



Southeast
Service
Cooperative

Connections

April 2020

Free Virtual
YAYA Opportunity! **p3**



Resiliency in Crisis **p9**



Jane Drennan
to Retire **P12**



Branching Out



Change: Ready or Not, Here it Comes!

By Angie Ellsworth

I'm kind of a type A creature of habit. I pretty much order the same food every time when we eat out at a favorite restaurant. I like my towels folded a certain way and I live by my calendar and my To-Do lists. I'm not big on change...that is, unless I'm in charge of it. So when my favorite coffee shop replies to my usual request with, "I'm sorry we're out of those", I take a deep breath and adjust.

Resilience. Adversity. Perseverance. Grit. Not really words you would use to describe changing up your coffee order, but as teachers a lot of things require us to have flexibility to change: classroom demographics, curriculum, roles, and responsibilities. And somehow we find ways to adjust and adapt--which can be easier when we have the support of our colleagues and administrators and understand the reasons behind it--but not so much when we feel like an island or have no say or control in that change.

So how does Ms. Type A respond to changes she has no control over? It's taken a while to learn, but after my initial brief frustrated or overwhelmed reaction, I focus on keeping an open mind. Most changes do not happen immediately or with huge impact so that takes some of the pressure off. I try to learn as much as I can about the change by asking lots of questions. I may read up on the idea or topic to learn where it came from; who else is having success with it; and how can that make it easier for me or my colleagues? Sometimes I agree with the information or ideas, sometimes not. But I try to find ways to use my strengths to make the most of it while learning along the way.

It's not always easy. When I feel I am complaining the most (or when my husband points it out to me), is when I revisit why I am so resistant. I reflect back on [this article](#) which a mentor shared with me a few years ago. It's helped me keep my perspective on resilience instead of resistance and identify what I can and need to do to change my mindset.



So, whatever you call it: Resilience. Adversity. Perseverance. Grit. Chances are you've used those exact words to encourage and inspire your students through a tough math test, friendship issue, a fight with a parent, or more. You're validating and supporting your students through times of challenge, confusion, and uncertainty; helping them learn more about themselves, remain optimistic, learn to cope, and telling them they are not alone. You're helping them adapt to change. While trying to be a pretty good example of it yourself, too.

Additional articles for thought if you're interested:

For teachers

For everyone

Angie is an SSC Faculty member and supports members in the areas of mental health and behavior management. She is also employed by Rochester Public Schools as a Behavior Specialist.

Self-Care Tips for All

Angie has gathered multiple tips and resources for self-care for those of you working from home and for all of us staying close to home due to COVID-19. Click [here](#) to access the full list, or see below for a sampling of the resources.

Tips for the Work (at-home) Day

Try closing your door (if you have one) and take some time to consciously relax. Use the free resources on this page from makers of the [Calm app](#). There are lots of options to fit your style!

Decide to stop for one to three minutes every hour during the workday. [The Google Move It extension](#)-when you are at your computer all day, it will randomly alert you to get up and move for a minute or two.

While sitting at your desk, keyboard, etc., pay attention to bodily sensations, consciously attempting to relax your shoulders, lower your tongue to the bottom of your mouth, and unclench your teeth.

Tips for Home

Meditate- I'm a complete beginner, and I already feel like this is something I should have been doing for a long time. [The New York Times has a helpful guide on how to start.](#)

Take a bath- A relaxing bath can be made even better with bubbles, salts, oils, candles, and face masks. There is more inspiration for such small luxuries in writer [Rachel Syme's wonderful Twitter thread](#), and some of them you can do at home.

Limit your time online-Installing a website blocker, or [setting your own phone](#) with screen limits will temporarily force you off websites like Twitter, which can give you terrible anxiety.

Knowledge Bowl Champs

Knowledge Bowl State was canceled. It was scheduled for April 2-3 in Brainerd. The teams that were advancing were: Northfield Zomp, Spring Grove 1, Rochester Mayo Gold, Lewiston-Altura 2, and Northfield Papaya Whip.



Northfield Zomp



Spring Grove 1



Rochester Mayo Gold



Lewiston-Altura 2



Northfield Papaya Whip

Spelling Bee Champ!

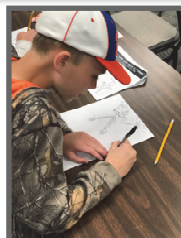


Allie Hoffert, an 8th grade student from Northfield Public Schools was declared the regional spelling bee champion after correctly spelling the word *hagiographer*. Allie has been working hard to be the champion since 2018. She would have advanced to the 93rd annual Scripps National Spelling Bee, which unfortunately was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Save the date for the 34th Annual Young Authors, Young Artists Conference May 18-20, 2021

With a heavy heart it was decided to cancel the 33rd Annual YAYA Conference. Please save the dates for the 34th conference on May 18-20, 2021. Students in grades 3-5 are welcome to join in learning from over 15 professionals in their field. Some topics include: sculpting, comic drawing, creative storytelling, pastel and acrylic painting, origami, song writing, and so much more!

