

*The Washington County Consortium*

# NEWSLETTER

Brought to you by Sarah Woog, Executive Director of the Washington County Consortium (WCC)

September 3, 2019

**Welcome Back!** I hope you enjoyed your summer and are excited about the new school year you are now embarking on.

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## ***Harvest of Ideas Update:***

You all are probably familiar with Harvest of Ideas by now. Many of you pre-registered in the Spring. The pre-registration was used as a needs assessment to determine the day's offerings. There will be a registration coming to you in the coming weeks that includes the specific offerings. Please complete it so you may attend the session that best supports your work.

Harvest of Ideas will look a little different this year. There will be one large group session that everyone will attend in the Performing Arts Center. The Washington County Leadership Team, the team that provides support and guidance around PD for the year, believes, as do I, that one of the best parts of Harvest of Ideas is the opportunity for all Washington County educators to engage in a shared experience. This group session will provide this opportunity.

You will be registering for only one session instead of numerous, as we did in years past. We redesigned the day to give educators the opportunity to dive deeper into the topics and strategies shared in the sessions. The hope is also that you will have more time and space to connect with the presenter and other educators in your group, in order to coalesce a community of educators and re-engage throughout the year.

The presenters are being asked to determine at least two follow up sessions offered to the groups formed at Harvest of Ideas, and to determine the times and settings of these sessions depending on the time and geographic restrictions of the group. The hope is that by incorporating your voices into scheduling, you will have a greater opportunity to access the professional development being offered throughout the year.

**In conclusion: Don't forget to register and I hope you enjoy the day and find it worthwhile!**

*Please see below a list of the opportunities being offered by the Washington County Community College (WCCC) this year, as well as a profile of Mitch Look, Curriculum Coordinator in AOS 96.*

## *The Washington County Consortium*

### Washington County Educator Profile

#### Meet Mitch Look, Curriculum Coordinator at AOS 96.

I have known Mitch Look for some years now. He's been a member of the Washington County Leadership Team (WCLT) since before I began working with the team four years ago. I have always been struck by Mitch's passion for education in Washington County, and by his skills as a leader. I appreciate his ability to act as a kind and supportive team member but also advocate and dissent when he is called to do so. Honestly, I admire Mitch and wanted to learn about what makes him tick. I also thought his story could provide some lessons for all of us. I met Mitch in his office last week, in the midst of back-to-school prep and PD that's a familiar ritual to us all.



Mitch has been teaching “ever since I could.” He studied education at the University of Maine at Machias and coached basketball at Machias Memorial High School while still an undergraduate student. After working in the classroom for some years, as a middle school teacher and coach, he “wanted to have a bigger voice in decision-making” and went back to school to get his Master's Degree and become a certified administrator. He engaged in the years long trek familiar to many of us, teaching full time while traveling back and forth in the evening for his studies in Orono. He earned his credentials, and was first a teaching principal at Fort O'brien Elementary, then principal at D.W. Merritt School, after which he served as principal at Rose M. Gaffney School for seventeen years. In 2009 he added a Certificate in Advanced Studies (CAS) to his resume.

Mitch became the ESEA/Curriculum Coordinator for AOS 96 five years ago. He is happy in his position, happy to “make it my own.” He had been apprehensive about assuming leadership positions outside of schools because he cannot stand the idea of his work getting further from the educators and students, which creates a tension with his desire to increase his impact. He told me he takes every opportunity to get into the schools of AOS 96, to feel the pulse of the school and learn from those he serves. His idea of staying current, in addition to being informed by current research and best practices, is also keeping an ear to the ground and finding innovative ways to problem-solve based on what's working and what's not working in schools. Mitch's perspective expresses the duality we all experience in our work- the eternal quest for improvement fed by learning, not only from the “experts” but also, and especially, from the folks right in our schools and communities.

And Mitch loves those schools and communities. He has keen eye for equity. When I asked what he hoped for education in Washington County, he said “the same opportunities and resources for our kids and educators that others get. Always been a dream of mine to see our kids and teachers have the resources that others have. With the talent we have down here, can you imagine what could be.” I hear you, Mitch. And I agree with your not-so-veiled critique of the inequities we all experience. However, I'd argue we can do what Mitch does in the meantime, and harness our greatest resource- our people- to realize the visions of our collective imagination.



# EDU/ECE courses 2019/2020

One College Drive, Calais, ME 04619 Tel: 207 454 1000 email: [admissions@wccc.me.edu](mailto:admissions@wccc.me.edu)

## FALL 2019

### **EDU102 Introduction to Education, School and Community 3 cr. (OL)**

The role of the professional educator and paraprofessional educator will be a focus, and the learner will evaluate personal skills and attitudes in light of the expectations for the profession.

### **EDU180 Children's Literature 3 cr. (OL)**

Emphasis will be placed on creating a learning environment that encourages children to develop an interest in reading and literature.

### **SED230 Behavior Management Techniques 3 cr. (HY)**

Provides learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to deal more effectively with learners with emotional and behavioral difficulties. Can earn BHP certification.

### **ECE101 Introduction to Early Childhood Education 3 cr. (Monday Evenings 5-8)**

Provides an overview of the field, including historical and contemporary influences, major theories of development and learning, the organization of programs including space and equipment for indoor and outdoor activities, understanding and providing for children's health and nutrition needs, and establishing a safe learning environment.

### **ECE210 Child Guidance and Discipline 3 cr. (Wednesday Evenings 7-8)**

Topics include positive reinforcement, redirection of negative behavior, setting and enforcing limits, and the natural and logical consequences of a child's choices.



## SPRING 2020

### **EDU215 Learning and the Brain 3cr. (OL)**

An overview of the human brain and a study of how recent advances in technology and brain research are revolutionizing our understanding of how the brain learns.

### **EDU225 Teaching, Learning and Technology 3 cr. (OL)**

An overview of communications skills, learning styles, and educational technologies designed to enhance the abilities of learners to effectively communicate in the educational setting and to develop the abilities of learners to use current educational software and devices.

### **EDU250 Assessment and Response to Intervention 3 cr. (OL)**

Provides learners with the skills needed in order to effectively understand and apply use of assessment and Response to Intervention (RTI) within the classroom.

### **SED220 Education of Children with Special Needs 3 cr. (Tuesday 4-6)**

An introduction to the field of special education and to train learners to identify special needs, to refer children, and to care and teach children with special needs in an inclusive setting.



## SUMMER 2020

### **EDU215 Learning and the Brain 3cr. (OL)**

An overview of the human brain and a study of how recent advances in technology and brain research are revolutionizing our understanding of how the brain learns.

### **EDU240 Perspectives on Students with Autism, ADHD and Emotional Disabilities (ED) 3 cr. (OL)**

Focus is on recognizing the characteristics of autism, ADHD and ED. Learners will examine and analyze some of the myths and misconceptions surrounding autism, ADHD and ED by participating in a complex debate by peers.

### **SED230 Behavior Management Techniques 3 cr. (HY)**

Provides learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to deal more effectively with learners with emotional and behavioral difficulties. Can earn BHP certification.