FREE DESE Professional Learning Institute 2019-2020

**Spreading the Word about Assistive Technology and Universal Design for Learning: Tools and Strategies for ALL Learners - E. Springfield**

**Course Description:**

Educators are required to consider Assistive Technology for every IEP or 504 Plan, but do they have the knowledge and resources to effectively do so? This Professional Learning Institute will provide Educators with a thorough understanding of best practices in the fields of Assistive Technology (AT) and Universal Design for Learning (UDL), as well as practical knowledge of the provision of Accessible Educational Materials (AIM/AEM). Working collaboratively through hands-on activities, participants will leverage the power of available technologies and resources to enable all students, especially those with disabilities, to access the curriculum and improve their learning. Tools for considering and assessing an individual’s need for AT will be explored as will district-wide processes for AT. The course is designed to provide ongoing online PLN support throughout the school year to facilitate practical classroom application of skills learned.

The Education Cooperative (TEC) and The Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative (LPVEC) are partnering to host two blended 45-hour Professional Learning institutes, one in Eastern MA and one in Western MA, with regular online learning activities that bring the two cohorts together and expand the AT Professional Learning Community statewide and beyond.

**Each District Team of TWO Participants will receive an assistive technology toolkit that includes:**

- Chromebook and case
- iPad and case
- $50 of iPad apps
- A suite of chrome extensions
- Low Tech solutions

**About the Instructors:** Jennifer Edge-Savage, MS,EdS,OTR/L is an Assistive Technology Consultant and Occupational Therapist who has been providing AT services in the K-12 Education, Higher Education, and Corporate settings for over 20 years. She is the former Director of the Graduate Program in Assistive Technology at Simmons College and is the Past-President and Board Member of the International Society for Technology in Education’s (ISTE) Inclusive Learning Network. Mike Marotta is a RESNA Certified Assistive Technology Professional who has been providing direct services to individuals with all disabilities for over 30 years. Mike provides assistive technology consultation support to several school districts and works to ensure effective, successful assistive technology consideration, evaluation and implementation. He is the co-founder of #atchat and edcampaccess.

**Audience:** All K-12 Educators. Administrator-approved DISTRICT TEAMS OF TWO committed to year-long professional development. Priority will be given to high-needs districts with large student populations, as well as to districts that did not attend prior years’ assistive technology institutes.

**Site:** Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative, 174 Brush Hill Avenue, West Springfield

**Date & Times:**

- **Synchronous Online Webinars:** Six 2-hour Webinars 6:00-8:00 pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month (July 23, Sep 24, Oct 22, 2019, and Jan 28, Mar 24, Apr 28, 2020)
- **Synchronous Social Media Chats:** Nine 30-minute Social Media Chats 7:45-8:15pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (Aug 14, Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11, 2019 and Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 11, Apr 8, 2020)
- **Asynchronous Online activity:** Ongoing via Twitter, Facebook, Google Classroom, and other online tools

**Earn:** 67.5 PDPs with an option for 3 graduate credits from Worcester State University $375

**Participation in ALL Face-to-Face and Online sessions and completion of assignments is mandatory for PDPs.**

**Cost:** FREE - Funded by Massachusetts DESE

**To apply,** please go online to: [https://teccoop.wufoo.com/forms/at-udl-west/](https://teccoop.wufoo.com/forms/at-udl-west/)

*Application Deadline is Monday, July 15th 2019!*

Notification of acceptance will be emailed no later than Wednesday, July 17th 2019