



Professional Development in DEEP TIME EDUCATION

Deep Time Journey Network, Princeton, NJ

Transforming Education; Transforming Ourselves and Our Planet

P R E S S R E L E A S E !

K-8 Public School Curriculum Inspired by Thomas Berry Online Professional Development

**with Traci Pannulo, curriculum coordinator, and members
of the Ridge & Valley Charter School Community**

Recorded Webcast Available: Starting June 16
Live Q&A: June 23rd, 7:00 PM EST (US)

The Ridge and Valley Charter School, Blairstown, NJ is a pre-eminent example of a school inspired by the work of Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme and the movie/book *Journey of the Universe*. Founded in 1999 by a group of people associated with Genesis Farm in Blairstown, NJ and its pioneering Earth Literacy curriculum developed by Miriam MacGillis, Lawrence and Jean Edwards, the school developed a curriculum grounded in the Story of the Universe. This online PD program is being offered in a series on the Deep Time Journey Network, www.deeptime-journey.org (Click on “professional developing” on the menu bar.)

The mission of the Ridge and Valley Charter School is to educate for a flourishing future, or an “Ecozoic Era” so named by Thomas Berry. “We believe,” says Traci Panullo, “that in order for this to occur humans must experience a profound shift in their understanding of and relationship with the Earth, Universe and each other. Part of this shift has to do with what we study, but most of the shift has to do with changing the lens, angle or perspective from which we view the world and our stories of it. The current anthropocentric approach to understanding things has led to a disconnection from relationships and the corresponding wide-ranging impact of our choices.

“We seek to move into a more system-based, ecocentric view of the world,” says Traci Panullo, “in which learning and understanding occur within the larger, holistic context of the Earth and Universe.”

This holistic understanding of the impact of choices within any system, combined with immersion in the natural world, stirs a deep wonder, awe, respect and responsibility for our planet and Universe. RVCS’s intention is for students to see themselves not as separate from the intricate tapestry of the Universe and the world around them but rather as a thread in the greater whole. Utilizing experiential educational practices whenever possible, RVCS cultivates in students the practical skills and knowledge necessary for becoming confident and articulate as well as self-regulating, self-disciplined and self-motivated individuals. By supporting individual students within the context of the whole, they can continually transform themselves on their life journeys into being rich, important and effective agents for and models of sustainable living and change.

This webcast will provide an introduction to the philosophy, curriculum framework, structures and strategies employed to create the Deep Time context for the children’s experience. This will include images, with narration, to illustrate the Lenses and KLEs. Additionally, we include footage of the school in action, sort of a “day in the life”, to try to convey the essence of how Deep Time is deeply infused into the culture of the school.

You will take away . . . a clear sense of how Deep Time can provide the context for a systemic educational experience and a child’s unfolding view of the world, not just as an overlaid “content area.”

Traci Pannulo’s passion is to awaken humans to an intimate relationship with the earth that fosters joy and a desire for connection and learning. For the past 24 years she has pursued the study and practice of alternative educational philosophies, such as Montessori, democratic, and Waldorf, incorporating many of these ideas into her practice in various educational settings. Most of those beliefs and practices have come together at Ridge and Valley Charter School (RVCS) where she is inspired every day by the work of all of the people in the RVCS community to create amazing alternative and holistic learning experiences! All 3 of her children have had the opportunity to attend RVCS. She joined the trustees a year before the school opened, then became the curriculum coordinator and a member of the RVCS Leadership Team.

Early Bird Price of \$25 for registrations before June 11th.

This program is part of an on-going series of professional development programs—for teachers of ages 0 to 18 and open to others—with the vision of transforming education by orienting to a vast evolving Universe and connecting with our Earth.

Link to program description: <http://www.deeptimejourney.org/product/deep-time-education-in-a-k-8-public-school-non-montessori/>

Link to professional development series: <http://www.deeptimejourney.org/professional-development-programs/>

Link to home page on the Deep Time Journey Network: www.deeptimejourney.org