



New York College Learning Skills Association

February 2011

Volume 29, Issue 4

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NYCLSA's Newsletter is published four times a year.

Submissions for the next newsletter are due by Friday, April 29th.

The next newsletter will be issued the week of May 13th.

NŌŌZ LĚT ƏR

A local chapter of the National Association for Developmental Education
www.nyclsa.org

Dear Reader,

In just a few weeks NYCLSA will host its 34th annual Symposium at Kaatskill Mountain Club at Hunter Mountain. If you have yet to register, you still have time to do so. Early registration is ongoing through March 1st, 2011; members have the option of attending all three days or selecting particular days of interest. For more information, search: http://nyclsa.org/PDFs/2011_Registration_Form_Current_Members.pdf

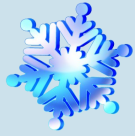
I am pleased to present the February issue of our newsletter. The articles included will provide you with an update from NYCLSA President, Amy Crouse-Powers in which she encourages us to advocate on behalf of developmental education. Plus she shares key information you will need to know before heading to the conference. Ellie Fosmire, NYCLSA's 2011 Conference Chair, highlights our featured speakers at the symposium at Hunter Mountain. Plus, Sharon Green announces the 2010 Promising Student award and provides an update on the selection process.

I hope you enjoy reading through the February issue of our newsletter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions. I also would like to thank Nichole Bennett-Bealer for all of her guidance, suggestions, and patience as I begin my exciting new role as the editor of the NYCLSA newsletter. Her strong commitment to developmental learning is evidenced in her years of service to NYCLSA, and I wish her well in her new position at North Hampton Community College.

Cheers,

Colleen Sanders

Thoughts from the President



NADE's political action committee reminds us to prepare an "elevator speech."



Dear NYCLSA Colleagues,

I hope this letter finds you comfortable and warm (although I'm sure many of you are yearning for spring).

I am preparing to go to NADE on February 23rd in Washington, D.C., and I hope to see some of you there at the state meeting for New York. If you've never been to NADE before, I just can't recommend it highly enough. It is a top-notch professional development experience, chock-full of extremely valuable keynote speakers and concurrent sessions. I always say it's like a developmental education wonderland!

In other news, you may have heard about the various efforts SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher is undertaking, such as seamless articulation and P-16 alignment. I feel that the P-16 alignment initiative being undertaken in concert with the NYS Board of Regents is particularly concerning to us as developmental educators, especially since part of that conversation involves setting a "single standard for remediation." I wrote a letter to the chancellor in December in which I offered NYCLA's services to serve as consultants to SUNY on this P-16 initiative and to once again explain the purpose and function of developmental education. I even invited the chancellor to speak at our symposium. We heard back from the chancellor's office but only to say that no one was available to speak at the symposium.

I encourage all of you to continue to keep abreast of the movements afoot that could possibly undermine the quality of services we provide to students. NADE's political action committee reminds us to prepare an "elevator speech" (a few compelling sentences that help people understand the importance of what we do) so that we can easily speak to those who have influence when we are given the opportunity – and that opportunity may arise at unexpected times, such as when we're, say, in an elevator with a vice president. We are our own best advocates. Get out there and advocate!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Next, I am pleased to say that Jill Maggs from Technical Career Institutes has let us know that she will be running for the open first vice president position at this year's symposium. If anyone else is interested in running for the position, I encourage you to step forward as soon as possible so that we can provide your biography to the membership. Here is the job description from our by-laws:

- c. The 1st VICE-PRESIDENT shall:
 1. Assume the responsibilities of the President in the President's absence;
 2. Assist the current conference chair with all aspects of the conference planning during their first year;
 3. Attend the NADE Conference (this item is pending review by the membership);
 4. In their second year assume the office of President-Elect and conference chair;
 5. In the third year become the President and the following year Past President.

As always, if you are interested in joining the executive board, please feel free to contact me or speak with me or one of the other executive board members at the symposium in April.

