

RENZULLI CENTER NEWS

Renzulli, Reis & Brandon Kick-Off Online Series

RENZULLI
center
for
creativity, gifted education, and talent development

professional
learning
ONLINE



Joe Renzulli, Sally Reis, and Laurel Brandon will kick off our 2021 Learning Series with a session on implementing the SEM virtually.

Joe will begin the session with a brief overview of the Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM), an organizational plan for promoting talent development for all students and the Enrichment Triad Model, a “brand” of learning that focuses on the ways in which young people learn to investigate and produce creative products like practicing professionals.

Laurel will provide a narrative of how she has integrated SEM principles into the remote teaching she is doing and some ideas from a project that teachers in Mansfield, CT, facilitated over the summer, through which they had remote students create projects to make a positive difference in the community. She will provide specific examples of digital tools and strategies she has employed that have enriched her primary-grade students’ learning. Laurel has not used Renzulli Learning with her students, so this part will be especially of interest to teachers of primary students and teachers without access to Renzulli Learning.

Sally will briefly introduce the Renzulli Learning System and explain its emphasis on the problem-solving, creativity, and critical thinking skills that are often neglected in schools today. She will explain the Renzulli Learning Profiler, a detailed online questionnaire that allows the Renzulli software to generate a personal profile of each student’s top interests, learning styles, and expression styles, as well as the 40,000 enrichment resources in the Renzulli database that align to specific objectives, skills, or state and Common Core Standards. Finally, she will introduce the Wizard Project (Type III). Students who use The Wizard are engaged with in-depth research experiences of real-world problems that offer enrichment, engagement, and accelerated learning. Renzulli Learning’s Enrichment Database offers students their own personalized differentiated resources, as well as highly engaging enrichment opportunities.

Visit [Events from the Center | Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development \(uconn.edu\)](https://uconn.edu/events/renzulli-center-for-creativity-gifted-education-and-talent-development) to register.

Online Parent Series Begins in January

Sally Reis and Sue Baum will team up for our first online parent session on January 21st at 8 pm EST. This session provides an overview of exciting and positive new research about students who are both academically talented and have disabilities (2e). The focus of this work is how teachers and parents can use strengths and interests to help develop talents in a broad range of students who are 2e. We share specific recent research results about how we can support the academic strengths and interests of this group of students both at home and in school, helping them realize their potential and increase their academic achievement, engagement, and challenge. For more information and to register for this event, visit: [Events from the Center | Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development \(uconn.edu\)](https://gifted.education.uconn.edu/freesemclass/)

Free Online SEM Course: Register Now!

Just for you—a free online course that provides an in-depth, comprehensive overview of the Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM). This overview provides the resources and the support that you need to implement the SEM, whether that be "in class," remotely, or a combination of both. It will help you stimulate your students' interests, provide opportunities for them to express themselves in ways they will enjoy, and allow them to achieve at high levels.

In addition, this online overview of the SEM includes resources you can share with colleagues. Please use it to help with your implementation of the SEM, either on your own as you prepare for the school year or to introduce SEM at an online staff or department meeting. The SEM online class includes seven easy-to-follow modules, and teachers who finish it earn a certificate of completion on the SEM.

For more information and to register visit: <https://gifted.education.uconn.edu/freesemclass/>.

Resources Handpicked From Our Faculty

[NBC News Features The Schoolwide Enrichment Model](#)

[What To Ask When Interviewing For Jobs & Promotion](#)

[Diverse Populations Benefit from Compute Science Course](#)

Help Support the Renzulli Center

We hope you will consider donating to the Renzulli Center Fund. Your support, regardless of the size, means a lot to us as we pursue our mission of supporting the extraordinary educators who make schools places for talent development. Gifts to the Renzulli Center Fund are used to support Center students, research, programming, and outreach activities.

GIVE NOW ♥



The SEM, 10-year-old Mekhi, and Resilience

Mekhi is 10 years old, and he attends Tomasita Elementary School, a Title I School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Erin Wrobel is one of Mekhi's teachers, and she uses the Schoolwide Enrichment Model to discover the interests of her students as well as their learning styles and preferred modes of expression. By doing so, she catches their attention and builds their self-efficacy. Mekhi adores videography. He took his own time, out of class, to create this incredible, resonating speech entitled "Resilience." He emailed it to Erin, who shared it with her Gifted Education Liaison, who then shared it with me. In turn, we shared it with her entire team of teachers, and then, I shared it with Dr. Joseph Renzulli and the team at the Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development. The authentic audience for Mekhi continues to grow, and as it grows, so too does his belief in himself. Let us introduce you to Mekhi: <https://youtu.be/3H6SzsboA-M>

Nicole Waicunas
SEM Outreach Coordinator

Free National Research Center Conference March 26

The National Center for Research on Gifted Education (NCRGE) will hold a free virtual conference on Friday, March 26, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT. The conference (NCRGE's First Five Years: Results, Reflections, and Recommendations) will include four short presentations by NCRGE researchers followed by reflections and recommendation for practice and future research from panelists. Register by Wednesday, March 24th if you wish to virtually attend this free one-day event.

[Click here to register](#)

Improve Your Teaching with Technology

Like the rest of the country, our lives were turned upside down with the arrival of COVID. Teaching and learning with technology took center stage. We're proud that the educators who have attended our annual iPad conference had a leg up on the monumental task educators faced, and continue to face. On May 12, 2021, we are expanding our focus to additional platforms and will hold our 9th annual conference for K-12 educators virtually on how to integrate iPads, Chromebooks, and Cloud-Based Computing devices into the teaching and learning process. We hope you will join us for this learning-filled virtual day where fellow educators share how they are using technology to promote student. Visit ipad.education.uconn.edu for more information.

Earn Your Master's Degree Over Two Summers

GCT@UConn (a.k.a. Three Summers) is for motivated educators who have professional or family obligations that make on-campus, academic year study impossible. The program is designed to allow educators to keep their teaching positions while earning a graduate degree or professional diploma 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. The application deadline for Summer 2021 is April 1. Visit <https://giftedmasters.education.uconn.edu/> for more information.

