

# NYSSEC 2023 Summer Institute

## Keynoters



### Dr. Marion Terenzio



#### President - SUNY Cobleskill

Dr. Marion Terenzio is the 12<sup>th</sup> president of the SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill. She has presented at numerous venues, including the United Nations, on the role of effective higher education practices in community well-being and economic revitalization and sustainability. Dr. Terenzio created the *Institute for Rural Vitality at SUNY Cobleskill*; a model program that has been supported by the US Department of Agriculture, receiving national attention for its unique approach connecting higher education to economic development, community well-being and sustainability.

**The Green Horizon of STEM** - From climate change to world population growth, our efforts in addressing some of the most urgent issues facing our society necessitate a new approach; a consciously crafted interdisciplinary coalition of scientists, policymakers, farmers, and innovators from Agriculture and the STEM fields. The need for such an approach is most evident in the escalation of food insecurity and the increased degradation of agronomic systems worldwide. This keynote will address the critical importance of Agriculture informing the STEM fields and building upon and transforming agronomic, ecological, and biodiverse practices and outcomes. The address will conclude with a call to action that includes early exposure to STEM through agriculture-related topics starting in primary education.

### Dr. L. Oliver Robinson



#### Superintendent – Shenendehowa Central School District

Dr. L. Oliver Robinson serves as the Superintendent of Schools for the Shenendehowa Central School District since July of 2005. He has also served as the Superintendent for the Mohonasen CSD from 2001-2005, making him one of the longest serving superintendents in New York. His recognition as the *2013 New York Superintendent of the Year* speaks to his keen leadership. He is the author of *Naked in the Public Eye - Leading and Learning in an Era of Accountability*, and a contributing author to *STEM Century: It Takes a Village to Raise a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Graduate*. He also serves as an adjunct professor at the Sage Graduate School in the Department of Educational Leadership, and the College of St. Rose in the School District Business Leader (SDBL) certificate program. Dr. Robinson received his Bachelor of Arts from Brown University, and a Master's and Doctor of Philosophy degree (Ph.D.) from the University at Albany.

**Leaders for Learning:** Managing Ambiguity in the Pursuit of Equity in Opportunities and Outcomes - Leadership is about managing ambiguity. Consequently, it is paramount to avoid the pitfall of binary thinking when facilitating intentional interruption to foster agency, engage in productive struggle, and ultimately broaden the cognitive horizon of those whose lives we impact. The transforming and transcending power of education serves to provide unbridled opportunities in which the credibility of our students as learners is never questioned. Consequently the mission, vision, goals, and even lesson plans of teachers should include a dream plan for every child—a declaration of the commitment of leaders for learning to position each student for prosperity.

Students are all dreamers, and it is the responsibility of leaders to instill in them the notion to always dream big dreams and strive for extraordinary successes. Students must be reminded every day that as long as their dreams are bigger than their circumstances, they cannot fail, and to fail does not make one a failure. That is why leaders for learning, those who chose to serve children and foster communities of learning, must be stalwart in the commitment to have a resounding and positive impact.

As leaders for learning, the role is to help students expand their circumstances to fit their big dreams, to be difference makers. The point should be punctuated that leaders for learning must live each day with a strident sense of purpose, knowing that the realization of the dreams of each and every student is indeed an intentional act. Such a commitment of conviction is particularly vital now in an environment marked by constant technological advancements and increased globalization. Increasingly, leaders are functioning in uncharted waters, facing unprecedented challenges, and relied upon to acutely manage ambiguity.

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## Bob Bechtold



### President - HARBEC, Inc.

#### Technical Innovation with Environmental Responsibility

Bob Bechtold is the president and founder of Harbec, Inc., a progressive injection molding company located in upstate New York, which provides a full service of model making, precision mold making, and complex precision plastic injection molding. His company believes strongly in the value of Eco-Economics and during the past decade he has developed an energy management strategy that includes a cogeneration project which currently provides a portion of their electricity, heat, and air-conditioning requirements, in conjunction with two on-site wind turbines. During the past 15 years, Harbec has attained ISO 9001 certifications for quality

control and assurance, and ISO 14000 certification to demonstrate environmental responsibility. Currently, Harbec is focused on quantifying its Carbon Footprint with the help of the EPA's Climate Leaders Program, DOE's Better Buildings - Better Plants Challenge Partner level, and ISO 50001/SEP Platinum certification. They attained Carbon Neutrality in 2013 and Water Neutrality in 2015.

In 2002, Harbec was awarded the EPA Energy Star for Small Business, in 2003 it received the Society of Plastic Engineers' Environmental Stewardship Award, in 2004 the EPA/DOE Green Power Leadership Award, in 2006 NYS Water Environment Assoc. presented to Harbec their Industrial Pollution Prevention Award, and in 2007 they received the NY State Industrial Achievement Award from NYWEA. In 2011 the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) awarded Harbec the National Award for Innovation in Sustainable Manufacturing and in 2012 they received the Manufacturing Leadership Award for Sustainability. The NY State DEC awarded Harbec the 2014 NYS Environmental Excellence Award.

Bob Bechtold will discuss how he integrated the technologies listed in this BIO into corporations and achieved a benchmark in renewable status operating a factory

