



New York College Learning Skills Association

September 2011

Volume 30, Issue 2

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NYCLSA's
Newsletter
is published four
times a year.

Submissions for the
next newsletter are
due by Friday,
November 12th.

The next newsletter
will be issued the
week of November
15th.

NŌŌZ LĚT ƏR

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

Dear Reader,

I am happy to present you with the September newsletter.

In this issue you will find information about the 2012 symposium as well as opportunities for you and your colleagues to attend Dan McCrea's presentation "Changing Mindsets: Brain-based Strategies for Student Engagement, Retention and Success" in region one and region three.

NYCLSA's also continues to focus on student success! You will find the guidelines and application to nominate one of your "promising students" for a \$250 scholarship.

Not only do we celebrate our developmental students but also our peer tutors who give back to the community by working one-on-one with our students. Dutchess Community College celebrates such a student in a profile article.

I would also like to point you to an article about STAR-NY, a new initiative to expand support service.

I hope you enjoy the September newsletter. If you would like to submit an article about either an interesting book you've read, a new teaching strategy, or a peer tutor that is instrumental in your centers please let me know.

Cheers,

Colleen





When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.”

Albert Einstein

Thoughts from the President

Hello NYCLSA!

The Fall 2011 semester has certainly begun in a whirl of activity, both from the campus and mother nature. Many of our students and campuses have dealt directly with the effects of Hurricane Irene and other elements of nature. Locally, floods have ravaged our Mohawk Valley region down into the Schoharie Valley and Catskill mountain regions. Students and their families have been hard pressed to recover from damage to their homes and work places. Students are turning to colleges for financial assistance as well as emotional support.

Relief efforts from volunteers within our communities have helped those in need. It is truly heartwarming to see our communities pitching in to help victims of the flooding. Many of our NYCLSA members have been involved in providing support and encouragement to assist our students as they work to get back on steady ground.

As we enter the thick of the fall semester, we can be sure that our students will begin to settle into their studies. Our lives will become increasingly demanding, as we balance our budgets and our workloads to meet the challenges within our communities. Grounding ourselves in a strong foundation, our NYCSLA colleagues will work to support academic skills during the coming semester.

This fall, you can continue to build on this foundation by taking advantage of your NYCLA membership and participate in upcoming regional workshops. Linda Weinberg has coordinated a Road Show tour across the state to bring one of NYCLSA’s highest rated workshop sessions to your region. For those who had the opportunity to sit in on Dan McCrea’s session at Hunter Mountain, you know his presentation was interesting. Now you have a chance to share that experience with your colleagues or perhaps revisit the topic yourself. Be sure to read the updates on “road show” presentation. Another way to capitalize on your membership is to read (or contribute an article to) our Journal, *Research and Teaching in Developmental Education*.

I would also like to thank you for taking our survey for the 34th annual symposium. We received excellent evaluations, and thought-provoking comments. Your comments were presented to the Executive Board at our meeting on June 1st. The board discussed the highlights of the report and Stephanie Lawhorne is working to incorporate your suggestions into our upcoming 35th annual conference at the Gideon Putnam resort in Saratoga NY.

The 2012-2013 symposium, under the direction of Stephanie Lawhorne, Althea Porter, and Marj Moore, looks to be another outstanding NYCLSA conference. These ladies have both experience and imagination to guide them in arranging next years symposium: “Learning in Action: Moving Students toward Success.”

As always I look forward to seeing many of you at the regional workshops and at Saratoga for our 35th year of gathering together as developmental educators. I am looking forward to seeing familiar – and new – faces at our 35rd symposium. President-Elect Stephanie Lawhorne is working closely with the Gideon Putman Spa in Saratoga, NY to create an event that will stimulate your mind and relax your body. Consider taking advantage of this opportunity and develop a presentation or perhaps a poster presentation to share at this year’s 2012 symposium.

Please, feel free to contact me with any questions about our organization, or if you have suggestions to make us better, please call me or email me. It takes each one of us to keep our organization strong.

“When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.”

—Albert Einstein

CENTER STAGE : Christina Von Dietsch

Peer Tutor and Nursing Student

Christina recently received the William Buckner Memorial Scholarship from the NY State Exempt Fireman's Association and is the mother of two children, ages 15 and 16. She is an asset to our tutoring program and a wonderful role model!