Please [visit our website](#) for more information



Young Authors
Young Artists

Click [here](#) for info for our upcoming FREE Virtual YAYA!

May 18-22, 2020

Six People to Help You Drive Workforce Development Innovation and Connect Communities

Watch www.ssc.coop for information about two NEW Career Navigator positions opening late spring.

Dylan Mackey Career Navigator

Serving the communities of Cannon Falls, Mazeppa, Pine Island, and Zumbrota

As a graduate of LeRoy-Ostander high school, Dylan pursued a career in social work from Winona State University and worked in social work and career counseling in LeRoy-Ostander Public Schools and Minnesota Prairie County Alliance before becoming a Career Navigator. Dylan currently lives with his girlfriend and golden retriever, Oakley. In his free time you can find him playing recreational sports, traveling, and reading.



"I cannot wait to get started as a Career Navigator! Employment is such an essential and integral part of peoples' lives, and it starts at the middle/high school level. It's exciting to be a part of a team that is working towards connecting students with a variety of career pathways in innovative ways!"

Heather Schutte Career Navigator

Serving the communities of Adams, Grand Meadow, LeRoy, Lyle, Ostrander, and Rose Creek

Originally from Wells, Minnesota, Heather moved to Rochester a decade ago. She and her husband Tony purchased a farm south of Kasson in 2013. She was a stay-at-home mom for Malina, Penny, and Dax for the past 2 ½ years. Her family also includes two blue heelers, a cat, and four chickens. Heather has a background in special education and work-based learning. Heather's passions also include styling for Stitch Fix and gardening up north on the lake.



"The Career Navigator position has been a long-time dream job of mine. I am so excited about all the opportunities this provides to students and am glad to be back to work in southeast Minnesota schools!"

Jami Schwickerath Career Navigator

Serving the communities of Byron, Kasson, Mantorville, Stewartville, and Triton

Jami comes to us from Lime Springs, Iowa, where she lives with her husband and three children, ages 15, 12, 8, and two dogs, on a family farm. She attended Viterbo University for a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and then went on to obtain a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from San Diego State University. She has experience in substance abuse counseling and career counseling. Jami worked for Iowa Vocational



Rehabilitation Services in Northeast Iowa for 11 years, focusing on transitioning youth into the workforce. Jami and her family like to enjoy the outdoors with ranger rides, biking, and snowmobiling.

"I am excited to continue working with youth and partnering businesses who can assist them with career exploration options. "

Lisa Chellew Career Navigator

Serving the communities of Altura, Canton, Caledonia, Hokah, Houston, Lewiston, Mabel, La Crescent, Peterson, Preston, Rushford, and Spring Grove

Lisa moved to Rushford in 2018 with her husband, Steve, where he serves as pastor. They have a blended family of five children, three granddaughters, and a golden retriever/lab mix. Last summer, Lisa purchased a small boat to explore the Mississippi. Lisa has had the pleasure of living in many communities in the Midwest and Minnesota, thanks to her husband's career, where she has worked in all sectors focused on workforce development. These sectors include career counseling at collegial universities,



rehabilitation counselor in the private, state, and federal sectors, disability coordinator, director of education and youth, hospice volunteer, and chaplain.

"Being a consultant for schools and employers is the absolute best! Interspersed duties of working with individual students and teaching, it's the dream job I never conceived of. It feels like someone looked at my work experiences, hand-picked my favorite parts and melded them together. It's such a blessing!"

Mike Schnell

Community Engagement Coordinator

Serving all SSC communities



Mike was born and grew up in Minot, North Dakota, and graduated from North Dakota State University, Fargo, in Political Science. Mike and his wife, Corissa, have two children, Madden and Medora. Mike is active in his church community and serves on the Executive Board of the Gamehaven Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Before Mike came to SSC, he worked in Government Affairs for the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce, and in construction, retail, hospitality, marketing and advertising, and non-profit

sectors. Fun fact, Mike even spent a summer in college as an assistant zookeeper.

"The member and mission focus of this organization was clear from the first time I stepped foot in the door, and I am honored to be working closely with so many talented and passionate people."

Sarah Ness

Program Manager

Serving all SSC communities



Many of you already know Sarah from her roles at SSC in Cooperative Purchasing and STEM Forward. In addition to these great programs, she now manages the workforce development staff and programming that includes FutureForward™, Career Navigators, the grant work of Otto Bremer Trust and FutureReady CTE, and the strategic planning of future workforce development support for SSC members.

"I am excited to have such a knowledgeable and mission driven team to guide and

support the future work of SSC's workforce development initiatives and programs. We look forward to finding our niche in this space, connecting our members and community partners in ways that promote innovation, best practices, and efficiencies, and push the status quo to bring long-term sustainable solutions to support our region."

