



Greater Capital Region Teacher Center

Capital Region BOCES and the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center are proud to co-sponsor:

OPTIMIZING 21ST CENTURY SKILLS IN THE CREATIVE CLASSROOM

Creative teachers are the heart and soul of creative classrooms filling their students with the excitement and joy of learning. They design multi-faceted, project-based lesson plans and work with their students to inspire imagination, self-confidence, self-expression, curiosity and innovation. They nurture research skills, creative problem solving and collaboration and, in doing so, align their learning objectives with the Framework for 21st Century Skills*. Some of these teachers have developed their teaching strategies instinctively, based on their own learning styles and life experiences. Others have had to work hard to adopt these strategies because they see clearly that it is necessary for children today to recognize and capitalize on these skills. This workshop series is for all teachers intent on making their classrooms into living laboratories for 21st century learning. To this end, workshop participants will form a cohort of creative teachers prepared to actively support one another in this journey toward realizing the 21st Century Skills in their teaching. Those whose instincts have guided them well will learn to recognize their good work within the 21st Century Framework, to articulate it, document it and build upon it strategically for even better outcomes. Those just starting out will have the chance to experiment, to learn from colleagues and to build a new set of skills and instincts to carry them forward.

Objectives for this year-long program:

- Recognize and articulate the 21st Century Skills used in creative classrooms.
- Identify and strengthen teaching strategies that: nurture imagination and innovation; develop independent research skills; and encourage creative problem solving and collaboration.
- Develop techniques for students to utilize technology to support research, develop and construct problem solutions and use to manage and assess portfolios of work.
- Develop rubrics, dialogs and assessments that emphasize the learning of 21st Century Skills throughout the classroom project.
- Develop a cohort of creative teachers for support in continuing the process and becoming teacher leaders in 21st Century Skills for learning.

Structure – Participants will meet for two days of study and activity in the fall plus a culminating day in the spring. In the intervening months, they will be part of a network for follow-up and continued support.

Day 1: An introduction to the Framework for 21st Century Skills via two model projects; collaborative work in teams (like and unlike groups) to review and analyze successful lesson plans brought in by teachers themselves: to recognize the 21st century skills already imbedded there and to learn to articulate and strategize from this perspective.

A couple of weeks between the first and second session will be built into the schedule for teachers to NOTICE where 21st Century Skills are emerging in their current classroom work.

Day 2: Further collaborative work to develop a vibrant cohort of creative teachers who will: (a) review, analyze and critically support lesson plans brought in by teachers to the second session and (b) collaborate on a proposed new project or problem brought to the cohort for a comprehensive application of the 21st century teaching and learning skills.

Day 3: The spring session will afford participants an opportunity to review each other's work, share in one another's triumphs, offer help where needed and document how teaching strategies have changed. They will also be called upon to professionally critique a 5-star exemplary program from elsewhere around the state. Finally, participants will be invited to become *teacher leaders*, that is, to reflect upon how they can pass along what they've learned to others, and to consider what they themselves need next to continue the journey.

Participants will be encouraged and expected to maintain contact with one another during the intervening months to maintain their momentum and personal connections. A mid-year dinner and monthly online support will help to facilitate this.

* From "[The Partnership for 21st Century Skills](http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/route21)": "The Partnership created the Framework for 21st Century Learning, which describes the skills, knowledge and expertise students must master to succeed in work and life. Only when a school or district combines the framework with 21st century professional development, assessments and standards, can the American public be sure that high school graduates are prepared to thrive in today's global economy." (<http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/route21>)

John Cimino is president of Creative Leaps International (1992), The Learning Arts (1982) and founding president and CEO of their parent company, Associated Solo Artists, Inc. (1972). Educated at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (biology & physics), the State University of New York at Albany (learning theory), and the Manhattan and Juilliard Schools of Music (music & voice), Cimino holds a uniquely interdisciplinary perspective and works across a host of disciplines dedicated to learning and human development.

As a champion of the arts in education and professional life, Cimino has brought his "Concerts of Ideas" and other innovative arts programming into projects of the White House, the Center for Creative Leadership, WDC's Center for Excellence in Municipal Management, and the leadership training programs of dozens of Fortune 500 companies including GE, IBM, Pfizer, McDonnell Douglas, the SC Johnson Company and Starbucks as well as to numerous universities and professional organizations. Projects include presentations before the Global Leadership Forum (Istanbul), the International Organization Development Association (Guanajuato), the Organizational Behavior Teaching Society (Irvine, Ca), the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (Alexandria, VA) the Association for Managers of Innovation (Greensboro, NC), the "Crossing Paths" Conference on interdisciplinary approaches to artist development (Indianapolis, IN), the "Common Ground" Conference speaking on Innovations Beyond the Classroom in Arts-Based Learning (Rochester), the NYSAAE Conference on "Using the Arts to Energize the Core Curriculum" (Bard College, Poughkeepsie), the education conference of the Johnson City Arts Council in Tennessee, "The Arts Advantage in Teaching, Learning and Leadership" and at Chicago's Catalyst Ranch "The Arts, the Brain and the Mind's Best Work: Bridging the Ingenuity Gap in the 21st Century".

Cimino serves a consultant to universities engaged in interdisciplinary reorganization and the introduction of arts-based approaches to teaching, learning, leadership, creativity and entrepreneurship across the curriculum.

As a performing artist, John Cimino is the winner of more than 20 national and international awards and prizes as an operatic and concert performer and has performed to acclaim throughout Europe and the continental United States in productions including LA BOHEME (Academy of Music, Philadelphia, opposite tenor Luciano Pavarotti, and LUISA MILLER (International Verdi Festival of Busetto, Italy, opposite tenor Carlo Bergonzi).

Dates: **Session One:** **Thursday, October 8, 2009;**
 Session Two: **Thursday, October 22, 2009**
 Session Three: **Thursday, March 4, 2010**
Time: **8:30 AM- 3:00 PM**
Instructor: **John Cimino**
Program Coordinator: **Sharon Siegel – Capital Region BOCES**
Location: **University At Albany - East Campus, 1 Discovery Drive, Rensselaer, NY 12144**
Fee: **\$ 265 (need a minimum of 15 participants)**

Register online through MyLearningPlan. You can find a link from the listing on the Instructional Resources Events page: <http://www.bocesinstructionalresources.org/IRS/events.htm>.

Questions about registration: Sharon Siegel, Capital Region BOCES, ssiegel@gw.neric.org (518) 464-3929