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## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR, Maryann Augusta

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**WELCOME!**

December 2014

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### Welcome to Suffolk's Edge Teacher Center Professional Development Offerings

As I start my first year as Director of Suffolk's Edge Teacher Center, I am happy to return to the teacher center environment. This time I am very excited to be working with educators from the districts of Suffolk's Edge consortium, and Western Suffolk BOCES, policy board, business, higher education, and parent representatives.

As a former Teacher Center Director of a large consortium of Nassau and Suffolk school districts, National Board Mentor, teacher, and professional development facilitator, my aim is to support educators in their professional development goals because the most important educational factor that defines student outcomes is quality teaching. I believe Teacher Centers have always had a reputation for providing teachers with high quality, cost-effective professional development in part because they are teacher-driven. In keeping with this philosophy, we will continue to have an "open door communication policy" to best meet your professional development needs.

For 2014-15 we will continue to support your work with the Regent's Reform Agenda and all Race to the Top Initiatives. Emphasis will be on integrating the latest technology giving you the opportunity to select, learn and incorporate technology tools aligned with Common Core Standards into your lesson plans. A comprehensive menu of supportive resources, including Engage NY, will be available for work in these areas.

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### WHY REGENTS REFORM AGENDA & COMMON CORE STANDARDS?

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Suffolk's Edge Teacher Center remains true to its mission: "Dedicated to promoting excellence in education by helping teachers meet their professional challenges by providing innovative programs and professional support services." Our aim is to provide all educators with timely information directly relating to the mandated Regents Reform Agenda, understanding and implementing the Common Core State Standards, data-driven instruction, effective technology integration and technical assistance to districts in the process of developing their own PD plans. This will support the mandated Common Core Learning Standards, which is to identify what students should know and be able to do at each grade level and the Regents Reform Agenda to ensure that all students are college and career ready upon graduation.

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### 2016 New York State Teacher of the Year

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An opportunity to celebrate and recognize exceptional teachers! Nomination packet due February 2, 2015 and is available at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/toty/home.html>



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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**Traveling Math Academy:** SETC will send math experts to your school buildings to work with teachers after school on understanding the Math Common Core Standards. The workshops can be tailored to fit one hour faculty meetings or two hour curriculum meetings.

**Regional Common Core Workshops:** SETC is committed to providing high quality workshops to support teachers as they implement the Common Core Learning Standards. We will offer various workshops to support implementation of the common core, EngageNY modules, technology integration, as well as partnering with NYSUT's ELT for various course offerings.



**NEW! iPad Integration Lending Program:** SETC has acquired 50 i-Pads for districts to borrow to help support and enhance student learning. This is a new program that is still being developed. For more information, contact [maugusta@wsboces.org](mailto:maugusta@wsboces.org)



**NEW! Bilingual Extension Certificate:** An Informational Meeting will be facilitated by Brooklyn College on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4 P.M at Suffolk's Edge Teacher Center. All questions about this program will be answered. We hope to have a cohort starting February 2015 start. Western Suffolk BOCES Large Conference Room 31 Lee Avenue, Wheatley Heights. To register contact: [thunter@wsboces.org](mailto:thunter@wsboces.org)



**NEW! A Close Examination of the Changes to the New York State Social Studies Standards:** An in-depth analysis and work session devoted to reviewing the changes to the New York State Social Studies Standards.

January 8<sup>th</sup>: Grades K-16

January 15<sup>th</sup>: Grades 7-8 U.S. History

January 21<sup>st</sup>: Grades 9-10 Global History

January 29<sup>th</sup>: Grades 11-12 U.S. History, Government, Economics

Time: 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Western Suffolk BOCES Conference Center

To register contact: [thunter@wsboces.org](mailto:thunter@wsboces.org)

No cost to Suffolk's Edge Teacher Center members: (Amityville, Babylon, Bayshore, Copiague, Deer Park, Elwood, Harborfields, Half Hollow Hills, Kings Park, West Babylon, DRVC, Northport-E. Northport, W.S. BOCES)

\$50 for non-participating districts to attend 1 workshop or \$150 for all 4 sessions.

## CONTESTS FOR YOUR STUDENTS

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**Professor Garfield Contest Grades 4, 5, & 6. Entries due March 1, 2015:** Professor Garfield in conjunction with EOL Learning Learning + Education group at Harvard University, NYIT, and NYS Teacher Centers invites students to participate in a science-based contest about unusual facts through investigation at the encyclopedia of Life website. For info contact: [maugusta@wsboces.org](mailto:maugusta@wsboces.org)

**STEAMed: The Great Lasagna Challenge Grades 4, 5, & 6. Entries due March 1, 2015:** All science starts with a question and for Garfield there's no more important question than those involving lasagna! Your challenge is to create a question that can be answered by using a temperature probe, computer or tablet and a tray of lasagna. For info contact: [maugusta@wsboces.org](mailto:maugusta@wsboces.org)