

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mini-Institutes *(Pre-registration required)*

Wednesday Afternoon—1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday Morning—8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

The Built Environment: Impact on Learning and Health

Evidence is mounting that the physical conditions of classrooms and facilities can have a significant impact on the productivity and health of both students and staff. This institute is designed to acquaint participants with all aspects of the issue so that they can promote sound district-wide policy to improve school environmental quality as well as participate in design and capital improvement activities. Hear from and interact with scientists, architects, physicians and state and federal policymakers about sound practices and policies for schools. Participants will learn from administrators, teachers and leaders about how to build successful joint labor-management initiatives to reach the goals they have identified for their district.

Current and Future Trends in Professional Compensation

The move to include performance incentives in teacher compensation systems has been gathering steam for years and is a topic on many bargaining tables. From providing incentives for hard-to-staff schools to linking teacher pay to student test scores, alternative ways of compensating teachers is no longer a theory but a reality in school districts across the country. Participants will discuss with the people in charge of implementing these programs, the most recent trends in teacher compensation, along with their strengths and weaknesses.

Effective Communication: Getting Your Message Out

With so much negative press about public schools, we need to spread the word that good things are happening in our schools. This involves regular communication with our own members and getting reporters to write stories about successes and improvements in student achievement. This workshop will help you craft messages on issues you're dealing with regularly, including vouchers and testing. Learn about the various strategies to get your message out, depending on the issue and target audience. Have some fun doing on-camera roleplaying to get practice answering questions from reporters, legislators and members on issues your local is facing.

Effective Leadership for Student Achievement

As district, school and union leaders work in teams to improve schools, essential leadership skills must be evident as they confront the day-to-day realities of

school redesign and the sanctions presented by NCLB. Participants will develop their capacity to work as a team to more effectively plan and implement student achievement and school improvement strategies. Participants will engage in a variety of interactive activities that demonstrate approaches for effective professional development, team building, communications strategies and data analysis for school improvement.

Labor-Management Partnerships: Tools and Skills Needed

Interact with other local union presidents to learn about the potential benefits and hazards of creating a partnership with management. Get answers to questions like: What makes for a quality working relationship? What's in it for the union? How and when do we do it? What should an agreement include? How do we sustain the relationship?

Making Data Work for You

As part of a standards-based system, assessments are an important tool for producing data about the performance of school systems, individual schools and students. These data indicate whether the system is working effectively and highlight areas for improvement. In this course, participants will recognize assessing, teaching and learning as interconnected activities; employ appropriate assessment methods to generate the data they seek; examine data using a collaborative process; and, learn about how to use data to improve teaching and learning.

Reaching Out to New Members—It's Union Building

Learn how your union can use professional issues to make an immediate positive connection with new employees, preparing them to enter the classroom while introducing them to the benefits of belonging to the union. This mini-institute is designed for teams consisting of the local union leader and at least one classroom teacher committed to providing professional development and ongoing support for new members. The teacher will receive the training and tools needed to conduct a beginning-of-the-year workshop for teachers and paraprofessionals. In a separate breakout session, union leaders will explore the components of effective new member programs and work with local leaders who are implementing successful models.

(Please remember that the mini-institutes are for pre-registered participants only.)

Hotel Phone and Fax

The main phone number for the Hilton Washington is 202/483-3000; the hotel guest fax number is 202/232-0438. The main phone number for the Omni Shoreham Hotel is 202/234-0700; the hotel guest fax number is 202/265-7972. Computer and Internet access, a laser printer, a copier and a fax machine are available at each hotel's Business Center located on the Terrace Level in the Hilton Washington and on the Lobby Level in the Omni Shoreham.

Conference Offices

Office hours are:

1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday (QuEST Offices only)

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Thursday and Friday

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Saturday

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Sunday

QuEST Office (Conference Logistics/Travel/Hotel)—*Bancroft (Terrace Level)*

QuEST Office (AFT Teachers, Educational Issues Department/

Conference Presenters and Moderators)—*Chevy Chase (Terrace Level)*

AFT Press Office—*State (Terrace Level)*

AFT Department of Organizing and Field Services—*Dupont (Terrace Level)*

AFT International Affairs Office—*C340 (Lobby)*

Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities

Our goal is to make sure that all aspects of QuEST are fully accessible to all participants. Every effort has been made to accommodate requests for special assistance. If you have any questions or special needs, please stop by the QuEST office and ask for Sally Muravchik.

