



THE NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING



Teacher

Leadership Institute **NCCAT works with Burke County**

For more information on how your district can take part in a Teacher Leadership Institute program, please contact Bill Miller at bill.miller@nccat.org or 828-293-5202.

A team of Burke County educators worked on creating more teacher leaders during a specialized program from the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching, a nationally recognized leader in professional development.

For four days in Cullowhee, the 21 educators took part in a variety of efforts to help teacher leadership flourish in the district. The Teacher Leadership Institute program is a new offering designed to respond to the needs of school districts.

“This has been great,” Burke County Superintendent Dr. Larry Putnam said. “Now that we’ve participated in this program, we are already talking about building a support group that doesn’t stop here. This experience has offered a professional and safe environment. People have opened up and shared thoughts about efforts we can take to create things that are beneficial to students.”

Two distinguished educators lead the NCCAT program. Dr. Bruce Boyles is a former superintendent of Cleveland County Schools and is now an associate professor at Gardner-Webb University. Dr. Ed Davis

worked for 35 years in the Union County Public Schools including time as an assistant superintendent and superintendent. He now works as an assistant professor at Wingate University.

The essential components of the program cover the topic of leadership as a concept and the specifics of teacher leadership. Educators explore the elements of leadership, teacher leadership potential, personality traits, group dynamics, mentoring, problem solving, teacher leadership standards, and implementing teacher leadership roles in the school setting. Other elements of the program can be selected at the discretion of the Local Education Agencies (LEA) and include such topics as Professional Learning Communities, Data Informed Leadership, Team Building, Technology Leadership, and School Improvement Plans.

Boyles and Davis spoke with Burke County educators before the program and customized content to the needs of the district. Burke County educators were engaged and had the chance to make connections across the school district that will help in the future to build a culture of leadership at all levels.

Dear Friends of NCCAT,

It has been an exciting and notable year at The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching. We are celebrating thirty years of providing high-quality professional development and support to retain skilled North Carolina teachers.

NCCAT’s professional development programs have become even more critical as teachers seek new and innovative ways to engage student learning. NCCAT participant Sabrina Thomas of Green Valley Elementary School in the Watauga County Schools explained, “It doesn’t matter whether it’s your first year of teaching or your twenty-third year of teaching, you’re going to walk away from here with new knowledge and new ideas to keep your teaching fresh and exciting.” Thomas’s comment is an example of the many positive thoughts teachers have shared about their NCCAT experiences.

During the 2015–2016 academic year, NCCAT served 117 school districts (including three federal districts) in all 100 counties. NCCAT will continue to reach out to schools, school districts, and curriculum leaders to determine the most pressing professional development needs. Our goal is to use this direct feedback to design our programming. We will continue to focus on bringing teachers together from across the state to enhance their ability to serve North Carolina students.

We want to thank the NCCAT Board of Trustees and Board of Directors of the Development Foundation of NCCAT for their support and commitment. We look forward to a bright future for NCCAT and the teachers we serve.



M. Brock Womble
Executive Director

NCCAT Executive Director Dr. M. Brock Womble met with Mrs. Jean Powell and her family members on September 28 in Wilmington, North Carolina. Dr. Womble spoke about the past, present, and future of NCCAT for North Carolina teachers.

In 1983, while serving as North Carolina Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Powell, of Clinton, was invited to address the Commission on Education and Economic Growth about physical improvements needed in schools. It was during this speech that Mrs. Powell suggested the idea for NCCAT, which was later established by the North Carolina legislature.

In his remarks Dr. Womble informed the audience of NCCAT’s history, current status, and future as a recognized national leader in professional development.

Educators across North Carolina often convey to him that they consider NCCAT to be the home for North Carolina teachers.

After the meeting Dr. Womble expressed how great an honor it was to meet Mrs. Powell. “We deeply appreciate her strong and consistent enthusiasm for NCCAT. We constantly seek to emulate that enthusiasm in all our programming.”



Miller joins NCCAT staff

William (Bill) Miller has been named Educational Planning and Development Consultant. A former superintendent of Polk County Schools, Miller is a lifelong educator who has served more than 30 years in education.

His job responsibilities include reviewing curriculum offerings, evaluating them for effectiveness, and analyzing teacher participation rates. Miller will visit public schools throughout the state to speak with principals and/or curriculum directors regarding their needs and involve them in identifying new and future program offerings at NCCAT.

