

QuEST 2009

STRENGTHENING THE PRESENT, BUILDING THE FUTURE

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 educational 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.**

The President's Perspective: Introducing AFT President, Randi Weingarten

Join your colleagues for a celebratory banquet and dessert reception and a chance to meet AFT's new president, Randi Weingarten. Randi is already making her mark as president and shaking things up after just a year in office! Her ideas on community schooling, teacher evaluation and compensation, and the reauthorization of NCLB are not business as usual. She is a powerful and engaging speaker and is certain to challenge and inspire us. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Randi's take on the challenges facing our schools and our profession and how the union can, and will, be part of the solution.

FRIDAY

Registration

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

Big Issue Sessions

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

- #1 Response to Intervention: Implications for Regular Education:** *RTI is a multi-tiered approach being implemented by districts to identify students with disabilities. With RTI, teachers must identify students at risk, provide interventions, monitor and document progress. Find out what you need to know in this “RTI Basics” session.*
- #2 Autism: Strategies to Promote Success in the Classroom:** *As the number of students with autism increases in our schools, educators are struggling with how best to support them. Review AFT’s latest publication, “Helping Students with Autism: Tips for Educators” and learn strategies that can help you and your students.*
- #3 Introducing RI’s Proposed Educator Professional Code of Conduct:** *The Board of Regents will soon adopt an Educators’ Professional Code of Conduct that all RI teachers may have to sign. Find out what will be required of you if this Code is adopted and what the implications could be for your certification and your teaching career.*
- #4 Building Vocabulary and Spelling Skills:** *What instructional strategies facilitate students’ spelling and vocabulary development? Learn the research behind language acquisition and strategies to apply in your classroom practice.*
- #5 Stop Bullying Now:** *Addressing the many forms of bullying and making schools safer for all students is a top priority for educators today. Discover how school-wide anti-bullying strategies can proactively arm students with skills needed to avoid being victims of bullies and how those strategies could work in your school.*
- #6 Using Student Achievement in Teacher Evaluation: It’s Coming:** *Teacher evaluation is at the center of a national and RI debate on educator quality that may include calls for using student achievement scores to evaluate teachers. Find out what changes are coming to teacher evaluation and what evidence may soon be required of your effectiveness.*
- #7 Your Pension System: How Recent Changes Will Affect You:** *The RI General Assembly recently made significant changes to our pension system. Learn about the specific changes that have been made, how they will affect newer and veteran teachers and what they mean for you and your retirement.*
- #8 Proficiency-Based Instruction to Support All Learners:** *Discover how West Warwick’s focus on looking at student data, professional development, integration of literacy throughout all content areas, and the use of the RI Electronic Portfolio System enlivens instruction, boosts motivation, increases achievement, and helps students meet their proficiency-based graduation requirements. It could work for your school, too. (Sponsored by Learning First/RI)*
- #9 The Shared Classroom: Strategies for Collaborating:** *Whether you work in an inclusion setting, are part of a teacher team or work in any other collaborative setting, learning to work together takes time, tools and understanding of each others’ roles. Learn some tips for sharing space with other professionals and working together successfully.*
- #10 What Good Schools Do When Students Fail:** *Discover how to bring energy, passion and positive attitude back to students who fail. Learn how to unleash the power of struggling, defiant, disinterested learners and motivate them to be engaged and ready to achieve high standards.*
- #11 Instruction that Reaches the Whole Child:** *Students can be taught to solve problems, respect other viewpoints and be socially competent - all qualities of productive citizens - while learning content. Learn strategies from the National Research Council’s three principles of teaching and learning that you can put to use in your classroom.*
- #12 Managing Your I-Plan: Now What?:** *Many RI teachers have successfully identified I-Plan goals, but meeting those goals, documenting progress, and ensuring that work toward recertification will be accepted can be a challenge. Find out how to effectively manage your I-Plan and get tips that will lead to your recertification success.*

SATURDAY

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

Choose TWO workshops (one from A and one from B) OR ONE Saturday Seminar (see p. 5):