Finally, I am so looking forward to the superb symposium that Ellie Fosmire, this year's president-elect and conference chair, has put together for us. Ellie is breathing new life into the schedule, utilizing plenary sessions to bring in additional keynote speakers. I think you'll all enjoy it very much and I look forward to seeing you there. Don't forget to get your registration in right away to take advantage of the early registration discount.

Sincerely,

Amy Crouse-Powers

President, NYCLSA

2010-2011

Proposed Changes to the NYCLSA By-laws

Amy Crouse-Powers NYCLSA President

After reviewing the by-laws and the mission statement, our governing documents, we found that as an organization our mission and focus has changed over the years. We decided that we should think carefully about the constitution, goals, objectives, and by-laws that guide our actions. To account for changes and challenges we face, as developmental educators, we came up with the following objectives and mission statement:

- To advance standards for educators through professional development, research and public service.
- To provide a forum for the interchange of ideas, methods and expertise to improve the learner's relationship with his/her institution and educational environment.
- To seek partnerships with professionals who provide an range of academic services to students.
- To promote awareness of developmental education's role and mission in institutions of higher education.
- To promote and recognize excellence in the field of developmental education.

Mission Statement: NYCLSA provides professionals with the ideas, methods, and expertise to maximize student growth and learning.

We will be bringing forward several language changes for the Constitution, but we believe that these will not affect the substance of the document. The proposed changes are strictly for clarity (for example, we would like to change "the association" to "NYCLSA" throughout the document). If you would like to view the current documents, please visit our website, www.nycls.org.

Within the by-laws, we will propose several more substantive changes. We will propose that we send the first vice-president to NADE rather than the president-elect. This is to avoid sending the person who is in the throes of symposium planning to another conference and to allow the first vice-president to benefit from the event-planning information provided at the NADE conference. We further proposed the removal of the Ethics and Research committees from our by-laws, since those committees are not and have not been active in some time.. We propose a new by-law that would allow the president and executive board to establish new committees as needed.

Copies of the revised by-laws will be made available at the symposium (for the vote) on Monday, April 4th. Michele DeFreece, our past president, will present the full slate of changes at the business meeting; if you have any feedback prior to the symposium, you can contact Michele at defreemt@delhi.edu.

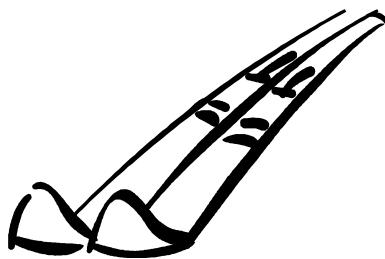
Are you ready for
The 34th annual
NYCLSA Symposium?

April 3rd- 5th, 2011

Kaatskill Mountain Club

Hunter Mountain

New York



Spotlight on the 34th Annual Symposium

Michael Nerney



Michael Nerney is a consultant in Substance Abuse Prevention and Education, with over thirty years' experience in the field. As the former Director of the Training Institute of Narcotic and Drug Research, Inc. (NDRI), his responsibilities included the management of a statewide training system which delivered more than 450 training programs to substance abuse treatment and prevention professionals annually. During this time, Mr. Nerney wrote and was awarded a federal grant under the Youth-At-Risk Act, to design and deliver training programs for residential facilities within the New

Monday April 4th

PLENARY SPEAKER

York State Division for Youth. Under this grant, a dedicated team designed and provided five programs related to substance abuse, including an Overview of Substance Abuse, Adolescent Concerns, Chemically Dependent Family Systems, Relapse Prevention, and Prevention Strategies. Mr. Nerney's particular areas of expertise include Psycho-pharmacology, Adolescent Chemical Dependency, Relapse Prevention, Gender Differences in Communication, and Managing Violent Incidents. He has written both participant and trainer manuals for the programs mentioned above, as well as a number of others.

Mr. Nerney's understanding of adolescent issues is drawn from twelve years' experience as a teacher and coach at the junior high and high school levels, including three years with the Adirondack Mountain School, a residential school for boys. He went on to add four years' experience in the chemical dependency field as a substance abuse counselor and Director of the Drug Abuse Prevention Council in Hamilton County, NY, before joining the staff of NDRI in 1984. He is a certified instructor in violence prevention and management with the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI). He has been a consultant for two major television networks and most recently appeared on the ABC program "20/20".



