



NJDOE News

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DOE to Host Workshop on Small Learning Communities

The Department of Education will host a "Small Learning Communities" workshop in Iselin on Tuesday, Feb. 8. Seats are still available for the daylong workshop, which focuses on how to help individual students by creating smaller group settings.

The keynote speaker for the workshop is Dennis Littky, founding co-director of The Big Picture Company, a nonprofit organization founded in 1995 that educates students "one kid at a time." Littky is also director of The Big Picture Company's model school, the award-winning "Met" Center in Providence, Rhode Island.

The workshop, scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., will take place at the Hilton Woodbridge, 120 Wood Avenue South in Iselin. The workshop fee is \$145. Participants receive credit for five professional hours, breakfast and lunch, and a copy of Dennis Littky's book, "The Big Picture: Education is Everyone's Business."

To register, please contact Meredith Coticchio in the DOE's Northern Region Office at (973) 655-2115.

Littky, who holds a doctorate degree from the University of Michigan, has been principal at three award-winning schools and was the 1993 Principal of the Year at Thayer Junior/Senior High School in New Hampshire. He was a runner-up for the national "Principal of the Year" award that same year.

Littky's experience at the Thayer Junior/Senior High School was featured in an NBC movie, "A Town Torn Apart," based on the book, "Doc" (Contemporary Books, 1989). Littky has received numerous educational awards and professional accolades. His book titled, "The Big Picture: Education is Everyone's Business," was published in September 2004.

The Feb. 8 event is one in a series of six professional development workshops sponsored by the Northern Region. For more information about this or other events, please click on the following link:

www.state.nj.us/njded/news/2005/0119pd.htm.

For media questions, please contact the Department of Education Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126.