QuEST Information Center

(Concourse Foyer)

Trying to decide what to do on Saturday afternoon? Be sure to stop by the Hospitality and Information Center and learn about the many attractions and activities in Washington, D.C. Choose from a list of recommended restaurants, pick up information on the Smithsonian Institution and other museums and learn how to navigate the Metro system. The Concierge at the Hilton and Omni are also available to help you.

Message Board

(Terrace Level)

A message board is located at the entrance to the Park Suites Meeting rooms. The QuEST office will post messages it receives for conference attendees. You also may leave or pick up messages on this board.

First-time QuEST Attendee Orientation

(International Ballroom West – Concourse Level)

Join the conference coordinator and learn how to get the most out of QuEST. Review items unique to QuEST 2005, ask questions about the conference, and receive tips on how best to use the program. This one-hour session begins **Thursday at 11:00 a.m.** in the International Ballroom West *(Concourse Level)*.

Union/District Team Activities

We extend a special welcome to our Union/District Teams. These groups of union, school district, and community leaders, convened by the local union, have come to draw collectively on the QuEST experience to improve education back home. We hope you will find QuEST the perfect opportunity to learn about successful school models and programs and to identify those that you think will work best in your schools.

Pre-QuEST Orientation—Begin your team’s experience by attending this special orientation on **Thursday, beginning at 11:00 a.m.**, in the Monroe Ballroom on the Concourse Level. It is designed to help your team coordinate conference plans so that, collectively, you can make the most of QuEST.

Debriefing Opportunities—Plan to meet your team members in the Thoroughbred Room on the Concourse Level for refreshments and a chance to share your day’s experience and plan for the next. Meet with experts chosen to address issues of school improvement and to consider all that you’ve heard and what it means for schools in your district.

Thursday—5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Friday—5:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday—12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Features in the Concourse Foyer

The AFT and the Civil Rights Movement: Why the AFT Never Went Wrong with Civil Rights: “The arc of history is long, but it bends toward justice.” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s words still resonate today. Join us for a retrospective on the AFT’s commitment to civil rights with a very special look at the *Brown v. Board of Education* exhibit, created by the Walter P. Reuther Library.

Legislative Action Center: Professional issues and political action are intricately connected. As educational issues activists, we have an obligation to let the president and our congressional delegations know what initiatives we support and where we have concerns. The timing couldn’t be better! As we meet, Congress is considering federal budget legislation while we battle federal voucher initiatives. Be sure to stop by and send faxes to your members of Congress or even the president on selected educational issues.

Thursday—1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday—8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday—8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sunday—8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Solidarity Strike Commemoration Exhibit

We celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Gdańsk strike with a photo and poster exhibit documenting Solidarity's birth, survival and victory. Please spend some time enjoying the exhibit at the entrance to the International Ballroom.



Book Signing & Reading

Education Expo

Friday—3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Carole Harris Barton

Rainbows in Coal Country

Dedicated teachers, a one-room schoolhouse, and hope in the future figure prominently in *Rainbows in Coal Country*, the story of Carole's childhood adventures above-ground at the coal mine in Kentucky where Daddy works, and her parents' struggle to save enough money to move the family into town so Carole and John, her year-older brother, can attend high school. Even though Daddy is critically injured when the mine caves in, Mother almost dies in childbirth, Carole and John escape a dynamite blast at the mine, and Carole nearly drowns in a strip mine pit, the hope-fueled family perseveres, finally achieving its goal. Recommended by the Kentucky Coal Council as an educational resource for Kentucky schools, this sometimes sad, often amusing, finally triumphant memoir is a real life testimony that education is the ticket to a better life.

Books can be purchased at the Expo Market.

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We invite you to learn more about sharing the Global Classroom with your students at our **Saturday afternoon seminar**. Later, join EF for interactive presentations.

Tickets are available at the EF booth in the exhibit hall, but space is limited to 110 participants. Please stop by early and sign up to learn about the Global Classroom firsthand with EF and AFT PLUS! Also, be sure to enter our raffle to win two free domestic plane tickets and attend the Sunday brunch raffle drawing (you must be present to win).



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1-800-590-1103