



**May 2022**

# RENZULLI CENTER NEWS

## *Special Category*

### **9 Career Challenges Faced by Gifted Adults**

Gifted individuals often face unique challenges in their career paths. Many are not sure what they want to do with their lives. They are also more likely to change careers several times. Highly gifted individuals often have high expectations...

Read more from Psychology Today online article at <https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/living-emotional-intensity/202204/9-career-challenges-faced-gifted-adults>

## *Job Opportunities*

### **Job Openings for Summer 2022**

The Young Scholars Senior Summit (YSSS) program has staff positions available. The 3-week residential program will run from July 8 to July 30, 2022. We are looking for individuals interested in:

- Supporting college readiness for rising high school seniors,
- Facilitating fun and engaging evening activities, and
- Developing mentor relationships with a small group of students.

Staff counselors will be responsible for supervising a group of 8–10 high school seniors and organizing fun and interesting evening activities and events. The position offers a stipend of \$883.33 per week and is open to college juniors, seniors, graduate students, and alumni.

[Click here for more information on the position and how to apply.](#)

For more information, contact: Lisa Muller at [lisa.muller@uconn.edu](mailto:lisa.muller@uconn.edu)

## Confratute Announcements

Registration for our virtual Confratute 2022 is now open!

Register early for a discount and to secure your spot—we may sell out again!

[Click to Here to Register!](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Congratulations Three Summers Graduates

Congratulations to our 2021-22 Three Summers (GCT@UConn) graduates: Caitlin Donahue (Summer 2021), Brett Monnard (December 2021), Kari Morse (Spring 2022), and Mai Chiku (Spring 2022)! The UConn Master's/Sixth Year ceremony will be held Monday, May 9, at 9 a.m. in Gampel Pavilion. A live stream of the event is available at <https://totalwebcasting.com/view/?id=uconncommencement>

For more information, contact: Del Siegle at [del.siegle@uconn.edu](mailto:del.siegle@uconn.edu)

### Register for Dante Dixon's May 14 Webinar

Don't miss a webinar with *Dr. Dante Dixon's*, Michigan State University: ***The Power of Psychosocial Perceptions for Academic Talent Development***, on Saturday, May 14, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon Eastern time. In his talk, Dr. Dante Dixon will discuss the role psychosocial perceptions (i.e., one's thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs) play in advanced academic talent development and what educators can do to help students leverage their psychosocial perceptions to aid in them reaching their full potential.

Register at <https://gifted.uconn.edu/events>

For more information, contact: Del Siegle at [del.siegle@uconn.edu](mailto:del.siegle@uconn.edu)



## **Research**

### **Seeking Special Education Teachers for a Survey**

I am Derek Mason, a K-12 Special Education major in the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut. For my honors thesis, I am interested in learning more about the stressors, stress levels, and stress management techniques of special educators. I am also examining what challenges special education teachers have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic and how teachers perceive that those challenges have influenced their stress levels and ways of managing stress.

I am reaching out to you to ask if you would be willing to participate in an online survey. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Responses are anonymous, and no personally identifiable information will be collected related to the responses. Special education teachers who choose to participate in this study by completing the survey will have the opportunity to enter their email to enter a drawing for one of 20 \$25 Amazon e-gift cards on a separate link from the survey. Please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Catherine Little, at [catherine.little@uconn.edu](mailto:catherine.little@uconn.edu), or the student researcher, Derek Mason, at [derek.mason@uconn.edu](mailto:derek.mason@uconn.edu), with any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Survey link: [https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3yZX31gD7CSYx6u](https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3yZX31gD7CSYx6u)

For more information, contact: Catherine Little at [catherine.little@uconn.edu](mailto:catherine.little@uconn.edu)

## **Awards, Publications, and Presentations**

### **We Got It!**

By: Nicole Waicunas, SEM Outreach Coordinator

<https://twitter.com/WhittierECSTEM/status/1516495269893914625?t=36z1uH-vz55MX5KW4A4d3A&s=19>

Enjoyment, Engagement, and Enthusiasm for Learning: the Three Es are the ever-present theme in the classroom of Rain Wallin, the SEM Teacher at Whittier Elementary School in the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS). As a SEM specialist, Rain Wallin works with Felicia Messina-D'Haiti, who is the Manager for Academic Enrichment Programs and Extended Learning and Academic Recovery in DCPS. This year, they have been collaborating with Nicole Waicunas, SEM Outreach Coordinator at the Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development to ensure a powerful, creative, and supportive network that instills a supply of rich, and ever-present opportunities for educators like Rain to discover the very best in herself, and her students. Rain's quest, taken in conjunction with her 3rd,



4th, and 5th grade students, was to do their very best to try to win the **\$30,000 CIA Mission Impossible Grant** to make over their classroom.

Guess what?

They won!

Rain Wallin's investment in the interests, learning styles, and preferred modes of expression of each and every one of her students has led to their excitement to be in her class, and their increased belief in their ability to create change in the world in which they live. With their students, Rain and Felicia have crossed many miles via Zoom to accompany Nicole Waicunas to share and showcase their work to educators in the Netherlands, and Nicole looks forward to sharing their accomplishments and continued dreams, this summer, at Confratute.

For more information, contact: Nicole Waicunas at [nicole.waicunas@uconn.edu](mailto:nicole.waicunas@uconn.edu)

## ***Fun and Useful Resources: From Us to You***

### **Integrating the Engineering Curriculum**

Educating creative and innovative engineers is widely recognized as critical in solving the current and future challenges facing society. In this world of complex and highly interconnected problems, it is critical that every engineering student graduate with a well-rounded education that includes abilities ranging from engaging in complex thought, analysis, quantitative, and qualitative reasoning to communicating effectively...

Read more from Advances in Engineering Education online article at <https://advances.asee.org/wp-content/uploads/vol03/issue03/papers/aee-vol03-issue03-08.pdf>

