

CONNECTIONS

FALL 2015

News from the Central New York Regional Information Center



CNYRIC Wins NYSPPRA Awards: e-Communications team receives recognition.



The Central New York Regional Information Center (CNYRIC) was recently the recipient of three public relations awards given annually by the New York State Public Relations Association (NYSPPRA).

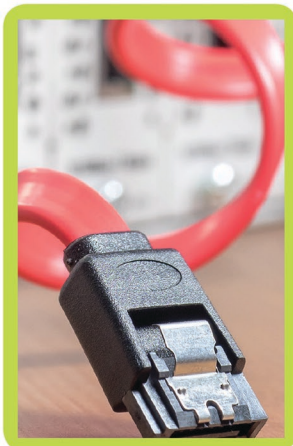
The CNYRIC won two awards in the website category for our work on the Union Springs School District website and our own CNYRIC website. Only five awards were handed out in the website category and the CNYRIC earned the top two spots with Honor ratings for both projects. The CNYRIC also won an award for our CNYRIC Connections e-newsletter. One of only three awards in this category, we received the highest distinction with an Excellence rating for our work on this publication. NYSPPRA will present all awards at the annual New York State School Boards convention in New York City. For more information about the e-Communications program at the CNYRIC, please visit: <http://www.cnyric.org/e-communications>



Union Springs Central School District's Award-Winning New Design

School District Spotlight: Auburn Enlarged City School District Modernizes Technology Infrastructure

This past summer, the technology department in the Auburn Enlarged City School District (AECSD) was extremely busy with numerous infrastructure upgrades. One of the largest projects they completed was an overhaul of their Network Operations Center (NOC). The old server infrastructure consisted of hardware that was outdated and not configured to meet the performance standards of a centralized IT model. The upgrade provides Auburn with a solid foundation to build upon and one that will undoubtedly strengthen IT operations in the district for many years to come.



Among the many project components, was the creation of a centralized storage environment where both virtual machines and Mac/Windows file shares now exist. Not only does this provide a performance boost to the infrastructure, but it also helps to deliver a more reliable experience to end users. Another critical piece to the project was bolstering the district's Disaster Recovery plan. The newly installed private fiber link between the High School (Primary NOC) and the District Office (Secondary NOC) will allow the replication of all data to ensure greater data security. This provides assurances that, in the event of a disaster, the district has all of their mission critical data available for recovery at a moment's notice. Overall, this centralized model provides the District with a rock-solid infrastructure to enable successful teaching and learning, and it streamlines daily IT management allowing for greater focus on new technology initiatives.

SAVE-THE-DATES

OCTOBER 8

Google Apps: Leadership Forum

Collaborate and share best practices for implementing Google Apps for Education

This semi-annual meeting provides an opportunity for district administrators and teacher-leaders to collaborate and share best practices for implementing Google Apps for Education. Topics will range from managing a district's GAFE Admin Console to sharing best practices for teaching and learning with Google Apps like Drive, Sites, Classroom, Calendar, and more.

Register now.

OCTOBER 21

TALKS: With Dr. Larry Johnson



Dr. Larry Johnson TALKS about Uncommon Leadership in Uncertain Times. Education worldwide is in the midst of tremendous change; old norms are being upended; old models of learning are being questioned. The very purposes of schools and even universities are being challenged not only by forces within education, but by competitive realities that are very foreign to most school leaders. The outcomes of primary and secondary education are being called into question, and many will find it hard to justify old ways of doing business when that microscope comes to bear on their institutions.

Register now.

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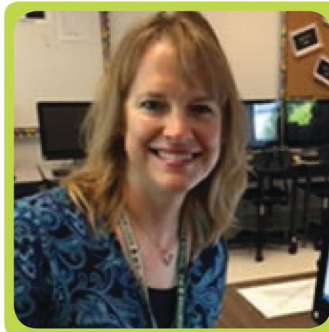
News from the Central New York Regional Information Center



Meet Our Featured Teachers:

Susanne Miller, Fayetteville-Manlius Central School District

Susanne Miller has consistently reinvented her English instruction using technology. In recent years, there has been an emphasis on non-fiction reading and writing. Susanne has leveraged FM's Google Apps for Education (GAPE) platform to support students as they work with informational text. FM is one of the few schools in the region to activate Gmail for students within their GAPE domain. Susanne has walked her students through the etiquette of sending emails: keeping the tone formal, making the email information-oriented, and avoiding complications that come with emotion. She has also emphasized the avoidance of texting abbreviations in formal communications. She has further integrated Gmail into her instruction with assignments that encourage students to contact her, write emails to themselves at FutureMe.org, and reach out to an author.



Susanne's love of literature helped to inspire a classroom campaign to encourage reading among the Wellwood student body, resulting in a video parody of Megan Trainor's "All About that Bass." (See this link to access the video. The password is fm; select "Video" from the menu at the left.) The purpose behind this project was "word study," an aspect of ELA that is sometimes overlooked. Her efforts served twin purposes: Highlight the importance of word choice, as well as encourage reading. **To read more go to cnyric.org or [click here](#).**

Sara Hughes, East Syracuse Minoa Central School District



Sara Hughes is an exemplary leader in many ways. She thinks big but pays attention to detail in all aspects of her team, department, and school community. Sara provides that same type of leadership with technology integration. She puts the time, energy, and commitment into finding the best tool for the learning goal. Sara never settles for the tools just because they are comfortable, known, or routine. She is willing to persevere to expand the opportunities for students and keep their learning rigorous and rewarding. She never hesitates to explore new tools, websites, apps, and strategies.

Sara evaluates to see what is working, revises what isn't, and is constantly upping her game. She is a lead learner with ESM's Google Apps for Education pilot and quickly expanded her instruction with new apps, add-ons, and extensions through that platform. Sara integrates

iCivics, Thinglink, Socrative, social media for team exchanges (instagram, twitter), Remind, Google Forms, Slides, Docs, Drive, and all aspects of Classroom, Smore, NewsELA, Voki, Quizlet, Brainpop, and Padlet to name a few! Her team is currently learning Weebly, WeVideo, Easybib, and Instagram (for field trip evidence curation). She collaborates across content areas and throughout the entire school. She is willing to learn, teach, and share so all can benefit. She's not afraid to transition when things are not working on the technical or conceptual level. **To read more go to cnyric.org or [click here](#).**

OCTOBER 29

SchoolTool Census User Group

The Schooltool Census User Group allows Schooltool districts to discuss many issues related to the Census module. We will also be having a discussion on new features in Schooltool related to the Census module.

[Register now.](#)

MARCH 11

Building the ELL Brain for Language & Academic Success



Despite educators' best efforts to teach students English as quickly as possible, the process is often extremely slow and many may never develop academic English fluency. Complicating the process may be the additional constraint of poverty. Join Dr. Martha Burns as she reviews the newest research on the ELL brain, the impact of poverty on the brain, the advantages of true bilingualism, and how effective technological adjuncts can build the English brain, quickly, moving ELL students to proficiency.

[Register now.](#)



Are you familiar with #littleRIC, the CNYRIC's ambassador? He continues to visit school districts and snap photos during his travels. Follow his adventures on [Instagram](#)!