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Department of
Education

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Messages From the Department of Education

March 2014

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ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, INSTRUCTION, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

A. Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium recently updated the *Technology Strategy Framework and Testing Device Requirements*, the document that provides states and school districts with clear guidelines on technology device requirements for testing. Developed with input from Smarter Balanced member states, the updated report emphasizes the critical need for technology to support student learning consistent with feedback from district interviews, national experts, and other valued contributors. The framework provides minimum hardware specifications and bandwidth calculations, permitting schools and districts to evaluate which of their existing devices will support the administration of the Smarter Balanced assessments. Download the document at www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology.

Districts are encouraged to update or add their school and device survey data into the Technology Readiness Tool. The tool will enable them to better analyze their current technology status in each school. Data from the tool will enable technology plan updates or test scheduling revisions that might be necessary to test their students using the online assessments.

Get information on Technology Readiness and the Smarter Balanced Practice, Field, and operational tests at NHEON.org. For up to date information on Technology Readiness in New Hampshire, visit <http://www.nheon.org/oet/readiness/index.htm>. For information on the Smarter Balanced tests, visit <http://nheon.org/oet/readiness/smarterbalanced.htm>.

Contact: Stan Freeda, (603) 271-5132, Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov

B. Smarter Balanced Field Test and Practice Test

The Smarter Balanced Field Test will take place from March 18 – June 6, 2014. The Field Test is a trial run of the assessment system that helps ensure the assessments are valid, reliable, and fair for all students. It also gives teachers and schools a chance to gauge their readiness in advance of the first operational assessment in spring 2015. Smarter Balanced conservatively estimates that at least 3 million students will participate in the field test across all 22 Smarter Balanced governing states, presenting a unique opportunity to portray for key stakeholders the benefits of a next-generation assessment system that will provide accurate information about where students stand on the pathway to success.

Schools not participating in the Field Test may utilize the Smarter Balanced Practice Test and the numerous test preparation resources available through the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium at <http://sbac.portal.airast.org>.

Contact: Scott Mantie, (603) 271-3844, Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov

DATA

A. Health Profile Questionnaires

The New Hampshire Department of Education is working with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) to conduct the 2014

CDC- DASH School Health Profile (SHP) questionnaires for schools with grades 6-12. The School Health Profiles (Profiles) assist state and local education and health agencies in monitoring and assessing characteristics of school health education and school health policies related to HIV infection/AIDS, tobacco-use prevention, and nutrition; asthma management activities; and family and community involvement in school health programs. Data from Profiles can be used to improve school health programs.

By Tuesday, March 11th two questionnaires need to be completed by each school with grades 6-12:

1. 2013-2014 School Health Profile – completed by Lead Health Educator
2. 2013-2014 School Health Profile - completed by School Principal

An e-mail with detailed instructions has been sent to Principals for schools with grades 6-12.

Contact: Gretchen Tetreault, (603) 271-5874, Gretchen.Tetreault@doe.nh.gov

B. i4see – Initiative for School Empowerment and Excellence

a) NH Alt Registration

The i4see workbench is now open for districts to register students for the Alternative Assessment process. The window will close on March 31, 2014. School districts should register all students who are the responsibility of the district, no matter where they attend school.

b) Spring NECAP Labels

The i4see workbench will be open for the first round of spring NECAP Science Labels from March 3 through March 28, 2014. This submission is for grades 4, 8 and 11. Please remember to use the submission type NECAPspr in the second column of these uploads. These files only need to be **batch verified**. Certification of NECAPspr is not needed.

c) Other Information

Please remember to submit to the Bureau of Data Management the following information from School District Meetings: 2014-2015 school district calendars, school board lists, and Teacher Salary Schedule for 2014-2015.

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831, i4see.help@doe.nh.gov

C. MS-22 Forms (Report of Appropriations Actually Voted)

A completed Form MS-22 (Report of Appropriations Actually Voted) for each school district must be forwarded to the Bureau of Data Management within 20 days of the close of the school district meeting as required by RSA 198:4-a, II.