WORKSHOP SESSION A 8:30 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

- #13 Journey to Algebra: The Early Experiences:** *Success in algebra begins in elementary school. Discover how helping young children understand the relationships within mathematical equations and how experience with making mathematical generalizations will set them on their way to success with math in elementary school and beyond.*
- #14 Journey to Algebra: Those Fractious Fractions:** *Recent reports point to a lack of fraction knowledge as a prime factor in middle and high school students' difficulties with algebra. Learn strategies to help M.S. and H.S. students better understand and work with fractions in preparation for success with higher-level math.*
- #15 Using Storytelling to Enhance Instruction:** *Experience the vibrant world of storytelling as a vehicle to spark creativity, ignite imagination, build self-esteem and develop better oral communication skills. Explore ways in which stories can be used to enrich curriculum, increase literacy, celebrate diversity and meet curriculum goals.*
- #16 Making Formative Assessments Work for You:** *Statewide assessment may get lots of press, but teachers gather information on student progress every day. Learn about the many ways that formative assessment can, and should, be used to better understand student progress and plan instruction.*
- #17 Using Today's Technology Tools in the Classroom: Finding Quality Materials on the Web:** *How can we be sure that the information we and our students are using is good and accurate? Discover things for you and your students to consider when searching the net. We'll try out some tools, so bring your laptop!*
- #18 Gangs: In Our Cities & Beyond:** *Find out why adolescents are attracted to gangs and how gang membership affects school climate, student safety and achievement. Learn what teachers can and should do.*
- #19 RI Schools in Action: "Eat Healthy - Get Active - Score High":** *Healthy students stand a much greater chance of doing well in school and scoring well on tests. Find out what is happening in RI schools and what more can be done to improve nutrition, physical activity and student success.*
- #20 Helping ELL Learners Succeed:** *Today's classrooms are increasingly diverse and teachers face challenges engaging English Language Learners across the grades and content areas. Learn about instructional strategies and materials that can assist you in supporting ELLs in your classroom.*
- #21 Love Hurts, but You Can Help:** *Did you know that over one in three teens are in a relationship that hurts and that most never speak up about it? Discover the telltale signs of dating abuse that can begin as early as middle school, lead to problems in school and escalate to more serious complications for teenagers.*
- #22 Union 101: Making a Difference for You:** *Newspaper headlines and editorials paint teacher unions as dinosaurs, blockers to education reform and greedy consumers of public dollars. Find out about today's full-service union, why our union is particularly relevant today, what the union does for you and how YOU are the union.*
- #23 Transitioning to Kindergarten:** *What can we do to ensure that young children make a smooth transition from pre-school to kindergarten? Learn about the information needed about pre-school children prior to entry into kindergarten, tools to enhance that transition and ways to keep parents informed and involved.*
- #24 Strengthening Adolescent Literacy Across Content Areas:** *No matter what the content, students' literacy skills are key to their success. Learn about and practice using AdLit.org, an adolescent literacy project that brings quality resources and materials to assist teachers and parents with helping struggling adolescent readers.*

