

# BOCES SPOTLIGHT

January 2017



**Educational Resources** is launching a new professional development opportunity for school leaders throughout Dutchess County as part of its Leadership Academy. Later this month, the first Leadership Academy: Seminar Series will offer building and district leaders a unique chance to further develop competencies with building a trauma informed culture.

"The traditional Leadership Academy offerings we provide throughout the year already address many professional development needs," said Dr. Jodi DeLucia, Director of Educational Resources. "However, in working closely with assistant superintendents from throughout the county, we identified a need for ongoing, targeted support for Dutchess County's leaders. The new Seminar Series will be a powerful tool that will enable us to focus upon our specific, targeted educational needs."

Six districts have already enrolled in the new program. The \$1,200 CoSer fee will enable those districts to send as many leaders as they choose to any or all of the sessions. This is a very cost effective method of delivering professional development to a team of employees at the same time, allowing a common approach and implementation, said Dr. DeLucia.

The first two sessions, January 23 and 30, will focus upon



"The Sanctuary Model: Creating a Trauma Informed Culture." These will be led by Beatriz Vides who has worked in the field of human services nationally and internationally for more than 30 years and is now a faculty

consultant for The Sanctuary Institute. The session will focus upon the impacts adversity, trauma, and chronic stress has on students and educators as well as strategies to help and improve student outcomes.



On February 1, Deputy Superintendent Cora Stempel and Staff Specialist Danielle Fried will lead a book discussion about "Lead from the Heart" by Mark C. Crowley to help participants reflect on their leadership styles. Mr. Crowley provides scientific research that shows the effectiveness of being a nurturing leader.

Natalie Zwerger, Director of the Center for Strategic Solutions, will lead the February 22 session regarding the importance of providing positive climates for culturally and linguistically diverse students and staff. Participants will evaluate the cultural responsiveness of their schools and plan for any steps for further enhancements to their current efforts.



The final session will address the impact of race, power and privilege on students and educators. Ms. Zwerger, who is a facilitator in the NYU Knowledge Partners program which is focused on providing diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings on campus, will again facilitate. Participants will be encouraged to develop a shared language and to develop an action plan for promoting a positive racial, ethnic and cultural climate in their home district.

"Going forward, seminars will include face-to-face offerings, webinars, and book studies on additional topics ranging from instructional leadership and school safety, to fostering cultural competency" said Dr. DeLucia. All sessions will be driven by district needs as identified by professional development plans and leadership advisory groups including the Educational Resources Advisory Council (ERAC), Chief School Officers (CSOs), and principal meetings.