

Making Connections

Promoting the success of school districts and communities since 1966

Spring 2019

EdAdvance Hosts Professional Communities of Practice

EdAdvance's Communities of Practice are professional work groups that convene regularly to enhance professional practices in a variety of areas.

Early Childhood Roundtables & Social Work Network

Early Childhood Roundtables and the School Social Work Network bring northwest CT professionals together twice a year to discuss current best practices, opportunities in the field, and engage in professional learning opportunities.

These groups also participate in legislative advocacy, partnering to address statewide issues.

The Early Childhood Roundtables and the Social Work Network are looking to expand to the greater Danbury area next school year.

For more information, contact Michelle Anderson, Director of Early Childhood & Family Programs, at andersonm@edadvance.org or 860.567.0863 x1177.



Social Workers from local school districts

Professional Learning Councils

Professional Learning Councils focus on high-impact areas in education that are priorities for our member districts. Learning Councils are customized to the needs of a particular district or specific audience. Councils meet monthly to collectively reflect on a wide range of topics including: legislative priorities, updates from the CT State Department of Education, digital privacy laws, strategies for administrators to build successful relationships with constituents, and local district concerns.

Current Professional Learning Council schedules are available at <http://edadvance.org/about-us/calendar>.

For more information contact Jonathan Costa, Assistant Executive Director, at costa@edadvance.org or 860.567.0863 x1115.

Special Education Professional Learning Collaborative

EdAdvance's Special Education Services, in partnership with the RESC Alliance and the CT State Department of Education's (CSDE) Bureau of Special Education, are working to enhance the availability of quality professional learning opportunities across the state. The aim of this professional collaborative is to create a community of shared resources, and to identify priority learning needs that expand special educators' capacity to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

For more information contact Jody Minotti, Director of Special Education (North), at minotti@edadvance.org or 860.567.0863 x1127.



Special Education Parent Forum facilitators (from left): Nicole Vitale of SERC; John Flanders, CPAC; Lynn Rule, CPAC; Jennifer Lussier, CPAC; Bryan Klimkiewicz, CSDE's Bureau of Special Education; Heather Doucette, CREC; Jennifer Douglas, EdAdvance; and Dr. Mike Regan, C.E.S.

MarCom Services For Districts Now Featuring Digital Video Production

EdAdvance offers a continuum of Marketing and Communications (MarCom) Services to our member school districts on a fee-for-service basis to develop and enhance districts' brand visibility and the impact of print and web assets. Our award-winning team works closely with districts to deliver customized services in the most cost-effective manner.

Dr. John Barile, Brookfield Superintendent of Schools commented, "EdAdvance MarCom services have enhanced the Brookfield Public Schools communication with parents and the greater community. It is important to note that the services also saved us time due to their marketing and technical expertise in creating the newsletter. Our frequent, succinct, and informative newsletters were a contributing factor to informing citizens and parents about the new elementary school project campaign which passed referendum by almost a 2 - 1 margin."

BROOKFIELD BROADCAST "Create Your Tomorrow"
Brookfield Public Schools Monthly Newsletter Spring 2019

NEWS WITH NUMBERS

- Fall 2022: Anticipated opening of the new elementary school.
- 7 Odyssey of the Mind Teams are heading to the World Finals in Michigan.
- Over 80 students participated in the 8th Drama Production of The Wedding Singer.
- 227 students participated in Winter Sports.
- 448 students are participating in Spring Sports.

NEW SCHOOL PROJECT Next Steps

With the approval of the New School Project at referendum, there are now several key items to complete prior to construction.

We are excited to begin these next steps:

State Grant Application

- Development of a comprehensive list of Education Specifications, which must be approved by the Board of Education.
- Submission of the application to the Office of School Construction and Grants Management by June 30, 2019.
- Processing of the application with probable notification by December 2019, informing the district whether the project is placed on the state's priority list. Placement on the priority list will indicate funding being forthcoming from the state.

School Design

- Solicit community input to ensure the conceptual design for the building addresses both our students needs and those of the community.
- Engage with architects to design the new school.
- Obtain approval from the Board of Education and authorization from the Municipal Building Committee to incorporate any alterations to the architect's design.

Center Elementary School Repurposing Plans

- The Board of Selectmen will soon be forming the 'Ad Hoc Committee for Repurposing Town Buildings'.
- The Ad Hoc Committee will explore options for the future use of CES, as well as other town buildings.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tues 4.2	Board of Finance Public Hearing - Town & School Operating Budget @7pm
Wed 4.3	Board of Education Meeting @7pm - BHS Media Center
Thurs 4.4	Special Town Meeting for Capital Projects & to vote Referendum Date @7pm
Fri 4.12	PLC Early Dismissal Spring Recess Monday, April 15 - Friday, April 19

EdAdvance has been collaborating with Brookfield Public Schools to assist in website enhancements and to produce a newly-designed monthly online and print newsletter, the "Brookfield Broadcast".

EdAdvance is now also offering digital video production services through a partnership with Open Mic on Education, an end-to-end platform that empowers busy superintendents, principals, and staff to create engaging short-form video segments. EdAdvance's "Join the EdAdvance Team" recruitment video was created with Open Mic on Education, and can be viewed at www.edadvance.org/about-us/employment.

