

SEL is Everywhere: Making It Work in Your Program



Robb Armstrong
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SEL is the process through which we understand and manage emotions, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. These are simply basic human skills. We all use elements of this in our everyday lives. This workshop will use hands-on activities to spur conversations and discuss how to view your programming through SEL lenses and refocus the outcomes of activities you may already be using. We will add new activities this year. Learning outcomes include taking some stress out of "creating time for SEL", something that we can and should be doing every day; meeting new people and making connections through play; and learning new activities and ways to grow old ones.

Indigenous Studies through a Mohegan Lens



Samantha Tondreau
Director of Curriculum and Instruction
The Mohegan Tribe

In this learning session, educators will have opportunities to collaborate and elevate best practice of Indigenous Studies in the classroom. Learners will participate in activities to engage in historical events and cultural ways that have shaped the Mohegan Tribe today. Participants will also engage in topics such as Native identity, misconceptions in learning, and the importance of storytelling through oral tradition. Educators will gain access to various resources from The Mohegan Tribe's Educators Project as well as a growing Google Drive folder which includes Mohegan teaching resources and countless Native topics to support continued learning.

Educator Professional Well-Being: Essential to Create Schools in which Educators can Thrive



Lisa Garcia
2022 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year
Math Educator, North Kingstown High
School, RI

The pandemic has shined a light on the increased teaching demands over the past few decades. Educators hustle through the day performing the growing lists of responsibilities like school safety, student mental health, email correspondence, perpetually changing technology, and increased number of student accommodations. This workshop will review the impact of these intense working conditions on educators. Participants will learn about the essentials of workplace well-being and engage in activities that will strengthen their own professional well-being and build community.

Teaching Today, Inspiring Tomorrow: Perspectives from Classroom Teachers



Lisa Abel

2023 CT Teacher of the Year Finalist
Band Director, Simsbury High School



John Allen

2023 CT Teacher of the Year Finalist
Social Studies Teacher, Putnam High School



Jennifer Rodriguez

2023 CT Teacher of the Year Finalist
First Grade Teacher, Anna M. Reynolds School, Newington



Christine Gamari

2022 CT Teacher of the Year Finalist
STEM Instructional Coach, Newington High School



Melissa Zablonksi

2022 CT Teacher of the Year Finalist
Social Studies Teacher and
Humanities Faculty Coordinator,
Putnam High School



Kristin Bengtson Mendoza

2021 CT Teacher of the Year
Semifinalist
Lead Teacher and Instructional Coach,
ESOL Teacher, Wilbur Cross High School

Teaching is the greatest opportunity to shape the trajectories of young people's lives and the future of our world. Hear from Connecticut educators as they share their diverse expertise, experiences, and passion for teaching and why it's important.

Playful Learning: The Work of Childhood



Kate Field

Teacher Development Specialist,
Connecticut Education Association



Jamie Hocking

Wallingford Educator

Children learn about themselves, others, and the world around them primarily through play. Play is essential for healthy physical, cognitive, and social emotional development, but despite its importance, opportunities for children to play have dwindled due to the misconception that play takes time away from "serious learning." This interactive workshop focuses on the cognitive, social, and emotional benefits of learning through play, discusses ways to integrate more playful learning into the school day, and provides opportunities for participants to engage in purposeful play.

Celebrating and Elevating the Profession through Teacher Leadership



Katherine Bassett

2000 New Jersey Teacher of the Year
Chief Executive Officer of the New
Jersey Tutoring Corps, Inc.



Kristen Record

2011 Connecticut Teacher of the Year
Physics Teacher, Bunnell High School

The Teacher Leader Model Standards define how teacher leadership in schools can be distinguished from, but work in partnership with, administrative leadership to support high-quality teaching and learning. Join us for a lively discussion as we unpack the seven domains of the Teacher Leader Model Standards and explore how the actions and practices of teachers in each of the domains can be used to “Celebrate and Elevate” the teaching profession. We will further explore how our roles change as we shift from great teacher to teacher leader. Whether you are an experienced educator or brand new to the profession, you will enjoy discovering a variety of contexts in which teachers can lead from the classroom!

Turning the Tides: Maximizing Small Moments to Improve Equity



Meghan Hatch-Geary

2020 Connecticut Teacher of the Year
English Teacher, Woodland Regional
High School



Jackie Thurston

2021 Connecticut Teacher of the Year
Finalist
Special Education Teacher, North
Branford

Small, actionable steps can be taken to improve educational equity. In this workshop, we will explore how to create equitable experiences and outcomes for students by defining and identifying discretionary spaces in our classrooms and schools. We will collaborate to develop ways to maximize small moments within our control which can lead to meaningful, positive change.