

South Intensive Transition School's Literacy Leadership Team Attends State Conference

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South Intensive Transition School recently selected three teachers and one administrator to attend the Secondary Reading Council of Florida (SRCFL) 19th Annual State Conference from May 10-11, 2013 at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Hotel in Fort Myers, FL. SpringBoard English Language/Reading teachers Monique Lambrou and Jacqueline Major, High School Department Chair/Social Science teacher Amy McGregor-Rick and Assistant Principal Terrence Narinesingh were selected to attend the two-day conference to attain a clear understanding of the rigor and expectations necessary to implement the Common Core State Standards, literacy strategies and new practices for secondary literacy.



The SRCFL conference, which is held at a different location in Florida every year, supported activities related to secondary literacy and the Common Core State Standards. The keynote speaker was New York Times Bestselling Author Sharon Draper, the acclaimed author of the Sassy series. She is also the author of many books for teens, including the New York Times bestsellers *Copper Sun*, the 2007 Coretta Scott King Award winner, and *We Beat the Street*. She also wrote *Forged by Fire*, the 1998 Coretta Scott King Award winner, as well as *Tears of a Tiger*, winner of the CSK/John Steptoe New Talent Award, and *The Battle of Jerico* and *November Blues*, both Coretta Scott King Honor Books. Students at South Intensive will read high interest and high complexity ebooks daily by Sharon Draper on the Nooks, which were purchased from Barnes & Noble, during **D**rop **E**verything **A**nd **R**ead (D.E.A.R).

“It was an extraordinary experience to network with colleagues who have a mutual understanding and passion for reading, and collaborate on research-based practices to support effective reading instruction for all teachers to ensure that our students are equipped for a smooth transition to the Common Core State Standards,” said Terrence Narinesingh, Ed.S., Assistant Principal.

Monique Lambrou said, “The Secondary Reading Council of Florida Annual Conference provided me with wonderful resources and ideas that will help my students get excited about the reading process. I am confident that the new knowledge and skills I acquired at the conference will help prepare my students for the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.”

The conference program overview included the welcome/introduction by Rachelle Savitz, President of SRCFL, and speech by Dr. Joseph Burke, Lee County Superintendent. Breakout sessions included:

- *Use of Multiple Measure of Data to Inform Instruction (with an emphasis on FAIR data) – Deb Gynn, Reading Coordinator, Region V, Bureau of School Improvement, Florida Department of Education*

- *Sail to Success With Strategies that Integrate Literacy in the Content Area* – Dr. Regina Rees, Associate Professor
- *Close Reading for Struggling Readers* – Linda Fowler, Curriculum Specialist
- *Preparing Students and Ourselves for Common Core State Standards: Writing* – Marissa Kingham, Writing Specialist
- *Literacy in Secondary Mathematics: Making Connections* – Joanne Patchin, Math SpringBoard Specialist
- *Explicit Instruction: The Key to Assessing the Common Core Standards* – Dr. Anita Archer
- *Using Simple Debate to Teach the Argumentative Essay* – Dr. Bill McBride
- *Florida Department of Education Updates* – Laurie Lee, Reading Specialist, Just Read FL!
- *Get Real! Read Kids, Real Books, Real Reading and Real Results* – Dr. Janet Allen

“The conference gave me an opportunity to interact with other colleagues and learn many new strategies. The conference left me feeling energized and excited about reading and Common Core,” said Amy McGregor-Rick.

The SRCFL is a special interest council of the Florida Reading Association, an affiliate of the International Reading Association. The purpose of the SRCFL is:

- To support activities related to secondary reading
- To promote membership and partnership with the Florida Reading Association and the International Reading Association
- To improve the quality of reading instruction by:
 - Encouraging the study of the nature of the reading process
 - Stimulating, promoting, and publishing research dealing with all aspects of reading
 - Acting as a clearinghouse for information related to reading
 - Encouraging, supporting, and contributing to the development of high-quality teacher education programs, both in-service and pre-service
 - Sponsoring conferences and meetings

“This weekend’s SRCFL Conference was very illuminating. I especially enjoyed three presenters: Sharon Draper, Dr. Anita Archer and Dr. Janet Allen. Dr. Archer gave the audience a thoroughly USEABLE technique to utilize explicit instruction; a methodology for teaching academic skills in a structured, systematic, and effective manner. I left her seminar feeling completely empowered.

Dr. Janet Allen was my favorite of the day. Between her completely informative yet highly entertaining presentation of effective comprehension strategies and the flipchart she shared with audience members, I came away with knowledge that will help me help my students overcome challenges they face in content reading and writing,” said Jacqueline Major.

For more information, contact Terrence Narinesingh at (561) 202-0600 or terrence.narinesingh@palmbeachschools.org

About South Intensive Transition School:

South Intensive Transition School officially opened its doors in 2007 as an alternative school with high expectations for exemplary achievement, serving students in Grades 6-12. South Intensive is the first alternative school in the School District of Palm Beach County to offer the rigorous SpringBoard® curriculum in English Language Arts and Mathematics to ensure that students are equipped to achieve success on the Common Core State Standards

(CCSS) and become college and career ready. South Intensive effectively implements the research-based School-wide Positive Behavior Support (SwPBS) strategies to promote safety, civility, and demonstrate increases in student respectfulness, responsibility and motivation.

Today, South Intensive has achieved the **Green School of Promise** recognition for taking a holistic approach to going green that incorporates school ground enhancement, resource conservation, curriculum connections, and community involvement with a school wide commitment and focus on sustainability. Through collegial partnerships with Lynn University and several community agencies, students benefit from additional services to ensure academic and behavioral intervention success.

For more information, visit http://www.edline.net/pages/Intensive_Transition_South.

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