

MEGAT Spring Conference 2025

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Joseph S. Renzulli and

Dr. Sally M. Reis

University of Connecticut



Keynote - New Directions in the Schoolwide Enrichment Model

The Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM) is a plan for delivering enrichment and acceleration through an integrated continuum of services for academically and artistically talented students. The word “integrated” is emphasized because services provided through the various components of the model enable students who show superior performance or advanced interest to escalate their experience through options that can be available through other service delivery components. Services provided by the model range from general enrichment for both wide-ranging and targeted subgroups to highly individualized curriculum modification procedures for rapid learners and first-hand investigative opportunities for highly motivated individuals and small groups. The model also includes a broad array of specific grouping arrangements based on commonalities in abilities, interests, learning styles, and preferences for various modes of expression. This session will summarize the SEM, describe how it provides access for diverse learners, and summarize various services and outcomes. In particular, the presenters will focus on new directions in the SEM over the last decade, focusing on its use with culturally and linguistically diverse students: as a magnet, theme, and charter school, and the development of Renzulli Academies. The focus will be on explaining the many ways the SEM can be implemented, sharing the research that has guided its four decades of evolution, and on the many diverse schools that have implemented it over time.

Biographical Statements:

Joseph S. Renzulli, Ph.D

Joseph S. Renzulli is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Connecticut. His research has focused on the identification and development of creative/productive giftedness and total school improvement by using student strengths and interests to promote increased achievement and high levels of enjoyment, engagement, and creativity in school and learning. The former Director of the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented in the United States, his books and articles have been translated into several languages and his work is widely used around the world. He was recently ranked third among the top 30 most influential educators in the world.

His most recent work is an online personalized learning program that provides individual profiles of each student’s academic strengths, interests, learning styles, and preferred modes of expression. This unique program also has a search engine that matches multiply coded resources with each student’s profile. Teachers also use the program to select and infuse high engagement enrichment activities into any and all standardized curriculum topics (www.renzullilearning.com).

Sally M. Reis, Ph.D.

Sally M. Reis holds the Letitia Neag Chair in Educational Psychology, is a Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor in the Neag School of Education and the former Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at the University of Connecticut. She also served as Principal Investigator of the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented and Head of the Educational Psychology Department. She was a classroom teacher in public education as well as an administrator before her work at UConn. She has authored and co-authored over 280 articles, books, book chapters, monographs and technical reports, and worked in a research team that has generated over 50 million dollars in grants in the last 15 years. Her latest work is funded research that enables an in-depth study of academic success in 2e students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, with the development of programs and interventions based on what works for this population.

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Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Del Siegle

University of Connecticut



Keynote - Sifting Through the Essentials of Gifted Education for Talent Cultivation: Separating the Wheat from the Chaff

It is the nurturing of gifts and talents that truly makes a difference in children's lives, along with the benefits they contribute to society. In this presentation, we will explore three essential components of talent development that foster healthy growth and maintain student motivation and engagement. These include access to advanced content, an intellectually stimulating learning environment, and opportunities to explore interests and passions.

Biographical Statements:

Del Siegle, Ph.D

Del Siegle is the Lynn and Ray Neag Endowed Chair for Talent Development at the University of Connecticut, where he directs the U. S. National Center for Research on Gifted Education (NCRGE). He is a past-president of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) and recipient of their 2021 Founder's Memorial, 2018 Distinguished Scholar, and 2011 Distinguished Service Award. He is a former co-editor of *Gifted Child Quarterly* (GCQ) and the *Journal of Advanced Academics* (JOAA), co-author with Gary Davis and Sylvia Rimm of the 6th and 7th editions of *Education of the Gifted and Talented*, author of *The Underachieving Gifted Child: Recognizing, Understanding, & Reversing Underachievement*, and author of a technology column for *Gifted Child Today*. He has served as an Educational Psychology department head and Neag School of Education Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs at the University of Connecticut.