



## 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.

There is a fee of \$80.00 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 **Wednesday, November 2, 2011**. Confirmation of participation and directions will be provided shortly thereafter. Please send completed application form with registration fee to: Paraprofessionals As Partners, SERC, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457-1516. Direct content questions to Stefanie Carbone, Consultant, at [carbone@ctserc.org](mailto:carbone@ctserc.org) or (860) 632-1485, ext. 306, and direct registration questions to Yolanta Garcia, Senior Project Assistant, at [garcia@ctserc.org](mailto:garcia@ctserc.org) or (860) 632-1485, ext. 264.

It is the policy of the State Education Resource Center (SERC) that no person shall be discriminated against or excluded from participation in any SERC programs or activities on the basis of race, color, religion, age, marital or civil union status, national origin, ancestry, sex/gender, intellectual disability, physical disability, political beliefs, or sexual orientation.

### CEU Information

SERC will award .6 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.

### Registration Form

The 16th Annual Statewide Paraprofessionals Conference

### Building the Future

You may also register online at [www.ctserc.org](http://www.ctserc.org)

*At the conference, participants will self-select Concurrent Sessions and will be admitted into sessions on a first-come, first-served basis.*

District \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ SERC Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Classroom release time is approved: \_\_\_\_\_

**Administrator's signature is required** \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if needed:  Vegetarian Lunch  Interpreter

Accommodations (specify any disability-related accommodations): \_\_\_\_\_

Return by **November 2, 2011** with fee to:

**Paraprofessionals As Partners**, SERC, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457-1516

State Education Resource Center  
25 Industrial Park Road  
Middletown, CT 06457-1516



The 16th Annual Statewide  
Paraprofessionals As Partners Conference



# The State Education Resource Center announces The 16th Annual Statewide Paraprofessionals As Partners Conference



Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, CT

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



25 Industrial Park Road  
Middletown, CT 06457-1516

Phone (860) 632-1485 Fax (860) 632-8870

[www.ctserc.org](http://www.ctserc.org)

## AGENDA

8:30 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m.	Opening Remarks
9:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions 1
10:45 a.m.	BREAK
11:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions 2
12:15 p.m.	LUNCH/Exhibitors
1:45 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions 3
3:00 p.m.	Dismissal

# The 16th Annual Statewide Paraprofessionals Conference

This 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 professionals, administrators, and families. The conference will offer a variety of workshop options covering content areas that focus on meeting the diverse learning needs of all students, Kindergarten through Grade 12, resulting in positive student outcomes.

*At the conference, participants will self-select Concurrent Sessions and will be admitted into sessions on a first-come, first-served basis.*

## Concurrent Sessions 1 - 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

### 1-1: Supporting Paraprofessionals: A District's Journey From Action Planning to Handbook Development

**Maureen Pearson & John E. Szalkiewicz, Supervisors of Special Education, South Windsor Public Schools**

Paraprofessionals are a valued resource to the learning community. South Windsor Public Schools has developed a comprehensive paraprofessional action plan. The plan outlines steps to support paraprofessionals through supervision and evaluation as well as steps to provide fiscal responsibility on the part of district administration. Participants will hear the stages of action planning and how a paraprofessional handbook was developed to support district paraprofessionals.

### 1-2: Assistive Technology and the Role of the Paraprofessional **Smita Worah, Ph.D., SERC Consultant**

Paraprofessionals play an important role in supporting students with disabilities, including students who use assistive technology (AT). The purpose of this session is to provide an overview of AT and its significance for students with disabilities and to demonstrate commonly used AT in the classroom as well as strategies that can be used by paraprofessionals to support students using AT.

### 1-3: Strategies for Navigating Change

**Jan Stivers, Ph.D., Professor of Special Education, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY**  
Paraprofessionals can expect to encounter many changes during their careers. Such changes can be challenging and even distressing. However, we can do more than just cope with these changes; we can learn to manage them. During this session, participants will examine change as a process with identifiable stages and learn strategies for successfully navigating change, even change for which we did not volunteer.

### 1-4: Being the Other Grown-up in the Classroom: Paraprofessional Social Skills to Support Student Engagement

**Mary W. Hull, Ed.D., School Psychologist, West Windsor Public Schools, NJ**  
Participants will examine and engage in simulation exercises to learn the social skills process that enables successful paraprofessionals to partner with teachers and meet student needs. These skills include how to identify learning/teaching styles, observe a classroom, create an informal social bond, establish parameters for partnerships, and find time for social interactions. By the end of this session, participants will have tools in hand to be more effective in their job as paraprofessionals.

### 1-5: Servicing the English Language Learner: Building Paraprofessional Capacity **Maria Carrillo, SERC Consultant**

In order to build capacity among the paraprofessional community, this session will provide an overview of the stages of second language acquisition. Participants will also have the opportunity to engage in activities and dialogue around effective strategies that can be used to support, engage, and address the needs of English Language Learners.

*Back by Popular Demand!!!*

### 1-6: Literacy for Students Who Can't (or Won't) Sit Still **Greta Skiles, SERC Consultant**

Learning to read and write is challenging – especially for those who are kinesthetic/tactile learners. Young children, students with AD(H)D, and other physically active learners need opportunities to practice reading and writing skills while moving. This session will offer ideas for helping paraprofessionals and teachers promote literacy in ways that will honor students' need to move while working on necessary skills.

