



Confratute, a professional development **conference** and summer **institute** with a good deal of **fraternity** mixed in, is celebrating its **40th** year in **2017**! With staff and participants from across the United States and around the world, Confratute has grown in size and diversity as a unique experience for the educational community. The continued success of our program is due to our commitment to the following:

- First and foremost, our focus is on differentiation of instruction, high-end learning, and enrichment teaching. We believe that all students can benefit from enjoyable and challenging learning opportunities; that learning is maximized when we consider each student's abilities, interests, learning styles, and preferred modes of expression. Our focus is on accommodating these differences in a variety of settings. We have shown through our research that a strength-based approach is the best way to both challenge our most advanced learners and to close the achievement gap for at risk youngsters.
- Everyone who teaches at Confratute is selected from the very best professionals who spend the majority of their time directly involved with schools, teachers, and kids. Our focus on practical skills and personalizing the learning process has resulted in nothing short of superlative evaluations over the last 38 years.
- Confratute is an informal learning environment where you can interact on a first-name basis with the staff; meet on the patio with people who share similar concerns; discuss hopes and dreams about education on a sunrise walk around the duck pond; share a late night pizza with other members of the chorus; make plans to stay in touch with new friends and colleagues or visit other people's schools; or start a nationwide blog, Wiki, or computer network of young people who share common interests.

Most of all, Confratute is a community of learners willing to put aside the roles and responsibilities of their everyday jobs to become totally immersed with others in an atmosphere that is purposefully designed to promote acceptance, trust, scholarship, hard work, hard fun, and the belief that everyone has something to contribute to educational improvement. We hope you will join us at Confratute 2017 and will take both a vision and the know-how to make the vision a reality back to your schools.

Joe Renzulli