

Talent Center in Action - CTY Greece Day Conference
Gifted Education: Fostering Creativity
(Tel: +30-2310-398295, Email: ctygreece@anatolia.edu.gr)



To continue establishing and developing its leading role as a reference point for gifted education in Greece and Cyprus, on April 13th 2019, CTY Greece hosted its second conference on gifted education, at the Byzantine Culture Museum of Thessaloniki.

The title of the conference was "Gifted Education: Fostering Creativity" and it was attended by over 130 people.



The conference was aimed at the wider education community such as academics, elementary and high school teachers, university students of the pedagogy and psychology departments, as well as policy makers

of the education sector.

The keynote speaker was **Dr. Jonathan Plucker**, the Julian C. Stanley Endowed Professor of Talent Development from Johns Hopkins University, who is a world-renowned expert on creativity.

During his talk, Dr. Plucker characterized creativity as a highly valued 21st century skill and explained that in order for it to be fostered, teachers should be encouraged to model it regularly in their teaching. He also emphasized the importance of teachers providing opportunities for students to articulate their creative ideas and to reinforce this notion by offering positive feedback to their students, whenever they exhibit such creativity.



The keynote speech was followed by a lively discussion during which a panel of experts in gifted education exchanged ideas on how to support creativity and giftedness in any classroom. **Dr. Jonathan**

Plucker was joined for the discussion by **Dr. Colm O'Reilly**, Director of CTY Ireland, **Dr. Despina Hadjigeorgiou-Samata**, Chartered Educational Psychologist from the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus, and **Dr. Georgia Tsoulfa**, Director of CTY Greece. The main concerns of the educators focused on how to promote creative thinking within a non-flexible and mandatory school curriculum, how the state supports the needs of gifted students and how enrichment programs like CTY enhance the advanced learning needs of gifted students.



The event started with the presentation of CTY Greece and **Mr. Yanis Tsorbatzoglou**, COO and Vice President of Anatolia College, highlighted the growth and accessibility of the program, made possible through a large scholarship program. The conference concluded with a workshop

delivered by **Dr. Jonathan Plucker** titled "Creativity Through the Magic of Constraints," during which educators had the opportunity to take part in a hands-on activity to explore the

relationship between constraints and creativity as well as to discuss specific ways of using these principles when working with students.