Roles and Responsibilities

Career Navigators

Career Navigators serve in a particular set of communities as a local hub between education, industry, and community partners. These groups work together to prepare youth for employment in the industries that provide promise for future local job demand and sustainable wages that align to their interests and passions.

Responsibilities:

- Advocate for best practices
- Create strategic alignment amongst community partners
- Catalyze engagement
- Coach stakeholders
- Design or foster ideas that support sustainable solutions (including career pathways, experiential learning opportunities and industry credentials)

Community Engagement Coordinator

Community Engagement Coordinators support the entire workforce development team and the communities without Career Navigators.

Responsibilities:

- Build partnerships through collaboration
- Increase access to and utilization of workforce development resources (i.e. FutureForward™ and SLEDs)
- Train stakeholders in FutureForward™ and SLEDs
- Support the collaborations of Future Ready CTE grant project recipients to ensure regional learning and sharing of practices that lead to sustainable systems and processes for programmatic and regional impact

FutureForward™ is Set to Soft Launch in 46 Minnesota Communities

By Sarah Ness

46 middle schools, high schools, and post-secondary colleges are set to soft launch FutureForward™ for distance learning this spring and in-person experiential learning in the summer/fall. All educators and students using FutureForward™ will be able to connect remotely to informational interviews and site visits hosted by over 138 local employers. These resources will be saved to local employers' company pages for later use making it easy for educators to schedule live virtual opportunities and connect students to recordings for self-exploration. Some videos have been uploaded, many more will be available in May 2020. SSC staff are available to provide a script outline for employers, edit video content, and upload final videos to their company pages to save employers time and resources.

All other experiential learning experiences (i.e tours, job shadows, reverse career fairs, Manufacturing Week tours, internships, mentorships, and apprenticeship) will take place later this summer and will be fully launched in the fall of 2020.



School Site Administrators of FutureForward™ - Please review the following action items:

- **Load Educators and Students** - If you have not received your log in credentials, [email Sarah Ness](#). Once logged in, please upload your educators and students.
- **Training Materials** - All training videos are now loaded in the FutureForward™ portal (including those for educators and students). Each user can find their videos related to their profiles by clicking on the blue question mark button in the lower right corner of their screen once logged in. All PDF and written instructions will be emailed out in May for Educator and Student profiles. A full recorded demo of the Educator and Student portals will be released to you in May.
- **Business Connections** – Please connect with your Career Navigator or [Mike Schnell](#), Community Engagement Coordinator, to get registered or trained in for this free tool.
- **Schedule Summer and Fall In Person Training** – [Email Mike Schnell](#) to schedule FY21 in person training for you and your staff.

Not sure if your school is signed up for FutureForward™? [Email Sarah Ness](#) to find out.

New Features Available in May 2020

- New virtual and in person experiences - Career Fair, Reverse Career Fair, Student Projects, Virtual Interview, Virtual Site Visit
- New lessons and resources around Career Fairs, Reverse Career Fairs, Student Projects, and Virtual Experiences to support implementation for educators and employers
- New filters to narrow down search results by proximity to your zip code

Thank you to our channel partners for championing FutureForward™ to your members and communities!

Bluff Country Collaborative, Cradle 2 Career, Community Economic Development Associates, Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce, Greater Rochester Advocates for Universities & Colleges, Kasson-Mantorville Chamber of Commerce, Mayo Clinic, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, Minnesota Employment and Economic Development, Minnesota Service Cooperatives, Minnesota SHRM, Owatonna Chamber of Commerce, People's Cooperative, Preston Chamber of Commerce, Rochester Community and Technical College, Red Wing Chamber of Commerce, Red Wing Ignite, Riverland Perkins Consortium, Rochester Area Builders, Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce, Rochester Area Economic Development Agency, Rochester/Zumbro Education Perkins Consortium, SEMN2Gether, SMEC, Southeast Minnesota Trades Council, Southeast Perkins Consortium, SteeleCoWorks, STEM Forward, Stewartville Chamber of Commerce, University of Minnesota – Rochester, Winona Area Chamber of Commerce, Winona State University, Workforce Development, Inc.

