



# *Catalysts for Change*

**Spring 2013 Conference  
University of Hartford  
March 22, 2013**

Connecticut  
**ACE WOMEN'S**  
Network™

# Catalysts for Change

*"A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."* Margaret Mead

## Program:

### **8:30am: Check-In/Buffer Breakfast and Networking**

**Location:** 1877 Club Restaurant located on the first floor of the Harry Jack Gray Conference Center

### **9:00am: Welcome from Dr. Sharon L. Vasquez, Provost/University of Hartford**

**Location:** Wilde Auditorium

### **9:05am: Welcome from CT Women's ACE Network Presidential Sponsor, Dr. Martha Shouldis, President/CEO**

**St. Vincent's College**

**Location:** Wilde Auditorium

### **9:15am: Keynote by Paul G. Vallas, Superintendent, Bridgeport Public School System**

**Location:** Wilde Auditorium

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## **10:00am-11:30am: Please select a session from those listed below:**

### **\*\*Session Title: "The Changing Remedial Landscape & PA 12-40"**

**Presented by:** Kathy Taylor, *Director Academic Center for Excellence, Naugatuck Valley Community College*

**Location:** Room A in the Harry Jack Gray Conference Center

**Session Description:** *Our nation can only meet its ambiguous college completion goals if students who start in developmental education succeed. (Jobs for the Future, 2011). Half of all undergraduates and 70 percent of community college students take at least one remedial course and too many of these students fail to graduate. With the numbers telling a discouraging story, this session will examine the factors pressuring IHE to chart a new course that can dramatically improve the postsecondary success of millions of students.*

### **\*\*Session Title: Tackling Twitter: Social Media in the Professional Setting**

**Presented by:** Denielle M. Burl, *Attorney, University of Connecticut*

**Location:** Room B in the Harry Jack Gray Conference Center

**Session Description:** *This presentation will provide an introduction to the kinds of issues individuals need to be aware of when using social media in the professional setting.*

### **\*\*Session Title: Dear Colleague: Understanding the Letters**

**Presented by:** Deborah Colucci, *Affirmative Action & Staff Development Coordinator, Manchester Community College*

**Location:** Room C in the Harry Jack Gray Conference Center

**Session Description:** *In the past few years, federal "Dear Colleague" letters have been released to provide Title IX and ADA clarification to colleges and universities receiving Federal funding. In the fall of 2012, Connecticut released a local version in the form of PA 12-78. What do these letters mean? What are we asked to do? In this session, we will help each other to understand the letters through a discussion of best practices, lessons learned, implementation ideas.*

### **\*\*Session Title: It Still Isn't Common Place-Making Women Visible in K-12 Common Core Teaching**

#### **Jointly Presented By:**

- Darla Shaw, *Department of Education and Educational Psychology, Western Connecticut State University*
- Nancy S. Niemi, *Professor of Education and Chair of the Education Department, University of New Haven*

**Location:** Room D in the Harry Jack Gray Conference Center

**Session Description:** *Join our two presenters as they share their individual work and passions infusing K-12 curriculum with women via a variety of methods. Participants will also learn how to transfer this initial learning to oral history taking, writing reader's theater scripts and biopoems, developing compare and contrast diagrams, taking part in mock interviews, and taking on the narrative role of a well know women.*

## 11:45am-1pm: Buffet Lunch and Round-Table Discussions with Presidents/Leadership Representatives

**Location:** 1877 Club Restaurant located on the first floor of the Harry Jack Gray Conference Center

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### 1:15-2:30pm Please select a session from those listed below:

#### **\*\*Session Title: "Show Me (How to Find) the Money"**

##### **Jointly Presented By:**

- Rebecca Brandt, *Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations, University of Hartford*
- Kate Prendergast, *Senior Development Officer, University of Hartford*
- Carol Withers, *Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs, University of New Haven*

