

Google Summit

Organizers happy with weekend

Local administrators
thrilled with turnout,
participation in event

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COVENTRY — “It was absolutely phenomenal,” said Dr. Lynne Burke, the district’s director of education technology, about the Google Summit held at Coventry High School both Saturday and Sunday.

“We had a lot of great feedback and all the school districts were pleased,” she said. “Even in the Coventry district, teachers told me they were so excited.”

Burke, who organized the event, said she knew her expectations for the event were for attendees to have high energy and high engagement.

“That’s exactly what I got,” she said. “People told me their heads were spinning with learning so much.”

While Burke has attended other summits over the years as a learner, she spent the majority of the weekend behind the scenes, making sure everything ran smoothly.

“Because education is constantly changing and evolving, you’re always picking up something you didn’t know,” she said.

Burke said one of the many comments she received through email was how one of the keynote speakers, Lisa Thumann, from EdTech, expanded on the knowledge the attendees already had.

“Our student guides, who included Brevin Jamello, Cross Patenaude, Lea Fusco, Victoria Kaplun, Tyler Pellia and Tyler Ferrara, were

Weekend event at Coventry HS a success, say leaders

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also hailed as having done an exceptional job making sure guests were able to find classrooms as well as answer any questions they had."

Thumann said the students today are a part of Generation C and they feel the need to know what's going on constantly.

"Because everything is constantly evolving it's about district collaboration," Burke ex-

plained. "It used to be that when you posted something, it was on blackboard and textbooks were used and those were your resources. Now, it's about online assessments and collecting data about our performance and tools to assist students in the real world and learning to use these tools that can create this new learning. Tools are just tools, it's how educators use these tools that changes so much in the classroom."

Burke said it's about making kids think more deeply about the content they're engaged in.

"Even when the snow was falling Sunday night and it was getting late, there were still 100 people there listening to the last keynote speaker and I'd say for a late Sunday afternoon, that's pretty good," Burke said.

Sessions began Saturday morning and ran all day with a similar schedule Sunday.

"We are thrilled to be here in Rhode Island for the first of

many years of collaboration between Ed Tech and Rhode Island with a special thanks to Lynne Burke," Ken Shelton, from the EdTech team, said. "Lynne and I have been in regular communication to make sure the summit of is successful and transformative for all educators."

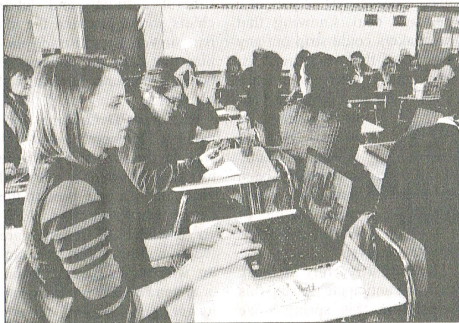
Burke also wanted to offer a

huge thanks to the teachers for allowing those who attended to use their classrooms as well as Jim Whitaker and his staff in the custodial department who she said, were also phenomenal with keeping the school so clean throughout with so many people passing through and Jen Carlos, the executive secretary to the school superintendent,

who helped set up everything for the pre-summit that took place Friday.

Coventry Superintendent Dr. Mike Almeida was, like Burke, thrilled with the results.

"The Google Summit was a great success," Almeida affirmed. "The excitement around teaching and learning was amazing."



Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

Caitlyn Majeika, a teacher from Narragansett, listens to instruction from Paul Barrette, director of technology for Smithfield Public Schools, at this weekend's Google Summit held at Coventry High School.