I am a tutor in the Student Academic Success Center (SASC). For the past two years I have tutored Anatomy and Physiology (Biology 030, 130, 131, and 132) as well as Math for Nursing, and American Sign Language. I enjoy sharing my learning techniques with other students. Some of my methods include the use of mnemonic devices, flash cards, and study groups, as well as one-on-one tutoring. As a tutor, I find I benefit from these sessions as much as the student. For instance, the material that we go over is reinforced in my mind, and I can make additional connections when looking at the topic from a different angle. It is also very gratifying to me when a student I am working with does well in a class.



This fall I began my Nursing clinical at DCC; my goal is to become a registered nurse. I have been involved in the healthcare field for several years, but put my career on hold while my children were young. I volunteer as an EMT and firefighter for Patterson Fire Department, and work professionally as a 911 EMT for Dutchess and Putnam counties.

I responded on 9/11/2001 to New York City with my volunteer agency, along with hundreds of others. That was a day I will never forget, and the one that I'm most proud of in my career. After graduating, I plan to work in the field of adolescent mental health or in the Emergency Department of a Trauma Center. I will continue my EMT volunteer work because it's important to me that I give back to my community, as well as finding it rewarding on a personal level. Students can look for me in the SASC; I'm there tutoring or studying for my own classes. I'm happy to help them.

Note: Christina recently received the William Buckner Memorial Scholarship from the NY State Exempt Fireman's Association and is the mother of two children, ages 15 and 16. She is an asset to our tutoring program and a wonderful role model!

Submitted by: Sally Weglinski, Assistant Director of Academic Services & Testing and NYCLSA member

STAR-NY IS BORN

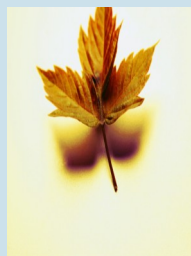
It was a dark and stormy night... or, well, afternoon anyway, and we were sitting around the lunch table one Monday afternoon, musing about a topic we'd been chewing on for a while--the need to find ways to share resources and expenses due to budget cuts. We were joined by Marilyn Webb from TC3 and Chris Bergeron from Link Systems International (LSI), and our conversation suddenly blossomed with new possibilities. Chris shared her knowledge of existing tutoring consortiums and how they work, and we realized that SUNY Cortland had both the technology and the experience running an online tutoring program necessary to create a SUNY tutoring consortium. Thus, Sharing Technology and Resources New York (STAR-NY) was born.

The founding members, SUNY Cortland, SUNY Delhi, TC3, and SUNY Buffalo, met with Chris Bergeron in Cortland in June and decided to form a consortium of New York State colleges and universities willing to join together, sharing resources and expertise to better meet student needs for online tutoring. We agreed to a one-year pilot of real-time online tutorial support for writing across the curriculum below the 400 level. Delivery of service is standardized by initial and ongoing tutor training provided by SUNY Cortland's peer tutor trainers. LSI provides technical support and training for participating members. As a result, students at participating campuses will benefit from expanded tutorial support for writing, yet no individual campus has to entirely staff and fund online tutoring five nights per week. Beyond the pilot, the consortium hopes to expand service to include other subjects.

STAR-NY answers the challenge set forth by SUNY Chancellor Zimpher "to promote campus-to-campus collaboration and implement strategies to improve efficiency, generate cost savings, build capacity, and expand student services." Representatives from SUNY Cortland have consulted with SUNY attorney Joseph Storch, and SUNY Provost Ed Engelbride has offered to provide a letter of endorsement encouraging other SUNY campuses to participate in the consortium. We invite other SUNY schools to visit our website at <http://www2.cortland.edu/offices/asap/star-ny.dot> and contact Teri Vigars with any questions.

Submitted by Teri A. Vigars & Jen Drake, SUNY Cortland





The theme for this symposium is “Learning in Action: Moving Students toward Success.”

SPOT LIGHT on the 35th Annual Symposium

The 35th annual NYCLSA Symposium will be held at the Gideon Putnam Resort in Saratoga Springs. NYCLSA last held its symposium at the Gideon Putnam in 2006, so I’m very excited that we’re returning to this historic venue April 1-3, 2012. If you are not familiar with the Gideon, please visit the resort’s website to learn more (<http://gideonputnam.com/>).

The theme for this symposium is “Learning in Action: Moving Students toward Success.” The theme for this symposium is inspired by the history of Saratoga Springs as a place of action. Originally, the area was a hub of activity for the Mohawk who came to use the famous therapeutic springs (and it is still possible to enjoy these healing waters at the Roosevelt Baths and Spa). Then, Saratoga Springs played a pivotal role in the movement toward independence for the United States. Over the decades, this city has become a center for art, dance, horse racing, music, and theatre.