Using FutureForward™ to Connect to STEM Career Experts



Agriculture, Food, and Natural Science

CHS (Rochester), Nettle Valley Farm



Architecture and Construction

NCSRCC Carpenters Union, Home Solutions Midwest, R&K Elective, Inc.,
Schwickert's Tecta America, Winona Heating & Ventilating



Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications

K.S. Keller Designs, Nicole Mills Photography



Business Management and Administration

Matter, Workforce Development, Inc., Southeast Service Cooperative



Education and Training

TruEducaiton, Apriton Educational Advisors



Finance

County Financial, ONB Bank, EFS Advisors, First Alliance Credit Union



Health Science

HealthForce Minnesota, Mayo Clinic Career Awareness



Hospitality and Tourism

Root River Unwined, Courtesy Corporation – McDonald's, Costas Candies & Restaurant,
Rushford Foods, Centerstone Plaze Hotel Soldiers Field –Mayo Clinic Area, TPI Hospitality



Manufacturing

Hormel Foods Corporation, Harmony Enterprises, Geotek, Bowman Tool & Machining Inc,
Achrotech Inc., McNeilus Steele, RiverSide Electronics, Ltd., Custom Iron Inc., McNeilus Companies,
Miller Ingenuity, Tru Vue, Crenlo, Country Hearth & Home, Viracon, Poet Biorefining



Government and Public Administration

Houston County Economic Development Authority



Marketing

Nesst Companies Home Staging, Trinity Insights

SSC's Future Ready CTE Grants

\$420,000 to 17 CTE Projects

The Future Ready CTE Advisory Committee, made up of 17 southeast Minnesota experts in CTE from K-12 education, post-secondary higher education, trades unions, economic development agencies, non-profits, and workforce centers, teamed up to support the funding of projects that aim to develop K-12 courses focused on: regional in-demand industries and skills development in students, improved access to CTE programs for students in rural schools, and increased awareness of CTE courses and training opportunities in and beyond high school. Funded projects emphasized innovation between local multi-sector public and private stakeholders, increased efficiencies to communities, and



FUTURE READY
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

supported sustainability for long-term impact. All awarded projects will share best practices with SSC members at the Annual Future Ready CTE Convening at SSC in the summer of 2021.

[Awarded Projects](#)



CS For All Grant – SE MN Computer Science Landscape Assessment

STEM Forward, in partnership with CS for All, is working to develop a landscape report of K-12 Computer Science (CS) education in the state of Minnesota. As you may be aware, the state of Minnesota will not adopt separate Computer Science educational standards. However, Computer Science standards will be embedded into all other education standards categories. The landscape report will inform policy and curriculum decisions at the state, district, and school building levels.

If you are an SSC education member, please have someone from your district or building who is most knowledgeable about computer science complete this survey. By completing the survey, respondents will enter their district/school building into a drawing to receive one of ten prizes to support their computer science education.

[Complete Survey](#)

Free STEM Resources

Connect to SSC's Resource Webpage

FREE open source distance learning curriculum for STEM has been posted to **SSC's website** for your districts to use.



Free STEM IT Curriculum Grant for 2020-2021 School Year

Nasco, potential 2020 Fall Educator Forum sponsor, is offering our STEM Forward schools a one year grant for **FREE** STEM IT curriculum that will run through June 2021. **Email Sarah Ness** to get your school's contact on the list for more information.

Resiliency During Crisis

By Katie Schmitt

We have all been through many changes in the past few weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic. Schools have been required to completely overhaul teaching and learning, childcare, special education services, and meal distribution. Communities have shut down events and businesses to encourage social distancing. As we go through this crisis, there is also rapid innovation happening as we try to respond to new challenges.



This rampant virus is causing us to change entire systems and operations. We will find remarkable and meaningful solutions for the communities we serve. However, some approaches that we implement will miss the mark. If you are trying new things during this time, remember to be kind to yourself and tap into a mindset of learning. I recently wrote about how the mindsets – fixed and growth – respond to failure in the [On the Edge Blog](#). I am reposting it to our newsletter as a resource for you during this trying time.

Wishing you the best!

Katie



The Mindsets in Failure

How do mindsets operate in failure? A person with fixed minded thinking who experiences failure is focused on the outcome, while a person with a growth-mindset is concerned about the journey. Your reaction to failure is very different when you are in a fixed mindset compared to when you are in a growth mindset.

A Fixed Mindset in Failure

A fixed mindset might cause us to blame others for the failure, which is a form of self-protection. We make excuses or throw a pity party for ourselves. We feel powerless, paralyzed, or incapable. We identify with the failure, thinking “I am a failure”. Or we may overcompensate and put our talents on display.

A Growth Mindset in Failure

Failure still hurts, but when we have a growth mindset, the failure doesn’t define us. We ask for help and seek better strategies. We reflect on whether we did enough and what we learned from the experience. We work to correct deficiencies and practice skills to continually develop. In a growth mindset, we are motivated to improve.

One of the best ways to move beyond those past failures is through reflection. Here are some reflection questions for you to explore.

1. When have you experienced failure with fixed mindset? What did you learn from it?
2. When have you experienced failure with growth mindset? How was it different that experiencing failure in a fixed mindset?

