

September 2023

RENZULLI CENTER NEWS

Confratute Announcements

New! Taste of Confratute - October 21

We are pleased to invite you to our first Taste of Confratute on October 21, 2023! This new virtual event provides a professional learning opportunity reflecting the flavors of Confratute in “bite-sized” portions! The October 21 Taste focuses on the Schoolwide Enrichment Model, with sessions for experienced implementers and those new to SEM. Grab your favorite fall beverage and join us!

Watch the [Taste of Confratute](#) page for info - details coming soon!

For more information, contact: Stephanie Huntington at confratute@uconn.edu

Upcoming Events

2024 Wallace Research Symposium

The University of Iowa's Belin-Blank Center has partnered with the University of Connecticut's Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development as well as the National Center for Research on Gifted Education to present the 2024 Wallace Research Symposium on Talent Development. Supported in part by a generous endowment from the Wallace Research Foundation, the Symposium will be held May 19-21 at the University of Connecticut Storrs campus.

Scholars from around the world are invited to share current research findings and explore important questions relevant to the field. Paper and poster proposal submissions will be accepted from August 31 through **October 23, 2023**. Notification of proposal acceptance will be made on December 5, 2023, and registration begins the same day.

Topics to be discussed at the Symposium include the following:

- Giftedness, human potential, and talent development
- Affective issues in achievement and talent development
- Curriculum and instruction or program evaluation
- Creativity
- Acceleration
- Twice-exceptionality
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion

- Methodological issues in research on talent development
- Other

For more information, see the [Wallace Research Symposium website](#).

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

Mark Your Calendars! Professional Learning

The Renzulli Center is lining up a full menu of professional learning opportunities in the coming year! Mark your calendars and watch for updates on these:

- **Webinar series:** Our series of free webinars will launch again in November 2023. Speakers this year include Dr. Joy Lawson Davis, Dr. Nancy Hertzog, Dr. Dina Brulles, and more! Visit <https://gifted.uconn.edu/events/> for updates!
 - **Taste of Confratute:** This new virtual event offers a full day of professional learning reflecting the flavors of Confratute! We will hold four Taste of Confratute events this school year, each with a specific topical focus. Registration details coming soon at <https://confratute.uconn.edu/taste-of-confratute/>!
- October 21 – Schoolwide Enrichment Model
 - December 9 – Responding to Social and Emotional Needs and Underachievement
 - February 10 – Creativity
 - April 20 – Twice Exceptionality and Neurodiversity

For more information, contact: Stephanie Huntington at confratute@uconn.edu

Research

Renzulli Executive Functioning Scale

Do you work with 4th-8th graders? If so, researchers from the Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development are looking for educators like you to share information with parents about a survey concerning their child's executive functioning skills. The survey will ask students about the following: their ability to start tasks, ability to stay on task, organization, awareness of strengths and weaknesses, self-advocacy, ability to collaborate, and their awareness of and ability to manage emotions. This instrument will help us better understand how students see their strengths in the classroom and ultimately help us serve them better.

Please click on <https://s.uconn.edu/renzulliscale> to provide us with your contact information, and we will reach out with information about how to have your students participate.

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

Improve Your Identification of Gifted EL Students

If you are a grade 3 or 4 math teacher in the New England area, you can participate in **as new, exciting project to develop a dynamic approach to observe math talent in your Grade 3 and 4 students!**

The Project EAGLE (Eliciting Advanced Gifted Learning Evidence) team at the University of Connecticut is seeking Grade 3 and 4 classroom math teachers (preference given to classrooms with some English learners) from across New England to participate in our new Javits funded research project.



Email projecteagle@uconn.edu for more about this unique opportunity that includes compensated professional learning and five math lessons to teach throughout the year to spot math talent!

Learn more about the project at this [video link](#).

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

Awards, Publications, and Presentations

New Book for Parents!

Parenting from the Heart: Raising Resilient and Successful Smart Kids

By Steven I. Pfeiffer

Parenting from the Heart is a fresh, accessible, authoritative pocket book for helping your gifted, bright, or creative child become resilient and psychologically vibrant, both in and out of the classroom! To read more please go to the [Routledge](#) website.



Hope (Bess) Wilson Named Illinois Department Head

Hope (Bess) Wilson is the new chair of the **Department of Special and Early Education**. She comes to NIU from the University of North Florida, where she had taught since 2012 and most recently served as a professor in the Department of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum. To read more please go to [NIU College of Education](#) website.



Fun and Useful Resources: From Us to You

Free Videos on 2e-ASD

We are delighted to share a free of charge, advanced release of an online video and viewing guide developed by our 2e-ASD research team. The video summarizes findings from [Project 2e-ASD: Strategies for Gifted Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\)](#), a groundbreaking five-year research initiative generously supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act. In the public release of this video in September, we will have added closed captioning.

Our primary objective has been to identify effective academic and non-academic strategies that benefit students with both exceptional talents and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

This video summarizes our research findings, outlines strategies that have led to successful transition and college outcomes for gifted students with ASD (2eASD students), and shares the experiences of successful 2eASD students voiced by students themselves. The modules and viewer's guide are available for you **free of charge**!

Who may benefit from these training materials?

All K-12 school staff, including but not limited to:

- General educators
- Special educators
- Administrators
- Counselors
- School psychologists
- Social workers

What will you learn?

- Current trends in the research related to educating 2eASD students and preparing them for the transition to college.
- Research-based strategies that K-12 educators, administrators, counselors, and other school staff can use to prepare 2eASD students for the transition to college.

- The experiences of 2eASD students who have transitioned into and succeeded in college

How can you access the training materials?

You can access the training instructions and links to the modules and viewer's guide below.

What is the cost to access the training materials?

There is no cost. The training materials are **free** to access.

Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding the professional learning video modules and viewer's guide or Project 2e-ASD in general.

[Professional Learning Videos Link](#)

[Training Module Instructions](#)

[Viewers Guide](#)

[Questions?](#)

For more information, contact: Sally Reis at sally.reis@uconn.edu

