

Congratulations to All!

94 CTI Fellows Honored at 2012 Fellows' Finale Celebration



Scott Gartlan
Executive Director
Charlotte Teachers Institute

Congratulations to our 2012 cohort of CTI Fellows! These 94 dedicated CMS teachers were honored at the Fellows' Finale Celebration Dec. 11 at the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, in recognition of their outstanding work in 2012 CTI seminars. CTI's 2012 Fellows represent every grade level – 29 teach elementary school, 25 middle school, and 40 high school – and every subject – from art to biology, world history, American history, and art history, language arts and costume design, Spanish, ESL, earth science environmental science, physics, math and technology.

Each Fellow completed one of eight CTI seminars: "The Science of NASCAR," "Reading African American Lives," "Entertaining with Math," "American Political Parties: Their Failures and Their Futures," "Reading Media Imagery: Critical Thinking and Literacy," "All Immigration is Local: Exploring the New Geography of Immigration," "African American Literature of the Civil Rights Movement" and "Environmental Science and Climate Change." Each seminar was led by a professor from either Davidson College or UNC Charlotte and coordinated by a CMS teacher.

Together, these teachers spent nearly 3,000 hours attending CTI seminars at Davidson College and UNC Charlotte, not to mention the time they spent reading for the seminar, writing their curriculum units, and driving to and from each meeting, and enjoying dinner with their colleagues.

Together, these teachers wrote approximately 1,900 pages (20 pages/teacher) of new curriculum that will be accessible to teachers around the world. They plan to share their curriculum units with nearly 500 other CMS teachers and 7,425 students will



CTI's "The Science of NASCAR" Fellows prepared a surprise Finale presentation for their Seminar Leader Peter Tkacik (2nd from right).



Seminar Leader Jeffrey Leak (right front) enjoys the skit his "Reading African American Lives" Fellows presented in his honor.

be taught the units that they created this year. Together, these teachers have taught for 1,080 years (11.6 years/teacher), with 807 of those years in CMS (8.7 years/teacher), and together they plan on teaching for 1,177 more.

Beyond the numbers, CTI provides teachers and faculty with a transformative experience that changes their teaching forever. As a CTI Fellow shared recently, "CTI has helped me grow into a better teacher by reminding me that I must constantly evaluate my effectiveness and look for opportunities to improve, even in the smallest of ways."

Each Fellow received three continuing education units and a stipend for completing the seminar. Additionally, each Fellow is now eligible to apply to attend the Yale National Initiative Summer Intensive Seminars in July 2013 in New Haven, CT.

A First-time Fellow's Perspective



Jann Peck
Language Arts Teacher
Bailey Middle School

I am not the same person or teacher since April 2012. Being in CTI and the "Political Parties" seminar with Seminar Leader Susan Roberts was a life-changing experience for me in personal growth and civic literacy. I am different. The change was subtle, yet so powerful.

I began teaching/writing my curriculum unit immediately, and the unit took off with the onslaught of the 2012 Presidential Campaign. Thursday evening Seminar, Friday current events discussions, and the questions began from my students, "What did you learn last night? What did your professor say about..?" And the inquiries never ceased. My students were seeing me as a student, and we were learning about politics, political parties and demographics together. Parents joined in, too: "Our family sat down together with our tech devices last night and took that quiz on Pew Research. What a conversation we had. Thanks." I sensed a change in my students, in parents and in myself. My "school community" discovered a road we'd never traveled before, and it was exciting to learn our way to becoming involved—no, engrossed – in the political process, as critical thinkers, evaluators and debaters. My CTI seminar and leaders led me down a less traveled path, and I am forever grateful.

Save the Date!

Exploding Canons: All the Time in the World
McColl Center for Visual Art
Friday, January 25, 2013
5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

SPECIAL THANKS to CTI Supporters:

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