Principal Networking Forum - June 10

Share Ideas and Learn Along With Your Peers, Virtually

SSC is hosting a Principal Networking Forum on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM at SSC. This event, to be delivered virtually through Zoom and in tandem with the MASA Region 1 meeting, will be an opportunity for area principals to engage in facilitated conversations related to challenges and issues they face in leading their schools/districts. Topics to be covered during the event include the MSC Micro-Credentialing program, an overview of the BuildYourOwnCurriculum (BYOC) curriculum development and management tool as well as an introduction to the framework of Future Ready Schools.

The main event will be a presentation and panel facilitated by Dr. Clay Cook, Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota and Kent Pekel Ed.D., President and CEO of Search Institute, covering how best to support your students and staff in the upcoming school year considering the mental health, social emotional health, behavior and academic challenges that



Dr. Clay Cook



Kent Pekel Ed.D.

both students and educators will be facing. Participants in both the principal event and the MASA event will participate as one large group during this part of the program. Time will be provided for all participants to ask questions and discuss best practices in moving forward after these unprecedented times. The Zoom meeting will continue after 1:00 PM for up to another hour in the case that participants would like to continue their conversations.

There is no charge to attend this event, but please register by clicking [here](#) in order that we may send you the link to the meeting.

Please contact [Kari Kubicek](#) with any questions.



Marco Technologies is SSC's partnered Technology Solutions provider. For more information about long-term technology planning services, contact:
Christina Welke
IT / Voice Technology Advisor
800-892-8548, Ext. 7520
christina.welke@marconet.com



marconet.com

The Express Online Marketplace remains open with access to PPE supplies, distance learning technology and support materials, and much more. To all our members, check out www.PurchasingConnection.org for more information.

Downloadable 2020 shopping lists for both School Specialty and Innovative Office Solutions are now available in Express. Get your copy from the *Documents* section of your supplier's Express profile page.



CPC Vendor

**Coronavirus
(COVID-19)
Response Page**

Whether your staff is on-site, working across multiple locations, or working from home, the Cooperative Purchasing Connection is still offering our services uninterrupted. We know you're getting bombarded with vendor requests. That's why we created a page to host information for every CPC vendor's response to the outbreak. On this frequently updated page you'll find exclusive CPC discounts, free resources, logistics information, and other valuable information. Click [here](#) to access the resources.

Over 700 Members Participate in Annual Member Walking Challenge

By Nicole LaChapelle-Strumski

Over 700 individuals from 19 member organizations competed in SSC's 9th Annual Walking Challenge. Twelve school districts and seven local government members participated in two separate steps-based challenges.

Red Wing School District Wellness Coordinator Tara Nelson shared, "I saw people encouraging each other; meeting before and after school to walk, walking during their lunches, and checking in with each other to see if they were getting their goals for the day/week."

Wabasha-Kellogg's Wellness Coordinator Ashley Scheel added, "It's fun to see the habits of our staff change during this walking challenge, such as parking as far away from the school as possible, using the drinking fountain and bathroom on the other end of the building, walking the last 10 minutes of lunch and after school, and the staff workout room usage increasing and having new users. It is also enjoyable to see walking habits continuing on after the challenge and hearing personal stories such as how a person's clothes fit better! Besides bringing healthiness to W-K, the walking challenge has built comradery, new relationships, and is a major talking piece! We have already started planning for next year and look forward to the challenge!"

Trish Harren, a Mower County team member, stated, "What motivated me was not wanting to let my team down. On those nights when I did not get at least 10,000 steps and I just wanted to lay on the couch and watch TV, I got in my car and drove to the courthouse and went to the fitness room and watched an episode or two of HGTV and got in my steps and usually more than my goal!"

The contest, which ran all of January, was based on the number of steps walked by participating members, and for the participation piece, the percentage of staff members who took part in the challenge. Trophies (and bragging rights) are awarded to the winning teams.

If your organization would like to participate in next year's challenge, contact Nicole LaChapelle-Strumski at nlachapelle@ssc.coop.

Winners of the School District Challenge

Red Wing – 1st Place, Wabasha-Kellogg – 2nd Place, Grand Meadow – 3rd Place. The remaining teams, which each received an honorable mention, are listed in the order of their ranking: PEM, Goodhue, Stewartville, Byron, Albert Lea, Lewiston, Kasson-Mantorville, LeRoy-Ostrander, and Southland. **Wabasha-Kellogg** won the Participation Award.

Winners of the Local Government Challenge

Mower County – 1st Place, Rice-Steele 911 Center – 2nd Place, Austin HRA – 3rd Place. The honorable mention placements included – Goodhue County, Freeborn County, City of Byron, and Workforce Development, Inc. **Workforce Development, Inc.** won the Participation Award.



Members of Red Wing's winning team



Members of Mower County's champion walkers



Members of Wabasha's winning team

Parting Thoughts...