For more information on how your district can take part in a Teacher Leadership Institute program, please contact Mr. Miller at bill.miller@nccat.org or 828-293-5202.

Wake County teacher at NCCAT Hands-on learning experience

Knightdale kindergarten teacher April Zolnierowicz came away from “Mission Possible: Covering Social Studies and Science Content Using Literacy” with more than she had imagined to take back to her classroom in Wake County.

“I could use each thing that I learned in my kindergarten classroom,” Zolnierowicz said. “Amy Jo Spencer (NCCAT faculty member) was an excellent teacher because she made learning fun and used the eight multiple intelligences to teach us like we are taught to teach our students. I also like the fact that everything she showed us was free and easy to use.”

During the four-day program at Ocracoke educators were able to examine the North Carolina Essential Standards and make connections to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, ELA and Writing Standards. They investigated text sets and the role they play in integrating multiple contents. Teachers were able to create engaging cross-curricular instructional units with culminating projects for assessments.

Zolnierowicz is looking forward to taking part in another NCCAT program. “It is such a great way for teachers to share ideas and remember the real reasons they became teachers,” said Zolnierowicz.

Canvas training opportunities at NCCAT

Canvas, North Carolina’s Learning Management System (LMS), is a one-stop learning and course management tool. A learning management system is a software application for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting and delivery of electronic educational technology (also called e-learning) courses or training programs.

“Canvas is a fabulous tool for educators,” Davidson County Instructional Technology Facilitator Leigh Hopkins said. “There are many layers, and it is not something you can learn in a day. I feel like our first adopters benefited by coming to NCCAT and being able to learn from Elizabeth Joyce (NCCAT faculty member).”

Hopkins said the beauty of Canvas is you can make it what you want or need it to be.

“With technology, you have all these digital tools, and now you can put it all together,” Hopkins said. “It centralizes everything. It can improve communication between teacher and student. It extends teacher effectiveness.”



Teachers from across North Carolina joined NCCAT for “Mission Possible: Covering Social Studies and Science Content Using Literacy” in Ocracoke.

Davidson County Instructional Technology Facilitator Leigh Hopkins participating in Canvas training with NCCAT.



NCCAT Summer Registration Underway

North Carolina educators have many opportunities in July and August to attend the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Programs are available to North Carolina educators at the Cullowhee and Ocracoke campuses, online, and with school-based training with NCCAT faculty.



July 2017

- 14416 • **July 10–13** • Cullowhee
Literacy Instruction and Students with Special Needs: Strategies for Instruction *ALL* Students
- 14418 • **July 17–20** • Cullowhee
Leaders for Elementary Instruction: Coaching the Coach
- 14419 • **July 17–20** • Cullowhee
The Canvas Connection: Beginning Users
- 14420 • **July 17–21** • Ocracoke
Reading Resources:
Equipping Your Classroom for Reading Success
- 14421 • **July 24–27** • Cullowhee
Strategies for Motivating
and Building Reading Skills in Any Subject
- 14422 • **July 24–28** • Cullowhee
Success From the Start: How to Survive and Thrive
Your First Three Years in the Classroom
- 14423 • **July 24–28** • Ocracoke
Using Coastal Ecosystems to Enhance
the Study of High School Biology
- 14425 • **July 31–August 3** • Cullowhee
Google Tools in Schools

August 2017

- 14427 • **August 7–10** • Cullowhee
Reaching Reluctant Readers: Bringing Boys to Books
- 14428 • **August 7–11** • Ocracoke
Reading for Meaning: The Role of Questioning
- 14429 • **August 7–11** • Cullowhee
Success From the Start: How to Survive and Thrive
Your First Three Years in the Classroom
- 14430 • **August 14–17** • Ocracoke
Task, Tools, and Talk to Support Math Literacy
in the Upper Elementary Grades
- 14431 • **August 14–17** • Cullowhee
The Canvas Connection: Intermediate Users
- 14432 • **August 14–18** • Cullowhee
Success From the Start: How to Survive and Thrive
Your First Three Years in the Classroom
- 14434 • **August 22–25** • Ocracoke
Immersive Digital Learning
in English, History, and Science Classrooms
- 14435 • **August 28–31** • Cullowhee
Motivating Disengaged Students
- 14436 • **August 28–31** • Cullowhee
Using Data, Diagnosis, and Differentiation



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