For more information, contact Mary Bevan, Chief Grants & Development Officer, at bevan@edadvance.org or 860.567.0863 x1179.

EdAdvance Launches New Driver Education Programs

EdAdvance has launched a Driver Education Program serving northwest CT that offers a full constellation of program options including 38-hour and 30-hour DMV-approved instructional programs; Drug, Alcohol, and Safe



Our first student graduate!

Driving Practices programs; and additional hours of road instruction. The Program's Coordinator, Michele Babij, is a DMV-licensed instructor with experience in classroom and on-road instruction. Currently, course offerings are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:15-8:15 pm at EdAdvance's offices in Litchfield. EdAdvance will soon be offering classes at the Explorations Charter School in Winsted.

Registration is ongoing and is available at www.edadvance.org/registration.

For more information on Driver Education Programs, contact Michele Babij, Coordinator, at driveredinfo@edadvance.org or 860.361.9374.

Adult Training and Development Network (ATDN) News

The statewide ATDN is funded by the CSDE, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services & Adult Education, to provide statewide professional development for CT's adult educators. EdAdvance coordinates statewide trainings which include: the CT Competency System; Adult High School Credit Diploma; College and Career Readiness Standards; ESL; Reading and Math instruction for adults; Adult Ed Teacher Evaluation; GED® Math, Reading Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies Support; career pathways; transitions to workplace and post-secondary training; Technology Integration; the National External Diploma Program, and the Annual Conference on Serving Adults with Disabilities.

ATDN will be hosting the CSDE Summer Institute for Adult Education practitioners on August 13th and 14th at the University of New Haven Orange Campus. This two-day workshop is an opportunity for attendees to participate in sessions with engaging topics such as: Nearpod, GED® Updates, CASAS (TOPSPro), Goals 900, English Language Proficiency Standards, and College and Career Readiness Standards, among others.

For more information on ATDN, contact Tony Sebastiano, Adult Education Coordinator, at tonys@edadvance.org or 860.567.0863 x1132.

EdAdvance Celebrates Week of the Young Child

From April 8th to the 12th, EdAdvance's Early Childhood & Family Programs is participating in the "Week of the Young Child™", an annual event sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities.

The 2019 "The Week of the Young Child" events focus on daily themes: Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday. These themes encourage the continued development of children's creativity as well as fine motor, social, language, and early literacy skills.

EdAdvance offers a continuum of early childhood and family programs and services including School Readiness Programs, Head Start/Early Head Start, Family Resource Centers, Home Visitation Programs and Birth to Three/Early Intervention. Services for child care providers include consultation and technical assistance for NAEYC accreditation, professional development, networking, and shared business services opportunities.

For more information, contact Michelle Anderson, Director of Early Childhood & Family Programs, at andersonm@edadvance.org or 860.567.0863 x1177.

Announcing Expo Fest 2019

Expo Fest is an annual highlight for Skills21 at EdAdvance, participating school districts, higher education, and industry partners. This event is the ultimate showcase of middle and high school students' innovations in STEM, Computer Science, New Media, and Entrepreneurship. This year's Expo Fest will be held from Friday, May 31st through Saturday, June 1st at the Toyota Oakdale Theater. Friday's events include Senior Capstone projects, followed by the Red Carpet event for the CT Student Film Festival in the evening. On Saturday, student teams from throughout CT will present their product and service prototypes for evaluation by an expert panel of higher education and industry judges, including multi-media presentations in the exhibit hall and the "Big Pitch" event.

For more information on Expo Fest 2019, email info@skills21.org, visit www.expofest.skills21.org, or contact Matt Mervis, Skills21 Director, at mervis@edadvance.org or 860.567.0863 x1129.



Jeffrey Kitching, Ed.D
Executive Director

Jonathan Costa
Assistant Executive Director

Mary Bevan
Chief Grants & Development Officer

Richard Carmelich
Chief Operations Officer

Tracey Lay
Chief Talent & Collaboration Officer

Litchfield Campus
355 Goshen Road | P.O. Box 909, Litchfield, CT 06759-0909
O: 860.567.0863 | F: 860.567.3381

Danbury Campus
4 Mountainview Terrace, Suite 201, Danbury, CT 06810
O: 203.791.1904 | F: 203.778.8076



EdAdvance does not discriminate in any of its programs, activities, or employment practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, veteran, marital or familial status, ancestry, genetic information, gender identity or expression, or any other basis prohibited by law. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9410.

Program & Service Updates

Evaluation Services for Non-Profits, Schools, and Colleges

The Center for Program Research & Evaluation (CPRE) at EdAdvance was created to provide exceptional assessment, research, and evaluation services for schools, educational institutions, community agencies, and non-profit organizations. Directed by Kevin Glass, Ph.D., CPRE services enhance each client's capacity to effectively use research, assessment, and evaluation processes for continuous improvement. Some of our recent work includes:

- School district critical thinking skills assessment
- Training and leveraging Data Teams
- Needs assessments, and analysis of standardized and common assessments

- Research and evaluation for state and federal grant proposals
- Development of unique classroom assessments, specifically in STEM
- Guidance in School Health Services data collection procedures
- Professional development in Google Apps for Education
- Professional development in the integration of NGSS

For more information, contact Kevin Glass, Director, Center for Program Research & Evaluation, at glass@edadvance.org or 860.567.0863 x1176.