**Location:** Room A in the Harry Jack Gray Conference Center

**Session Description:** *This session will allow us to discuss the challenges institutions are facing in the current financial landscape, how faculty and staff can best work with our offices, and provide the audience some general tips on the process of seeking support from a range of sponsors including corporations, foundations, public (e.g. federal and state), and individual donors.*

#### **\*\*Session Title: Student Engagement: How the Brain Learns**

**Presented by:** Suzi D'Annolfo, *Assistant Professor Department of Education, University of Hartford*

**Location:** Room B in the Harry Jack Gray Conference Center

**Session Description:** The transition from secondary school to higher education presents many challenges for students, as well as the adults involved in their lives as teachers, mentors and facilitators. Understanding how the young adult brain engages in learning turns those challenges into opportunities. This session will provide **practical application** that can be implemented immediately based on research in student engagement and how the brain learns. Using the information processing and primacy-recency effect models, participants will acquire principles and strategies to cognitively engage students and design qualities of context and choice that attach personal value and relevance.

#### **\*\*Session Title: Institutionalizing A Veteran Friendly Campus**

##### **Jointly presented by:**

- Dr. Christie Boronico, *Associate Vice President for Retention, University of New Haven*
- Dawn Bailey, *CSU Administrative Assistant to the VP for Student Affairs and Veteran Services Liaison, Western Connecticut State University*

**Location:** Room C in the Harry Jack Gray Conference Center

**Session Description:** *The presentation will focus on the national conversation related to veteran students and share strategies adopted by the University of New Haven to live the promise of being veteran friendly.*

#### **\*\*Session Title: 20/20 Vision – Educating K-12 Students**

##### **Jointly Presented By:**

- Denise Gallucci, *Superintendent, CREC Schools*
- Dina Crowl, *Assistant Superintendent, of CREC Schools*
- Anne Marie Mancini, *Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, CREC Schools*

**Location:** Room D in the Harry Jack Gray Conference Center

**Session Description:** *The landscape of K-12 education is changing. The introduction of the Common Core has changed the way educators approach the teaching and learning process. Participants will understand the key shifts associated with the Common Core State Standards and its implications for curriculum, instruction, assessment and higher education.*

### 2:45–3:20pm: Closing Remarks and Awards

**Location:** Wilde Auditorium



***"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude." Maya Angelou***

**Special Thanks to the University of Hartford for Serving as Our Host!**

## **Dawn Bailey**

### **CSU Administrative Assistant to the VP for Student Affairs and Veteran Services Liaison, Western Connecticut State University**

*Dawn A. Bailey is currently the CSU administrative assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Veteran Services Liaison at Western Connecticut State University. Dawn holds a BA degree in Social Sciences from Western Connecticut State University and a MS degree in Counselor Education at Central Connecticut State University with a specialization in Student Development in Higher Education.*

*Dawn serves as the Veteran Services Liaison assisting military servicemen and women and Veterans in pre- and post-transitioning prior to and after completing their military service or training. Dawn has primary responsibility for working with off-campus agencies interested in supporting veterans and provides leadership for Project Operation Care Package. She has collaborated with key university personnel in the development of a student veterans resource guide and was instrumental in organizing a dedicated Website, Web address, telephone line and email address. She served for two years as the advisor to the Student Veterans Organization. Her latest accomplishment includes writing the curriculum for Western's Veteran Friendly Ally Program which will be implemented by Fall 2013.*

*Dawn serves on several university-wide committees including the University Judicial Board, Campus Emergency Team, Sexual Assault Awareness Team, Hancock Student Leadership Steering Committee, Student Leadership Recognition Committee and the Veterans Task Force. She currently serves as a WCSU Alumni Mentor, and had served as a Central Connecticut State University Graduate Mentor, a mentor for the Honors Program and for the Western Connection Program. For more information, please email Dawn at [baileyd@wcsu.edu](mailto:baileyd@wcsu.edu).*