Contact: Ron Leclerc, (603) 271-3876, Ron.Leclerc@doe.nh.gov

D. PerformancePLUS Updates

a) Fall NECAP Results are now available in PerformancePLUS.

b) STAR data will soon be loaded into PerformancePlus. Schools/districts who want their STAR data in PerformancePLUS must contact STAR at support@renlearn.com and request to share the data with the NH DOE. Once that is complete log into

Renaissance Place and accept the data sharing agreement. The data sharing agreement expires July 31st of each year and must be renewed on or after August 1st to continue. STAR assessments - STAR Reading, STAR Math, and STAR Early Literacy – are computer-adaptive tests used to measure student achievement in reading and math.

c) Training

- Sign up for free webinars specifically focused on NH at www.education.nh.gov/instruction/accountability/data-systems/training.htm. Past webinars can be replayed from the NH Networks Web site (<https://my.doe.nh.gov/myNHDOE/Login/Login.aspx>). Once signed into the network, go to the network, "Analyzing Student Data" and click on "Links." From this page you will see the links titled "Webinars."
- Join an on-line course (Learning Path) - If you would like extended on-line training we have courses for five topics related to PerformancePLUS. Work with your school to see if you can receive CEU hours for these on-line courses. Visit the NH Networks to access these on-line courses. Once on the network, click on "Engage in Learning Paths." Topics include:
 - Data Success Stories: Using Data to Improve Education
 - New PerformancePLUS Reporting
 - Response to Instruction
 - Understanding Growth Data
 - Using PerformancePlus to Look at Local Data
- Get personal support - The Department has data coaches who can work directly with your school(s) at no cost. Send us an e-mail and we can make the match.

Contact: Irene Koffink, (603) 271-3865, irene.koffink@doe.nh.gov

GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

ALL RFPs Can be Found on the Department Website at
www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm

A. Collaboration and Co-Teaching Professional Development for ESOL Teachers and Content Area Teachers

The goal of the RFP is to provide a series of professional development activities and support for K-12 English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teachers and content area teachers interested in implementing co-teaching and collaboration strategies. To conduct these professional development activities, the New Hampshire Department of Education Title III Office is looking for an individual or an organization that has extensive experience as a trainer in the area of building co-teaching and collaboration partnerships between ESOL teachers and content area teachers at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

The deadline for receipt of questions is 4:00pm, Monday, March 10, 2014. The Department of Education will address inquiries in writing, received by the deadline, if they are determined to be vital to the competitive bidding process. In addition, any modifications to the specifications contained in this RFP shall be made in writing by the Department immediately following the

deadline for receipt of inquiries and no other changes will be entertained after that date. Verbal agreement or instructions from any source are not authorized or binding on the State of New Hampshire. Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: 4:00 p.m., Monday, March 17, 2014.

Contact: Andrea Somoza-Norton, (603) 271-2760, Andrea.Somoza-Norton@doe.nh.gov

B. Early Childhood Mentorship Program

To solicit proposals for the development and implementation of an Early Childhood Mentorship Program that will create professional development mentorship opportunities for early childhood professionals of various skill and knowledge levels. Deadline: Friday, March 14, 2014, at 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Eric D. Borrin, NH DHHS, Division for Children, Youth and Families, (603) 271-9558, Eric.Borrin@dhhs.state.nh.us

HEARINGS

A. Ed 302, Ed 303, Ed 304, Ed 311, Ed316, Ed 900; Duties of Superintendents, School Boards Principals, School Health Services, Marking Drug Free School Zone and Dropout Prevent and Recovery Programs

A public hearing will be held on April 24, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in the State Board Room, Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord. Deadline for written comment will be May 1, 2014.

B. Hedc 500, Scholarships for Orphans of Veterans

A public hearing will be held on May 15, 2014, at 2:15 p.m. at the NH Higher Education Assistance Conference Center, 3 Barrell Court, Concord, NH 03301. Deadline for written comment will be May 15th, at the close of the public hearing.

