

Experienced Special Education Directors' Institute and Community of Practice: 2016-2017

The MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Institute has preliminarily awarded WestEd's Learning Innovations the contract for the Special Education Administrative Leadership Institute and Community of Practice for Experienced Special Education Directors.

Application Dates: Applications are being accepted through August 22nd. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance immediately upon application and approval until the Institute is filled. Applicants will be provided with material and expectations in preparation for the September sessions upon acceptance. Applications received after August 22th will be reviewed for approval if space allows.

Click here to apply: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M3DKKVQ>

Dates: Institute-September 12-13, 2016, with in person follow-up sessions October 24, November 14, December 6 and March 16, 2017. There will be an additional evening session on September 12th. Additional virtual sessions may be held on dates TBD. Community of Practice (CoP)- April 25-26, 2017.

Location: The Institute and CoP will be held in Devens, MA between the Springhill Inn and Suites Conference Center and Hilton Gardens Inn.

Eligible Participants: Administrators with five or more years of experience as a special education administrator that is currently employed in a central office position in a Massachusetts public school district, vocational school, or charter school are eligible to participate.

Participant Costs: The Institute sessions and materials costs will be provided to all participants at no cost. Lodging will be provided at no cost on 9/11, 9/12, 10/23, 11/13, 12/5, 3/15, 4/24 and 4/25. Upon acceptance further details will be provided regarding additional provisions available to participants. All other travel and meals are at participants' own expense.

Graduate Credit: Available through Framingham State College and paid by participants.

The Institute structure will maximize opportunities for engagement and learning through a combination of lecture, small group dialogue and activities, participant project, presentations and sharing of successful practices, simulations, and other interactive experiences. The skills and experience of the participants as co-teachers of one another will be used as a way to build capacity and lay the groundwork for what will be a collaborative network or Community of Practice in the future.

Topics of critical interest to special education administrators will be addressed and may include leadership and systems change; data collection and analysis; program evaluation; stakeholder engagement; conflict management; cultural responsiveness; laws and regulations; and additional special topics depending on the interests of participants.

For questions or additional information, contact Susan Villani at svillani@wested.org or 781-481-1112.

Institute Directors

Anne Louise Thompson, M.A. – Senior Program Associate brings expertise in educational systems change, policy implementation, program evaluation and leadership, with extensive expertise in special education. Ms. Thompson works with state departments of education leadership on issues of policy to practice. Formerly a local director of special education and the CT state director of special education, she has written and presented on relevant topics in special education leadership with particular focus on inclusive education.

Susan Villani, EdD. – Senior Program/Research Associate specializes in consulting and professional development with school administrators and leadership teams on their visioning, leadership skills, and ability to coach and evaluate teachers. Dr. Villani has written articles and books about school leadership, as well as a books about induction programs in the United States that support the growth and effectiveness of new principals and new teachers.

About WestEd's Learning Innovations

Learning Innovations is a program of WestEd (www.wested.org), a not-for-profit educational research and development organization. With offices in Woburn, Massachusetts, and Williston, Vermont, WestEd's Learning Innovations has worked extensively with school districts in the northeast in areas including school improvement, leadership, school accountability, professional development, using data to guide decision-making and teacher recruitment and retention. From 2000-2014, WestEd's Learning Innovations has also been home to the U.S. Office of Special Education Program's Northeast Regional Resource Center (NERRC), and since 2014 the U.S. Office of Special Education Program's eastern office of the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI), providing technical assistance to states in the implementation of the IDEA.

This is the thirteenth year that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has contracted with WestEd's Learning Innovations to offer this leadership Institute. Institute Directors and Faculty are all affiliated with WestEd's Learning Innovations.