## Concurrent Sessions 2 - 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

### 2-1: Differentiating Instruction for Small Groups of Students **Meg Porcella, SERC Consultant**

Working with small groups of students can be a challenge. This session will provide participants with strategies for establishing a positive learning environment and differentiating instruction for small groups of students.

### 2-2: The Holland Self-Directed Search: An Interest Inventory **Thalia Moshoyannis, Director, The Paraprofessional Academy, Graduate Center, City University of New York, NY**

How does your unique personality shape your career path? The Holland Self-Directed Search (HSD) is an interest inventory used by career, employment, and guidance counselors to identify individuals' skills and interests. During this session, participants will identify their own unique codes and have them interpreted. How one's code translates into academic and career goals will be addressed with special emphasis on the paraprofessional and teacher codes.

### 2-3: Understanding Autism

**Anne Marie Davidson, SERC Consultant**

Paraprofessionals often work closely with students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). This can be a challenging task without an understanding of the characteristics of ASD and knowledge of effective strategies and techniques for working with these students. This session will explore how core deficits in communication and sensory processing impact the students' environments, and how these deficits lead to challenging behaviors and how to address them.

### 2-4: Students and Job Coaches.... Partners on the Road to Employment **JoEllen Wickwire, SERC Consultant**

This session will explore the role of the job coach in supporting individuals in employment settings. Discussion will include effective strategies for implementation of a support system for students as they explore employment and career options while developing work skills, self-advocacy skills, and transition from school to adult life.

### 2-5: The Role of the Paraprofessional in Improving Student Achievement **Maryann Darling & Shannon Dos Santos, Collaborative Instruction Coaches, Waterbury Public Schools**

Using the *Guidelines for Training & Support of Paraprofessionals Working with Students Birth to 21* (2008), this session will emphasize the six areas of responsibilities of paraprofessionals and offer suggestions for implementation. These areas are 1) Assist teachers with building and maintaining effective instructional teams. 2) Assist teachers with maintaining learner-centered, supportive environments. 3) Support teachers with planning and organizing learning experiences. 4) Assist teachers with engaging children in learning. 5) Assist teachers with assessing learner needs, progress, and achievement. 6) Meet standards of professional and ethical conduct. Discussion will include the knowledge competencies and skills necessary to achieve these responsibilities.

### 2-6: Cutting-Edge Technology

**Matt Dugan, Network System Administrator & Greg Glidden, Team Coordinator, SERC**  
Microsoft has made many additions to its software packages, including new and easy-to-use accessibility features. Participants will explore some of the new features built into Microsoft Office 2007 as we work through hands-on demonstrations.

*This session will be replicated at 1:45 p.m.—see Concurrent Session 3-6.*

## EXHIBITORS

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

## Concurrent Sessions 3 - 1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### 3-1: Practical Tools for Supporting Students with Autism in the Classroom: 5 Ideas You Can Use Tomorrow!

**Christine S. Peck, Ph.D., School Psychologist/Behavioral Specialist, CES, Trumbull**  
Students with autism spectrum disorders present an array of complicated learning and behavioral challenges. The key to success is to understand their complex needs and their unique learning styles. This workshop will present a brief overview of learning styles of students on the autism spectrum, as well as provide five practical ideas that can be used in the classroom to help the students succeed. Participants will gain valuable insights for improving their students' ability to remain on-task in the learning environment and reduce interfering and disruptive behavior patterns.

### 3-2: Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year Award **Iris White, Consultant, CT State Department of Education**

The Connecticut State Department of Education and the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council have developed a program to recognize the important role of the paraprofessional. This workshop will provide an overview of the Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year Award, including its purpose, the procedure for applying, and the responsibilities of the Paraprofessional of the Year position.

### 3-3: Understanding Assessment in Order to Support Student Learning **Ellen Delgado, Literacy Consultant, East Hartford Public Schools**

This session will provide participants with a deeper understanding of how reading comprehension is assessed on both the CMT and the DRA2. Reading comprehension strategies will be defined and multiple techniques for helping students improve both their oral and written responses to text will be shared.

### 3-4: Gridding for Greater Success: Integrating IEP Goals and Objectives Within Every School Day

**Stacey Cannon, Special Education Teacher & Kathy Siwy, Educational Instructor, CES, Trumbull**

Every academic year, instructional time is lost as teachers and staff who are not familiar with the special needs of their students seek to understand and develop a plan for addressing those educational challenges. Gridding each student's individualized education program goals and objectives provides a clear, common-sense approach that will ensure a practical and comprehensive framework for building durable educational programs for students with autism spectrum disorders and developmental disabilities. The process provides a direct link to IEP development/implementation and is easy for all team members to understand and contribute to so school teams remain focused on implementing an individualized school program designed for success!

### 3-5: Are You Plugged In? Active Reading Strategies for Adolescents **Lillie Stuart, SERC Consultant**

This session will explore various methods of engaging adolescent students in reading. Participants will learn strategies that will allow students to actively read a text in order to gain a deeper understanding of its content.

### 3-6: Cutting-Edge Technology

**Matt Dugan, Network System Administrator & Greg Glidden, Team Coordinator, SERC**  
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*This session is a replication of Concurrent Session 2-6.*