Contact: Mary Mayo, (603) 271-3189, Mary.Mayo@doe.nh.gov

INNOVATIONS/INITIATIVES

A. State Consortium of Educator Effectiveness

Members of the SCEE (State Consortium of Educator Effectiveness) Team have been providing outreach to school and district teams throughout the state sharing the New Hampshire Model Educator Support and Evaluation System as well as providing SLO (Student Learning Objectives) 101. In addition new resources are being added to the Teacher Effectiveness Network on an on-going basis. We have recently completed a Learning Path in which two school districts share their journeys in developing their local educator support and evaluation system. There is definitely information that you might find helpful in the Learning Path. The Phase II Task Force Report is on the Network and also on the Department Web site at www.education.nh.gov/teaching.

Contact: Karen Soule, (603) 271-6813, Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov for further supports, information, or resources, or have resources to share
Ashley Frame Ashley.frame@doe.nh.gov for network questions

SCHOOL APPROVAL STANDARDS

This section applies to both public and non-public schools

A. School Year Hours

Administrative Rule Ed 306.18, School Year, explains the number of instructional hours a public school shall maintain. High schools and grades 7 and 8 are required to maintain a school year calendar of 990 instructional hours. For grades 1 – 6 the minimum number of instructional hours shall be 945 hours. If school is canceled and a school has only scheduled the minimal number of instructional hours for the year, the canceled hours in most cases need to be made up. Ed 306.18 can be found on the Department's Web site at www.education.nh.gov/legislation/admin_rules_toc.htm. A *School Year Survey* form to calculate instructional hours is available at www.education.nh.gov/program/school_approval/public_approval_forms.htm.

Contact: Marie Morgan, (603) 271-4125, Marie.Morgan@doe.nh.gov

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A. New Hampshire Parent Involvement Survey Administration 2014

The Bureau of Special Education will be distributing the seventh annual statewide Parent Involvement Survey in Special Education. The purpose of the survey is to measure the percentage of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

- **Webinar**

This year, New Hampshire has a new vendor, Gibson Consulting Group, and some exciting improvements have been made to the survey and administration process. On Monday, March 17th from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. NH Connections in collaboration with the Bureau of Special Education, will be hosting a webinar, to learn more about this and strategies to help you spread the word about the Survey. Districts who have had success in increasing their response rate as well as those currently working to increase it will share their stories.

To join the meeting: <http://theparentinformationcenter.adobeconnect.com/pi2014/>

Call-in: 1-866-269-3268

Participant code: 1025305

Contact: Mary Lane, (603) 271-3740, Mary.Lane@doe.nh.gov

B. Surrogate Parent Program

The Educational Surrogate Parent Program, coordinated by the New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, is a volunteer program designed to provide a child with a disability with an educational surrogate parent to act as the child's educational decision-maker. As the educational decision-maker you would participate in a child's special education team meetings. The NH DOE requires applicants to participate in a nine-hour training, which is offered at no cost to applicants. The training includes information on the

special education process and related topics. (Professional Development credits are available for this training.) Training Schedule:

- Saturday, April 12, 2014, Plymouth, NH (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, May 10, 2014, Portsmouth, NH (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, June 7, 2014, Conway or Concord, NH (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

Contact: Amy Jenks, (603) 271-3842, Amy.Jenks@doe.nh.gov

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Data Analysis: Focus on Schools and Districts Workshop

Title III Office English Learners Professional Development Opportunity

There will be a Data Analysis: Focus on Schools and Districts Workshop offered by WIDA (World-Instructional Design and Assessment) on May 22-23, 2014 at Plymouth State University, in Concord, NH. Participants will be introduced to a data analysis process and will apply this process to a particular set of data. This workshop is designed for teams looking to gain a more in depth understanding of their district- or school-level language data.

Participants will have time to analyze data, identify areas of possible strength and need, and develop a plan for further investigation and action.

