

RENZULLI CENTER NEWS

Special Category

Wishes for Warriors: A Teacher's Message

As this year winds down and everyone takes a much needed and well deserved breath to relax, recharge, and consider a year that has been anything but normal, take a moment to read Enrichment Coach and teacher, Shirley Cowles' "Wishes for Warriors" for a new look at, well, everything! Shirley, a graduate of our program, sent this poem out to all of the teachers at her school. When I read it, I had to make sure that we kept the beauty of its message going. Please forward it to other teachers to help them to see the "other side" of this year. Happy Summer! – Nicole Waicunas, Schoolwide Enrichment Model Outreach Coordinator

Wishes for Warriors

I wish for you an uptick in time spent safely with family and friends

The spreading of frosting on birthday cakes, mulch in your gardens, and broad-brimmed smiles
across unmasked faces

Destinations to remote places that allow you to rethink, re-envision, and recharge

I wish you for in person gatherings filled with laughter, love, and memories

As often the only protection we need is a hand to hold

And to give and receive hugs that last at least a good long minute

I wish for you and your family's PPE redefined ... Patience - Peace - Empathy

The ability to gaze at clusters of stars in the night sky and marvel at the wonder of our universe

Spontaneous outbreaks of belly laughs, kindness, and joy

I wish for you the transmission of ideas, positivity, and creativity

A dose of immunity from worry, anxiety, and fear

A surge of rolling waves crashing at the beach that leave you breathless and refreshed
An electrical charge of energy while attending an evening outdoor concert on a summer green
Renewed strength to prepare for the new school year ahead
And an abundance of gratitude for the work that you do every day on behalf of all of our students

~Shirley Cowles

For more information, contact: Nicole Waicunas at nicole.waicunas@uconn.edu

Inspirational Video from Joe

Joe ran across the attached video and thinks it would be a great thing to share with all our students.

[Click here to watch.](#)

Awards, Publications, and Presentations

5/28 Journal for the Education of the Gifted Award

On May 28, 2021, the Journal for the Education of the Gifted selected the following article as the 2020 Paper of the Year. The award was based on three criteria: relevance and contribution to the literature, timeliness and innovation, and research methodology.

Gubbins, E. J., Siegle, D., Peters, P. M., Carpenter, A. Y., Hamilton, R., & McCoach, D. B., Puryear, J. S., Dulong Langley, S., & Long, D. A. (2020). Promising practices for improving identification of English learners for gifted and talented programs. *Journal for the Education of the Gifted*, 43(4), 336–369. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0162353220955241>

The Journal for the Education of the Gifted (JEG) is produced in a partnership between The Association for the Gifted (TAG) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and SAGE Publications.

For more information, contact: E. Jean Gubbins, Department of Educational Psychology at ejean.gubbins@uconn.edu

RE Enjoyment
EN Engagement
ZU Enthusiasm
LLI for Learning
center
for
creativity, gifted education, and talent development

Alumni News

Regina Lee, 2020 Three Summers Graduate, Honored

Regina Lee, the school system's 2021 teacher of the year, said she has been enamored with education ever since she first set foot in a classroom. Read more from this online [Journal Inquirer](#) newspaper report.

Almazan Receives World Council Award

Andrew Almazan of Centro de Atención al Talento, Mexico, is receiving the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children's 2021 Emerging Leader in Gifted Education Award. The award is given to an individual in the first 10 years of their career in gifted education who has had an impact of teaching, research, and/or advocacy on gifted education in their country and shown outstanding promise for leadership. Andrew received his Master's degree in the Three Summers Program (a.k.a., GCT@ UConn) in 2018.

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

Fun and Useful Resources: From Us to You

Kaufman Quoted on Finding Joy in Creativity

Crafting: A Way to Cope during the Pandemic
It can ease isolation and even provide a sense of purpose

Read more from this online [Silver Century Foundation](#) article.

Social and Emotional Development

Joe found an interesting article by a teacher who has developed a plan to help students create "Self Portraits."

Access it here: [Exploring Perceptions About Identity Through Self-Portraits | Edutopia](#)

Creativity Book for Children

Joe ran across one of the few if any books on creativity written specifically for young children (around 5 years or older). You can find it on Amazon: [What Do You Do With an Idea? — New York Times best seller](#) by Kobi Yamada (Author), Mae Besom (Illustrator): 9781938298073.