

CTI shines at Yale Conference

Charlotte Teachers Institute was well-represented at the sixth Annual Conference of the Yale National Initiative to strengthen teaching in public schools held Oct. 29-30 on the Yale campus in New Haven, CT. National Fellows and Institute staff, together with school officials and college/university representatives from League Institutes and cities exploring an Institute, collaborated to support the Initiative's work locally and nationally.

Teacher Institute leaders from New Haven, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco, Atlanta, Richmond, Wilmington, DE, and Charlotte reported on their progress and shared plans and challenges. In the keynote address, Dr. Lillian Lowery, Delaware's State Secretary of Education, said she wished every teacher could have the opportunity to participate in a Teacher Institute. She applauded Institute Fellows for their creativity and mastery in aligning their curriculum units with state standards and curriculum, as well as the Institute's focus on higher order thinking seminars to engage teachers who in turn serve as models for their students. She added that Delaware will highlight the new



CTI representatives at the 2010 Yale National Conference

Wilmington Teachers Institute as it allocates its *Race to the Top* funds to support public education.

CTI's Conchita Austin and Katie Radcliff were featured in a panel of National Fellows who described the teaching of curriculum units they developed at Yale last summer. Other CTI National Fellows who participated in the conference included: Brook Blaylock, Torieann Dooley, Intisar Hamidullah, Deborah Monroy and Connie Wood.

The Annual Conference: A Fellow's Perspective

"I really enjoyed the collegiality fostered by the Teacher Institute. There were many opportunities to network with like-minded individuals from K-12 to college level from across the country. Everyone was open and willing to share ideas. Another thing I enjoy about the Institute is how we are treated as professionals and experts in our area of study. With the climate of teacher evaluations and pay for performance proposals, it is refreshing to feel as if what we are doing has tangible value and is appreciated."

-- Conchita Austin, Science Teacher & CTI Fellow



A Stellar Event! CTI and a host of partners presented *Exploding Canons: The Planets in Outer Space and Beyond* at the Bechtler Museum of Art on Oct. 22. Thanks to the efforts of our CTI Fellows (hosting over 220 people including about 100 CMS teachers), it was a resounding success!

Seminar Spotlights:



The Rise of the New South

Our seminar spent one evening in the North Davidson ("NODA") area of Charlotte. The reason for our two hour tour was to visit sites of early 20th century textile mills and the villages that surrounded them. Our tour guide was Tom Hanchett, historian at the Levine Museum of the New South and the author of the book *Sorting Out the New South* that we are reading for the seminar. The tour illustrated and reinforced what we learned in the book: Beginning in the politically-tumultuous 1890s, powerful and wealthy members of the Charlotte region created neighborhoods and industrial areas that segregated the races and classes for the economic, social and political benefit of those in power. Tom's tour and stories allowed us to understand the lives of these mill hands, the economic development of the area, and Charlotte's role as one of the leading "New South" cities.

-- Jeff Joyce, CTI seminar coordinator
& Shep McKinley, CTI seminar leader