

This annual conference is an opportunity for paraprofessionals to engage in cutting edge professional development while networking with colleagues. It is designed to develop the skills of paraprofessionals to increase their effectiveness as educational partners with general and special education teachers, student support services personnel, and administrators. The conference will offer a variety of workshop options covering content areas that focus on meeting the diverse learning needs of students, kindergarten through grade 12, resulting in positive student outcomes.

TABLE TALK

Over the years, participants of the annual statewide *Paraprofessionals As Partners* conference comment that networking with colleagues from other districts and buildings is incredibly valuable. In response to this feedback, a designated time has been created during which participants at each table may take turns responding to questions, reflecting on the day, and dialoguing with other educators. Table Talk is a special time dedicated for participants to: 1) network with colleagues; 2) reflect on the day's learning; and 3) share their learning with colleagues.

The Thirteenth Annual Statewide Paraprofessionals As Partners Conference
Paraprofessionals As Partners

Registration Deadline: October 7, 2008 Please print clearly. (09-02-005)

Please indicate session preferences by number:

A.M. Concurrent Sessions (1-6): 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

P.M. Concurrent Sessions (7-12): 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

District _____ School _____ Work Phone (_____) _____

Name _____ SERC Membership # _____ Home Phone (_____) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

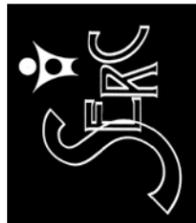
Position _____ Grade Level _____ Email Address _____

In which region are services provided? _____ ACES _____ CES _____ CREC _____ EASTCONN _____ ED CONNECTION _____ LEARN _____

Classroom release time is approved: **Administrator's Signature is required** _____

Please check if needed: _____ Vegetarian Lunch _____ Interpreter (please specify) _____

Return by **October 7, 2008** with fee to: *Paraprofessionals As Partners*, SERC, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457.



SERC
25 Industrial Park Road
Middletown, CT 06457

Thirteenth Annual Statewide Paraprofessionals As Partners Conference

The 13th Annual Statewide
Conference for Paraprofessionals

"Making Connections that Count"

Paraprofessionals as Partners

October 21, 2008
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Marriott Hotel
Farmington, CT



25 Industrial Park Road • Middletown, CT 06457-1520
Phone: (860) 632-1485 Fax: (860) 632-8870

Paraprofessionals As Partners

About the Keynote Speaker—*Calvin Terrell*

As a thought provoking visionary, Calvin Terrell is an internationally recognized authority on leadership and personal development. For over a decade, his impact on his listeners has been profound and his life has inspired millions through his *Chicken Soup for the Soul* story in the (now famous) series. Calvin has mastered the art of effective diversity training helping hundreds of schools and organizations to measurably decrease violence, hate speech, and prejudice of all kinds. Audiences from all backgrounds are gripped when Calvin skillfully leads them through an exploration of their organizations and themselves. Poetic and candid, Calvin opens his spirit and that of his listeners as he disarms the powers of intolerance and injustice. His efforts for students are unparalleled and Calvin's activism has garnered him multiple awards from educational, religious, and civic organizations.

A.M. Concurrent Sessions ~ 10:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

1. *Universal Design for Learning and the Digital Curriculum: Tools You Can Use Tomorrow!*

Craig Struble, Consultant, SERC
Joseph Thompson, Student, Manchester High School

Accessing a print-based curriculum can often be a challenge for many of our students with special needs or diverse learning styles. In this session, participants will learn about the principles of the Universal Design for Learning framework while engaging in a hands-on exploration of computer applications that will create alternatives to print-based materials. Specifically, participants will learn how to access digital books online, review software applications that increase student access, and design accessible digital quizzes, tests, and worksheets. **(Seating is limited.)**

2. *Paraprofessionals and the Multiple Roles They Play in Facilitating Student Learning*

Perri Murdica, Consultant, CSDE

This session will highlight the many opportunities that paraprofessionals have to facilitate student learning. Emphasis will be on strategies paraprofessionals can use with students to facilitate peer interaction, increase student independence, and encourage active participation in learning.

3. *The Culturally Responsive Paraprofessional*

Beth Brunet, Consultant, SERC

This session will focus on expanding one's understanding of the impact of culture and race on education through an examination of oneself using a model of intercultural sensitivity.

4. *School Improvement and the Critical Role of Paraprofessionals*

Iris White, Consultant, CSDE

Recent studies demonstrate the positive impact that paraprofessionals can have on student achievement when they receive ongoing professional development, training, and supervision. This workshop will review these studies and provide information on state resources for the training and supervision of paraprofessionals.