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the connection between the WIDA Standards Framework, the ACCESS for ELLs assessment, and ACCESS for ELLs scores
- Explain how ACCESS for ELLs scores can be used in data analysis (scale scores, composite scores, domain scores, proficiency level scores)
- Identify patterns and trends from various data sets (for example, data on curriculum and instruction, demographics, growth trends)
- Synthesize key findings from data to formulate hypotheses within the scope of school/district practices
- Create a data-informed plan for change grounded in the WIDA Standards Framework
- This workshop is highly recommended for New Hampshire school teams (3-6 team members per school-school district), content area, ESOL teachers, supervisors, administrators, and curriculum directors.

To sign up for this workshop please go to <http://goo.gl/h1RCHo>.

Contact: Andrea Somoza-Norton, (603) 271-2760, Andrea.Somoza-Norton@doe.nh.gov

B. Learning Forward New Hampshire Conference

The Learning Forward...Moving Forward: From Standards for Professional Learning to New Hampshire Master Plans Conference will take place on Friday, March 21, 2014 at SNHU in Manchester. To register or for more information go to www.lfnh.org.

Contact: Lisa Kaim, (603) 271-8049, Lisa.Kaim@doe.nh.gov

C. Mathematics 51st Annual Spring Conference

New Hampshire Teachers of Mathematics 51st Annual Spring Conference is being held at NHTI in Concord on Monday, March 17, 2014. The keynote speaker is Linda Gojak, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics President! This year's theme is *Leading Us to the Pot O'*

Gold – The Standards for Mathematical Practice. For registration, a draft program, and the conference’s “schedule-at-a-glance” please visit www.nhmathteachers.org. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/NHTM2014> by March 1st for lowest registration fees.

D. New England League of Middle School 33rd Annual Conference

The NELMS conference is specifically designed for educators who work with the young adolescent. Be inspired, gain knowledge based on research and best practices, be part of a community of learners that believe and understand the young adolescent, and listen to keynotes by Nancy Doda and Jack Berckemeyer, There will also be half day sessions relating to student advisory, argument writing and open response, student empowerment, digital storytelling, active learning in a digital world, and foundations of writing, along with a technology playroom, strands of instruction and assessment, content curriculum, leadership, and middle level practices. This conference will take place March 31-April 1, 2014 at the RI Convention Center in Providence. Graduate Credits/CEU’s are available. To register or for more information go to www.nelms.org.

Contact: Mary-Ellen Arigo, (60) 271-8315, Mary-Ellen.Arigo@doe.nh.gov

E. NHASCD Spring Conference

At the April 4th, 2014, NHASCD conference, Will Richardson will urge educators to rethink the roles of schools, classrooms and educators as students can increasingly access diverse educational options. How do we help students become literate, self-directed masters of learning and making in this new, interconnected world? Conference participants will better understand the changing contexts for modern learning literacies in a technology rich, networked world; learn a framework for beginning conversations and actions around system change from traditional to modern teaching and learning; and envision newly designed classrooms, schools and practices to better serve modern teaching, learning, and leading in this era of the Common Core. To register or for more information go to <http://www.cvent.com/events/april-4th-2014-nhascd-conf-with-will-richardson/event-summary-7e7f82a76a094273a770b1634546ce32.aspx>.

DEPARTMENT STAFF UPDATES

Edward R. McKay has joined the NH Department of Education as the **Director for the Division of Higher Education**. Dr. McKay has over 30 years of experience in NH higher education, most recently serving as Chancellor of the University System of NH. He can be reached at (603) 271-0256 or Edward.MacKay@doe.nh.gov.

RESOURCES

A, Leadership in Action Briefing

How Does Proficiency-Learning Work?, a Leadership in Action briefing created by the Great Schools Partnership and New England Secondary School Consortium, was featured in a new report on competency education by the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) and KnowledgeWorks. The report provides federal policy makers with a comprehensive guidance for supporting student-centered learning at the state and local levels. A K–12 Federal Policy Framework for Competency Education: Building Capacity for Systems Change identifies barriers and opportunities within federal education policies and

describes how the federal government is in a unique position to catalyze and expand student-centered learning throughout the country. As lawmakers in Washington, D.C., craft a next-generation Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the report encourages them to take bold steps that will allow students to advance upon demonstrated mastery and receive the personalized support they need, when they need it, to ensure they graduate from high school prepared for success in the colleges, careers, and communities of the 21st century. Download the report at <http://knowledgeworks.org/building-capacity-systems-change-federal-policy-framework-competency-education>.

