



Western Connecticut
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Education Day Session October 2, 2017

Goals and Objectives

Goal: To give participants an understanding of why their knowledge and involvement is critical for the success of education in Connecticut.

Objectives:

- ❖ Discuss the issue of equity relating to education in Connecticut, including achievement gaps, funding, and rural and urban school systems
- ❖ To instill an understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing institutions, teachers, and students, as well as the initiatives to address them
- ❖ To highlight the successes of specific programs that are proven to have positive impact on student achievement

Important Session Information

Session Leaders

Lynn Franklin-Henry, WCL '16
Michael McGill, WCL '16

Advisor

Ellen Carter, Director of Community Leadership, *Connecticut Community Foundation*

Session Attire

Dressing for comfort is appropriate.

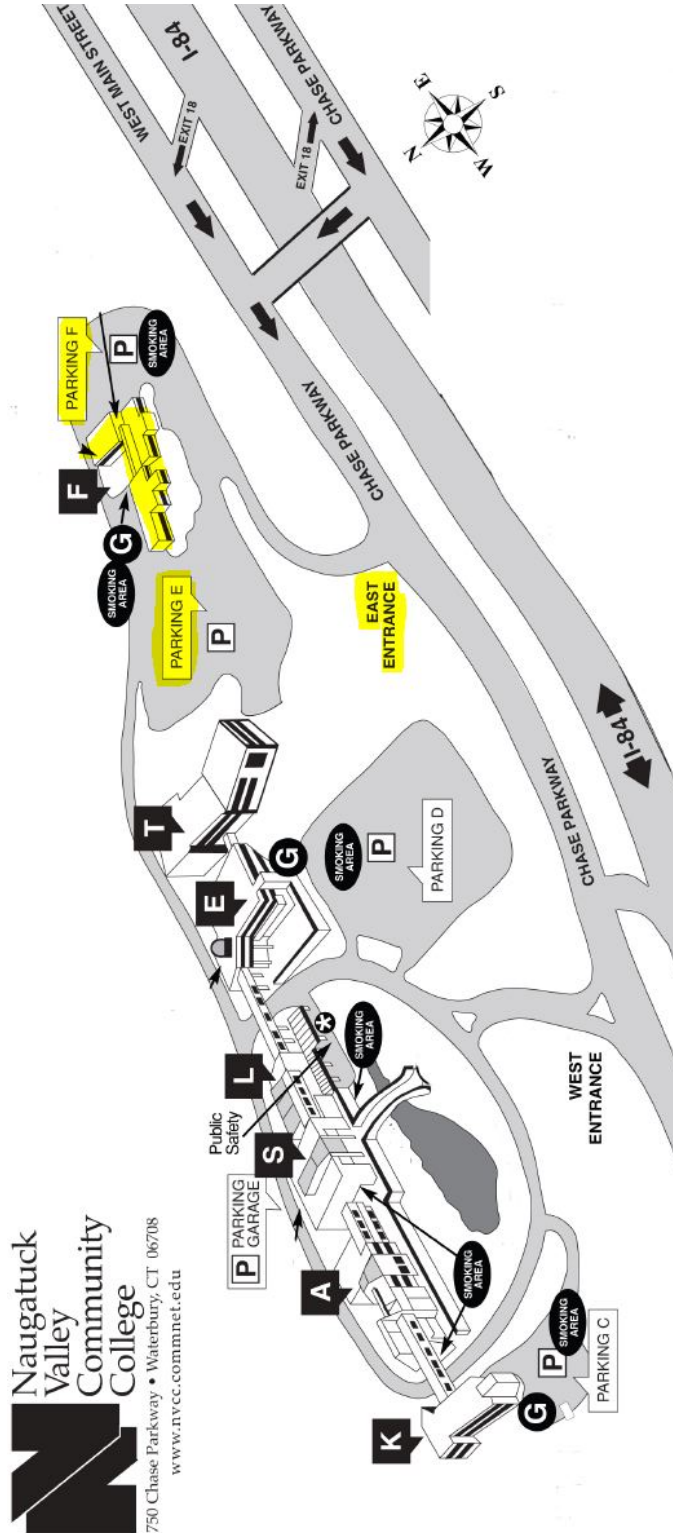
Venues

**Community Room, Founder's Hall – Center for Health Sciences
Naugatuck Valley Community College**
1460 West Main Street
Waterbury, CT 06708
[Map link](#) available via emailed agenda (sent 9/25/2017)

Parking

Founder's Hall-Center for Health Science is located off Chase Parkway. Use the East Entrance of Naugatuck Valley Community College, follow signs for Founder's Hall, and keep right. Parking is available on both sides of Founder's Hall (see parking lots F and E pictured on the map on page 2).

