers include State Superintendent Dr. Randy Dunn, Williard Daggert, president, International Center for Leadership in Education, Kati Haycock, director, the Education Trust, and others. Participants will learn practical strategies that work in successful high schools; key information about the Prairie State Exam; relevant workplace trends in a global society that will impact high school education, and information on practical, follow-up support for Illinois high schools. The conference is a joint effort of numerous Illinois educational organizations. It takes place Monday, June 19 and Tuesday, June 20 at Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington, Illinois. Registration must be

## Professional Development Enriches West 40 Staff

Not only does West 40 offer professional development programs for West Cook County educators, the West 40 staff participates in numerous programs, seminars, conferences and workshops throughout the year. Attending these programs helps keep the staff abreast of the newest initiatives, thinking and trends in education.



During the current school year, West 40 staff members attended over 35 professional development programs. The programs took the staff to locations throughout Illinois and throughout the country — to Harvard University ("Redesigning High Schools") Washington, D.C. ("Council of Chief State School Officers NCLB Conference"), Savannah, New Orleans, Salt Lake City

## Master's Degree Made Easy

West 40 and Aurora University have teamed up to make it easy for the working professional to earn a Master's degree. In only 24 months, earn a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, including an Administrator's Type 75 certificate, by attending school one night a week during the school year and two weeks each summer. Cohorts are now forming. Attend a free informational meeting to learn how easy and affordable earning a Master's can be: Tuesday, May 30, 4:30 PM, at West 40. No registration, no fee.



Applications for the Fall 2006 Cohort will be accepted through June 30, 2006. For further information, contact **Sarah Urycki** at **708/482-4350** or [surycki@west40.org](mailto:surycki@west40.org)

## Website Posts Winners

West 40 winners are now available online. West 40 is posting the winners of the School Citizen of the Year Awards, the Larry Stilgebauer Technology Awards, and the districts that won the Math Olympiad and Speech and Drama Festival on its website for the entire world to see. Kudos to all of the students and teachers who excelled in these programs this year. Go to [west40.org](http://west40.org) to see who they are.

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## Letter from the Executive Director

### West 40 Needs Assessment Survey

**West 40 recently sent an email to educators asking them to complete an online survey to assess school district needs and to obtain input about West 40 services. The email contained a link to the survey's website. If you haven't completed your survey, please do so. it only takes a few minutes to complete. You can also link to the survey from the West 40 website: [west40.org](http://west40.org) Thank you for your participation.**

As the school year winds down, so does the first full year of my new role as West 40's Executive Director. I am thankful for the help of our expert staff and supportive Governing Board, who have aided in making this a comfortable transition.

It has been a busy and productive year. Our staff of 10 full and part-time consultants, Regional Safe School faculty and support staff have managed professional development services, provided schools with technical assistance, tracked budgets and supplied numerous services to students and educators. We are also very busy learning, researching and disseminating information to our school districts on new initiatives and emerging trends in education from the Illinois State Board of Education and Federal Department of Education. Our staff members continue their roles as leaders and advisors at the state level. They contribute to professional development opportunities for the entire state, such as the Raising Student Achievement Conference and the Illinois Technology Conference for Educators. Staff members also serve schools as they tackle improvement challenges and lead change through the Reading First and RESPRO grants.

This year saw the design and implementation of an improved, informative website, along with a new, user-friendly web address. Our goal of streamlining registration for West 40 professional development programs has become a reality, as online registration is now available on our website.

Although summer is just around the corner, West 40 professional development programs continue all year. Our offices are open 12 months to serve our constituents' needs.

Thank you for helping make this a successful and productive year.

Sincerely,

Kay Poyner Brown,  
Executive Director



## West 40 Safe School/ Middle School Student is Recognized by State

A West 40 Regional Safe School/Middle School student was recently recognized for making tremendous, positive life changes since attending the school. The Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth (ICEARY) selected the eighth-grader from students statewide as their "Outstanding Student of the Year." After qualifying as one of eight finalists, the student was chosen to receive their highest award and with it a \$500 scholarship and \$100 savings bond. The award-winner has attended the West 40 Regional Safe School/Middle School since June 2005.