Please consider submitting a proposal for a session about how you are using active learning in your developmental classes, in your learning centers, and in other programs designed to help students move forward and achieve success. How are you implementing active and interactive learning in your courses? What activities and assignments are you incorporating that help students apply what they are learning? What strategies are helping you to motivate students and to keep them moving forward academically, professionally, and personally? These are just a few questions that might inspire you to share your experiences of helping students put their learning into action.

Details about submitting proposals and registering for the symposium will soon be distributed and available at the NYCLSA website (<http://www.nyclsa.org/>). The Gideon has offered NYCLSA a terrific room rate, so I think you’ll find it affordable to attend this year’s event.

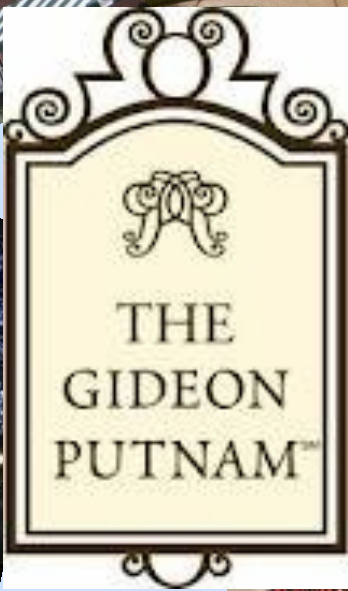
Each year I continue to be impressed by the creativity and dedication of professionals in attendance at the symposium. I look forward to your joining us next April to exchange knowledge, ideas, and insights.

Stephanie Lawhorne

*2011-12 Symposium Chair
and President-Elect*

Volume 30, Issue 2

The Gideon Putnam, Saratoga Springs, New York



NYCLSA @ Noon



Looking for a more social, enlightened experience? How about organizing a get together with your NYCLSA colleagues?

So what are you doing for lunch? Same old thing from the sandwich vending machine, eaten by the glow of your computer monitor as you grade papers or answer emails? Looking for a more social, enlightened experience? How about organizing a get together with your NYCLSA colleagues? Even if you are a solo NYCSLA member at your institution you can invite folks to get involved or join up with some colleagues on SKYPE. NYCSLA will provide some “hot topic” conversation starters if you need help getting the ball rolling. Here’s a plan to get your NYCLSA at Noon program started.

1. Spread the word- find out who would like to participate
2. Choose a date that works best for all involved
3. Check your Noozeletter for “hot topic” ideas or come up with your own topic
4. Hold your lunch program and ask for feedback: best day to meet, frequency
5. Let us know your thoughts. Submit a brief summary to Colleen Sanders for the Noozeletter.

Current hot topics: Links to articles provided in text:

[SUNY’s talking about sharing presidents between campuses.](#)

The amendment of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education to repeal the individualized education program [diploma](#) for students with disabilities and establish a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential.

Student [use of personal high tech devices in the classroom](#), disruption or opportunity to learn?

The importance of [equity in higher education](#).

CRLA Organizational Meeting: 34th Annual Symposium

NYCLSA's 34th annual symposium offered the opportunity to join with CRLA affiliates in providing a quality training experience for members of both organizations. Hunter Mountain offered itself as a great central location for all of the CRLA Northeast members. Both NYCLSA and CRLA members benefitted from the opportunity to take part in training opportunities in a collaborative setting which resulted in a cost efficient way to deliver a conference opportunity. The outcome of this collaboration resulted in several CRLA Northeast Sponsored events open to all symposium attendees. Dr. Patricia Mulcahy-Ernt, the current CRLA Northeast Regional Director states that "The purpose of all of these events is to promote the interchange of research and ideas about student learning and effective instructional practice on the college level." CRLA members offered the following excellent workshops that were well attended.

Session Title: **Instructional Strategies that Support College Literacy Learning**

Presenter: Patricia I. Mulcahy-Ernt, Ph.D., Professor of Education & Director, Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, University of Bridgeport, CT

Session Title: **Time Management, Motivation, and the Psychology of Procrastination: Understanding and Teaching Self-Regulatory Behaviors**

Presenter: Laurie L. Hazard, Ed.D., Director, The Academic Center for Excellence and the Writing Center, Bryant University, RI

Session Title: **Three Challenges to Improving Freshmen Success**

Presenter: Linda Moran, Ed.D., Assistant Professor of Academic Strategies, University of Hartford, CT

Title of Poster Presentation: **It's All about Saving Face: Working with the Urban Student**

Presenters: Ellen Flynn, Ph.D., Visiting Professor, School of Education, University of Bridgeport, CT; Maxine Monroe, L.M.S.W., Counselor, Monroe College, NY; Stephen Schultheis, Ed.M., Dean of Student Services and Retention, Monroe College, NY

CRLA Northeast also took an active part in the NYCLSA symposium by holding an organizational meeting for its members and sponsoring one of the morning breaks.