Map



**Naugatuck
 Valley
 Community
 College**
 750 Chase Parkway • Waterbury, CT 06708
www.nvcc.commnet.edu



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Agenda

- 8:30-8:45 Arrival and Light Breakfast
- 8:45-9:00 **Welcome**
Lynn Franklin-Henry, WCL '16 and Michael McGill, WCL '16
- 9:00-9:45 **State of Education in Connecticut: Insights into the Past and Future**
Jonathan Costa, Assistant Executive Director, *EdAdvance*
- 9:45-10:30 **Equity & Economics: Approaches to Addressing Equity in Education**
David Addams, Executive Director, *William Caspar Graustein Memorial Foundation*
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-11:50 **Education across the Region, Exploring Urban and Rural Realities**
Darren Schwartz, Chief Academic Officer, *City of Waterbury Public Schools*
Tim Breslin, Former Assistant Executive Director, *Connecticut Association of Schools*
- 11:50-12:00 **Foundation Bites: Education Impact**
Ellen Carter, Community of Leadership Director, *Connecticut Community Foundation*
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-2:15 **Breaking the Mold: Alternative Approaches in Education**
Inquiry-based learning with Courtney Bauknecht, Science Teacher, *Brass City Charter School*
RULER with Craig Bailey, Ph. D., Director of Education, *Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence*
- 2:15-2:30 Break
- 2:30-3:15 **Expanding Possibilities: Higher Education in the Region**
Daisy Coco DeFillipis, President, *Naugatuck Valley Community College*
William Pizzuto, Director, *UConn Waterbury Campus*
- 3:15-3:45 **Student Voices**
Dan Pesce, Program Associate, *Main Street Waterbury (UConn and NVCC Graduate)*



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Zach Keith, Project Manager, *Waterbury Development Corporation* (UConn Waterbury Graduate)

3:45-4:00

Session Day Wrap Up

Brief review of the day and preview of Civic Engagement Day

Speaker Biographies

Jonathan Costa

Assistant Executive Director, *EdAdvance*

Jonathan P. Costa, Sr. is assistant executive director of EdAdvance, a regional education service center based in Litchfield, Connecticut. A former public and private school social studies teacher, educational consultant and businessman, Costa's current responsibilities include supervision of the highly regarded Center for 21st Century Skills and the delivery of all professional development and consulting interventions on behalf of the agency throughout the tri-state area. Through his 30 years of service, he has provided close support for strategic and technology planning in dozens of districts, guided all manner of instructional improvements, as well as consulted on the promotion, identification, definition, instruction and assessment of 21st century skills. He is a frequent speaker at regional and national conferences and his writings have appeared in publications as varied as *Educational Leadership* and *Runner's World*.

Contact info: costa@edadvantage.org, edadvantage.org

David Addams

Executive Director, *William Caspar Graustein Memorial Foundation*

David Addams is Executive Director of the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund. Previously, he was Executive Director of the Oliver Scholars Program. He spent his early career as an attorney and a specialist in negotiation, mediation, and conflict resolution.

Over the last 20 years, David has served in various nonprofit management positions, including Executive Director of Associated Black Charities and Vice President of the New York Urban League. He was also Deputy Manhattan Borough President and Chief of Staff at the Manhattan Borough President's Office, Deputy Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union and Director of Affiliate Diversity and Strategic Initiatives for the American Civil Liberties Union. He served as a Visiting Distinguished Professor of Public Policy and Administration at Brooklyn College and an adjunct professor of public policy and law at Brooklyn College Graduate Center, City College of New York's Center for Legal Education and City University of New York Law School at Queens College.

Mr. Addams received his BA magna cum laude from Princeton University, his MSJ from Columbia University School of Journalism and his JD from Columbia University School of Law. Addams was



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admitted to the bar in the state of Michigan. A native of Chicago, Addams is married to Zanetta and father to Jelani, Tariq and Khalil.

