



Special Category

Over 40 Free Recordings of Center Webinars

Offering free webinars on topics related to gifted education from the University of Connecticut's Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development.

[Recordings of the 2021-25 Webinars](#)



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GCT@UConn (a.k.a. Three Summers) is for motivated educators who have professional or family obligations that make regular year study impossible. The program is designed to allow educators to keep their teaching positions while earning a graduate degree or professional certificate part-time in two summers with additional online course work throughout the year. The program culminates in a Sixth-Year Diploma in Professional Education or Master of Arts degree in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Giftedness, Creativity, and Talent Development. For more information visit: <https://giftedmasters.education.uconn.edu>



Seeking AZ, CO, and TX Educators for Project EAGLE

We are currently seeking educators from Arizona, Colorado, and Texas to become Project EAGLE Trainers as part of a federally funded Javits research grant. Fifteen trainers—five from each state—will participate in a five-day orientation on the Project EAGLE dynamic identification system, to be held from July 13–17, 2025, at the University of Connecticut's Confratute. Following this training, the trainers will return to their respective states to conduct five workshops during the 2025–26 academic year, sharing the Project EAGLE approach to identifying underserved gifted students. For more information visit: <https://identifygifted.education.uconn.edu/trainer/>



RENZULLI CENTER NEWS

January
2025



Upcoming Events

Taste of Confratute - Register Now!

Wednesday, January 29: Teaching Thinking Skills in Enrichment Programs and Classrooms

This Taste of Confratute program focuses on teaching thinking skills, an important instructional process in both classrooms and enrichment programs. Teaching both critical and creative thinking skills enables students to learn how to process information, analyze data, solve problems, and complete more challenging tasks with independent initiative. In this half-day professional learning event, presenters explore critical and creative thinking skills and provide practical sessions about how to introduce and integrate these skills and problem-solving strategies into your classroom and enrichment program. Interactive sessions focus on decision making, problem solving, fluency, observation, exploration, classification, and generating hypotheses, as well as problem and project-based learning. A special feature will include attention to programs such as Future Problem Solving, Connecticut Invention Convention, and the Schoolwide Enrichment Model that focus on developing critical and creative thinking and problem solving skills.

Keynote by Jann Leppien

Breakout sessions from April Michele, Rick Courtright, Alicia Schroeder-Schock, Jason McIntosh, Adam Parks, Nichole Pitruzzello and Kerry MacFarland

Register for the event here: <https://confratute.uconn.edu/taste-of-confratute/>



1/11 Free Webinar: Elevating Student Discourse

Elevating Student Discourse – presented by Shannon McDonald

This presentation explores methods and benefits of enhancing student talk within K-12 classrooms. Join us as we delve into the complexities of discourse and define what constitutes ‘quality’ talk. We will share practical strategies and tips for fostering a supportive, dialogue-rich environment. Educators will practice how to be deliberate about their use of talk moves to enhance critical thinking and engagement and build a culture of collaboration. [Register here](#) for the webinar.

RENZULLI center
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creativity, gifted education, and talent development



Awards, Publications, and Presentations

Research Fellowship for Renzulli Center Team!

Mei Zheng, a current PhD student in our UConn program, has been awarded a SNAAP Research Fellowship from the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project! Mei will work with Catherine Little on a project exploring how interpersonal relationships relate to preparation experiences and job satisfaction in arts domains. Read more about the program at <https://snaaparts.org/value/research-fellowship>.

For more information, contact: Catherine Little at catherine.little@uconn.edu



Research

Learn More and Get Involved in our Research!

Learn more about research in progress from the Renzulli Center team, and look for opportunities to participate! Visit our new page highlighting research opportunities here: <https://gifted.uconn.edu/opportunities/>

For more information, contact: Catherine Little at catherine.little@uconn.edu



Joe's Corner

Speaker's Guide Advice From Bruce Springsteen

Whether you lead a business, church, non-profit, entertainment, or athletic organization, there were five things Springsteen taught us about engaging your audience which all leaders should learn from and apply.

He said, "The audience wants from you two things – they want to feel at home when they come to see you... and they want to be surprised. Finding the right balance between those two things on a nightly basis, it's fun." Springsteen also added, "That's my guarantee – people will leave with more than what they brought in."

1. Your Audience Wants to Feel at Home

Springsteen said, “The audience wants from you two things – they want to feel at home when they come to see you.” Feeling at home is generally associated with good memories. People also love predictable environments. It gives them a sense of peace, comfort, and security. In addition, your audience can invite their friends because they know what they will experience.

2. Your Audience Wants to Be Surprised

Springsteen added, “and they want to be surprised. Finding the right balance between those two things on a nightly basis, it’s fun.” You delight your audience with positive surprises. Surprises are what makes the experience remarkable. It provides the “Wow!”

Wanting to surprise your audience also fights against complacency and assumption.

3. Your Audience Wants a Return on Their Assessment [ROI]

Don’t ever be confused, people greatly value their time and money. Both have scarcity. So when they make an investment of both into your organization, they want a significant return on their investment. Springsteen understands this. He notes, “That’s my guarantee – people will leave with more than what they brought in.”

4. Your Audience Wants You to Remain Curious (whether they know it or not)

Curiosity may have killed the cat but is vital to becoming a lasting leader. Springsteen and the E Street Band have been performing for over 50 years. During that time, Springsteen has recorded almost 400 songs! When asked what was his secret to songwriting, he said, “The key to continually writing well is to have to be curious about the world. Curiosity moves you in new and different directions.”

Have you remained curious as a leader? If so, what new and different directions have you moved into?

5. Your Audience Wants to Be Reminded of Who They Can Be

People follow you because you can take them from Point A to Point B, a better place. Discussing what he wants his audience to feel during his shows, Springsteen said, “We go out to remind you of who you are and to remind you who you might could be.”

Leaders, are you helping your people become the best versions of themselves? If so, you have a chance to have an enduring leadership legacy as well.

Conclusion

Bruce Springsteen taught us the following five things your audience wants from you:

1. To feel at home.
2. To be surprised.
3. A return on their investment.
4. For you to remain curious.
5. To be reminded of who they can be.

What is one (or more) of these areas you can improve in to become a better leader?