

## Conference focuses on induction, mentoring for new teachers in Illinois

■ Official event is June 28, at the I Hotel and Conference Center, 1900 South First Street, Champaign, IL

### ■ POTENTIAL SOURCES

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(Keynote speaker)  
one of the original Freedom Writers, featured in the book and film of the same name.

**CHAMPAIGN, IL. — “Your first year of teaching is the most difficult,”** said Jessica Schad, a novice seventh grade mathematics teacher at Urbana Middle School. “In many cases, new teachers don’t have the supports they need. This conference is so beneficial because it allows new teachers to network and realize they are not in it alone.”

**New teachers and their first year of teaching** will be the focus of a statewide, one-day conference on June 28 in Champaign, IL, the second such event organized by the Illinois New Teacher Collaborative (INTC).

**One hundred first-year teachers** are expected to attend the event, “Y2: Moving Beyond Survival,” at the I Hotel and Conference Center, 1900 South First Street.

The conference will offer new teachers time to reflect on and share the past year’s teaching experience, contribute to the improvement of pre-service teacher preparation, and **network with beginning teachers from around the state.**

This event also offers ideas, strategies, and tools to help new teachers learn from each other, says Dr. Chris Roegge, Director of INTC, a statewide initiative involving almost **every group with an interest in Illinois education.**

“A new teacher’s first year in the classroom shapes his or her entire career,” Roegge said. “This conference gives new teachers an opportunity to **learn new strategies in teaching,** hear from their peers on best practices, and reflect on their experience.”

**The Y2 conference is organized with the help and input of new teachers,** including Schad. “When you’re a new teacher, everything is new to you: the school culture, the class prep time, and the students. It can be overwhelming. This conference gives new teachers a chance to look back at the past year and network with others in the same situation.”

The conference will consist of opportunities for collaboration, breakout sessions, one keynote address by **Manuel Scott, one of the original Freedom Writers,** featured in the book and film of the same name, and a second keynote address by Dr. Dorothy Espelage, University of Illinois professor and nationally known authority on school bullying.

INTC is housed in the **College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** and is supported by the University, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the State Farm Companies Foundation. The conference is sponsored by the State Farm Companies Foundation.

**For more information and a downloadable agenda visit:**

<http://intc.education.illinois.edu/page/intc-beginning-teacher-conference>