By: Jane Drennan,
RCE, SE/Metro Director

Closing out the final chapter of my educational career with the SE-Metro Regional Centers of Excellence and the Southeast Service Cooperative under the COVID-19 "Stay at Home" order has shifted the earth under my feet. It really is a bit like an earthquake and the unknown of the aftershocks is pretty frightening. Frankly, I should have been experiencing the anticipation of retirement while on the road to schools to eagerly work with leadership, debrief and improve school work with colleagues, attend meetings at MDE, participate in Friday team meetings, etc. Instead, like so many others in Minnesota, I am at home connecting with teammates and schools via ZOOM while grappling with global shifts in real time.

Supporting schools and school systems, particularly around equity, has driven my educational career. At the moment, I am stuck at home somewhat helpless to serve those who fall into an even deeper

crevice of inequity during this crisis. Yet I remain hopeful that what is unfolding before our eyes will lead us to a greater sense of urgency to drastically change systems that continue to underserve marginalized groups of students and families. However, I digress, this is about my departure from an organization for which I have immense gratitude and admiration.

While I may close out this chapter of my career working from home, I remain in awe of so many and am grateful for so much. Working for the Southeast Service Cooperative for the past five years has allowed me to lead the SE-Metro Regional Center of Excellence with passion and commitment to school improvement. The gift of a positive and healthy workplace culture is visible amidst the shelves of awards this organization has achieved. Because of this I, like so many at SSC, am able to thrive and serve my true sense of purpose and grow in self-awareness to better fulfill my role and responsibilities to SSC and the Regional Centers.



As for the SE-Metro Regional Center of Excellence team, they have truly been inspirational to me in their drive and dedication for excellence in schools! This is a team who can, and will, drive school improvement to a higher level with their knowledge, thirst for learning, and creativity to make all schools a place where students can thrive and where students want to be every day.

I couldn't have asked for a better place to work and greater people to do that work. It is this that I leave and for which I am truly grateful.

Farewell, and Thank you, Jane!

We are going to miss Jane beyond words. She is such a strong educational leader who is always attentive to our schools' needs and is the epitome of professionalism. Jane has built an incredible Regional Center of Excellence in the SE-Metro Region. Her successor will have some big shoes to fill, but will find that our center is already in great shape with a very dedicated staff. I cannot thank Jane enough for her hard work and commitment to excellence. I wish her many happy years of retirement and great health. Thank you, Jane!

Steve Sallee – SSC Executive Director

MONICA SVEEN-ZIEBELL

SSC BOARD MEMBER SINCE JANUARY 2019

In 2012, several years before being elected to the Southeast Service Cooperative (SSC) Board of Directors, Monica Sveen-Ziebell began her tenure on the Plainview-Elgin-Millville (P-E-M) School Board, where she currently serves as the Board Chair. Elected to SSC's Board in January 2019, she represents the interests of public school districts. She has served on SSC's Personnel and Policies/Bylaws Committees during her term on the SSC Board.

Recently interviewed, Monica shared her personal story and spoke about why she became and remains involved with SSC and the SSC Board.

Tell me your story. Why did you decide on your career and what or who influenced you to decide on this career choice?

I am an Administrator at Mayo Clinic. I started my career in the legal field, but eventually decided to go back to school to get an MBA. I enjoy leading, finding solutions, and empowering others to be the best that they can be. I did not originally see my future in healthcare, but I am really grateful that is where I ended up.

What do you love about what you do?

I truly love going to work every day. I actually counsel my children to seek careers doing something that they love. If you love what you do you really never work a day in your life. I love the administrator-physician partnership model. My physician partnerships at Mayo have been very rewarding experiences. Mayo is such an incredible place to work, and I love playing a small role in Mayo's mission to inspire hope and contribute to health and well-being by providing the best care to every patient through integrated clinical practice, education, and research.

Tell us something about yourself that is surprising or that most people don't know.

I am the eighth in a family of twelve children. Our first names all start with the letter 'M', with six girls and six boys. If you have ever watched the movie, *Cheaper by the Dozen*, that was my childhood, and I loved it! Oh, and we are all avid Green Bay Packer fans!

What motivated you to become involved with SSC?

I am currently the Board Chair for the Plainview-Elgin-Millville school district. A former, fellow school board member, Carol Cravath, asked me if I would be interested

in an SSC Board position. The two of us met for coffee, and Carol shared her experiences as an SSC Board member, and consequently, I became very interested in becoming a board member. I saw SSC Board work as being very much in alignment with my P-E-M School Board work.

What does "success" mean to you in terms of your work as an SSC Board member?

Success for me means that I bring value to the SSC Board through my perspectives and input, and that I also find satisfaction in applying my skills to make a difference.

What lasting lesson have you learned from working with SSC or in relation to our mission?

A Helen Keller quote comes to mind:

Alone we can
do so little;
together we can
do so much.
~ Helen Keller

We live in an ever-changing environment. In your opinion, how has SSC been aware and responsive in order to survive, sustain, and grow?

