

Programs: Conference Ends Today With Presentation, Panel Discussion

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"We found a couple of programs for third graders and we're both going into third-grade teaching," said Karen Makuch, who is student teaching at Silver Creek Central School. She was attending the conference with Danielle

Cammarata, a student teacher at Forestville Elementary School.

It was one of 11 offered Friday to various sites in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties. Field trips offered Friday include visits to Russell Elementary School, the Leolyn

Woods, Sheldon Nature Trail and Cuba-Rushford Central School.

Mark Baldwin, RTPI's director of education, said a program led by Brocton Central School teachers Andy Deakin, Deborah Lloyd and Patty Thompson exemplifies the programs the Institute hopes to showcase during the conference.

"One of the teachers has a grape vineyard," Baldwin said. "The teachers and students study the grape industry along the Lake Erie Plain. The students are learning in all different subject areas in language arts and science, and at the same time learning to have a great appreciation for the important impact the grape industry has on their local economy."

After spending a day touring

various programs on Friday, the participants will have the chance to discuss everything they learned this afternoon.

"There will be breakout sessions where participants will be engaged in the process of linking places or programs they experienced the previous day to the education that goes on in school," Baldwin said. "They'll talk about what they learned and how to apply that to the education of students in their own school."

The conference ends today with a morning presentation by Mark Springer, a teacher at Radnor Middle School in Wayne, Pa., and a panel discussion with Springer; Mark Blazis, Thursday's keynote speaker; and Steve Glazer, Friday's keynote speaker.