

TIOGA COUNTY TEACHER CENTER:

HISTORY-

- ◆ Al Shanker, in the 1970's visited England to study the Teacher Center concept, the concept was endorsed by the NEA/AFT and about 20 New York Centers were federally funded.
- ◆ In 1980 Federal funding was removed and in 1984 New York State United Teachers lobbied the Legislature to pass Section 316 of the Education Law.
- ◆ In the ensuing years over 125+ teacher centers have been established.
- ◆ The Tioga County Teacher Center was created in 1990 and Bernadette Mallery-McCann was the first director.

PURPOSE-

- ◆ To established and provide a governing structure that allows teachers to *take charge* of their own professional development, share with one another the great wealth of expertise they possess and to provide on-going professional support services to teachers within the state.

GOVERNANCE-

- ◆ Teacher centers are governed by policy boards and their make up is set forth in Education Law 316.
- ◆ The board must contain a majority of teachers, to be appointed by their teacher collective bargaining unit.
- ◆ School districts choose to be included in a teacher center.
- ◆ If a district chooses to participate, the bargaining unit president and the Superintendent of Schools of each participating school sign a Declaration of Participation.
- ◆ One of the districts must agree to be the LEA and serve as the fiduciary agent.

COLLABORATIONS-

- ◆ Teacher centers are required by the SED to have an on-line communication network to allow sharing with all centers. (This is supported by the New York Institute of Technology.)
- ◆ Teacher centers are placed in regional networks (Southern Tier) to meet monthly, to share ideas and hold regional staff development. (We have held regional workshops on Job Embedded Staff Development and Character Education) Many of you attended.
- ◆ There are also five state committees. (Your director serves on the planning committee)
- ◆ Centers work in partnership with NYSED and local school districts to support many initiatives. Professional Development Plans, Annual Professional Performance Review, NCLB, statewide initiatives, and peer coaching are a few.
- ◆ Collaboration and partnership building is a hallmark of teacher center work.

SERVICES-

- ◆ Each center establishes its own mission, goals and services to meet the needs of the teachers served by that teacher center. Your input determines our services. (You may contact the Center or see your building representative.)
- ◆ *TEACHER CENTERS PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS AS DECIDED BY TEACHERS AND MANY TIMES TAUGHT BY TEACHERS.*

The Tioga County Teacher Center

- ◆ Your Policy Board contains 16 members, 10 are appointed by your Bargaining Units, one representative from each building of each consortium school.
- ◆ Your Center's Mission is to build at the local level, the professional capacity of the teachers and other members to improve student learning.
- ◆ Your Center offers study group grants (maximum of \$2000), Innovative Teaching Grants (Maximum of \$300), and Conference Grants (Maximum of \$500) We also offer poster maker (HP 24" designjet color and B + W), laminating services, Ellison machine, computers, digital camera and a class set of Palms.
- ◆ Your Center is located at the Nichols Elementary School. (699-7458, fax 699-7204)
- ◆ All information can be obtained from the Center or from your Building Representative. (Candor-Art Cacciola, Marcia Kanoff, Nancy Riggs, Newark Valley-Barb Crampton, Scott Senko, Robin Novi, Tioga-LuEllen Hoyt, Jayne Stoltzfus, JoAnne Stevens, Mandy Senko.)
- ◆ *The determination of the goals, directives and program offerings are determined by the policy board, which has a majority of teachers, appointed by teachers-your input and participation is very important to its success.*

Note: Our Teacher Center is totally funded by a competitive grant written by the director and submitted to the State Education Department. School districts are very generous and offer in-kind support, which is necessary for teacher center operation.