## **Christie Boronico**

### **Associate Vice President for Retention, University of New Haven**

*Dr. Christie Boronico is responsible for development and assessment of Retention Strategies for the University of New Haven. She is currently leading the initiative to institutionalize a veteran friendly culture. Christie earned a doctorate in College and University Administration from Michigan State University and has over twenty years' experience in higher education. Prior to working on retention initiatives, Christie successfully led efforts at UNH to become a leader in experiential education. She has held responsibilities with Rutgers Business School, and Graduate Business programs at Eastern Michigan University. In addition, she has held multiple roles within higher education including administration, student life, extension, and faculty in Michigan higher education. For more information, please email Christie at [CBoronico@newhaven.edu](mailto:CBoronico@newhaven.edu).*

## **Rebecca Brandt**

### **Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations, University of Hartford**

*Rebecca Brandt is the director of corporate and foundation relations at the University of Hartford. She works to build relationships with corporations and foundations to secure philanthropic financial resources and meaningful partnerships for the University's institutional goals and priorities. Prior to coming to the University, Ms. Brandt had a 10-year career working for arts nonprofits including the Kennedy Center and Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., and locally at Hartford Stage and the Greater Hartford Arts Council. Rebecca holds a BA in English Literature from Bucknell University and a MA in Arts Management from American University. For more information, please email Rebecca at [brandt@hartford.edu](mailto:brandt@hartford.edu).*

## **Denielle Burl**

### **Attorney, University of Connecticut**

*Denielle Burl works in UConn's Office of the General Counsel where she provides legal advice and analysis to the University on issues primarily in the areas of student affairs. In addition, she teaches Law and Ethics in higher education in the UConn Higher Education Student Affairs program and is an active member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA). She received her J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law and her B.A., magna cum laude, from Arizona State University. For more information, please contact Denielle at [denielle.burl@uconn.edu](mailto:denielle.burl@uconn.edu).*

## **Debbie Colucci**

### **Affirmative Action and Staff Development Coordinator, Manchester Community College**

*Debbie Colucci has been developing and implementing workshops and courses for campuses, schools, and workplaces in the areas of diversity & respect, team-building, communication, supervision, mediation, conflict resolution, employee success, and student success for many years. With a B.A. in Art and Psychology from Bowling Green State University and an M.S. in College Student Personnel from Western Illinois University, she brought her skills and experiences to Manchester Community College when she joined the staff in the summer of 2008 as MCC's Affirmative Action and Staff Development Coordinator (AAO/EEO, Title IX and Section 504/ADA Compliance). Additionally, Debbie serves as an adjunct instructor and has been a facilitator for the Anti-Defamation League's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Institute for over fifteen years, including eight years as a full-time multicultural-educator in the position of assistant project director. Prior to joining the ADL, she spent many years in Student Affairs and Residential Life at campuses in NY, IL, FL and CT. For more information, please contact Debbie at [DColucci@manchestercc.edu](mailto:DColucci@manchestercc.edu).*

## **Dina Crowl**

### **Assistant Superintendent, CREC Schools**

*Dina Crowl currently serves as the assistant superintendent for Teaching and Learning at the Capitol Region Education Council in Hartford. She is a visionary and transformative education executive with over 30 years' experience in public education. She has a strong history of engaging state and school leaders in high level conversations regarding school management, instructional leadership, and overall school improvement, and is instrumental in creating the plans that result in school and district transformation. In her current role, Dina is responsible for assisting the school superintendent with creating, leading, managing, and implementing high quality educational programs and services in CREC Magnet Schools; providing leadership and supervision for the magnet school principals; monitoring the implementation of strategic school plans; and increasing student achievement. In addition to her numerous professional certifications, Dina holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Eastern Connecticut State University, a Master of Science degree in Reading Education from Central Connecticut State University, and a Sixth Year Certificate from Sacred Heart University. For more information, please email Dina at [dcrowl@crec.org](mailto:dcrowl@crec.org).*

