



REGIONAL OFFICE of EDUCATION

## *Bi-County Brief*

*Monroe/Randolph Counties*

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### **IT'S A COMMON THING!**

But not really. This year's Bi-County Institute on Friday, October 5 from 7:15 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at Red Bud High School promises to be anything but common and to offer something for everyone. For the health conscious folk there will be a walking tour of Red Bud, starting in the cafeteria, from 7:15–7:45, and for the avid shopper, it will be first come, first served at the disbanded Resource Library give-away tables, also in the cafeteria. Start your day with fresh air and exercise, FREE materials . . . or donuts. For those later-risers there will be donuts, fruit and coffee in the cafeteria from 8:00–8:30, time to peruse table displays in the main hall and the opportunity to find a seat for the morning's opening.

Do not miss the opportunity to pick up free materials that were formerly in the Resource Library. There is a treasure trove of social sciences materials, guidance and health resources and other teaching supplies. Be there early for best selection.

By 9:30 a.m. the First General Session will have begun: PreK through fifth grade teachers and administrators will be in the gym with keynote speaker Mr. Todd Whitaker, and all other school personnel will be in breakout workshops of their choosing. During the Second General Session 10:45–11:45 a.m., all of the teachers will be in breakout workshops while administrators listen to Mr. Whitaker in the gym. Then during the Third General Session 12:00–1:00 p.m. – the last of the day – sixth through twelfth grade teachers and administrators will join Mr. Whitaker in the gym while PreK through fifth grade teachers attend breakout workshops.

### **TODD WHITAKER WILL IMPRESS**

Hearing Mr. Todd Whitaker will be enlightening and entertaining for bi-county teachers and administrators. "One of the nation's leading authorities on staff motivation, teacher leadership, and principal effectiveness," Mr. Whitaker has written 24 books and will share his expertise as the keynote speaker of the Bi-County Institute. Having moved through the ranks as teacher, coach, administrator and coordinator, Mr. Whitaker speaks from experience.

In his well-known book "What Great Teachers Do Differently: 14 Things That Matter Most," Mr. Whitaker lists behaviors that great teachers (should) possess and uses situations to show how a poor teacher would behave versus how a great teacher would handle the situation. The Bi-County Institute will be your chance to pick Mr. Whitaker's quite uncommon brain or buy a book(s) in the hallway next to the district office at a discounted price.

### **AREA TEACHERS NOT TO BE OUTDONE**

Mr. Whitaker's contributions to the Institute notwithstanding, our area teachers, administrators and coaches have their own successful teaching ideas to share. Check out the Institute booklet carefully before the day of the big event and select the two optional sessions you would most benefit from attending.

Presenters have referenced Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching, the recent initiative for professional accountability, in preparing their workshops. Also, several sessions will cover Illinois Common Core State Standards applications. Hot topics of bullying, drug awareness and autism will be covered, and modern technology, such as using iPads in the classroom, researching the Web, Edmodo and virtual lesson plans, will be discussed. There will be informative sessions for coaches, librarians, special education teachers, social workers, current and future administrators and teachers in every subject area. And, if during the day you need refreshment and have attended the right workshop, you can take a brain break.

### **CHECK OUT ADDITIONAL SESSIONS**

Two additional sessions that we know about at press time will be offered during Session I from 9:30–10:30. Lenore Smith, a community affairs specialist with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission in Springfield, will present "What's Next Illinois—A Comprehensive Electronic College/Career Tool" in Room 201. Ms. Smith will familiarize participants with an interactive Web site that allows students and professionals to work hand in hand on high school planning, college planning, career planning and financial aid planning. Such topics as test preps, interest profilers, résumé builders, course mapping, lesson plans and Financial Aid Wizard will be covered.

Bill Theobald, retired but still part-time geography enrichment teacher at Waterloo Junior High School, will present "Connecting your Classroom Worldwide—Take It the Next Step!" in Room 125. In 2010 Mr. Theobald introduced the basics of "Connecting your Classroom Worldwide," but in 2012 he will "Take It the Next Step" by demonstrating how

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classrooms can not only communicate internationally but collaborate on projects across time and space. Review the basics and get new ideas with Mr. Theobald, who promises “Never a dull moment in this session!”

