



Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals

QUEST 2007



Making a Difference...

Empowering Teachers

Strengthening Schools

Serving Students

... It's Union Work!

A PROFESSIONAL ISSUES CONFERENCE

November 2-3, 2007 • Rhode Island Convention Center

QuEST 2007

EMPOWERING TEACHERS, STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS, SERVING STUDENTS...IT'S UNION WORK!

QuEST is the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers & Health Professionals' biennial professional issues conference. QuEST provides a forum for RIFTHP members and guests to learn about, discuss and debate the latest research and exemplary practice. QuEST includes workshops and seminars specifically designed to inform and engage participants and equip them with information and strategies to strengthen their professional practice and their work as school and union leaders. The RIFTHP is proud to host this signature conference as part of its extensive professional issues program. We believe that supporting members' professional growth is truly "Union Work"!



FRIDAY EVENING BANQUET & KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

6:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Join your colleagues for a celebratory banquet and dessert reception and a lively keynote delivered by Dr. Bobb Darnell, nationally recognized for his high energy presentations that blend humor, research-based strategies and practicality.

“A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT”

School Improvement is not a laughing matter, but you will laugh at Bobb Darnell's humorous and entertaining view of four things that have rocked the world of education and caused educators to change at a furious pace. This look at the art and science of teaching and learning could be the most fun you ever had while being serious about school improvement.

FRIDAY

Registration

3:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Big Issue Sessions

4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

- #1 **It Can Happen Here:** *An active-shooter incident in a school is traumatic and potentially life threatening, but what can RIers do to prevent such situations in our schools? Hear important information from a law enforcement expert about what you and your school community can do to recognize, prevent and react to such situations.*
- #2 **Turning Kids On Through Robotics:** *Many RI communities use robotics to engage students in higher-level thinking, mathematics and applied science. See a demonstration and find out from middle and high school teachers and their students how they are using robotics to ramp up student achievement.*
- #3 **IDEA Update:** *Hear about the changes being proposed by RIDE to RI's Special Education Regulations and how they will affect class size, teacher assignments, referral procedures and discipline for all kids.*
- #4 **Cyberbullying:** *As if school yard bullying wasn't bad enough, now our kids can be bullied on-line! Learn how to recognize and deal with this new and widespread form of social intimidation and how to promote internet safety with your students.*
- #5 **Statewide Curriculum Showcase:** *RI's new statewide curriculum provides teachers at all levels with great ideas for teaching and learning. Discover how this electronic resource can support your instructional practice.*
- #6 **Purposeful Advisories:** *As RI Middle and High Schools "personalize" their environments, many teachers find themselves adding the role of "advisor" to their list of duties with little or no training. Find out how advisories can become powerful tools for reaching and supporting students and how you can make your advisory more purposeful.*
- #7 **Educating Children with Autism:** *More and more students with autism are in regular education settings. Learn the best research-based strategies for teaching these students and how to apply them in your classroom.*
- #8 **We're All in This Together:** *Find out what makes all members of your faculty "tick", from "Boomers" to "Gen-Xers" and "Millenials" and how even the most diverse groups can be motivated to get involved and work together, whether on the SIT, a grade-level team or a union committee.*
- #9 **Response to Intervention - Nuts and Bolts:** *IDEA and the new Special Ed Regs call for teachers to document Response to Intervention (RTI) as part of the referral process. Find out what's expected of teachers, how much RTI is required and how this process should be used to help, not hurt, our students.*
- #10 **Effective Classroom Management - Prevention, Intervention & Academic Engagement:** *Setting Rules and Procedures gets us off to a good start, but it isn't enough. Learn strategies for planning a focused classroom and being proactive rather than reactive classroom managers.*
- #11 **Gender Matters:** *There really are differences in how boys and girls learn and respond. Learn more about these differences and get tips on working more effectively with the gender differences that exist in your classroom.*
- #12 **Writing About Reading:** *Join the author of this popular book to find out how to teach students in grades 3-8 to write powerfully about texts. Get tips for moving children beyond rich conversations and unpolished writing to clear, articulate writing that demonstrates their thinking about reading.*

SATURDAY

Registration 7:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.