NYCLSA
welcomes
Michael
Nerney



Michael Nerney

Mr. Nerney will address brain functionality and learning for our NYCLSA conference. His intricate understanding of how the brain works has led him to discover more effective ways to address learning, particularly in the adolescent brain. The period of adolescence is the second most prolific period of brain growth since early childhood. How do we assist young people in balancing the struggles of adolescence while taking on this life changing mental leap? Mr. Nerney will share his research and program experience as the plenary speaker on Monday and offer a follow up session during concurrent session I.

Michael Nerney is an internationally known lecturer, and has served as consultant to a number of federal and state agencies, including the federal Office of Substance Abuse Prevention and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the New York State Education Department, Department of Social Services, Division for Youth, Department of Correctional Services, Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, Division of Parole, Division of Criminal Justice Services, Capital Defender's Office and Governor's Office of Employee Relations. Mr. Nerney has provided consultation on drug courts as well as other areas of technical assistance to correctional systems across the country, including the states of California, Texas, Alabama, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Connecticut, North Carolina, and Oregon.

SYMPOSIUM 2011

Ellie Fosmire

NYCLSA, President-Elect

New York State Education Speaks out

How does what happens at the executive level impact college level access programs such as Perkins and HEOP? Find out the answers to these questions at our NYCLSA Business luncheon on Monday, April 4th where a member of the New York State Education Department will provide us with an update. The current austere economic atmosphere makes it all the more important for us as NYCLSA members to be aware of political platforms and to find ways to work effectively with NYSED to assist our students.

Stanley J. Hansen Jr., the Executive Director of the Office of K-16 Initiatives and Access Programs for the New York State Education Department, is pleased to have the opportunity for his representative to meet with NYCLSA members across the state. NYSED is especially interested in helping students succeed in collaborative programs between high school programs and colleges. Their recent work focusing on “P-16 leadership team developed a compendium of partnerships and collaborations now in place between colleges and universities and schools across the State”. You can read more information at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/documents/CompendiumFall2008version.pdf>.



NYCLSA WELCOMES CRLA TO THE 34TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



Take advantage of our shared presence of CRLA at our April Symposium.

NYCLSA and CRLA will be teaming up at our upcoming conference. Our Hunter Mountain location is the perfect spot to bring members of both organizations together to share information and best practices. Patricia Mulcahy-Ernt, the current Northeast Regional Director is excited to gather CRLA members from the New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut area. This provides an opportunity to expand our workshop offerings and share information with like minded colleagues. We will welcome the CRLA group at our awards dinner and Patricia will provide a short address for the attendees. Many NYCLSA members who are involved in Tutor Training are already involved with CRLA and it's nationally recognized Tutor Training program.

One of the benefits of teaming up is cost sharing, which allows us to pass on savings to our members. The convenience of shared offerings also allow us to provide a richer experience for attendees. NYCLSA and CRLA members can select to attend any of the offered sessions. Reading and Tutoring professionals may find this most appealing. CRLA will offer two sessions during the Monday schedule and be a part of our very first Poster Session.

So please take advantage of shared presence of CRLA at our April symposium at Hunter Mountain. For those who may be interested in more information about CRLA you can contact Pat Mulcahy-Ernt at mulcahyp@bridgeport.edu.



REVITALIZING THE REGION

Linda Weinberg

NYCLSA Second Vice-President

The annual symposium is not only a time for us to refresh professionally and personally, but it is a time to re-evaluate current processes. With this in mind, there will be an opportunity to meet current Regional Representatives, welcome new members, and share our insights.

As educators, we are being asked to do more with less, particularly with the tightening of our purse strings. At the symposium, we will come together and begin to discuss how we can make the most of our budgets while continuing to serve our institutions, states, and NYCLSA as an organization.