B. Wonders of Wildlife (WOW) Presentations

Teachers who want to introduce their students in grades 3-6 to New Hampshire's wildlife resources – or reinforce wildlife-related lessons they have learned – have until March 7 to request spring 2014 Wonders of Wildlife (WOW) presentations by trained New Hampshire Fish and Game Department volunteer docents. WOW is a series of active educational programs presented in the classroom. Fish and Game WOW docents travel to New Hampshire schools to present one of four interactive programs: Habits and Habitats; Endangered Species; Pond Ecology; and Wetlands. There is no charge for the programs. Any teacher who has not already scheduled a WOW presentation this school year may schedule a session for their students. For more information or to download a print-and-mail application, go to http://www.wildnh.com/Education/Wonders_of_Wildlife.html.

OTHER

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

Nominations for outstanding elementary, grades K-6 mathematics and science (including computer science) teachers are now open for the 2014 awards. The PAEMST are the nation's highest honors for K-12 teachers of mathematics and science. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. Since 1983, more than 4,200 teachers have been recognized for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. If you know great teachers, nominate them to join this prestigious network of professionals. The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2014. The nomination form should be completed early enough to ensure that the nominated teacher is given enough time to thoroughly prepare an application that reflects exemplary teaching prior to the application deadline. Applications are due by May 1, 2014. For more information, visit www.education.nh.gov/recognition/math_science.htm.

Contact: Jiffi Rainie, (603) 271-7450, Jennifer.Rainie@doe.nh.gov

Hope Starts Here Scholarship

The NH Coalition to End Homelessness "Hope Starts Here" Scholarship Fund provides financial support to students currently living in NH who have experienced homelessness during their school career, have a desire to continue their education beyond high school, and have demonstrated academic achievement. Since 2009, the fund has helped underprivileged students achieve their dream of attaining higher education. For the 2014 cycle, scholarships will be awarded between \$500 and \$2000. Applications may be submitted starting today and are available for download at www.nhceh.org/scholarship. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2014. Award(s) will be announced later in May.

Unitil Scholarship Fund

Unitil is now accepting applications from graduating high school seniors who will pursue an undergraduate degree in the STEM subject areas—science, technology, engineering, and math. Unitil is committed to supporting STEM education and to helping local students succeed. Unitil will award six \$5,000 scholarships to students graduating within their service territories in New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts. Only applications from students in Unitil's service territories will be considered. To learn more and to apply, please visit Unitil's Web site, <http://unitil.com/scholarship>. Applications must be received on or before March 14th, and recipients will be notified by April 30th.

Space Camp Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the 2014 Space Camp Scholarship. Every year three talented New Hampshire students between the ages of 9 and 18 are chosen by the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center as winners of the Alex Higgins Memorial Space Camp Scholarship. This scholarship covers the cost of tuition to Space Camp in Huntsville, AL. Each applicant must be a resident of the State of New Hampshire and be between the ages of 9 and 18. Recipients are selected on the basis of essays, report cards and recommendations. The Alex Higgins Scholarship Fund covers the full cost of tuition but does NOT cover transportation to Alabama. For more information go to www.starhop.com/spacecamp. Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2014.

Fire and Life Safety Poster Contest and Calendar

This poster contest is being organized by the Office of the NH State Fire Marshal and the New Hampshire Fire Prevention Society and is open to all **third graders**. The winning posters will be set in a calendar and the student artist along with the teachers and parents will be invited to an awards ceremony and celebration. Once the calendars have been printed every student and teacher who participated in the contest will receive one. Their goal for fire prevention is to make fire safety a part of daily life throughout the year in the homes of all the residents of New Hampshire. For additional information on the New Hampshire Fire and Life Safety Calendar Program please go to www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/special-operations/pub_ed/Teacher_Education.html or call Mary MacCaffrie at the Office of NH State Fire Marshal at (603) 223-4289 or by e-mail at Mary.MacCaffrie@dos.nh.gov. Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2014.

