

August 2024

# RENZULLI CENTER NEWS

## Special Category

### Renzulli & Reis Featured in Concept. Found. News

Insights from Confratute—An Interview with Dr. Joe Renzulli and Dr. Sally Reis

By John Burrell

On Monday, July 1, I had the privilege of interviewing Drs. Joe Renzulli and Sally Reis in anticipation of the 46th anniversary of Confratute, held on July 14-18 at the University of Connecticut. Confratute, a blend of a conference, fraternity, and institute, has been a pivotal event since 1978, promoting the Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM). Our discussion also touched on their views about summertime enrichment for gifted and twice-exceptional (2e) children. Read more at <https://s.uconn.edu/cmmusingsJuly2024>

## Joe's Corner

### Online and Magazine Articles

[The Field of Giftedness—Past, Present, and Prospects:](#) Insights From Joseph S. Renzulli and Robert J. Sternberg

[The Five Dimensions of Differentiation](#)

[Effects of a Creativity Training Program on Divergent Thinking Abilities and Self-Concept in Monolingual and Bilingual Classrooms](#)

[Resolved: Debate Programs Boost Literacy and College Enrollment](#) by Beth E. Schueler and Katherine E. Larned, Education Next, Summer 2024

**RENZULLI** center  
Enjoyment  
Engagement  
Enthusiasm  
for Learning  
**for**  
creativity, gifted education, and talent development

# Confratute Announcements

## Celebrating Confratute 46!

Confratute 46 is in the books! We want to thank all those who attended for an amazing week of enjoyment, engagement, and enthusiasm for learning!

Follow us further from our Facebook account at: <https://www.facebook.com/uconngifted>

## Local Teachers Attend Confratute

### Five Academic Academy Teachers Attend Confratute 46 at UConn

*Waterbury Public Schools*

Five educators at Wallace Middle School's Academic Academy, including Academy Supervisor Melinda Grove, attended Confratute 46, an annual weeklong summer conference held at the University of Connecticut's Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education and Talent Development. Read more at <https://www.waterbury.k12.ct.us/district-departments/communications/district-newspress-releases/news-details/~board/newspress-releases/post/five-academic-academy-teachers-attend-confratute-46-at-uconn>

## Research

## Project Focus - Seeking Survey Participants

Project Focus, a Javits-sponsored project at the University of Connecticut, is seeking participants for a survey as part of a research study. The purpose of the survey is to learn about how teachers understand and describe the skills and characteristics of the students they teach, especially related to their participation in classroom discussions. The survey will contribute to the overall goals of Project Focus to support professional learning around questioning and discussion to challenge learners in the classroom.

We are seeking survey responses from U.S. teachers at grades K-12. Participation in the study will involve responding to an online, anonymous survey. The survey should take about 20–25 minutes. Participants are eligible to be entered into a drawing for one of 25 \$25 electronic gift cards for participation in the survey.

To learn more or to participate, please [click here](#) to access the survey. Please also consider forwarding this email to colleagues. If you have any questions, please reach out to Catherine

Little at [catherine.little@uconn.edu](mailto:catherine.little@uconn.edu) or 860-486-2754 or email the team at [project.focus@uconn.edu](mailto:project.focus@uconn.edu).

For more information, contact: Catherine Little at [catherine.little@uconn.edu](mailto:catherine.little@uconn.edu)

## Study of Subject Acceleration Practices

Study of Subject Acceleration Practices – Seeking Interview Participants

The National Center for Research on Gifted Education is conducting a study to document and disseminate information on how school districts implement subject acceleration (i.e., advancing students in one or more subject areas without whole-grade accelerating the student; may exist in combination with whole-grade acceleration procedures). We are seeking responses from school districts who have systematic procedures in place for subject acceleration. Our study goal is to describe common procedures in place in districts across the country as guidance for districts considering how to approach this practice.

Participation in the study will involve an online interview of a knowledgeable member of the district staff (e.g., gifted program coordinator, director of advanced academics) with the study team. We expect the interview to last approximately 1 hour. Participants will receive questions in advance and will also have the option of submitting responses in writing.

To learn more about the study or to indicate interest in participation, please review the consent form here: [https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dczM9ULuiQUd6ke](https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dczM9ULuiQUd6ke) or reach out to Catherine Little at [catherine.little@uconn.edu](mailto:catherine.little@uconn.edu) or 860-486-2754.

UConn IRB Protocol X23-0389 Approved July 13, 2023

For more information, contact: Catherine Little at [catherine.little@uconn.edu](mailto:catherine.little@uconn.edu)

## Upcoming Events

### Save the Date! Professional Learning in 2024-2025

Here at the Renzulli Center, we are gearing up for professional learning opportunities throughout the new school year! Visit <https://gifted.uconn.edu/events/> and mark your calendars for upcoming events!

For more information, contact: Catherine Little at [catherine.little@uconn.edu](mailto:catherine.little@uconn.edu)