

Connecticut's 4th Annual Faith, Families & Schools Conference

Registration Deadline: Friday, September 16, 2011 Fee: \$30.00

(12-47-062)yg Please Print Clearly.

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.

Register online at www.ctserc.org.

Faith/Community Organization _____
 OR
 District/Region _____
 School/Program _____

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Position/Role _____

Please check if needed: Vegetarian Lunch

Disability-related accommodation?: _____

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Position/Role _____

Please check if needed: Vegetarian Lunch

Disability-related accommodation?: _____

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Position/Role _____

Please check if needed: Vegetarian Lunch

Disability-related accommodation?: _____

Return by **Friday, September 16, 2011** to *Faith, Families & Schools Conference*, SERC, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457 or fax to (860) 632-8870.



25 Industrial Park Road
Middletown, CT 06457
1-800-842-8678

Faith, Families & Schools Conference
Friday, September 23, 2011

Connecticut's 4th Annual Connecting Faith, Families & Schools: Partnering for Student Success CONFERENCE 2011



Friday, September 23, 2011
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, CT

A collaboration among:
Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)
CT Parent Information and Resource Center (CT PIRC)
State Education Resource Center (SERC)



Preparing the ground, sowing the seeds, and nurturing the growing partnerships with the right tools to ensure a good harvest...

Connecting Faith, Families & Schools: CONFERENCE — 2011 —

Featuring...

Rev. Dr. Calvin Butts
The Abyssinian Baptist Church
New York, New York



Research has demonstrated again and again that family engagement is one of the major indicators of student success. Schools across the country are discovering that faith-based leaders and community groups are often very effective in enhancing family involvement and are key allies in improving educational outcomes for all students.

For the fourth year, this conference is an opportunity for faith and worship leaders, educators, families, and representatives of community organizations to come together and share ideas about the practices that they can individually and collectively undertake to support student learning. They will also hear about new activities that can be done collaboratively and incorporated into the rich faith and worship community.



1-800-842-8678



www.ctpirc.org

The CT Parent Information and Resource Center is coordinated by the State Education Resource Center (SERC), a nonprofit organization. It is partially funded by a grant through the U.S. Department of Education. The CT PIRC and its primary partners, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and SERC, support school-family-community alliances by building on the strengths of each.

Kiva Process

"Strength is derived from unity. The range of our collective vision is far greater when individual insights become one."

- Andrew Carnegie

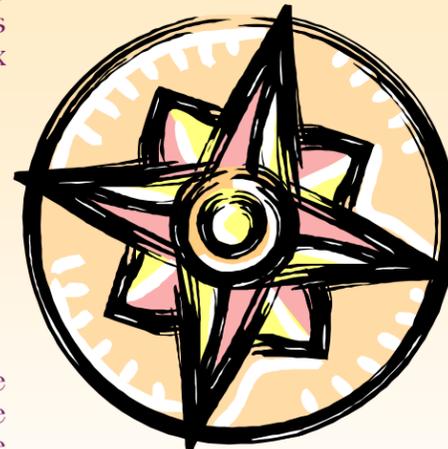
This year's conference will use the Kiva Process to engage both the presenters and participants in meaningful dialogue about the many issues facing our youth. Through this process, participants will have the opportunity to hear from six different presenters, while having ample time to network and dialogue about their own points of view on each of the topics discussed.

What is the Kiva Process? The Kiva Process comes from the culture of many Native Americans who have historically used certain practices to help them discuss important issues of the tribe. For many, the Kiva Process was an actual physical location to symbolize that what they were about to share was not ordinary, everyday work. It was upon this hallowed ceremonial ground that the tribe would come together for sacred work.

Rule of Six: Many tribes believe in the Rule of Six—the idea that you can randomly select six different members of the tribe and you are likely to receive a full spectrum of the various experiences or perspectives related to different issues. The six symbolize the four directions, North, South, East and West—along with the spiritual worlds that exist below and above the earth. In our use of this process, the presenters will serve as the Rule of Six for those participating.

Seven Generations: Many Native Americans believe that the conversation held in Kiva can be greatly enhanced if members of the tribe hold in their heads, and more importantly in their hearts, Seven Generations. In addition to a focus on their own generation, many Native Americans believe the best possible solution for the tribe comes when one keeps in mind the struggles, battles, victories, and challenges of three generations that came before along with the impact decisions will have on the future of the tribe, the three generations that will come after. If one can hold these Seven Generations close as one engages in the most difficult conversations, this world view believes one will find the necessary wisdom to do the right thing.

Adapted from "Kiva Process" from the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans



Come Visit Our Resource Café!



Conference participants will have opportunities throughout the day to visit our Resource Café featuring Connecticut family-oriented organizations and agencies. Representatives will be available to answer questions and provide information on their wide variety of services. Participants are welcome to use complimentary computer stations to access additional resources.

Registration Information

This conference can accommodate three hundred (300) faith and worship leaders, family members, educators, and other community members. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Priority consideration will be given to team applications, although individual applications will be considered as space allows. The closing date for accepting applications is **Friday, September 16, 2011**. Applications received after that date will be accepted only as space permits. Lunch will be provided.

There is a fee of \$30.00 per applicant for the conference. Please make check payable to **Rensselaer at Hartford**. Purchase orders will be accepted, but payment must be received prior to the conference.

Please direct questions regarding registration to Yolanta Garcia, Senior Project Assistant, SERC, (860) 632-1485, ext. 264. Content questions should be directed to Nitza M. Diaz, Consultant, (860) 632-1485, ext. 394, or Veronica Marion, PIRC Co-Coordinator, (860) 632-1485, ext. 391.

Please complete the application form located on the reverse side and return to:

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Middletown, CT 06457
or fax to (860) 632-8870



Please Note:

SERC will be photographing and videotaping the conference for possible use for Web and print publications.