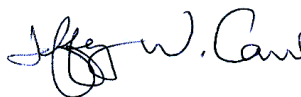
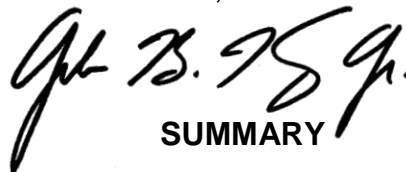




TO: Cultural Education Committee
FROM: Jeffrey W. Cannell 
SUBJECT: Uncommon Approaches to the Common Core
DATE: December 8, 2014

AUTHORIZATION(S):


SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

What lessons were learned from the 2014 Uncommon Approaches to the Common Core Conference organized by the Office of Cultural Education.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For information.

Background Information

In August 2014, the Office of Cultural Education hosted a second conference that gathered representatives from cultural institutions, libraries and schools in an effort to increase communication and improve the integration of cultural resources to support the curriculum. The first conference was held in August 2013.

Staff will present the lessons that have been learned to date from the Uncommon Approaches to the Common Core conferences and regional meetings:

- School Librarians are increasingly recognized in schools as playing an important role in connecting cultural institutions to other instructional staff.
- The cost of student transportation for visits to cultural institutions was cited by participants at the conference as one of the most significant barriers to integration of cultural resources in the curriculum;
- Cultural resources, while widely available and often digitized, are hard for teachers to find because they must visit multiple websites to do so. With the help of the Northeast Comprehensive Center, OCE has created a new Uncommon Approaches website where such information is aggregated.

Staff will demonstrate the new website – <http://nysculturalled.org>. The website contains resources that are designed to support the connection between schools and cultural institutions. The web site is intended to provide:

- Directory information on cultural institutions organized by county
- Links to Open Educational Resources, which are online resources from cultural institutions that are freely available.
- Best practices for using cultural resources in the classroom
- Opportunities for social media interaction among practitioners

Follow-up activities in the upcoming year include:

- Continued development of the content of the web site;
- Continued investigation of strategies to remove the major barriers to closer integration of the resources provided by cultural institutions in the curriculum;
- Continued communication and collaboration among conference participants to identify and share best practices and foster community between schools and cultural institutions in a geographic region;
- Continued professional development for educators in cultural institutions through a 2015 conference to better enable them to support schools.