## **Suzi D'Annolfo**

### **Assistant Professor Department of Education, University of Hartford**

*Suzi D'Annolfo has invested her professional life working with children, young adults, and adults in the capacity of a teacher, coach, principal, mentor and college professor. "Looking through the eyes of the learner" has consistently grounded her work in cognitive processing and translating that into practical application to benefit the learner as well as those facilitating the learner. Dr. D'Annolfo has had a distinguished and rewarding 38 year career in public school education in Connecticut. She is a Milken National Educator Award recipient and has been a principal of two national award-winning secondary schools. During her years in public school, she served as an adjunct in educational leadership at Central Connecticut State University and currently teaches full time at the University of Hartford in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions where she is also the Coordinator of School Partnerships and Director of the Center for Learning and Professional Education in the Institute for Translational Research. For more information, please contact Suzi at [dannolfo@hartford.edu](mailto:dannolfo@hartford.edu).*

## **Denise Gallucci**

### **Superintendent, CREC Schools**

*Denise Gallucci currently serves as the deputy executive director of the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) and superintendent of schools for CREC's eighteen award-winning magnet schools. Through her leadership, CREC schools have received significant commendations in the education community, including federal and state recognition for their best practices and notable results. Since joining CREC in 2007, Denise has committed herself to providing students in the Hartford region with the highest*

*quality educational opportunities available in the state of Connecticut. Prior to her work with CREC, Gallucci served as the director of the Chicago Public School's Gifted and Enriched Academic Programs. She provided leadership to a staff of 30 administrators, strategically managed a \$40 million budget, and oversaw gifted programs in 265 schools. She was recruited and appointed to this position by United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan during his tenure as CEO of Chicago Public Schools. She was a school administrator in Chicago and New York City public schools. In addition, she served as a teacher and staff developer in New York City Community School District 28. Gallucci holds a master's degree in educational leadership from the Bank Street College of Education, a master's degree in advanced literacy from Adelphi University, a certificate in speech and language pathology from St. John's University and a bachelor's degree in elementary education and psychology from Adelphi University. For more information, please email Denise at [dgallucci@crec.org](mailto:dgallucci@crec.org).*

## **Anne Marie Mancini**

### **Director of Curriculum Instruction, and Assessment, CREC Schools**

*Anne Marie Mancini has served as the director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment at the Capitol Region Education Council in Hartford since 2008. During this time, she has worked to develop curricula and assessment tools for CREC's district of 18 diversely themed magnet schools. Anne Marie has numerous honors and achievements, including being a member of the Connecticut State Department of Education's "Rigorous Curriculum Design Team." She also is a member of several professional organizations, including the Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development (ASCD) and the National Council of the Teachers of English (NCTE), and has performed many professional presentations and workshops based on her expertise in the area of curriculum design and assessment. She holds both a bachelor and master degrees from the University of Connecticut, and a Sixth Year Certificate from Central Connecticut State University. For more information, please email Anne Marie at [amancini@crec.org](mailto:amancini@crec.org).*

## **Nancy S. Niemi**

### **Professor of Education and Chair of the Education Department, University of New Haven**

*Nancy S. Niemi is a professor who believes passionately that education remains a radical act of confidence in the power of people to change the world. As associate professor of Education and chair of the Education Department at the University of New Haven, she works with pre-service teachers and teaches courses in subjects across the pedagogical spectrum. She is committed to infusing all her work with a focus on social equity and on how teachers can be social activists. Nancy's research interests lie in the relationships between gender and schooling, in the effectiveness of teaching on students' political habits, on meanings inherent in classroom interactions, and most recently, in the ways in which the pursuit of college credentials might work against the achievement of women's equity. Her work as an educational leader further centers on creating equity across different educational constructs,*

and on fostering intellectual curiosity and critical thought as organizational standards. For more information, please contact Nancy at [NNiemi@newhaven.edu](mailto:NNiemi@newhaven.edu).