Choose **TWO** workshop sessions (one from A and one from B) **OR** the Saturday seminar session (see p. 5):

WORKSHOP SESSION A

8:30 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

- #13 Differentiated Instruction:** *Reaching all kids can be done through effective planning and the use of strategies designed to meet the varied levels of students in your class. Get concrete tips and instructional tools to help you engage all kids in learning.*
- #14 Writing to the Prompt:** *There's no avoiding standardized tests in grades 3-8! Join the author of this book in finding out how to apply the best practices you already know, plus support materials such as charts and checklists, to help students succeed in the uncertain and challenging environment of on-demand writing.*
- #15 Helping Middle & High School ELLs Succeed:** *Examine techniques for engaging adolescent ELL students with limited or interrupted schooling and getting them to speak and write with confidence. The strategies you'll see in a video demonstration will work with other adolescent learners, too.*
- #16 Science Counts Now, Too:** *No Child Left Behind demands that student proficiency in science be assessed and counted by 2008. Find out how RIDE's recently released science GSEs can guide your curriculum and instruction and prepare your students for success.*
- #17 What's Food Got to Do With It?** *A Kids First chef and dietitian will provide a fun, hands-on workshop to get you thinking of new ways to promote healthy changes in your nutrition, food safety and physical activity habits and become a role model for your students. Many of the activities can also be incorporated into your existing curriculum.*
- #18 Project-Based Learning: The Key to Academic Engagement:** *Project-based learning can cross the "discipline gap" and help students apply their knowledge and demonstrate their understanding and proficiency through real world connections. See what's working in one RI secondary school and how PBL can work for you.*
- #19 Dealing with Bullies:** *How can students help one another to abolish bullying behavior and feel safe in school? Learn about a program from the Attorney General's office that can help you combat bullying in your school.*
- #20 School-Home Connections:** *Parents and families are our most important partners, but often we find ourselves unsure of how to engage them effectively. Get some tips to help you better communicate with parents and families and enlist them as true partners in education.*
- #21 Classroom Assessments That Work:** *With all the focus on statewide assessment, we know that it is through effective, on-going formative assessments that we learn the most about our students. Examine criteria for creating and selecting effective classroom assessments and how you can use assessment to more successfully guide your instruction.*
- #22 Rigorous Mathematics for Elementary Students? Yes!** *Is elementary school too early to prepare students for algebra? Not with these activities. Find out how engaging elementary students in varied mathematical activities can develop true understanding of and interest in math and prepare them for success in algebra and beyond.*
- #23 Building Literacy Through the Content Areas:** *Secondary teachers may not see themselves as "teachers of reading", but incorporating literacy-building strategies into content area classes can help teachers "get their content across" and strengthen literacy, too. Learn strategies that can be used in your content classes and help students succeed.*

WORKSHOP SESSION B

10:30 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

- #24 Response to Intervention:** *The new IDEA and RI Special Education Regulations require teachers to use Response to Intervention techniques as part of the referral process. Instead of viewing RTI as a series of roadblocks, find out how to use RTI strategies to successfully document students' progress and help them be more successful.*
- #25 Getting Ready for Retirement:** *It's never too soon to plan for retirement. Hear from Retirement Board officials and R.I.AFT/R leaders about our retirement system and what you need to know and do to be ready to retire.*
- #26 Instructional Strategies That Work:** *Classroom management is more than just discipline. It involves keeping kids actively engaged in learning. Discover how you can plan more engaging lessons and use strategies such as peer tutoring and direct questioning to keep kids on their toes and manage your classroom more effectively through learning.*
- #27 The Early Years:** *Are our kids pressured to "perform" too early? Hear from a nationally respected early childhood educator about finding a balance between academics and developmentally appropriate activities with our youngest learners. Leave with a host of ideas to implement in your classroom.*
- #28 Alternate Assessment:** *A small percentage of our student body is eligible to take alternate assessments. Find out who is eligible, what is meant by alternate assessment and what these assessments can tell you about your students' progress.*
- #29 Helping ELL Students Succeed:** *Looking for ways to help your English Language Learners succeed? Colorin Colorado is a successful support program with tools and tips for teachers and parents of ELL students that has recently been expanded to cover K-12. Learn how this resource can help you support students and families.*
- #30 Civics Education: It's the Law!** *Recent RI legislation requires Civics education. Does that just mean a Civics class or something more comprehensive? Find out about the new requirements, what is expected of RI students and teachers and how Civics education can be delivered successfully.*
- #31 Arts Are the Heart of the Core:** *With today's emphasis on ELA, Math and Science, the Arts are often left behind, even when we know their importance to student learning. Analyze lessons and rubrics that clearly show how the Arts strengthen students' applied learning and other skills.*
- #32 Are You Practicing Medicine?** *Many schools do not have a school nurse on duty at all times and ask teachers and paraprofessionals to perform duties that may actually constitute "practicing medicine without a license"! Learn what you can and cannot do for students in need of medical attention in your classroom.*
- #33 Rigorous Mathematics for All: Strategies from Thinking Math for Middle and High School:** *The current focus on math and science has many wondering how to help all students be successful with more rigorous mathematics. Discover strategies to take your students from "basic" to rigorous mathematics and prepare them to better understand, be successful with, and maybe even enjoy, algebra and beyond.*
- #34 E-Portfolios Made E-Z:** *Many schools are requiring portfolios as part of their PBGR systems, but few have organized, easily-managed systems in place. Examine a tool that could make saving, showcasing and reviewing student work much E-Zer for all!*