2014 NH High School Short Film Festival

The New Hampshire Film & Television Office, an office within the Department of Cultural Resources, will once again present the New Hampshire High School Short Film Festival, which will take place on May 24, 2014 at Red River Theatres in Concord. Students from NH public and private high schools, as well as homeschooled students, are encouraged to submit projects no longer than 7 minutes in length, which do not have to be created as part of a class assignment. The submission period runs from February 1-March 31. More details are available at www.nhstudentfilm.com. Media arts faculty interested in receiving updates about the Festival via e-mail should contact film@nh.gov.

Artist Residency in Schools Grants: Apply by April 11, 2014

These grants provide partial funding to bring juried teaching artists, from a variety of arts disciplines, into classrooms and public schools in support of creative learning and skills development in the arts, including dance, film, media arts, sculpture, murals, photography, poetry, book arts, eco arts, ceramics, puppetry and traditional arts. This grant round covers

projects from July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015. Maximum grant request is \$1,000 - \$4,500. Learn more at www.nh.gov/nharts/grants/partners/artistresidencies.htm or contact Catherine O'Brian, NH State Council on the Arts, (603) 271-0795, catherine.r.obrian@dcr.nh.gov.

Youth Arts Project Grants: Apply by April 18, 2014

These grants fund high-quality arts and cultural education programs that encourage creativity, develop new arts skills and foster academic success for young people (K-12). The overall goal of this grant category is to provide young people opportunities to engage in the arts beyond the normal school day so they can develop creative problem-solving skills and become more engaged in their communities. Activities may take place after regular school hours, in the summer, or during school vacations. This grant round covers projects from July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015. Maximum grant request is \$1,000 - \$4,500. Learn more at www.nh.gov/nharts/grants/youtharts.htm or contact Catherine O'Brian, NH State Council on the Arts, (603) 271-0795, catherine.r.obrian@dcr.nh.gov.

ACES Summer Program

The application deadline for ACES has been extended to March 14th. We have heard from several schools and families who need more time to collect signatures and information. ACES is a two-week career exploration and independent living program at Keene State College for 16-17 year olds with ADHD and/or learning disabilities that takes place from July 6 - July 18, 2014. The program combines on-site experience of work environments, classroom learning, stimulating discussion groups, dorm living, recreation, and a weekend in an outside setting. Please note that students who are eligible for the program may or may not already be connected with NH Vocational Rehabilitation. Therefore, if you are working with a student who you believe may benefit from ACES, we encourage you to connect with your school's VR counselor and/or our ACES staff to discuss the referral. For more information go to <http://aces.keenecommons.net/for-schools> or contact Jessica Bigaj at aces@keene.edu or (603) 358-2076 with your questions about the application process or funding so your students do not miss this valuable opportunity.

Center for Educational Excellence

The Center for Educational Excellence at NHTI, Concord's Community College, is committed to addressing the professional development needs of New Hampshire educators through affordable training focused on best practices. They offer trainings and workshops both on and off campus and work with schools to design professional development for teachers, paraprofessionals and staff. The next two scheduled workshops are *Free and Low Cost Assistive Technology Tools and Resources for Struggling Learners*, on April 1st and *What's All the Buzz about "Flipped Learning,?"* on April 16th. Both workshops take place from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. To register or for more information go to www.nhti.edu/community-visitors/business-industry-training/center-educational-excellence.

Is the Common Core the Common Cure?

The Stern Center for Language and Learning is offering this symposium on Friday, March 28 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. Join a panel of experts to review what the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) expects, who will need help to succeed, why assessment is critical, and how you can begin implementing for success immediately. Cost is \$125 per person. To register or for more information go to www.sterncenter.org/news-events/calendar/details?event_id=1386.

McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center Workshops

Professional development workshops are offered on the third Wednesday of the month from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The workshop fee is \$100 and graduate credit is available through Plymouth State University. Some upcoming workshops are:

- **March 19** - The Universe and its Stars - What is Earth's place in relation to other planetary systems, galaxies and the universe? Discover size, scale, structure, composition, and formation theories of our universe. Learn about the lifecycle of stars, star movements through galaxies and galaxy movements through the universe.
- **May 21** - Engineering Design - Work through the engineering design process to define problems, develop possible solutions, find the best solution, and improve designs. Discover ways to implement this process in your lesson plans and curriculum.

For more information go to www.starhop.com/educators.

NH Arts Learning Network Meet-Ups – Spring 2014 Schedule

Open to all arts educators, administrators, teachers, staff, teaching artists, parents and community members, “Meet-Ups” are informal regional meetings where members of the New Hampshire arts education community can gather to get to know one another, talk, share ideas and experiences, inspire one another and plan together. Several “Meet-Ups” are scheduled for Spring 2014:

- March 20, 2014, at The Carriage House at Kimball Jenkins School of Art, 266 N. Main St, Concord, NH, (603) 225-3932
- April 16, 2014, at Sharon Arts Center, 457 Rte 123, Sharon, NH, (603) 927-7256
- May 1, 2014, at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St, Manchester, NH, (603) 669-6144

All “meet-Ups” take place from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. To learn more about future “Meet-Ups” and the NH Arts Learning Network, visit: www.nhartslearningnetwork.org. If you are interested in attending or hosting a “Meet-Up,” contact Catherine O’Brian, NH State Council on the Arts, (603) 271-0795, catherine.r.obrian@dcr.nh.gov.

NH School Nurses’ Association Spring Conference

School Nurses: The Key to Student Success will take place Saturday, April 5, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. at the SERESC Event & Conference Center. Apps for school nurses, treatment of anaphylaxis, update on illicit drugs in NH, the epidemic of prescription drug abuse, the school nurse role in integrative health practices and a panel discussion on pertinent NH school health issues are among the workshop topics. For more information go to www.nhschoolnurses.org or contact Pam Murphy at pamelammurphy@comcast.net.

Supporting Military Children through School Transitions

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) is pleased to announce that another no-cost training opportunity has been planned in Maine on March 13-14. This training deals with effective strategies for educators to employ in helping students K-12 deal with transitions, grief, and loss. While there is a focus on military children, the course is research-based and includes rich information applicable to all students. The latest resiliency research is presented. The training is for teachers, counselors, administrators and nurses, as well as parents who might be interested. This session will be held at the Sable Oaks Marriott, 200 Sable Oaks Drive in South Portland ME. To register or for more information go to www.militarychild.org and select the last link at the top of the page that is labeled "Training."

Green Week 2014

Green Week kicks off February 3rd and lasts through April 25, 2014. You choose any week during that time to be your Green Week. National Green Week is an annual event that empowers schools to engage in sustainability focused lessons, projects, or activities. Participating districts, schools, classrooms or youth groups choose a week, then select from Green Education Foundation's (GEF) sustainability focused programs to be their "green theme." Each theme provides five day standards-based lesson sets, activities, recommended reading, sustainability tips, contests, and more. It's free, and in addition, (GEF) will be raffling over \$10,000 in prizes through Earth Day. To sign up or for more information go to www.greeneducationfoundation.org/greenweek.html.

Safe Kids 500

The annual Safe Kids 500 will be held at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon on April 30th. As always, the event will be free for all participants with the only requirements being that all children be accompanied by a parent/guardian/caregiver and that everyone biking on the track wear a helmet. Responsible adults are not required to ride bikes but are certainly welcome to if they wish. Health and safety displays will be set up in the garages and will include helmet fitting and bike safety checks. This is a family friendly event. For more information, contact Safe Kids New Hampshire at (877) 783-0432 or IPC@Dartmouth.edu.