### **Kate Prendergast**

#### **Senior Development Officer, University of Hartford**

Kate Prendergast is a senior development officer at the University of Hartford. She received her BA in English with a concentration in Journalism from the University of Delaware and her MS in Sport Management from the University of Connecticut. She began her career in Los Angeles, working for AEG, an international sports and entertainment franchise, where she sold media and corporate sponsorships for professional sports teams. Kate made the transition to the nonprofit world in 2004 coinciding with a move back to the east coast. She served as the manager of Corporate and Community Partnerships for Capitol Region Education Council in Hartford and as the executive director for the American Heart Association's New Hampshire Chapter prior to joining the University of Hartford's Institutional Advancement team in 2010. She currently resides in Bloomfield, CT with her husband and two young sons. For more information, please email Kate at [pendergas@hartford.edu](mailto:pendergas@hartford.edu).

### **Kathy K. Taylor**

#### **Director of the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE), Naugatuck Valley Community College**

Kathy K. Taylor is committed to making academic excellence accessible to all. As a director and adjunct instructor, Kathy provides vision, leadership, and oversight for all areas related to tutoring, including program development, administration, personnel decisions, team-building and budget management. Responsible for creating an active learning environment as well as coordinating and sustaining collaborative partnerships throughout the college, Kathy is a highly respected leader and community builder. Currently, she serves as chair of the Western Region Remediation committee, tasked with implementing Public Act 12-40 and embarking on a significant transformation of our existing developmental education structure. Prior to ACE, she spent time teaching in the business department, specializing in Business Law and practicing real estate and housing law in Connecticut. In the community, Kathy serves on the board of several organizations including Bridge to Success, a birth to 21 initiative helping Waterbury Youth succeed in work, life and school; Healthy Living, a partnership aimed at improving health outcomes for young people; Grace Development Corporation, a non-profit working to bring senior congregate housing to Waterbury; and the Mattatuck Museum's Board of Directors. Kathy is also a 2011 alumna of HERS Bryn Mawr and a 2012 graduate of Leadership Greater Waterbury. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Hampton University in Psychology and a juris doctorate from the University Of Connecticut School of Law. She's married to her college sweetheart and makes her home in Waterbury, Connecticut with their three children. For more information, please contact Kathy at [KTaylor1@nv.edu](mailto:KTaylor1@nv.edu).

### **Darla Shaw**

#### **Department of Education and Educational Psychology, Western Connecticut State University**

Dr. Darla Shaw has been teaching literacy classes for over five decades, with 38 years in the public schools and the rest on the college level. She is presently head of the graduate reading program at Western CT. State University. In addition to her focus on literacy, Darla spends the remainder of her time developing civic engagement projects for her students. Last year she won the State of Connecticut Higher Education Award for Service Learning for National Alzheimer's Awareness Program in the Schools. She is also known for her work with literacy and drum circles, the development of Peace Gardens, and making history come alive. For more information, please contact Darla at [shawd@wcsu.edu](mailto:shawd@wcsu.edu).

### **Sharon L. Vasquez**

#### **Provost, University of Hartford**

Sharon L. Vasquez became provost of the University of Hartford on August 15, 2010. As provost, she oversees all academic-related functions, including undergraduate and graduate programs that serve approximately 7,500 students enrolled in seven colleges and schools, over 350 full-time faculty, educational technology, and the libraries. In her two and a half years as provost, she has played a major role in a comprehensive review and prioritization exercise, a full-time faculty compensation study, and a strategic look at online teaching and learning.

Prior to her arrival in Hartford, she served as dean of Wayne State University's College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, where she oversaw academic departments of art and art history, communication, dance, music, and theatre, while also having responsibility for the Center for Arts and Public Policy, the Journalism Institute for Media Diversity, the Black Theatre Program, and the University Art Collection. Previous executive appointments in academia include serving as dean of the School of Arts and Performance at the State University of New York at Brockport and as chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance at The University of Texas at Austin, where she held an endowed professorship.