The student accepted the award at a ceremony in Springfield and received a standing ovation for a speech to the 200+ educators in attendance.

The award is given to a student who:

**Demonstrates tenacity in overcoming difficult family and/or home circumstances or other obstacles to complete/continue education.**

**Possesses exemplary skills or abilities that help him/her succeed.**

**Has made significant achievement(s) while in the program or as a result of program participation.**

Success would not have been possible if educators at the student's originating district did not see the possibilities and give the youth an opportunity to succeed through the West 40 Regional Safe School/Middle School. In the past five years, 21 of 31 eligible school districts have sent students with unique needs or extraordinary circumstances to the school.

Teachers nominate students for the award. West 40 Middle School teacher Frank Giosa, the student's advisory teacher, submitted an essay about the student's accomplishments to ICEARY.

For information on the West 40 Regional Safe School/Middle School call **708/447-2515**.

## West 40 Governing Board

George Beranek,  
Retired Principal  
Cicero District 99

Deborah Floto,  
Teacher  
River Grove District 85½

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

Robert Ingraffia,  
Regional Superintendent of  
Schools  
Regional Office of  
Education for Suburban  
Cook County

Lilane Koehn-Mace,  
Division Chair, Math & Science  
Lyons Township North High  
School  
President Elect

Doug Noyes,  
Teacher  
Elmwood Park High School  
District 401

Myra Sanders,  
Superintendent  
Westchester District 92½  
Board President

Judith Sayre,  
Teacher  
Riverside District 96  
Interim Board Secretary

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

Patricia Wernet,  
Superintendent  
Berwyn South District 100

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

**WEST40**

## Painted Ladies Fly to Schools

On April 27, 631 Painted Lady Butterfly kits flew out the doors of the West 40 offices. That was the day teachers and representatives from 16 school districts and 19 private schools came to claim the kits they had ordered for their classrooms. Painted Lady Butterfly kits allow children to experience the wonder of butterfly development firsthand. Each kit contains three to five tiny caterpillars in a sealed vial complete with nutrients. In about three weeks, the caterpillars mature to become lovely butterflies. Each kit costs \$12.00. The supplier guarantees at least three perfect Painted Lady butterflies per kit.



Teachers prepare for the event by saving empty copier paper boxes that can be used to build flight cages that are necessary for observation. However, for the first time, West 40 offered mesh houses for \$9 each that could be used instead. This hands-on project has been a West 40 tradition since 1989. Hundreds of students throughout West Cook have experienced this memorable rite of spring, and thousand of butterflies have flown free

## Summer Professional Development Catalog Has Arrived Continued from page 1

### Assessments OF and FOR Learning

What does it mean to have a balanced assessment program? How is assessment OF learning different than assessment FOR learning? Which is the most effective for improving student learning and why? Meets Tuesday, June 27. Register by June 13.

For more information on these programs or others, refer to the Summer Professional Development catalog — available in print at your school or online at [west40.org](http://west40.org) — or call **708/482-4350**.

## Professional Development Enriches West 40 Staff Continued from page 2

and Wisconsin. The topics included understanding poverty, electronic solutions for on-going assessments, agile mind math, reading, gifted education, safe and drug-free schools, bilingual education, ISAT scoring, at-risk youth, curriculum development, certification, Illinois Assessment Frameworks and more. This year, two large conferences that staff members generally have to travel far to get to were held in Chicago: the International Reading Association and the ASCD. The information that West 40 staff members bring back from their own professional development opportunities helps them to remain effective resources for educators.



*Register online for all West 40  
Professional Development  
Programs:  
[www.west40.org](http://www.west40.org)*