



REGIONAL OFFICE of EDUCATION

## *Bi-County Brief*

*Monroe & Randolph Counties*

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### **TRS TELECONFERENCES COMING FOR RETIRING EDUCATORS**

Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) will be hosting teleconferences on Thursday, April 28, 2016 from 9:00 a.m.–4:10 p.m. for teachers and administrators who are within 5 years of retirement. Benefits counselors will be available to discuss retirement benefits, the TRS retirement process, TRIP health insurance and other related TRS topics. District superintendents will disseminate information and forms to all schools, and interested parties will need to get their information back to the ROE, either directly or via their district office. TRS will prepare benefit estimates and mail the requested information in advance of a participant's telephone meeting, which will last no more than 20 minutes.

### **FRANCIENE SABENS HONORED AT WHITE HOUSE**

National School Counseling Week February 1–5, 2016 is the perfect time to congratulate Chester High School counselor Franciene Sabens as the 2014 Illinois High School Counselor of the Year. In recognition of this honor Franciene attended a reception hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House last month. Mrs. Obama, who believes every child in the United States deserves support and attention and the resources to succeed in school, thanked the counselors for their commitment to our kids' potential and for the love and encouragement counselors give them every single day. Franciene also joined other finalists and semi-finalists to work with the First Lady's staff to further the efforts of Reach Higher and Better Make Room initiatives and to contribute to the work of the Teacher's Guild.

### **WATCH FOR E-MAIL TRIALS**

How often have you read an article in the *Brief* and thought, "Well, that doesn't apply to me.?" The ROE, agreeing that information should be current and specific, is in the process of formulating a new way to disseminate information to its constituents. Eventually, instead of a monthly newsletter the ROE will be sending targeted e-mails to specific groups of educators based on such similarities as areas of interest, kinds of employment or grade/subject area. In February the ROE plans to test targeted e-mails. Please be aware that these e-mails from the ROE are not SPAM, we welcome feedback and we hope you will stay subscribed. In March the ROE hopes to furnish the *Brief* both on paper and electronically.

### **BE A CIVICS TEACHER MENTOR**

To prepare for the new high school civics course requirements, two-day summer institutes, co-facilitated by Civics Teacher Mentors, will be held this summer. One Civics Teacher Mentor will be selected from our ROE region, trained and paid \$2000 and expenses for the summer institute and follow-up with teachers and administrators. The Mentor must attend a 4-day training in Normal June 6–9, 2016; co-facilitate a 2-day regional training in June or July and serve as a mentor in the regional schools during the 2016–17 school year. A complete description of qualifications and responsibilities and a link to the online application is available at <http://donate.mccormickfoundation.org/icmc-become-a-mentor>. Recruitment is now open but ends March 1. Act now for this unique opportunity!

### **ICEARY 2016 CONFERENCE TO HIGHLIGHT KIDS, SCHOOLS, & COMMUNITIES**

Do you believe in ensuring that all children have access to high quality instruction and that struggling learners are identified, supported and served effectively? Then you would benefit from attending the ICEARY 2016 Conference Thursday and Friday, March 3–4 at the Marriott Bloomington-Normal Hotel & Conference Center. The two-day event will include presentations by our own Support Specialist Chelsea Wesselmann and Truancy Prevention Specialist Donna Mueller, but at a networking social at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2, three breakout sessions on March 3 and two on March 4 and at two keynote speeches you will gain even more insight into dealing with at-risk students. Get more information at <http://www.iceary.org/downloads/ICEARY.Conf.Flyer.pdf>.

### **MARY ANN TO BE MATH SCIENCE PRESENTER**

Congratulations to Mary Ann Quivey, Director of Grants and Professional Development for our ROE, who will be a presenter at the National Math Science Partnership in Baltimore, Maryland March 1–2, 2016. She and evaluator Matt Feldmann will be speaking about effective grant evaluation. Mary Ann has presented several times at this national conference and was a featured panelist at last year's event.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CORNER

### K-8 Assessments In Action: *I Have Data, So What's Next?* Day 2, Monday, February 8 and Day 3, Monday, April 11, SWIC Red Bud, Room 123, 8:30-3:30

Teachers and administrators who participate in these workshops will learn what assessments to use to establish data, how to organize and evaluate the data and then how to select interventions based on the data.