Having begun her career as a dancer/choreographer, Provost Vasquez holds a MFA degree from Florida State University. She also earned the CMA (advanced certification in Movement Analysis) from the Laban Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies in New York. She enjoyed a creative life as a choreographer and director in both professional and academic settings, including numerous workshops presented in the U.S. and abroad, a Fulbright Award for work in Peru, and participation in the USA/Netherlands Cultural Exchange. Having left the "studio" for a career change into administration in 1990, her current professional interests include entrepreneurship and the arts as well as the role of women in leadership, a topic she has explored in workshops for women executives.

Provost Vasquez has been an active leader in a number of professional academic organizations, including the International Council of Fine Arts Deans, the Commission on

Accreditation for the National Association of Schools of Dance, the Council of Dance Administrators, and ACE Michigan's State Network for Women. As a strong advocate and spokesperson for the arts, she has served on numerous nonprofit boards, state arts councils, peer review panels, and numerous K-12 task forces. She remains in high demand nationally as a consultant on academic program development and serves as an accreditation specialist for the Hong Kong Council on Accreditation. In her new home state of Connecticut, she has been tapped for the boards of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, the Connecticut Ballet, and Hartford Hospital's Board of Corporators.

### **Paul G. Vallas**

#### **Superintendent, Bridgeport Public Schools**

Paul G. Vallas is known across the education sector for his leadership and expertise in reforming and rebuilding school districts in the wake of both natural and man-made disasters. He recently completed his tenure as superintendent of the Recovery School District of Louisiana, a statewide turnaround district that has successfully reformed the public schools in post-Katrina New Orleans. Under his leadership, schools destroyed by the 2005 hurricane have been rebuilt or relocated in an unprecedented school construction program that will – for the first time ever – put every public school child in New Orleans in a first-class building and that includes a successful charter school component. Additionally, during this reconstruction period, he has raised student test scores for three straight years at a rate that exceeds that of comparable test scores in the state of Louisiana.

Mr. Vallas' wide-ranging experience has led him to believe that any school system, whether a domestic district or an international nationwide system, can be reformed — in spite of natural or manmade disaster, troubled finances, poorly trained teachers or political and community disunity. The key to his repeated success is an unwavering focus on what he has termed "The Five Essential Practices." These are: (1) ensuring that schools have superior standardized curriculum and instruction; (2) ensuring that schools have a series of comprehensive interventions; (3) ensuring a strategy for site-based teacher training and mentoring; (4) ensuring that school systems are organized, or reorganized, around the functional areas of education and that the central office is decentralized and streamlined into a school support agency, with the cost savings going directly into the classroom; and (5) ensuring that the system is effectively collecting, aggregating and sharing student performance and school data to facilitate timely provision of the appropriate interventions. Mr. Vallas requires that districts under his control or advice implement The Five Essential Practices with fidelity, and the results have shown the wisdom of this approach in every district he has reformed.

In addition to his understanding of academics and the educational process, Mr. Vallas is known for his budgetary and organizational abilities. He teaches schools how to leverage their resources, whether private or in-house, to finance needed reforms. He is also a firm believer in partnering with outside entities such as not-for-profits, NGOs, public and private universities and commercial

organizations to encourage the flow of resources into the schools he oversees. His skill at developing funding resources where none existed before is based on his experience outside of the education sector.

### **Carol Withers**

#### **Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs, University of New Haven**

Carol Withers is director of Grants and Sponsored Programs at the University of New Haven. She joined UNH three years ago following eighteen years at Arizona State University. Her primary responsibilities are pre-award; assisting faculty and staff with identification of potential funding opportunities; developing the proposal; and submitting it to the sponsor. Carol provides support, as needed, during the post-award implementation. She organizes faculty development workshops and training programs. She earned her Master's in Public Administration and is a Certified Research Administrator. [www.newhaven.edu/grants](http://www.newhaven.edu/grants). For more information, please email Carol at [CWithers@newhaven.edu](mailto:CWithers@newhaven.edu).