



**EDUCATORS
RISING**

CONNECTICUT

WE WANT TO SAY..

THANK YOU!!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals and organizations whose dedication and support have made this Educators Rising conference possible. Your invaluable contributions have enriched the experience for everyone involved.

To Our Judges, Speakers, Panelists, and Moderators:

Thank you for sharing your expertise, insights, and passion for education. Your guidance and knowledge have inspired and empowered our attendees to pursue their aspirations in the field of education.

To Our Welcoming Facilitators:

Your warmth, hospitality, and organizational skills have set a welcoming tone for our conference. Your efforts have ensured that all participants feel valued and included from the moment they arrive.

To Our Student Cabinet and Student Interns:

Your enthusiasm, energy, and dedication have been instrumental in the success of this event. Your leadership and initiative serve as shining examples for your peers and future educators.

**To Central Connecticut State University and the
Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE):**

We express our sincere appreciation for your partnership and support. Your commitment to advancing education and nurturing aspiring educators has been instrumental in making this conference a reality.

Together, you have created a collaborative and enriching environment where ideas are shared, connections are made, and passions are ignited. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the future of education.



@edrisingct

Don't forget to check out our social media channels to relive the wonderful memories from the conference! We've captured the highlights, the smiles, and the unforgettable moments throughout the event.



**CONNECTICUT
EDUCATORS
RISING
2024
STATE
CONFERENCE**

CONFERENCE AGENDA

-ALUMNI HALL-

Welcome & Remarks

8:30-8:50

Dr. Paula Talty, Interim Dean/Certification Officer
School of Education and Professional Studies, Central Connecticut State
University

Danyelix Echevarria-Figueroa, Student Cabinet President
Connecticut Educators Rising, New Britain

Kiana Foster-Mauro, 2024 Connecticut Teacher of the Year, New London

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Commissioner,
Connecticut State Department of Education

Sinthia Sone-Moyano, Deputy Commissioner,
Connecticut State Department of Education

Breakout Sessions/ Competitions*

9:00-11:00

*A detailed schedule for each check-in is on the next pages of the
conference booklet.

Lunch

10:45-11:15

Competition Awards

11:20-11:35

Announcers and presenters of Award Winners:

Dr. Shuana Tucker and Dr. James Lane

Student Assistants: **Giovanni Mason-Brooks and Michaela de los Cientos,**
CCSU Aspiring Educators

Increasing Educator Diversity Symposium: "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges, & Cultivating Diversity Across Education Professions"

*Details for the symposium can be found at end of the conference
booklet.

12:00-12:55

Closing Remarks

12:55-1:00

Dr. Shuana Tucker, Chief Talent Officer
Connecticut State Department of Education

IED SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

“BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BRIDGES: CULTIVATING DIVERSITY ACROSS EDUCATION PROFESSIONS”

-ALUMNI HALL-

Welcome
11:35-11:40

Dr. Shuana Tucker, Chief Talent Officer
Connecticut State Department of Education

Keynote Speaker

Dr. James Lane, CEO, Educators Rising PDK International

Increasing Educator Diversity Panelist Discussion 12:00-12:55

Moderator: **Sherrod Cuttino**, Aspiring Educator, CCSU
Representative at Large for EdRising Student Cabinet

Panelists

- **Elizabeth Morales**, Social Worker, Torrington Public Schools
elizabeth.morales@torrington.org
- **Matthew Paylor**, Assistant Principal, Weston Public Schools
matthewpaylor@westonps.org
- **Crystal Davis**, School Counselor, Bristol Public Schools *crystaldavis@bristol12.org*
- **Chris Fulton**, Director of Athletics, Windsor Public Schools *cfulton@windsorct.org*
- **Lorenzo Baker**, Physical Education Teacher, Bristol Public Schools
lorenzobaker@bristol12.org
- **Eric Perez**, Physical Education Teacher (First Year Teacher),
Waterbury Public Schools
eric.perez@waterbury.k12.ct.us
- **Dawn Dickau**, 2024 CT Para Educator of the Year

Closing Remarks 12:55-1:00

Dr. Shuana Tucker



BREAKOUT SESSION #3

10:30-11:00

Breakout sessions have limited room capacity. Please ensure you follow your registered session on the form to avoid any capacity issues. Thank you for your cooperation!

Philbrick Theatre
2024-2025 Student Survey

Audience Capacity 50

Facilitator Student Cabinet Officers
Welcoming Student Cabinet

Survey Assistants: Student Cabinet Officers, Natalia Karas and Dayna Quinonez

Camp Theatre
Bridging Educators Rising High School to Aspiring Educators College

Audience Capacity 30

Facilitators: Giovanni Mason-Brooks and Michaela de los Cientos
Aspiring Educators

Welcoming Official: Elizabeth Sked, Connecticut Education Association

Sprague Theatre
Dual Enrollment

Audience Capacity 35

Facilitator: Dr. Paula Talty, Interim Dean/Certification Officer, School of Education and Professional Studies, CCSU

Welcoming Official: Isaias Rodriguez

Carleton Theatre
Middle School Competitions

Audience Capacity 35

Facilitators: Middle School Students

Welcoming Official: David Hemme, Jr., New Britain

COMPETITORS SCHEDULE*

9:00-11:00

Make sure to locate your designated time, room, and building to ensure you're well-prepared for your competition slot.

