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Personal Finance Conference

Tech Savvy Strategies for Teaching Personal Finance

On April 7, 2017, educators from across Connecticut (CT) converged at the 2017 Personal Finance conference at the Wyndham Hotel in Southbury. The keynote speaker was Ross A. Riskin, CPA/PFS, CCPS, the founder and managing member of Riskin Advisory, LLC and the Vice President of Riskin & Riskin, PC Accounting Firm. He is also the director of finance programs and an assistant professor of accounting and finance at Albertus Magnus College. He addressed the trends in personal finance and what is happening inside and outside the classroom. The teachers came away with valuable information they could use in their classrooms. The conference had a technology theme and teachers learned about many personal finance apps, web-based programs, and technology teaching strategies that will benefit their students' classroom experience. The exhibitors included: Connecticut Department of Banking, EverFi, UConn Extension, Jill Russo Foster, McGraw-Hill Education, and Cengage Learning. Other workshops included: investing applications for the classroom, personal finance online learning modules, NEXTGENVEST App, financial planning simulator with GSuite, building community partnerships, EverFI in the classroom, and winning the credit game.



CT Learns and Works Conference

The Hartford Sheraton South welcomed educators, counselors, employment and training specialists, and business persons to the annual CT Learns and Works Conference on Friday, May 12, 2017. The theme of the day focused on CT's strong and diverse population which allows imagination, expertise, creativity, and "Yankee Ingenuity" to continue to thrive. Larry Quick, author of *Disrupted: Strategy for Exponential Change*, was the keynote speaker. Quick emphasized despite the common perception that disruption refers only to the digital world, it also encompasses economic, social, and political factors. Referencing new models of public education that stress innovation, Quick noted that one person's innovation is another's disruption, stating, "You can't have innovation without disruption." Morning and afternoon breakout sessions included:

- CT Apprenticeship: The Original Four Year Degree;
- E-Savvy Job Search: Tips and Tools; Mastery-Based Learning;
- Innovations in Design and Delivery of Secondary Education;
- CT Data Collaborative & Labor Market Information;
- Women in STEM;
- Careers: Sea and Sky; Changing Horses: An Encore Career in CT; and
- Millennials: What are they up to?

Breakout sessions were facilitated by subject matter experts from multiple sectors. Presenters from higher education, secondary education, the Department of Labor, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association as well as the Connecticut Technology Association and the Connecticut Center for Advanced Manufacturing shared important information about current trends impacting learning and working in the 21st century in CT.

CT State Agriscience Fair

By Joseph P. Barsky

On May 04, 2017, the CT State Agriscience Fair was held at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. This annual event is sponsored by the 19 regional high schools that offer Agricultural Science and Technology Education (ASTE) Programs in Connecticut. A record number of students participated in the event this year, with 44 students preparing 34 exhibits. Students may work either as a team or design their own project. The projects cover many topics, including: animal science, environmental services/natural resource systems, food products and processing systems, plant systems, social systems and power, structure, and technology systems. The winning projects in each category are eligible to participate in the Northeast Regional Agriscience Fair, held at the Eastern States Exposition in September and the National FFA Agriscience Fair held in Indianapolis, IN, October 25-27.

Tours of various programs at the experiment station were given to the participants, advisors and chaperones attending the agriscience fair. Brian Eitzer, Gale Ridge, and John Shepard offered presentations of their research programs. Students were afforded the opportunity to see and speak with the researchers and learn about their ongoing research to assist Connecticut's agricultural industry.

The agricultural science and technology education program serves secondary students in full- and shared-time programs. Each program, located at a comprehensive high school, includes instruction in agricultural science and technology education. The purpose is to prepare individuals for entry-level employment or higher education and to develop leadership skills in the field of agriculture. Programs include instruction in plant and animal science, agricultural mechanics, food science, biotechnology, aquaculture, agribusiness, natural resources and the environment. The agricultural science and technology education program includes interrelated components such as classroom instruction, laboratory experience, leadership training and supervised agricultural work experience.

Business and Finance Technology Education Teacher Preparation Programs

To address the problem of the lack of teacher preparation programs in CT, three options have been established. The University of Bridgeport now has a complete program with business content and pedagogy lined up for a cohort class starting this Fall 2017. It will be a blended offering, with all courses on line, except the Methods and Materials for Teaching Business, which will be offered during the summer semester. If there are any interested business certification candidates, they should contact the University of Bridgeport's graduate admission advisor, Ellen Roberts, at 203-576-4691 to start the application process. Another option would be the online program at the Grand Canyon University that can be found at <https://www.gcu.edu>. The Connecticut State Department of Education Certification Office has approved this program for business education certification. Future candidates may also choose the Alternative Route to Education through the Office of Higher Education. You can get more information at the <http://www.ctohe.org/ARC/> or contact ARC at: arc@ctohe.org.

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