

2017 Continuing Education Summer Programs Report

Roszena Haskins, Director for Continuing Education and Diversity Advancement

Summer High School

The inter-district summer high school program was held at Conard High School and enrolled 653 students this past summer. The total number of course enrollments for both semesters was 857. Students from 30 area towns and 36 area schools enrolled in 58 semester courses (46 credit and 12 non-credit) taught by a certified faculty of 50 teachers; 64% of whom are from the West Hartford schools. About 85.2% of enrolled students took courses to “get ahead” in their scheduled program, while 10.8% took courses for credit recovery. Several students enrolled in non-credit courses such as Study Skills, Intensive Reading, Introduction to Algebra, SAT Prep, and ESOL classes. Social studies, health and physical education course enrollment remained strong. Among Introduction to Algebra, Animation/Game Design and Photography courses were opened to middle school students in an effort to provide them with early college and career pathways and exploratory opportunities.

New this year were *Summer Jazz Jam* and *Maker it So*. *Summer Jazz Jam* was a successful two-week jazz ensemble program for over 60 students entering grades 7, 8 and 9 and performing on traditional big band instruments (saxophone, clarinet, flute, trombone, trumpet, bass, piano, guitar, drum set). The program concluded with a spectacular performance on the concert stage at Elizabeth Park. *Maker it So* was piloted this past and will receive grant funding from the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools to continue next year. The course mimicked the maker movement, known to past generations as “DIY” (do-it-yourself). It encouraged collaboration, invention, and radical participation with a single goal: to create new things. Students operated a t-shirt business and created custom t-shirts. They constructed duct tape projects; built and raced rubber band-powered cars and airplanes. The course was also intended to increase students’ social and collaborative skills in addition to promoting their interest in the arts, business, and engineering.

Summer Pre-Grade One Program

Programs were available for children ages 3 to 6 in school readiness classes held at Whiting Lane School. There were 76 students who participated in these programs; 59 of whom were students with special education needs.

Continuing Education – Adult Enrichment

In the LifeLearn enrichment program, 78 courses and 36 bus trips were offered. Approximately 557 registrants took advantage of the courses housed at Conard High School, Sedgwick Middle School and Town Hall in the evenings and took trips to areas and events of interest.

Agenda Item:
VI. A. 1. f.

Adult Education – High School Diploma Program and Citizenship Class

National External Diploma Program (NEDP) and Citizenship classes continued to meet during the summer. The NEDP advisors continued to meet with about 24 adult learners seeking to complete their course of study over the summer. Adult Basic Education (ABE) tutoring was provided for 6 students to prepare for NEDP. There were 10 students enrolled in the Citizenship class during the summer. The graduation ceremony for students finishing the NEDP this fall and during the past year will be held on Thursday, November 9th in the Town Hall Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.