Contact info: daddams@wcgmf.org

Darren Schwartz

Chief Academic Officer, *City of Waterbury Public Schools*

Darren Schwartz is a passionate educator who has a profound interest in serving diverse communities. He is the Chief Academic Officer for Waterbury Public Schools and has worked in the community for 5 years. Darren collaboratively works with 100 administrators, 1600 teachers, 300 paraprofessionals and all staff working within our schools as part of the organization. His vision includes differentiated supports with job-embedded, professional development based on individual need by modeling effective instruction and leadership at the teacher and administrative level. Darren is the co-chair, lead project manager and/or committee member for: District Data Team, Curriculum Writing, Standards Based Report Cards, Acuity, Professional Development and Evaluation, EdReflect, Culturally Responsive Education, Family and Community Engagement, and Summer School. Darren has previous experience in Hartford and East Granby, CT as a teacher, facilitator, principal of an Expeditionary Learning school and a member of central office. He has degrees from the University of Hartford, University of Connecticut and Teachers College, Columbia University. Darren lives with wife, Christine, and 2 daughters, Emily and Adalyn.

Contact info: dschwartz@waterbury.k12.ct.us

Tim Breslin

Former Assistant Executive Director, *Connecticut Association of Schools*

Tim Breslin served as assistant executive director of Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), an organization that supports schools, students, and staff, in all areas of operation. Previously, Breslin retired from Farmington High School, where he was principal. He taught English for six years in Baltimore County, Maryland and then served as assistant principal in Mamaroneck High School in New York and Chapel Hill High School in North Carolina. In addition to his work as principal of Farmington High School, Breslin was principal of Gettysburg High School in Pennsylvania and Newtown and Litchfield High Schools in Connecticut.

At CAS, Breslin was a long-time member of the Principals' Center Board of Control and chair of the Career Principals Committee. He was named Connecticut's High School Principal of the Year in 2009 and was awarded a CAS Letter of Commendation in 2010.

After graduating from Mount Saint Mary's University in 1969, Breslin earned a master of liberal arts degree and a doctor of philosophy degree from Johns Hopkins University and Duke University, respectively. He has amassed a long and distinguished record of service to public education in Connecticut which includes almost thirty-two years as a school administrator.

Contact info: tmbreslin@gmail.com



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Ellen Carter

Community of Leadership Director, *Connecticut Community Foundation*

Ellen coordinates the Foundation's leadership activities including strategic planning, diversity and inclusion, grassroots funding and support for The Leever Foundation. She also oversees grantmaking in the areas of early education, youth, health and Southbury. Ellen is a member of the Waterbury School Readiness Council, Bridge to Success Community Partnership and Greater Waterbury Health Improvement Partnership.

Ellen first worked to build up economies and residents in post-industrial cities while earning a bachelor's degree in psychology and urban studies from the College of the Holy Cross. Returning to Connecticut, she began her nonprofit career at the Connecticut Association for Human Services where she bridged the divide between direct service and public policy to support low-income families.

In her spare time, Ellen earned a master's degree in public administration with a certificate in nonprofit management from the University of Connecticut. Ellen lives in Waterbury with her partner, where they have almost removed all the wallpaper from their 1920 colonial.

Contact info: ecarter@conncf.org

Dr. Barbara Ruggiero

Executive Director, *Brass City Charter School*

Barbara Ruggiero, PhD, is co-founder of Brass City Charter School and has a varied career that demonstrates a life-long commitment to children's academic success. Prior to establishing Brass City Charter School in 2013, Ruggiero served in leadership positions at Children's Community School and Chase Collegiate School. Dr. Ruggiero is a former licensed child psychologist and an experienced school leader with curricular oversight, personnel, community relations, budget, management and fundraising experience. She has a master's degree from Harvard University and a doctorate from Boston University.

Contact Info: bruggiero@brasscitycharter.org, www.brasscitycharter.org

Courtney Bauknecht

Science Teacher, *Brass City Charter School*

Courtney Bauknecht is the Pre-K through Grade 3 science teacher at Brass City Charter School in Waterbury. She also serves as a Professional Development Facilitator for the Connecticut Science Center and works with teachers in districts across the state to deliver rigorous, immersive workshop experiences in both Inquiry Teaching and Learning pedagogy, and Next Generation Science Standards. Courtney is most passionate about developing student-centered science curricula and implementing inquiry-based instructional strategies for early elementary education.



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Craig Bailey, Ph. D.