Location	Blue & White Room Audience Capacity: 20 Judges: • Terry Turcotte • Lauren Miele	Clock Tower Room Audience Capacity: 20 Judges: • Johanna Robles • Mary Kate Pompano	1849 Room Audience Capacity: 20 Judges: • Talisha Foy • Janice Pina	Dean's Office Barnard 327 No Audience Judges: • Dr. Jessica Ocasio • Debbie Weaver-Balough
	Children's Literature Inside Our Schools	EdRising Moment Inside Our Schools	Lesson Planning & Delivery	Exploring Non-Core
9:00	Isabella Klugman, Ridgefield	Anas Hales, Manchester	Deana Simms, New Britain	Esme Bryant Carter, New Britain
9:20	Alivia Afable, Waterbury	Madelina Molina, Waterbury	Craig Hunte, Waterbury	Yarelis Reyes, New Britain
9:40	Morgan Comstock, Stamford	Shelby Lewis, Ridgefield	Gabriella Cruz, New Britain	Dulce Fernandez, New Britain
10:00	Isabella Siciliano, Stamford	Adrianna Valentin, New Britain	Callista Assante, Manchester	Melany Sanchez, New Britain
10:20	Delray Sanchez Stevan Roman, New Britain	Dayvion Rush, New Britain	Danyelix Echeverria, New Britain	Nathaniel Ruiz, New Britain
10:40	Inside Our Schools Ridgefield Shelby Lewis, Isabella Klugman, Katherine Burns	Inside Our Schools Waterbury Alivia Afable, Madeline Molina, Craig Hunte		

During the competition, please turn off cell phones, refrain from taking photographs, and do not leave the room.

BREAKOUT SESSION #1

9:00-9:30

Breakout sessions have limited room capacity. Please ensure you follow your registered session on the form to avoid any capacity issues. Thank you for your cooperation!

Philbrick Theatre

Audience Capacity 50

Student Leadership and the Nationals Experience

Facilitator: Isaias Rodriguez, Mimi Colon

Welcoming Official: Michaela de los Cientos, Aspiring Educator, CCSU

Camp Theatre

Audience Capacity 30

Hiring Practices

Facilitator Marthe Gulledge, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator
PDK

Welcoming Official: Sherrod Cuttino, Aspiring Educator

Sprague Theatre

Audience Capacity 35

Recruiting You Diverse Staff with EdRising: Administrator Panel

Administrator Panelist:

- Michael Merati, Waterbury
- Jay Lipp, Bridgeport
- Jaimie Rechenberg, Bristol
- Sarah Duso, Equity Director, Norwich Public School
- Moderator: Sal Escobales, Associate Principal, Manchester Public School

Carleton Theatre

Audience Capacity 35

Breaking Bridges & Cultivating Diversity in Education Profession

Facilitator: Ericka Boutote & Waterbury Career Academy Team, Waterbury

Welcoming Official: Michaela de los Cientos, Aspiring Educator, CCSU



BREAKOUT SESSION #2

9:45-10:15

Breakout sessions have limited room capacity. Please ensure you follow your registered session on the form to avoid any capacity issues. Thank you for your cooperation!

Philbrick Theatre First Year Insights

Audience Capacity 50

Moderator: James Jones, Executive Director, New Britain Boys and Girls Club
Jon Coe & Mikayla Wells, Plainville
Christine Hopkinson & Danny Martins, Ridgefield
John Anastasio & Julie Ayers, Watertown
Elsa Bautista, Kimberly H. Davis, Stephen Foresi, Newington

Camp Theatre Building Diversity in Your Middle Schools

Audience Capacity 30

Panel Teams:
Dr. Nicole Sanders, New Britain
Eileen Marquez, New Britain
David Hemme Jr., New Britain
Melissa Krodel, Norwich
Francis Saraceni, Norwich

Moderator: Carrie E. Young-McWilliams, Ed.D., Great Schools Partnerships

Sprague Theatre Overview of EdRising, Mini-Grants, Diversity Scholarships and CT Registered Teacher Apprenticeships

Audience Capacity 35

Facilitator CSDE

Welcoming Official: Danyelix Echeverria

Carleton Theatre How to Recruit Students in a Grow-Your-Own Diverse EdRising Program

Audience Capacity 35

Facilitator: Dan Lauture, Stamford

Welcoming Official: Mimi Colon