WORKSHOP SESSION B

10:30 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

- #25 Making Noise: Thinking Math at the Primary Level:** *Tap into your youngsters' excitement about numbers before they get "turned off" to mathematics. Engage in hands-on experiences and get ready-to-use materials that support multiple solution strategies, conceptual understanding and recording methods that work with our youngest students.*
- #26 To Praise or Not to Praise:** *Can praising students be dangerous? You may be surprised to learn what research says about the use of praise in our classrooms and how it should and should not be used to be an effective tool for teachers.*
- #27 Motivating the Reluctant Learner:** *Wouldn't it be great if all students came to school every day eager to learn? Discover six motivational classroom strategies, geared for elementary but applicable to all, that can ramp-up efforts to engage your students.*
- #28 Vocabulary Building is Not Just Elementary:** *There is power and potency in vocabulary development that underlies students' reading and writing across all secondary content areas. Discover successful strategies for growing vocabulary knowledge and using words to enhance student mastery of subject matter.*
- #29 RTI: Nuts & Bolts:** *How does Response to Intervention really work? What are the roles and responsibilities of regular and special educators? Learn what teachers can do to ensure that they can implement, monitor and report progress on classroom interventions efficiently and successfully.*
- #30 Engaging Families to Support Student Success:** *Families play a crucial role in helping their children set goals, navigate the educational system and be successful in school. Find out about strategies teachers can use to strengthen their efforts to engage and support families and create partnerships that benefit all.*
- #31 Differentiated Instruction:** *In most classrooms students learn at different rates and in different ways. Learn the basic elements of differentiated instruction and strategies for teaching the diverse students in your classroom.*
- #32 Using Technology Tools in the Classroom: Using Web 2.0 with Your Students:** *Web 2.0 facilitates sharing and collaboration on the world-wide web. Learn about using Web 2.0 tools, such as Wikis, blogging and social networking in your classroom. Bring your laptop to try out these tools.*
- #33 Career Investigation to Improve Academic Motivation:** *Helping students discover their natural talents, gifts and abilities related to future careers motivates students to learn. Examine several "Jobfit" assessments that can be incorporated into your curriculum to help students better understand what careers they might be suited for and what knowledge and skills they need to succeed.*
- #34 The New IEP: An Important Guide for All:** *Think that a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) is just for his/ her Special Education services? Not so. Discover how today's IEP can help guide your instructional planning.*
- #35 Creating Positive Caring Environments:** *Can teacher behaviors reinforce and extend the achievement differences between high and low-performing students? Explore how teacher and student perceptions affect their relationships, as well as student achievement and motivation.*
- #36 Advisories: Beyond the Mandates:** *Establishing an advisory is a process that can be easier said than done. Students are sure to reap the rewards of this personalization strategy, but implementation can be a challenge without some initial considerations. Discover what makes advisories successful for all - students and teachers.*

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

QuEST participants may decide to attend ONE of these exciting 3½ hour Seminar Sessions INSTEAD of attending TWO Saturday morning workshop sessions.

SEMINAR C: CREATING A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT ENCOURAGES HIGH ACHIEVEMENT, CURIOSITY & CHALLENGE: *Back by popular demand! Join QuEST '07 keynoter, Bobb Darnell, and learn ways to create a safe, respectful and highly-engaging learning environment. Be actively engaged in discovery activities that will help you examine what it takes to integrate highly motivating, challenging, interactive strategies with content instruction. Leave with strategies to get 100% participation, increased attention and focused application during your classroom activities. Inspire curiosity and challenge, better than ever.*

SEMINAR D: MANAGING THE AGGRESSIVE STUDENT: *There is widespread concern among educators over increasingly aggressive behavior exhibited by students. Join nationally-recognized presenter, Dr. Bill DeMeo, for an engaging, hands-on seminar and learn to recognize the causes and triggers of aggressive behavior and strategies for the prevention and intervention of anger and aggression. Leave with tools you can use for facilitating positive behavior change in your students.*



SATURDAY LUNCHEON

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

Complete your QuEST experience with a “working lunch” designed to recognize and honor teaching and learning, and to leave you laughing with a special performance by the nationally-recognized “Education Comedy Troupe”, **Wavelength**, sponsored by M&M Group Benefits.

“MAKE A DIFFERENCE” BRING A BOOK TO QUEST

This year our “Bring a Book to QuEST” drive will focus on local charities. We plan to donate books to local shelters and hospitals. Please help us make a “local difference” by bringing a new book for any age group, Pre-K through Young Adult, to donate to our book drive. For each book donated, you will receive a raffle ticket and a chance to win one of our famous “QuEST Gift Baskets”.

REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE RETURN BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2009

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

- Select **ONE** workshop for Friday afternoon.
- Select either **TWO** Saturday workshops (**ONE** in Session A and **ONE** in B) OR **ONE** Special Saturday Seminar, either Seminar C OR Seminar D.
- 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 a Saturday Seminar, you **MUST** indicate an alternate choice, either the other Seminar or an alternate choice in Session A **AND** Session B.

Name _____ Local _____ Tel.# _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

CERTIFICATE # _____ 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: (Indicate C OR D) _____

In case the seminar is filled, select an alternate choice: Seminar _____ **OR**
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 NON-RIFTHP MEMBER FEE \$120.00

- * 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 26.

Participants attending the full QuEST conference will be provided a certificate indicating 11½ hours attended. RIDE PDC certificates will be distributed at the end of each eligible workshop/seminar session. Individuals planning to use these certificates for I-Plan credit must provide certificate number on this registration form.

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