**CLOSED AND CHANGED FOR THE INSTITUTE**

Both the Randolph and Monroe county offices of the Monroe-Randolph Regional Office of Education, in the Chester courthouse and on Mill Street in Waterloo respectively, will be closed on Friday, October 5 for the Bi-County Institute and on Monday, October 8 in observance of Columbus Day. Interschool deliveries will be made to Randolph County on Thursday, October 4 and to Monroe County on Tuesday, October 9.

**DON'T WAIT - RENEW YOUR CERTIFICATE(S) NOW**

Educators who have completed all professional development requirements and who need to renew their certificate(s) by June 2013 should renew immediately. Why? On February 1, 2013 all certificates are being replaced with educator licenses. The Educator Certification System (ECS) will be replaced with the Educator License Information System (ELIS). The new system will impact how educators report professional development and assurances for renewal. We will have regional presentations on the change in the coming months, but in the meantime if you are due to renew, RENEW ASAP.

**TOUCHSTONE ENERGY GRANTS AVAILABLE**

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc. again this year offers Touchstone Energy School Empowerment grants to area teachers. Ten \$500 grants will be provided to K-12 teachers and administrators for innovative, unfunded projects “that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.” An objective panel of judges will determine the grant winners, and applications, which can be accessed at [www.mcec.org](http://www.mcec.org) or by contacting Allan Masterson at 939-7171 or [amasterson@mcec.org](mailto:amasterson@mcec.org), are due by November 2, 2012. Awards will be announced on December 7, 2012.

**I SEE THE DRIVER - THE DRIVER SEES ME**

Schools around the country will celebrate the theme “I see the driver - the driver sees me” during National School Bus Safety Week October 15-19, 2012. Studies have proven that the most dangerous part of the school bus ride for children is when they get on and off the bus. Even though school buses remain the safest form of transportation in America, adults should be reminded to pay close attention to them while driving, and children should be taught how to safely board and exit a bus. Getting kids to and from school safely and on schedule makes bus drivers, mechanics and other transportation personnel an integral part of our schools and our communities. Let’s remember to say, “Thanks!”

**THE BEST ME IS DRUG FREE**

Red Ribbon Week, the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the U.S., will be celebrated October 20-28, 2012. This special commemoration serves as a vehicle for communities, schools and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug-free lives. Remember to make all students aware of this important week.

**SHARE A BRIGHT IDEA FOR THE 2013 RED RIBBON WEEK**

Your student’s idea for the 2013 Red Ribbon Theme Contest could be chosen for 2013. Entries, which should be brief and catchy and incorporate the double-looped red ribbon logo in the design, must be received by December 1, 2012, via e-mail to [info@nfp.org](mailto:info@nfp.org) or mail to National Family Partnership, 2490 Coral Way, Miami, FL 33145. Please include your name, school, telephone number and e-mail address. Because Red Ribbon Week is celebrated across America with banners and signs hung from marquees and fences, the theme or design should fit that context. Winners will be announced February 15, 2013. More information is available at <http://redribbon.org>.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Oct. 5, 2012	Bi-County Institute Walking Tour	Red Bud High School Cafeteria	7:15 - 7:45 a.m.
Oct. 5, 2012	Bi-County Institute	Red Bud High School	8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Oct. 9, 2012	Induction & Mentoring-1 <sup>st</sup> year teachers	Sparta Lincoln Middle Library	4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 16, 2012	Math Connections	St. Patrick’s-Ruma	8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Oct. 18, 2012	Induction & Mentoring-2 <sup>nd</sup> year teachers	SWIC Red Bud Campus, Rm. 123	4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 23, 2012	Induction & Mentoring-2 <sup>nd</sup> year teachers	SWIC Red Bud Campus, Rm. 123	4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 9, 2012	Superintendents’ Council	Cohen House, Chester	9:00 a.m. - noon
Nov. 13, 2012	Math Connections	St. Patrick’s-Ruma	8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Nov. 15, 2012	Continuous & Systemic Improvement	Sparta Holiday Inn Express	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**RETIRED TEACHERS MEETINGS**

Randolph County: **October 9, 2012**

**THE MONROE-RANDOLPH ROE IS HERE TO SERVE YOU. CONTACT THE WATERLOO OFFICE AT 618-939-5650 OR THE CHESTER OFFICE AT 618-826-5471.**