Dr. Patricia Mulcahy-Ernt, the current CRLA Northeast Regional Director states provided the following statement for the NYCLSA program booklet. "As part of the national College Reading and Learning Association, our Northeast Region strives to further the goals of CRLA in our local region, emphasizing the interchange of research and practice about post-secondary learning assistance programs, reading, writing, mathematics, developmental education, and tutorial services. The CRLA website (<http://www.crla.net/>) is rich with professional resources as well as information about the next CRLA annual conference, scheduled for November 9-12, 2011 in San Diego, California."

Submitted by Ellie Fosmire



Promising Student Award—\$250

The New York College Learning Skills Association (NYCLSA) recognizes the economic struggles that some students in our courses and programs may face. Therefore, we are pleased to offer one \$250 award annually to a student in good standing at an institution of higher education. This award can be used for any expenses related to higher education.

CRITERIA

Applicant must be enrolled as a full-time student in a two- or four-year institution of higher education and must plan to continue at an institution of higher education.

Applicant must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher and passing grades in any developmental courses taken.

Applicant must be nominated by a NYCLSA member in good standing (excluding current Board members).

In addition to completing the application on the facing page, each applicant must submit **four copies each** of:

a nomination letter, maximum one page, from a NYCLSA member that speaks to your potential to succeed in college as well as your financial need. This nomination letter must specify your cumulative GPA and your final grade in any developmental courses taken.

a description of why you feel you should be given the Promising Student Award and how it will help you continue in higher education and support your academic goals. Your description should be no longer than one page, double-spaced.

NYCLSA Promising Student Award APPLICATION

Name: _____



Home address: _____



Zip: _____



Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____



E-mail address: _____

College: _____



APPLICATION DEADLINE IS **OCTOBER 28, 2011.**
SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION AND REQUIRED MATERIALS TO:

Carol McPhillips, Director
cmcphill@daemen.edu



I certify that all the information herein and attached is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.



Signed: _____ Date: _____



Applicants will be notified by December 16, 2011.



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NYCLSA REGION ONE WORKSHOP

FRIDAY OCTOBER 14TH, 9AM—12 PM

GARDEN PLACE HOTEL
6615 TRANSIT ROAD
WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK 14221



Presenter: Daniel McCrea, Director of the Trio Program at Schenectady Community College

Mr. McCrea has been director of the TRIO Student Support Services Program at Schenectady County Community College (SCCC) for ten years where he successfully secured a 1.5 million dollar grant to continue the work of SCCC's TRIO Program. He also teaches the *Freshman Success Seminar* and *College Study Skills* at SCCC.

Changing Mindsets: Brain-based Strategies for Student Engagement, Retention and Success

Who Should Attend?

Learning skills professionals, developmental educators, administrators, advisors, faculty, and tutors who want to:

- ◆ Encourage students to make wise choices while confronting academic challenges.
- ◆ Encourage students to develop a growth mindset for effective goal-setting.
- ◆ Learn how to develop students' motivation and success.
- ◆ Learn about the "talent myth" and how it impacts traditional approaches in education.

AGENDA**8:30am-9:00am Registration****9:00am Breakfast and Workshop****Changing Mindsets: Brain-Based Strategies for Student Engagement, Retention and Success**

This workshop is a follow up to NYCLSA's 2011 Symposium. Attendees will be afforded the opportunity to discuss Carol Dweck's work on mindsets and its application to approaches in higher education.

There have been many exciting new findings from neuroscience, but how can we put these findings into practice as educators? This workshop will answer that question with concrete strategies and skills that an educator can share with, and teach to students. This workshop will discuss a recent approach to student achievement that speaks to engagement, motivation and persistence. Carol Dweck's work on mindsets seeks to identify students' beliefs about intelligence and how they relate to motivation and persistence. Dweck's framework can be used as a tool to help engage, motivate and connect with students and can be a valuable tool for educators seeking to motivate students.

Small Group Discussion Immediately Following Workshop

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss and generate ideas about the kinds of events and support they would like see offered by NYCLSA Region One.

The NYCLSA Region One welcomes new members!