Director of Education, *Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence*

Dr. Bailey is an Associate Research Scientist and the Director of RULER for Early Childhood at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. Craig and his team facilitate professional development workshops with early childhood educators; develop content for practicing and teaching emotional intelligence; and conduct psychological, educational, and intervention research. In particular, Dr. Bailey specializes in children's social and emotional learning in early childhood classrooms with an emphasis on how teachers support and promote the development of empathy and emotion regulation. With experience as an early childhood educator, he is passionate about bridging the gap between research and practice. In addition to his work at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, Dr. Bailey consults on many research initiatives, most prominently as the Director of Measurement and Evaluation for Think Equal.

Dr. Bailey earned his B.S. in psychology from South Dakota State University and his doctorate in applied developmental psychology from George Mason University.

Contact Info: craig.bailey@yale.edu

Daisy Coco DeFillippis

President, *Naugatuck Valley Community College*

Since assuming the presidency at Naugatuck Valley Community College in 2008, Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D., has instilled a shared vision of community, student-centeredness, collaboration and civic-engagement. Prior to coming to NVCC, Dr. De Filippis served as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College of the City University of New York (CUNY). Dr. De Filippis began her career at York College, also part of the CUNY system, as an adjunct lecturer in 1978, advancing to become a professor of Spanish and ultimately being appointed associate dean for academic affairs. Dr. De Filippis holds a Ph.D. in Spanish language and a M. Phil. in Spanish literature from the Graduate School and University Center of CUNY, an M.A. in Spanish literature and a B.A. in Spanish and English literatures summa cum laude from Queens College, CUNY. A published author and literary critic, her scholarly work is recognized internationally as pioneering the field of Dominican women studies and Dominican authors in the U.S. As president of NVCC, Dr. De Filippis has been honored by the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund, the Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity and the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission.

Contact Info: DDeFilippis@nvcc.commnet.edu, www.nv.edu



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William Pizzuto

Director, *UConn Waterbury Campus*

With over twenty years of experience in higher education administration, Dr. Pizzuto became the Director of the University of Connecticut Waterbury Campus in June 2006. Formerly, he served as the Interim Director of UCONN's Torrington Campus and oversaw the licensure and accreditation of universities and colleges for the Connecticut Department of Higher Education.

Dr. Pizzuto is a member of the Advisory Board of Naugatuck Valley Community College and serves on the Board of the Waterbury Hospital. He was appointed by the Governor to the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority, which works to expand higher education opportunities and enhance the State's economic development by providing cost-effective financing programs. Additionally, he is a member of the Greater Waterbury Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Government Affairs Committee, and was appointed the Director of the Palace Theatre Group.

Dr. Pizzuto earned his Ph.D. in Adult and Vocational Education from University of Connecticut and his M.S. in Organizational Management from Central Connecticut State University.

Contact Info: William.J.Pizzuto@uconn.edu, <http://waterbury.uconn.edu/>

Dan Pesce

Program Associate, *Main Street Waterbury*

A lifelong Waterbury resident, Dan Pesce received his bachelor's degree in Urban & Community Studies from the University of Connecticut in May 2016. He has volunteered for several community organizations on different committees since beginning his collegiate work.

Dan is currently employed by Main Street Waterbury, a downtown management and revitalization group focused on downtown Waterbury. In his current role, Dan is responsible for media & organization communications, committee coordination, volunteer recruiting and facilitation of downtown's Available Properties List.

He is also Chair of the Economic Vitality Committee and a member of Neighborhood Housing Services Community Building and Engagement Committee as well as recently being appointed as a Litter & Beautification Commissioner.

Zach Keith

Project Manager, *Waterbury Development Corporation*

Zachary Keith received his dual Bachelor's degree in History and in Urban and Community Studies from the University of Connecticut in May 2015. He received his Master's degree in Public History from Central Connecticut State University in May 2017. Prior to entering higher education, Zach



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attended St Mary's Grammar School and Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury. Currently, he is employed by the Waterbury Development Corporation (WDC) as a Project Manager-Urban Historian. In this position, he is working on remediation and development projects, as well as, the tax abatements and loan program at WDC. As part of his job, Zach completed a Capacity Building and Grant Writing Training Course in August 2017. In addition to educational and employment opportunities, Zach has been volunteering with the Waterbury Main Street Design Committee since May 2015. In August 2015, he was appointed to the Main Street Board of Directors. Zach has been a member of Waterbury Unico, an Italian-American heritage club, since May 2011 and was recently made the club's secretary. This summer, he also joined Waterbury Young Professionals to make networking connections.