We have great leadership, staff, and a Board that brings a wide range of experiences to the table. We work together to identify the challenges presented by change, and to respond to that ever-changing external environment.

What struggle has SSC helped you resolve or what goal have they helped you reach?

For my school district, I am most excited about the FutureForward portal, which will connect classrooms to careers. This web-based platform will connect educators and students with experiential learning opportunities. I am really excited about this new and innovative resource for our students! I see this resource really growing and providing immense value to students and employers alike. This is very exciting work!

What is the best advice that you've been given that you would pass on to the next generation of Board members?

You get out what you put in. Bottom line, be an engaged and active board member. If you are just a warm body in a chair no one wins and you miss an opportunity to enrich the community in which you live.

Electrostatic Sprayers – A New Way to Disinfect Public Areas

By Dan Fitch, IEA



Regular disinfecting of high contact surfaces can reduce the spread of disease-causing pathogens and reduce

absenteeism in schools and other organizations from influenza and other seasonal illnesses. The COVID-19 pandemic has many schools and business owners ramping up their cleaning and disinfecting procedures to reduce the spread of the virus. Traditional cleaning methods can be time consuming and difficult to get to all surfaces, causing many to look at new ways to improve efficiency and quality.

One relatively new method for cleaning and disinfecting is the use of electrostatic sprayers. The technology itself has been used for over 50 years in the agriculture industry for pesticide application. Electrostatic spray painting has been another common use of the technology, but it was only in the last few years that the electrostatic spray technology expanded to surface disinfection.

The process works by using a specialized cleaning solution (i.e. sanitizer or disinfectant) that is combined with air. Individual droplets of liquid are then charged as they move through an electrode inside the sprayer nozzle. The result is an

electrostatically charged mist that aggressively clings to any surface or object it's aimed at creating a uniform coating. This method can be used anywhere you currently sanitize or disinfect and can cover large areas in minutes.

Electrostatic sprayer systems come in several design options including handheld sprayers, backpack sprayers and rolling cart systems. There are options for battery powered sprayers and plug-in sprayers. The plug-in systems can be restricting for users having to deal with the cord but provide more consistent power and droplet charging, resulting in better performance.

Facilities should evaluate reliability, safety and ease of use before purchasing. Several safety considerations include:

- Ensure that the sprayer system has been certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory (NRTL) such as Intertek or Underwriters Laboratory (UL) for electrical safety.
- Check to make sure the cleaning solution you choose can be applied safely with your electrostatic sprayer to ensure the safety of bystanders.
- Review manufacturers recommendations for personal protective equipment (PPE) for the operator. This may include disposable gloves, eye protection, and an N95 mask.

For more information about cleaning and disinfecting guidelines for schools visit the [MDH](#) and [CDC](#) websites.

Managing Building Systems with



By Eryn Sorensen

Facilities play an important role in people's lives and are central to providing places to live, learn, work, and play. It's critical that these facilities run well. Whether you need to benchmark the performance of new or existing systems, recognize and correct any system problems, or identify

energy savings, all these play into efficient facilities and managing those building systems well.

But how do you know if your building systems are functioning well? When do you look at upgrades or replacements? And what's the best way to pay for those? That's where the ICS team comes in. We can provide comprehensive building system services including commissioning, re-commissioning, building data analytics, building forensics, energy monitoring, utility audits, and value engineering for your facilities. ICS has enhanced resources around mechanical, electrical, and civil engineering that allow us to quickly and efficiently assist customers in identifying and implementing solutions for maintenance, repair, or energy-related issues you may have.

For more information, contact Mike Piper at mike.piper@ics-builds.com or Karen Klein at karen.klein@ics-builds.com. In addition, please visit our website at <https://www.ics-builds.com/> for more information.

SSC Upcoming Events*

May/June

SAC Meeting
May 19

Board Meeting
May 20

MASA Region 1 Spring Session
June 10

Principal Networking Forum
June 10

Facilities Management Town Hall
June 11

SAC Meeting
June 23

Board Meeting
June 24

And Beyond...

Hue-Man 101 Training
September 23

Future Ready Schools Leadership Institute
September 29

MASA Region 1 Fall Session
October 21

Hue-Man 101 Training
November 3

SSC Wellness Forum: Whole Person Wellness
November 4

STEM Forward Educator Forum
November 4

**Check our webpage for the most current information. Many sessions will be held virtually.*

Welcome Back, Kim and Mike!

Kim Swanson

My parents were teachers for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, so I spent 13 of the first 18 years of my life in Germany. I graduated from General H.H. Arnold High School in Wiesbaden, Germany, and then attended North Dakota State University in Fargo. I graduated from NDSU with a double major in Zoology and German and followed my husband to Rochester. I managed a database for a non-profit office for 20 years before going back to school to get my Associates Degree in Accounting. While I was getting my Accounting degree, I had the opportunity to work at SSC on a temporary basis. I was so impressed with the atmosphere and team attitude at SSC that when I found out about this new job opening, I didn't hesitate!