Small Group Discussion Immediately Following Workshop

For additional information about this event please contact:

**Althea T. Porter, Ph.D. - NYCLSA Region One Representative at: portera@trocaire.edu
or 716.827.2467**

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REGISTRATION FORM

RESPOND BY: OCTOBER 10, 2011

NYCLSA SYMPOSIUM FOLLOW UP BREAKFAST WORKSHOP

NAME

First Name & Last Name: _____

Badge Name: _____ Email Address: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS

Title: _____

Full Name of College or University: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Work Phone + Extension: _____

ADA/Special Needs:

Dietary Requirements:

- No restrictions
- No red meat
- No pork
- Kosher
- Vegan
- Vegetarian
- Other

Please send registration form with check(s) made out to NYCLSA BY OCTOBER 10TH for:

- \$30.00 – NYCLSA members
- \$35.00 – non-members

TO:

Althea T. Porter, Ph.D.
NYCLSA Region 1 Representative
Director, Center for Academic Success
Trocaire College
360 Choate, Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14220

Please Join Us at a

NYCLSA REGION THREE WORKSHOP

Changing Mindsets: Brain-Based Strategies for Student Engagement, Retention and Success

Friday, NOVEMBER 11th, 9AM-12PM

**Hudson Valley Community College
80 Vandenburg Avenue, Troy, NY 12180**

Presenter: *Daniel McCrea, Director of the Trio Program at Schenectady Community College*

Mr. McCrea has been director of the TRIO Student Support Services Program at Schenectady County Community College (SCCC) for ten years where he successfully secured a 1.5 million dollar grant to continue the work of SCCC's TRIO Program. He also teaches the *Freshman Success Seminar* and *College Study Skills* at SCCC.

Agenda:

8:30 am - 9:00 am Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Workshop and Discussion

Workshop Description:

This workshop is a follow up to NYCLSA's 2011 Symposium. Attendees will be afforded the opportunity to discuss Carol Dweck's work on mindsets and its application to approaches in higher education.

There have been many exciting new findings from neuroscience, but how can we put these findings into practice as educators? This workshop will answer that question with concrete strategies and skills that an educator can share with, and teach to students. This workshop will discuss a recent approach to student achievement that speaks to engagement, motivation and persistence. Carol Dweck's work on mindsets seeks to identify students' beliefs about intelligence and how they relate to motivation and persistence. Dweck's framework can be used as a tool to help engage, motivate and connect with students and can be a valuable tool for educators seeking to motivate students.

For information about this event please contact:

Michael P. Connell - NYCLSA Region Three Representative at: m.connell@hvcc.edu or (518) 629-8065

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REGISTRATION FORM

Registration should be received by: **NOVEMBER 4, 2011**

NYCLSA SYMPOSIUM FOLLOW UP WORKSHOP:

Changing Mindsets: Brain-Based Strategies for Student Engagement, Retention and Success

CONTACT INFORMATION

Last Name, First

Name : _____

Email Address:

BUSINESS ADDRESS

Ti-

tle: _____

Full Name of College or University:

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone with Extension: _____

ADA/Special

Needs: _____

Please send registration form with check(s) made out to NYCLSA for:

[] \$25.00 – NYCLSA members

[] \$35.00 – non-members

Registration should be received BY NOVEMBER 4TH

TO: Michael Connell

Computer Learning Center

Hudson Valley Community College

80 Vandenburg Avenue

Troy, NY 12180





UPCOMING CONFERENCES

National Conference of Peer Tutoring in Writing
November 4-6, 2011

Florida International University – Biscayne Bay
Theme: Tutors, Tutoring, and the Teaching of Tutors

For more information, visit the following website:

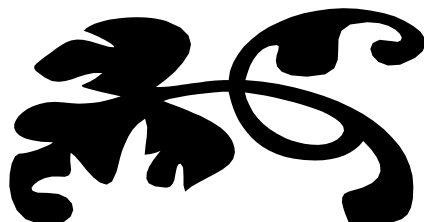
<http://www.ncptw.net/2011-conference.html>

CRLA
November 9th – 12th, 2011

San Diego, California
For more information, visit the following website:
<http://www.crla.net/>

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
October 19th—21, 2011

Atlantic City, New Jersey
For more information, visit the following website:
<http://www.nctm.org/conferences/content.aspx?id=28937>



The NYCLSA Newsletter is published four times a year.

To submit article please contact
Colleen Sanders, Newsletter Editor
Fulton-Montgomery Community College
Writing Center
2805 State Highway 67
Johnstown, New York

Phone: 518--736- FMCC (3622)
E-mail: csanders@fmcc.suny.edu

*NYCLSA is a local chapter of the
National Association for
Developmental Education*

Visit us on the web at
<http://www.nyclsa.org>

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 relationship with his/her institution and educational environment.*

