



From Benedictine University at Springfield

Attention: Managing, News and Education Editors

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Meeting the needs of gifted learners is subject of forum for educators and parents

Springfield, Illinois - Cynthia Sedam, Ph.D., the director of Education at Benedictine University at Springfield and liaison for Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS), will host a forum for educators and parents to discuss the benefits of above-grade level testing as a critical assessment and planning tool at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, in the Brinkerhoff Home.

Sedam will be joined by special guest presenter Rhoda Rosen, Ph.D., the associate director of the Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University. The event is free and open to the general public.

"The first step in charting an effective academic program for gifted students is to assess their ability accurately," Rosen said. "Above-grade-level testing is the best means available. High achievers hit the ceiling on standardized grade-level tests. They require a more advanced test, one designed for a higher grade level, to gain a true measure of where they are performing, and what they need moving forward."

"Knowing what a child is capable of doing, teachers can differentiate and tailor instruction to meet the student's needs," she added.

In her forums, Rosen, who directs Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS), explains what is involved in above-grade-level testing and how students in grades 3-9 can participate. Most importantly, Rosen discusses the myriad interpretative and planning resources available once test scores are known. Her insights are valuable to any educator or parent committed to ensuring the development of an academically gifted child.

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For more information about the session, contact Sedam at (217) 525-1420, ext. 289, or csedam@ben.edu. You can visit Benedictine University at Springfield's website at <http://springfield.ben.edu>.

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Benedictine University at Springfield is an independent Roman Catholic institution located in the Illinois state capital. Founded in 1887, Benedictine provides 17 undergraduate majors, five graduate and one doctorate program in Springfield, in addition to a wide range of athletic opportunities for students through membership in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).