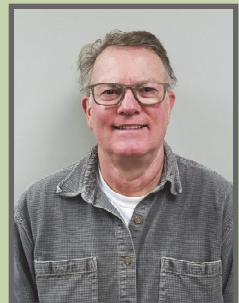
Sports are a big part of my life; my husband and I both play soccer and in the summers I enjoy attending his many baseball and softball games. We have a lake home up north and try to go there as much as possible during the summers. I also enjoy traveling, reading, watching TV, and spending time with friends and family.



Mike Christensen

Mike has served on the Red Wing School Board since 2008. He was most working with developmentally disabled adults but recently hung up his hat and put on his sailing shoes. Mike and his wife Kay have two adult-ish sons, Max and Alex. They moved to Minnesota from Chicago 25 years ago and have a house overlooking Wacouta Bay just outside Red Wing. Mike and Kay do a lot of travelling, walking endlessly and exploring different cultures. They also have great fun walking and hiking with their dog Percy around the bluffs of the Mississippi. Mike also enjoys music: making it, listening to it, and seeking interesting artists working today.

Mike was a long-time SSC board member who recently returned to the board when a one-year vacancy opened up.



SSC Board Actions and Information

In addition to routine fiscal and routine business actions, the Board took the following actions in recent meetings. Complete SSC Board of Directors meeting minutes are available on the SSC website at www.ssc.coop.

January

- Welcomed new Board members: Mike Christensen (Red Wing School Board) and Dave Klatt (Albert Lea School Board). Acknowledged returning Board member, Lynn Gorski (City of Owatonna).
- Approved new Board officers: Mary Blair-Hoeft for Board Chair, Brein Maki for Vice-Chair, Lynn Gorski for Treasurer, and Jean Roth for Board Clerk.
- Chair appointed the following Committee Appointments:
 - Finance – Mike Christensen, Lynn Gorski, Mary Blair-Hoeft, Tess Arrick-Kruger, Dave Klatt
 - Personnel – Monica Sveen-Ziebell, Don Leathers, Brein Maki, Tess Arrick-Kruger, Mary Blair-Hoeft
 - Policies/Bylaws – Don Leathers, Monica Sveen-Ziebell, Jason Marquardt, Jean Roth, Bree Maki
 - Canvassing – Bree Maki and Mary Blair-Hoeft
 - MSC Board – Brein Maki, Mike Christensen
 - CPC Board – Mary Blair-Hoeft
 - MHC Board – Lynn Gorski
- Approved combining the Policies and Bylaws Committees into one, the Policies/Bylaws Committee.
- Approved the Mileage Reimbursement Rate Change to \$0.575, Effective January 1, 2020.
- Approved the 2020 Board Meeting Presentation Schedule.
- Approved the Designation of Depositor: US Bank, Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund (MSDLAF), Wells Fargo Investments.
- Accepted and approved \$3,000 from Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) for Student Academics.
- Approved the hiring of three Career Navigators, Jami Schwickerath, Dylan Mackey, and Lisa Chellew, effective January 20, 2020, through June 30, 2021.
- Approved the hiring of Kim Swanson as Accounting Assistant, effective February 4, 2020.

- Approved the resignation of Dave Thompson, SSC Facilities Management Specialist, effective January 3, 2020.
- Approved the contract for City of Dodge Center to join CCOGA effective February 1, 2020.
- Approved the 2020-2021 Board Meeting Schedule.
- Authorized Steve Sallee to act as the Identified Official with Authority (IOWA) Region 10-Southeast Service Coop 0921-83.

February

- Approved the grant-funded investment for FutureForward customizations.
- Approved the updated formatting and dates for SSC's HIPAA policies.
- Approved the 2018-2019 School Pool Self-Insured Policy Settlement Recap document.
- Approved the hiring of Michael Schnell as the Community Engagement Coordinator through the Rural CTE Consortium Grant.
- Approved Tess Arrick-Kruger to serve as MHC Board proxy replacing Lynn Gorski as needed.
- Approved the resignation of Dave Klatt from the Board of Directors, effective February 7, 2020.
- Approved the replacement of Dave Klatt with Jean Roth on the Finance Committee.

March

- Approved the AASA/SSC/MASA 1 Memorandum of Understanding.
- Approved the new SSC membership fee of \$50 for first year for new groups of 50 or fewer employees.
- Accepted the resignation of Jane Drennan, Director, SE-Metro Regional Center of Excellence, effective June 30, 2020.

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Shaping the Future
for communities of leaders and learners

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Lynn Gorski, Treasurer
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Jean Roth, Clerk
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Houston County

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Mabel-Canton Public Schools

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