

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mike Thomas

FROM: Kimberly Boyle

DATE: November 2, 2011

RE: NYSEC Conference: *Teaching Humanity—The Character Connection*

Recently, five of my colleagues from the English department and I had the remarkable opportunity to attend this year's NYSEC conference in Albany. The workshops, keynote speakers, and level of professional discourse exceeded my expectations and affirmed my conviction to remain current and informed in my pedagogy. The overarching tenor of the conference was one of energy, commitment, and camaraderie. English educators across the state are embracing opportunities to remain proactive in shaping curricula aligned to the Common Core and all were eager to share practical applications for the classroom.

For me, the conference was the culmination of a process in my professional development which began this past spring at a Common Core BOCES training session. The process then continued into the summer as five of my colleagues and I came together to have conversation about implementing the Core and then extended to the BOCES training we received as a department in late September. Certainly, the conference validated my initial belief that this time investment would be vital to understanding curricular changes and endeavoring to keep current.