One of the prospective changes on the table is to restructure the regions into four centralized locations in the state: Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany, and Tarrytown. These locations offer us sites for mini conferences following the symposium's theme. We are looking for a lead person to coordinate a conference by bringing in speakers, sharing assessment strategies, or forming a best practices round table. The coordinator's responsibility would include reserving a location, sending out save the date/time, and collecting the funds. If you are interested in becoming more involved with our NYCLSA organization, consider becoming a site coordinator.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the symposium. We will be hosting an informal meeting on Sunday April 3rd at 4:30. Please bring your enthusiasm and ideas. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at weinbell@delhi.edu.

Hats Off and Congrats to Leah Lichtenberger

NYCLSA'S 2010 PROMISING STUDENT

NYCLSA's Promising Student Award committee is pleased to announce that the 2010 winner of our \$250 award is **Leah Lichtenberger**. Leah is a first-generation college student at Medaille College in Buffalo, majoring in Elementary Education with a concentration in English. Leah, who has a 3.5 GPA, is an active participant in Medaille's TRIO program as well as the college's Blue and Gold Leadership Program of service learning. To fulfill this service requirement, Leah has helped with the renovation of an abandoned home in Buffalo. In fall 2009, she also became a peer mentor through Medaille's TRIO program. In addition, Leah works three part-time jobs to fund her education.

Leah
"consistently
demonstrates
enthusiasm
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endeavors"
and possesses
a "strong
work ethic."

Leah's nominator, NYCLSA member Laura Comstock, wrote that Leah "consistently demonstrates enthusiasm for all her endeavors" and possesses a "strong work ethic." Laura also notes that Leah "has done a wonderful job of mentoring new students, relaying her own experiences as a freshman struggling to adjust to college-level demands."

This is the second year that NYCLSA has given the Promising Student Award. The committee was pleased to receive eleven nominations, all of which described very promising students who are working diligently to earn their degrees. The larger number of worthy candidates, who represented six institutions from across the state, made our selection process a challenge.

The committee has decided to institute several new policies for the Promising Student Award. First, we will limit the number of applications to the first 15 that we receive. Also, to encourage submissions from a variety of institutions, we will accept no more than two nominations from any one NYCLSA member. Finally, to reduce paper we will ask that nominations be submitted electronically.



The application for the 2011 award is at [http://www.nycls.org/PDFs/2010 Promising Student Award Application.pdf](http://www.nycls.org/PDFs/2010_Promising_Student_Award_Application.pdf); applications will also be available at the annual Symposium in April. The deadline to submit nominations is October 28th 2011. Any NYCLSA member in good standing, excluding current Board members, may nominate a student.

This is an easy way to get involved with our organization. The committee invites other NYCLSA members to join the selections committee. This is an easy way to get involved with our organization. The commitment involves reading submissions between early November and early December and then meeting, if possible in Western New York, in early December to review the applications and select the winner. We ask for a two-year commitment. If you are interested in serving on the Promising Student Award Committee, contact Sharon Green at 716-286-8071 or sgreen@niagara.edu.

Written by Sharon Green, Niagara University, on behalf of the Promising Student Award committee members Carol McPhillips, Daemen College; Michele Sojda, Hilbert College; and Dr. Althea Porter, Trocaire College.



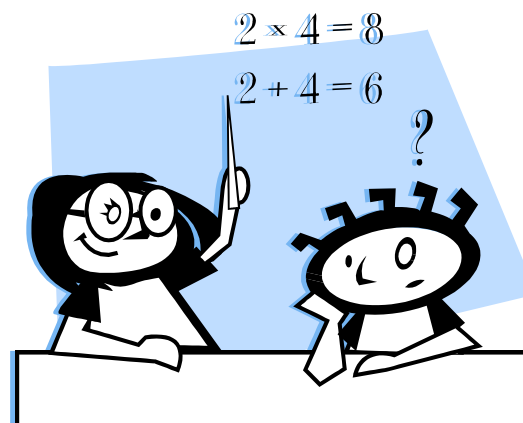
Open Position

ACADEMIC TUTOR



SUNY Cortland's Academic Support and Achievement Program (ASAP) has a part-time, ten month Academic Tutor (SL3) position available August 15, 2011. Responsibilities include tutoring students in math, reading, writing, study skills and time management in both one-on-one and group settings, workshop and classroom presentations, assisting with the Peer Tutor program, and evaluating student success in reading, writing, math, study skills, and time management. Required Qualifications: Master's degree from a regionally accredited college or university, effective communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills, and experience tutoring at the college level. Preferred Qualifications: Tutor certification and minimum of three years tutoring experience.

