Tuesday's Opening Keynote - Sally Reis and Susan Baum
Using Strength-Based Pedagogy to Engage and Challenge 2E Students

Susan Baum and Sally Reis co-presented a thought-provoking and inspiring keynote this morning based on their research with 2e students. Sally began by sharing some of the findings from a research study she and Susan conducted on high-ability students with learning disabilities at a competitive university. Their study highlighted the range of negative experiences that many of these students faced in school including peer problems, difficulty reading and writing, enrollment in low-track classes, poor self-esteem, and lack of self-confidence. These students often do not receive the support they need due to late identification and the student’s use of compensation strategies that mask their learning disabilities. Susan shared that one of their goals is to help educate and enlist teachers in earlier identification of these students.

Then Susan talked about her work with students at Bridges Academy, a school that serves 2e students and shared some video interviews with students to help illustrate some of the characteristics of 2e students in their own words. She noted that with 2e students we often tend to think of their strengths (which she called “Yellow”) and their challenges (“Blue”) as distinct and separate from one another. Susan argued that 2e kids are both of these things at all times — complex challenges and distinguishing strengths — they are “Green.” Through the rest of the talk Susan made a compelling case for providing a strength-based and talent-focused approach. She said schools should provide educational experiences designed to align with students’ strengths, interests, and talents and look for and nurture strengths, interests, and talents in their own right. Sally brought in the SEM model and both speakers illustrated how the SEM model provides a framework for how to utilize enrichment opportunities to help these students thrive. Susan offered a range of creative examples of how Bridges Academy has incorporated Type I, Type II, and Type III activities that help these students grow. Examples covered everything from students writing restaurant reviews, gardening, music, robotics, and cooking. A particularly memorable example was the student who developed a thoughtful new business plan in his role as President of the Chicken Club (a club responsible for caring for the school’s chickens).

As Susan underscored through talent comes purpose and she shared that at Bridges each student has a Talent Development opportunities plan that explores the following areas: What does the student like? What can teachers do in the classroom? What enrichment opportunities are available beyond the classroom? What opportunities are there at home and in the greater community? She also summarized her Teacher’s toolkit for 2e kids: understand your 2e students’ profiles of strengths and deficits; show your 2e students that you care about them; shift your teaching practices away from a deficit-focus to a strength-based talent approach, and provide talent development opportunities. Building on this Sally stated that every IEP should have one talent development goal. Ben Lacina beautifully concluded the event by singing “It’s not easy being green.” There will be a screening of the movie “2e2: Teaching the Twice Exceptional” tonight at 7:30-9:00 pm, at MCHU with a post-film Q&A with Dr. Baum.
Who’s on Deck?

Lunchtime Roundtable Discussions
12:15-1:00 P.M. in the Rome Commons Dining Hall
Differentiation at the Middle School Level: A Pain Free Beginning with Wayne Trembly.

Join us again tomorrow for “A Visit from Charles Darwin to Your Classroom” with Professor Kenneth Noll

Wednesday Morning’s Keynote:
Tonya Bolden

Finding Fiction in History with Tonya Bolden:

A Reflection on the Making of Inventing Victoria and Inspiring Our Young People to Dig Deeper Into History

A book signing with Tonya Bolden will also be held on Wednesday at Noon on the South Campus Patio outside Rome Hall.

GRADUATE COURSES INFORMATION MEETING

Wednesday at 5:30 P.M. in WSRH 112

Come hear about how you can join an exceptional group of educators from all over the world to pursue graduate level coursework. Information about the Three Summers Graduate Program, online graduate courses,
Social Event:

Disco Night Featuring Mysterious “Wapatooli” from the Bayou

8:30 - 10:30 PM

Calling all performers- beginners and “pros” alike! Sign up to perform a 2-5 minute individual or group skit, dance, and more for the Variety Show on Thursday, July 13th, at 8:30 P.M. in VDM.

Sign up by 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday. You must attend one rehearsal on either Monday from 3:45-5:15, Tuesday from 3:45-6:00 P.M., or Wednesday from 3:45-6:00 P.M. in VDM.

Confratute Bookstore Reception

TODAY! (Tuesday) July 9th, 3-6 pm
UConn Barnes and Noble, Downtown Storrs

Tonya Bolden, Book Signing
3-4 pm

Cheryl Bardoe and Barbara McClintock
Presentation and Signing
4-5 pm

Meet authors, shop, network and enjoy light refreshments. Confratute attendees save 20% all day. Free shipping on pre-tax purchase of $75 or more. Discount does not combine with other discounts and excludes Ballard Museum of Puppetry merchandise.
We are pleased to announce that Duke Talent Identification Program's (TIP) Gifted Education Research Specialist Richard D. Courtright, PhD, will be the keynote speaker. Don't miss this amazing, one-of-a-kind day of Professional Development with practitioners who are experts in the field of Creativity!

Are you ready to facilitate a group dive into a creative topic? We are looking for experts who know how to present a topic in order to set the stage for engaging dialogue among workshop participants. This is an exchange, not a one-way presentation. We are interested in workshops that are developed using a solid adult learning model and build on the applied knowledge in the community. How might you bring something new, fresh, practical, relevant, and useful to the community? What are all the ways you might learn from others during your workshop? This workshop is 60 minutes and we encourage you to "present" for no more than twenty minutes and use the remaining time for dialogue and experiential learning. Our hope is that all participants walk away with a fresh ‘tool kit’ of creative problem-solving skills and productive play practices for their professional and personal life.

Persons interested in presenting a workshop are asked to submit their proposal at https://forms.gle/2QW956wrZGRZZMxD8

Primary workshop presenters will receive a complimentary registration to CAG CreativityCon Friday, October 18, 2019; co-presenters will receive 50% off their registrations. Transportation and lodging is the responsibility of the presenters.

Deadline for proposals is August 30, 2019. We anticipate sending notification of acceptance or non-acceptance in early September. Thank you for submitting a proposal!

Registration will open August 1, 2019. For more information see www.ctgifted.org or email info@ctgifted.org

A Visit from Charles Darwin to Your Classroom
Professor Kenneth Noll has been portraying Charles Darwin in many venues for three years with the support of the Hartford Foundation and the University of Connecticut. He would like to work with school teachers to develop activities and scholastic topics that involve Charles Darwin. Darwin-related topics relate to the sciences and the humanities and can ignite the interest of students of all ages. Come enjoy lunch on Wednesday with Ken/Mr. Darwin and learn about how to bring this amazing Type I experience to your classroom!