5. *Accommodations and Modifications: What Does a Paraprofessional Need to Know?*

Alfred P. Bruno, J.D., Counsel/Consultant, SERC

In this session, participants will be provided a basic overview of NCLB and IDEA as they pertain to paraprofessionals. Participants will also learn about accommodations and modifications, their legal definitions, their differences, and general strategies for implementation.

6. *The Safe, Fun, Comfortable Learning Environment: Creating a Positive Place to Grow*

Kjell Fenn, Consultant

In this session, participants will gain an understanding of the power and impact of safety, fun, and comfort in an academic situation in order to foster learning and growth. Utilizing hands-on and group activities to simulate the safe, fun, comfortable learning environment, participants will learn positive behavior support strategies, motivational keys to redirect student's motivation, and the effectiveness of creativity and novelty.

P.M. Concurrent Sessions ~ 1:15 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.

7. *Universal Design for Learning and the Digital Curriculum: Tools You Can Use Tomorrow!*

Craig Struble, Consultant, SERC
Joseph Thompson, Student, Manchester High School

This session is a replication of AM. **(Seating is limited.)**

8. *Differentiating Instruction*

Kim Bennett, Consultant, SERC

In this session, participants will learn about differentiated instruction. Differentiation is the latest focus for many classroom teachers as they work to meet the needs of all youngsters in the classroom. What does differentiated instruction look like? What role can the paraprofessional play? Paraprofessionals who support students in reading, writing, and instructional accommodations will benefit from this session.

9. *How To Talk So Teachers Will Listen*

Leigh Jones-Bamman, Consultant, SERC

Teachers and paraprofessionals are colleagues working toward the same goal - facilitating student learning. However, they have different roles and responsibilities, and sometimes paraprofessionals feel unsure about how to share their ideas, concerns, suggestions, and challenges with teachers. Through activities, discussion, and role plays, participants will explore ways to effectively communicate with teachers, as well as other adults and students.

10. *Guided Reading Strategies for Paraprofessionals*

Greta Skiles, Consultant, SERC

Participants will gain an understanding of literacy development, including how good readers read and the typical hindrances that poor readers experience. Specific comprehension strategies and activities for student practice will be described. Each participant will receive practical techniques to address literacy issues, both to extend the learning of good readers and support those who need more assistance.

11. *Adolescent Substance Abuse and Its Link to Truancy*

Tarold Miller, Consultant, SERC

Participants will review truancy statistics and their relation to adolescent substance use and abuse. This session will raise awareness of the drugs students may become involved with and will offer strategies for detecting student use of illicit substances. This session will also examine techniques and tactics available to students dealing with family members coping with addiction.

12. *The Safe, Fun, Comfortable Learning Environment: Creating a Positive Place to Grow*

Kjell Fenn, Consultant

This session is a replication of AM.

Agenda

8:00 a.m.	Registration / Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Welcome / Opening Remarks
8:45 a.m.	Keynote Address—Calvin Terrell
10:30 a.m.	A.M. Concurrent Sessions
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:15 p.m.	P.M. Concurrent Sessions
2:45 p.m.	Table Talk / Coffee / Dessert / Door Prizes

Registration Information

Two hundred and seventy-five (275) kindergarten through grade 12 general and special education paraprofessionals, teachers, student support services professionals, and administrators can be accommodated. Applicants will be selected on a first come, first served basis with consideration to regional distribution.

There is a fee of **\$65.00** per applicant for the conference. Lunch will be provided. Please make check payable to **Rensselaer at Hartford**. Purchase orders will be accepted, but payment **must** be received prior to the conference.

The closing date for submitting applications is **October 7, 2008**. Confirmation of participation and directions will be mailed shortly thereafter. Send completed application form with registration fee to:

Paraprofessionals As Partners

SERC

25 Industrial Park Road
Middletown, CT 06457

Direct questions to Tyrese Bolden, Education Services Specialist, (860) 632-1485, ext. 210.

CEUs

SERC will award **.7 CEUs**. To qualify for CEUs, participants must be preregistered, receive written confirmation from SERC, complete a conference evaluation form, and **provide evidence of post-conference application/reflection**. Evaluation forms and information about the application/reflection responsibility will be available at the conference as well as Certificates of Attendance for any participant not interested in receiving CEUs.

Exhibitor Information

Exhibitor tables will be available for viewing a variety of products, materials, and services from various agencies and organizations that will enhance everyday classroom techniques and promote personal and professional development. Ample time in the conference agenda has been allotted for viewing the displays and speaking with exhibitors.