



Special Category

Grant Opportunity for CT Teachers—Apply Now!

The Rogers Award

Professor Emeritus Vincent Rogers announced in 2017 a planned bequest to the Neag School, designating a legacy gift of \$125,000 to expand the Rogers Educational Innovation Fund in support of innovative projects carried out by teachers in Connecticut.

Through his gift, teachers at the elementary and middle-school levels across the state will be able to apply annually for a \$5,000 gift for use in the classroom.

To learn more visit: <https://rogersfund.uconn.edu/the-rogers-award>



Upcoming Events

Upcoming Event at Talcott Mountain Science Academy

Curious Minds Workshop: Join us **Saturday Nov 15th from 9 AM to 2 PM** on the beautiful campus of **Talcott Mountain Academy**, where curious minds ages 7–11 can explore **hands-on STEM adventures**.

For more information, contact: Kenneth Wright at kwright@tmsc.org

[Register today!](#)



Free Generative AI and Creativity Webinar

Register now for our November 22, 2025 (11 a.m. to 12 noon Eastern time) free webinar with Matt Worwood on **Generative AI and Creativity: Avoiding the Convenience Trap**



RENZULLI CENTER NEWS

**November
2025**

AI is a multi-purpose technology with numerous known and emerging applications in education. Already, it is being used as a writing tool, a reading aid, an assessment resource, and a chatbot that provides feedback and supports idea generation. As we continue to explore best practices for integrating this technology into the classroom, it is essential to prioritize our understanding of creativity in learning to mitigate the impact of the Convenience Trap—the risk of diminishing students’ engagement in divergent and convergent thinking. This presentation will examine two GenAI scenarios, analyzing their potential effects on the cognitive process and considering the long-term implications for mini-c and little-c creativity in education.

For more information, contact: Del Siegle at del.siegle@uconn.edu

Register at https://gifted.uconn.edu/free_webinars



Free Professional Learning for AZ-CO-TX Teachers

Find a Project EAGLE Workshop in Arizona, Colorado, or Texas!

If you’re an educator in Arizona, Colorado, or Texas interested in hosting or attending a complimentary one-day Project EAGLE workshop, complete the simple request form at: <https://s.uconn.edu/eaglerequest>

Our team will match you with an available certified trainer in your area. All workshops are provided at no cost to participating schools or districts.

To learn more visit: <https://identifygifted.education.uconn.edu/trainer>



A Taste of Confratute-AI & Creativity- Register Now

How future-focused is your classroom? How do you engage students in thinking creatively and envisioning possibilities? And how can artificial intelligence tools help to foster that creativity? Join us for the virtual Taste of Confratute on January 28, 2026, where you’ll discover strategies to help students ask better questions, think critically, and dive into inquiry-based research using AI.

[Register Here.](#)



Awards, Publications, and Presentations

Del Siegle quoted in The Hill

Mamdani Proposal to Eliminate Kindergarten Gifted Program Splits Education Advocates

Lexi Lonas Cochran
The Hill
October 8, 2025

... Del Siegle, director of the National Center for Research on Gifted Education at the University of Connecticut, told The Hill that waiting until third grade to be tested into a gifted program could leave students stuck at a grade level they don't belong for years beforehand.

Read the article from: <https://thehill.com/homenews/education/5543446-mamdani-new-york-schools-gifted-program/>



McCoach from UConn's NCRGE Quoted

We're Testing Preschoolers for Giftedness. Experts Say That Doesn't Work

The widespread practice of searching for gifted young children is rooted in shaky science

Sarah Carr
The Hechinger Report
October 31, 2025

... But those tests haven't made cognitive testing more equitable, said Betsy McCoach, a professor of psychometrics and quantitative psychology at Fordham University and co-principal investigator at the National Center for Research on Gifted Education.

"There is no way to take prior experience out of a test," she said. "I wish we could." Children who've had more exposure to tests, problem-solving and patterns are still going to have an advantage on a nonverbal test, McCoach added.

Read the article from <https://hechingerreport.org/were-testing-preschoolers-for-giftedness-experts-say-that-doesnt-work/>





A Great Book

The Facilitator's Handbook for Effective Enrichment: Successfully Implementing the Schoolwide Enrichment Model by Carla Brigandi & Cindy Gilson provides a clear, practical roadmap for implementing enriching educational activities across the curriculum.

Enrichment-focused and practitioner-friendly, this book provides an implementation structure to help educators use the evidence-based practices of Renzulli's Enrichment Triad Model, the foundation for Renzulli and Reis's Schoolwide Enrichment Model, to raise students' knowledge, skills, motivation, and self-efficacy. Covering the what, why, and how with step-by-step guidance, hands-on strategies, and immediately implementable activity plans, this book provides everything needed to ensure that enrichment is meaningful and empowering for both facilitators and students.

Featuring mini-curricular units aligned to educational standards and a Just for You section designed to support reader growth and confidence as a facilitator, this book is a must-read for anyone working to promote children's development, regardless of background or experience.

<https://www.routledge.com/The-Facilitators-Handbook-for-Effective-Enrichment-Successfully-Implementing-the-Schoolwide-Enrichment-Model/Brigandi-Gilson/p/book/9781032622422>



Do Your Students Feel Wanted?

Michael Creekmore & Nita Creekmore
ASCD
September 1, 2025

Cultivating belonging is especially important in the first few weeks of school.

Educators can sense when that time of year is coming—well before school supplies flood store shelves. August brings with it a familiar mix of anticipation and anxiety. Teachers wonder: Did I get the grade level switch I wanted? Was that challenging student I was concerned about placed in my class? Students wonder: Did I get Ms. Gibson for homeroom? Will I be in biology with my best friend, Mia?

Read the article from <https://www.ascd.org/el/articles/do-your-students-feel-wanted>



Information and Instrument on Learning Styles

The Article:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00405848409543088>

The Instrument:

<https://gifted.media.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/961/2025/05/Learning-Environment-Profile-3rd-ed.pdf>



Student Observation Skills

A Simple Activity to Boost Students' Observational Skills

By providing students with time to draw and discuss leaves, teachers can help them learn to observe deeply and connect with their surroundings.

Selim Tili

edutopia

October 20, 2025

Children are naturally inclined to seek patterns in, categorize, and classify information around them. Teachers can take advantage of this tendency as a way to help students study, examine, and explain their findings about the world around them. In my classroom, I leaned into this idea through a project I like to call a natural history collection: a set of related artifacts that students study. My chosen artifacts? Leaves. This project allows students to build important scientific skills with a relatively low lift, since students are using a resource found all around us outside.

Read the article from <https://www.edutopia.org/article/fostering-students-observation-skills-science>



Student Observation Skills

A Multi Criteria System for the Identification of High Achieving and Creative/Productive Giftedness

Renzulli, J. S., & Gaesser, A. H. (2015). A multi-criteria system for the identification of high achieving and creative/productive giftedness. *Revista de Educación*, 368(4), 92–121.

Read or download the article from <https://gifted.media.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/961/2025/03/A-Multi-Criteria-Identification-System.pdf>