Competitive salary and excellent benefits package. For consideration, apply online at <https://jobs.cortland.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=52505>. Application materials will be accepted until the position is filled. SUNY Cortland is an AA/EEO/ADA employer. **SUNY Cortland is an AA/EEO/ADA employer.**



Congratulations!

Susan Behrens

Marymount Manhattan College

Dr. Susan Behrens was featured in the *New York Times*, on the Academic Minute and on NPR, sharing her views on standard and non standard English. To learn more, see the following links:

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/01/24/reader-idea-grammar-clubs/>

and

http://www.insidehighered.com/audio/academic_pulse/changes_in_proper_grammar#Comments#

and

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wamc/news.newsmain/article/7288/0/1751887/Academic.Minute/Dr..Susan.Behrens..Marymount.Manhattan.College>

Kellogg Institute*Training and Certification of developmental Educators***32nd Anniversary
June 25 – July 22, 2011**

The Kellogg Institute for the Training and Certification of Developmental Educators is the nation's longest running advanced training program for developmental educators and learning skills specialists.

The program consists of two components:

1. An intensive, four-week summer residence
2. A supervised practicum following the residency and carried out at the participant's home campus

The residency portion of the Institute includes four seminars on such topics as Assessment and Placement, Designing Learning Environments, Leadership and Academic Support Services Relating to Developmental Education, Outcomes Assessment and Program Evaluation. Each seminar is led by one or more recognized experts in the content area and is designed to meet the needs of the practicing developmental educator and learning assistance specialists.



**APPLY
NOW!**

Call to Conference

NYCLSA Conference

On April 3rd-5th, NYCLSA members will meet at the Kaatskill Mountain Club at Hunter Mountain. This year's theme is "Brain-based learning: Taking it to the Top" and we will look at how the brain functions and how to improve learning. The conference will offer a variety of sessions as well as a plenary address from Michael Nerney, an internationally known speaker, who is a consultant in substance abuse prevention and education. He will share his research and program experience as the plenary speaker on Monday and offer a follow up session during concurrent session I. And of course, we will recognize another year of successes with our annual award's banquet. If you have any questions about the conference, please do not hesitate to contact Ellie Fosmire at efosmire@fmcc.suny.edu.

SUNY Council on Writing Conference

From March 18-19th, 2011, the SUNY Council on Writing's annual conference will be held at Binghamton University. This year's theme, "Building 21st Century Writing Programs: Literacy and Leadership in the new Millennium." For more information, visit the conference website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/writrhet/sunycow/currentconference.html>.



**The NYCLSA
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published four
times a year.**

To submit an article please
contact

Colleen Sanders
Newsletter Editor
Fulton-Montgomery
Community College
2805 State Highway 67
Johnstown, New York
12095

Ph. (518) 762-4651 ext.
5501

The NYCLSA Constitution was ratified in April 1980 with these stated objectives:

- ◆ To advance standards for Learning Skills professionals through education, research, and public service.
- ◆ To develop principles and standards for the establishment of learning assistance centers.
- ◆ To assist in the professional development of learning skills professions.
- ◆ To provide educational information and analysis to college educators and school systems, about learning skills research, systems, techniques and available support.
- ◆ To provide a forum for the interchange of ideas, methods and expertise to improve the learner's

Visit us on the Web:

<http://NYCLSA.org>

Additional Conference Opportunities

There are several upcoming conferences that still have open calls for proposals.

For more information search The Learning Support Centers in Higher Education Calendar website at, <http://www.lsche.net/calendar.htm> .

CRLA Scholarship Opportunity

The College Reading and Learning Association is offering scholarships and awards again this year (2011) to its members for attending an intensive workshop such as Kellogg or TIDE, or NCLCA Summer Institute. Go to the website at www.crla.net and click on scholarships and awards to find out more.