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**Teachers Sharpen 21st Century Sustainability
Teaching Skills and Lesson Plans at CEL F's Summer Institute**



CAPTIONS: Harrison High School science teacher Josie Cain (left) engages in a breakout discussion on how to integrate sustainability themes into a school's overall curriculum. Chris DeMattia (right) of Bedford's Fox Lane High School, a past CEL F Summer Institute participant, facilitates the discussion.

CHAPPAQUA, NY, July 31, 2012 ... Earlier this month local area teachers took time away from their summer vacations to dive into a topic of growing importance in many classrooms: sustainability and how best to teach it.

Elementary, Middle and High School teachers came together for the 2012 CEL F Summer Institute, an intensive 4-day teacher training workshop that took place mid-July at Manhattanville College.

Designed to help educators seamlessly integrate Education for Sustainability (EfS) practices into existing curriculum across all subject areas, the professional development workshop is one of many programs developed and run by Chappaqua-based Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CEL F). This year's Institute marked CEL F's fifteenth such workshop to date. Earlier this summer CEL F kicked off a specialized EfS curriculum-training program for New York City's public schools, having been tapped by the New York City Department of Education as a leading authority on the subject.

According to CEL F's Executive Director Katie Ginsberg, the goal of the Institute is for every



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participant to “walk away with not only with a better understanding of how to teach sustainability and systems concepts, but also with a set of relevant and exciting lesson plan ideas for immediate implementation.”



Stephanie Barrett (near left), a local area ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher recently attended the Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation's Summer Institute where over 25 local educators gathered to discuss the topic of sustainability and how to best integrate it into classroom teachings. Barrett is pictured here at the Institute working one-on-one with CELF's Director of Education Melanie Lester.

Pamela Scott, ELA teacher and Sustainability Coordinator, IS52, Inwood, NY had this to say: “Thanks for such an amazing workshop. I would be floundering right now without that training. I feel that I am prepared now to address critical

issues concerning sustainability with my students in a responsible, positive and enlightened way. I am more hopeful than ever that our students will become caring and connected individuals who can make decisions that benefit the community and the world. This training has pointed me in the right direction.”

Participants at the Institute represented a wide variety of private and public schools from the Westchester County and New York City, NY and Fairfield County, CT regions and New York City including: NY's Hastings High School, Harrison High School, Rippowam Cisqua (Mt. Kisco), Pleasantville Middle School, the Hackley School (Tarrytown), plus Greenwich Country Day School (CT) and four teachers from the Danbury Public School District (CT). Additionally, for the first time the program included international participation, with the enrollment of an academic supervisor from a United Arab Emirates private school. Also participating in the workshop were graduate students from Manhattanville College School of Education and Anne Jaffe Holmes from the Greenburgh Nature Center.

Generously supported by corporations, private foundations and individual donors, the Institute has provided professional development and curriculum design support for hundreds of teachers over the past eight years. Longtime CELF supporter Con Edison was again a significant supporter of the Institute, along with Praxair who provided full scholarships for teachers from the Danbury Public School District.





Pleasantville Middle School teacher Janine Fugarino (far right) engages in a breakout discussion with CELF presenter [Dr. Sherie McClam](#), Manhattanville College School of Education (far left), Ely Perry (left center) of Louis M. Klein Middle School and Jim Lynch (right center), a graduate student at Manhattanville College, on how best to integrate sustainability themes into a school's overall curriculum.

"The day before I came to the Institute, I was anxious and tense. However, I must say that from Day 1 all Institute staff and the participants made me feel very comfortable and gave me support and guidance. A big thank you! All instructors were clear in communication, innovative and creative. I am so glad I had the opportunity to attend the Institute. CELF's materials are going to be of great use to me!" – Sheela George (right), Academic Supervisor, Our Own English High School, United Arab Emirates



CEL F Summer Institute presenter [Jen Cirillo](#) (left), Director of Education at Shelburne Farms, leading a group activity on desired student outcomes. The 2012 Institute marks the fourth year of Shelburne's work with CELF, and the sixth year of partnership with Manhattanville College.



For more information about CELF or the CELF Summer Institute, go to www.celfeducation.org.

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About The Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CEL F): Founded in 2003 and based in Chappaqua, NY, CELF was created to promote awareness of the importance of sustainability education and to help schools and school districts make sustainability an ongoing part of education. To achieve this, CELF provides consulting services for schools and school districts, training for teachers and administrators and sustainability education programs for students. A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, CELF works with all kinds of schools—urban, suburban and rural, public and private. For more information go to: www.celfeducation.org.