### An Introduction to the New Illinois Learning Standards for Science (NGSS),\* Thursday, February 11, SWIC Red Bud, Room 123, 8:30-3:30

Learn how the new Illinois Learning Standards for Science, and their incorporation of 3-dimensional learning, will transform science education by engaging students in meaningful, relevant and coherent investigation.

### The Tools Needed to Bring NGSS to the Classroom,\* Wednesday, February 17 AND Friday, February 26, SWIC Red Bud, Room 123, 8:30-3:30

This two-part workshop requires attendance both days. Participants will learn to utilize phenomenon to drive instruction, “unpack” the disciplinary core ideas to determine the content of lessons, utilize crosscutting concepts as a lens for students to make sense of the science and engage students in the science and engineering practices to study phenomenon.

### K-8 Curriculum Planning In Action: *How Can I Use Backwards Design to Plan a Unit?* Day 1, Monday, February 22 and Day 2, Tuesday, April 19, SWIC Red Bud, Room 123, 8:30-3:30

### 9-12 Curriculum Planning In Action: *How Can I Use Backwards Design to Plan a Unit?* Day 1, Tuesday, February 23 and Day 2, Wednesday, April 20, SWIC Red Bud, Room 123, 8:30-3:30

With our transition to K-12 standards, standards-based curriculum planning has never been more important. During these 2-day workshops teachers will gain a deeper understanding of their grade-level standards, which will help them select or make assessments that align and assist in assembling aligned resources that teach what is being assessed.

NOTE: Prior to coming to the workshop, participants need to select a unit and then bring necessary curriculum materials.

### 5-12 The New Social Studies Standards In Action: How Can I Engage Students with Informational Sources? Thursday, March 10, SWIC Red Bud, Room 123, 9:00-3:00

How can educators assess the critical reading demands found in the New Illinois Social Studies Standards? This workshop introduces educators to how to develop assessment systems and assessments that evaluate students' acquisition of these skills. Teachers also get an opportunity to work with examples of student work that use free primary sources from the Library of Congress. Specific attention will be given to free resources and ways to design flexible learning environments that support positive learning. Teachers will also be introduced to the media literacy skills found in the New Illinois Social Studies Standards with activities, materials and assessments that support them in the classroom. For *In Action* workshops register at [www.educationregistration.org/roe45](http://www.educationregistration.org/roe45). For *Foundational Services\** workshops, which are FREE, register at <http://tinyurl.com/ROE45FoundationalServices>. See flyers for all workshops at [www.roe45.net](http://www.roe45.net) under Professional Development > Workshops and Events.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 8, 2016	Assessments In Action (K-8) Day 2	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Feb. 11, 2016	New Illinois Learning Standards for Science	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Feb. 17, 2016	Tools Needed to Bring NGSS to the Classroom (Part 1)	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Feb. 19, 2016	Superintendents' Meeting	SWIC Conf. Room	9:00 am - noon
Feb. 22, 2016	Curriculum Planning In Action (K-8) Day 1	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Feb. 23, 2016	Curriculum Planning In Action (9-12) Day 1	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Feb. 25, 2016	Principals' Meeting	SWIC-Room 123	9:00 am - 11:00 am
Feb. 26, 2016	Tools Needed to Bring NGSS to the Classroom (Part 2)	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Feb. 27, 2016	Spanish Immersion	Red Bud High	Noon - 3:30 pm
March 9, 2016	Illinois KIDS Half-Day Administrator Training	SWIC-Room 152	9:00 am - 11:00 am
March 15, 2016	Math In Action (K-4) Day 3	Red Bud Regional	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
March 16, 2016	Math In Action (5-8) Day 3	Waterloo Annex	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
March 17, 2016	Regional Superintendent Education Update GoTo Mtg.		3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
March 19, 2016	Young Authors' Conference	Columbia Middle	8:30 am - 12:00 pm
March 21, 2016	Creating a Student-Centered Classroom (K-5) Day 3	SWIC-Room 123	8:30 am - 3:30 pm
March 31, 2016	Spelling Contest	Gardner Elem.	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

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.