SPECIAL SATURDAY SEMINAR 8:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

(Choose this seminar **OR** one selection from Session A and one from Session B)

IGNITING AND INVITING STUDENT MOTIVATION AND HIGH PERFORMANCE

Join Friday night keynoter, Bobb Darnell, for a high energy, fast-paced seminar that will help you discover how to make dramatic improvements in student learning and performance in just thirty days. Explore powerful strategies and practices that can accelerate students' reading, writing, thinking and learning in all content areas. Don't miss this opportunity to spend time with a national expert who blends humor and best practices to help you unleash the power of struggling, defiant and disinterested learners to succeed.



SATURDAY LUNCHEON

12:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Complete your QuEST experience with a “working lunch” designed to add a bit more information about the upcoming NCLB reauthorization to your plate, give you some “processing time” and provide you with a last laugh at this crazy jargon-filled world we call education.

“MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

BRING A NEW BOOK/DVD TO QUEST

“United Through Reading” helps US soldiers stationed in the Middle East stay connected to their children at home through reading. Soldiers are videotaped reading stories they've selected so they can send them home to be enjoyed by the children who miss them so much. To make this work, they need children's books and blank DVDs.

Bring a new story book (ages 0-8) and/ or a blank mini-DVD to QuEST and we'll donate them to this special program. For each book/DVD donated, you'll receive a chance to win one of our famous “QuEST Baskets”.

REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE RETURN BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2007

We expect a large turnout for this conference. Please follow registration directions carefully:

- Select **ONE** workshop for Friday afternoon.
- Select **TWO** Saturday workshops (**ONE** in Session A and **ONE** in B) **OR ONLY** the Saturday seminar.
- If registering for the Saturday workshops, you **MUST** indicate a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice for each session and indicate the workshop identification # for each choice.
- If registering for the Saturday seminar, you **MUST** indicate an alternate choice for Session A and B.

Name _____ Local _____ Tel.# _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

Affiliation if not RIFTHP member _____

SELECTIONS

	<u>1st choice</u>	<u>2nd choice</u>	<u>3rd choice</u>
FRIDAY 4:30 - 6:30	_____	_____	_____

SATURDAY

Session A 8:30 - 10:15	_____	_____	_____
Session B 10:30 - 12:15	_____	_____	_____

OR

Saturday Seminar: (check) _____

In case the seminar is filled, select an alternate choice in Session A ____ and Session B ____.

I PLAN TO ATTEND THE DINNER ON FRIDAY EVENING: YES ____ NO ____

I PLAN TO ATTEND THE LUNCHEON ON SATURDAY: YES ____ NO ____

REGISTRATION FEE \$80.00 STUDENT FEE \$40.00

- * Price includes Friday dinner and dessert reception, Saturday luncheon and all conference materials.
- * Parking is on your own.
- * Event rate is available at the Convention Center.

Please make checks payable to RIFTHP and mail check and registration form to:

RIFTHP, 356 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908, ATTN: Carol Santangini, by October 22.

* **RIDE CEU / PDC CREDIT AVAILABLE** *

* **REGISTER EARLY** * **SPACE IS LIMITED** * **NO CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT** *

