

Cooperative Connection

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Southeast Service Cooperative

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SSC offers new instructional technology services

By Kari Kubicek

Southeast Service Cooperative is offering a new Instructional Technology Service package. The chief objective of this service is to support building capacity among educators for effective integration of technology in teaching and learning. This service is a partnership between SSC member districts and SSC and is comprised of two main components, which include: 1) the analysis of district data related to instructional technology collected from teachers, administrators, and students utilizing a product designed to develop data-driven, prioritized analyses of technology programs and professional development needed by each district in the region based on the collected



data, and 2) a regionally shared Instructional Technology Specialist who is responsible for supporting and enhancing learning with teachers and

Instructional Technology continued on page 17

Selecting a principal and/or educator evaluation framework?

By Amy Grover

The Minnesota Service Cooperatives can help! MSC is a Joint Powers organization comprised of nine educational service agencies geographically distributed across the state and serving members in their respective areas. The MSC's Professional Development Group consists of representatives from each agency tasked with improving member access to high-quality professional development through our collective capacity, identifying and sharing resources across regions and

on a statewide basis, and developing opportunities for collaborative ventures.

Recently, the Minnesota Service Cooperatives have been examining tools or products that may assist schools and districts with different aspects of teacher evaluation. After a thorough RFP submission and review process, we have selected seven vendors with whom to develop partnerships. Each of the companies has a tool(s) to support educator

Evaluation Framework continued on page 2



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observation and/or evaluation software professional development components. These companies have been contracted by the Minnesota Service Cooperatives to provide cost-efficient pricing to Minnesota schools. Each contract is facilitated by a different Minnesota Service Cooperative, but all Minnesota schools or districts may take advantage of any of the statewide pricing regardless of which region you are in. The companies were selected based on criteria developed by Minnesota educators and administrators. Some of the most important criteria

included:

- Ease-of-use, flexibility and freedom to customize rubrics, forms, and processes.
- Evaluation frameworks supported.
- Experience working with K-12 districts of all sizes.
- Inclusion of student data and/or survey tools.
- Customer satisfaction and retention rate.
- Availability of powerful analytics and reporting tools.
- Training and professional development opportunities offered.

- Technical support and system management provided.

To view demonstration videos from the seven recommended companies, please visit <http://ssc.eduvision.tv>. Company representatives will be happy to provide personalized webinars for you as well, and you should feel free to contact them directly to learn more about their products and services. Questions? Please contact Amy Grover at 507-281-6693 or agrover@ssc.coop.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  | Editure Contact: Jill Freking National Inside Sales Manager Office: 612-998-6681 Email: jfreking@edituregroup.com Web: www.edituregroup.com | Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative Contact: Bob Braun Senior Director of Teaching & Learning Office: 507-537-2252 Email: bob.braun@swsc.org |
|  | iObservation Contact: Chadd Slezak Director of District Partnerships Office: 724-459-2100 ext 102 Email: cslezak@learningsciences.com Web: www.iobservation.com | Resource Training & Solutions Contact: Rebecca Koelln Director of Leadership Development Office: 320-255-3236 ext 353 Cell: 320-293-1707 Email: rkoelln@resourcetraining.com |
|  | K-12 Evaluation Solutions Contact: John M. Spicko Ed.S Sales Account Executive Office: 888-549-4626 Email: jspicko@zimco.net Web: www.k12evaluationsolutions.com | Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative Contact: Bob Braun Senior Director of Teaching & Learning Office: 507-537-2252 Email: bob.braun@swsc.org |
|  | McREL/SearchSoft Contact: Julie Abels Lead Consultant Office: 303-632-5532 Email: jabels@mcrel.org Web: www.mcrel.org/evalsystems | Metro ECSU Contact: Julie Frame Executive Director Office: 612-638-1508 Email: julie.frame@metroecsu.org |
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Longtime SSC staff member Dick Riley to retire June 30

By Nicole LaChapelle

After nearly 21 years of assisting members with a variety of programs, Dick Riley will end his tenure at SSC on June 30. Dick is a familiar face, and voice on the phone, to many SSC Members, as he handles the majority of SSC's session registrations. Dick also works with a variety of other programs, mainly handling Wood Lake Meeting Center rentals and coordinating Mobile Science Lab bookings.

Dick has donned many hats at SSC in his two decades of



work, just a few of them include delivery driver, film operation coordinator, and warehouse staff member.

Dick is looking forward to his retirement, and plans to spend more time with his two grandchildren, Cora and Liam, as well as traveling. He also plans on additional time behind the wheel of his 1965 Studebaker.

Dick shared, "We've got such a good crew here, which creates a great work environment. All of us working together have made SSC an excellent place to work."

Dick will be greatly missed by his colleagues and members alike.

National Gifted/Talented experts to present at SSC's GATE Network

By Nicole LaChapelle

Southeast Service Cooperative is pleased to continue to offer our Regional Gifted and Talented Network. To provide support for the high ability students in your school(s), we invite you to join other GATE educators from southeast Minnesota as a member of the SSC GATE Network for the 2013-2014 school year.

The purpose of this regional network is to educate, offer assistance, and support districts as they continue to develop, modify, and expand programs and activities that benefit high ability learners at all grade levels.

We're very pleased that we have already secured national GATE experts Dr. Jane Kise and Dr. Diane Heacox, as well as MDE Reading Specialist Kari Ross, to speak at three of our four network sessions.

Please consider designating a coordinator from your school. To help assist districts with vertically aligning their program, we encourage elementary, middle, and high school educators to join the network.

The fee for this professional development opportunity can come from your district gifted and talented funds. The group will

meet at SSC four times during the school year.

Pricing information along with session and registration details will be distributed soon.

For more information on the network, contact SSC's GATE Network Coordinators:

Nicole LaChapelle
nlachapelle@ssc.coop
(507) 281-6674

or

Lori Mack
lmack@ssc.coop
(507) 281-6691

How to prepare for PPACA compliance

By Bill Colopolous

As we move closer to 1-1-2014 – the date when most major provisions of the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act (PPACA) become effective – employers should start now to gather the information they will need to test and report compliance with the new rules. There are three basic types of data required:

1. Health plan benefit summaries
2. Health plan cost and contribution information
3. Employee population data

Most of the first two items are relatively well-known components of current health plan data. However, ongoing, it will also be necessary to record payroll and HR records to measure and track eligibility and employee payroll data for the tests that will determine full-time status and “pay or play” scenarios and in order to fulfill the necessary reporting requirements of the new law.

Payroll systems are typically capable of producing required data in the form of data extracts that can be downloaded to an EXCEL worksheet that can in turn be fed into various calculator tools used to conduct testing, reporting and benefit modeling. However, such data extracts can only be produced if the employer inputs the necessary data into their payroll/HR system(s).



Beta testing

Once the extracts are produced the next step is for the information to be programmed into the calculator tools designed to perform the aforementioned testing, reporting and modeling functions. This step, known as “beta testing” is suggested as a means to ensure that all the data is being properly fed into the calculators and being properly interpreted.

Compliance testing

Once 2014 plan renewal price, benefits and contributions data are known, the calculators will be run again using the first official look back eligibility, payroll and new plan data. The completeness and accuracy of that information will be verified prior to issuance of reports to the applicable reporting entities during the first plan year in which the employer must be in compliance with the PPACA.

Timelines

Employers with no health plan or a health plan renewal date of 1-1 should schedule beta testing during late summer, early fall 2013 and will be required to begin official compliance testing for

their plan year commencing on 1-1-2014.

For groups with off-calendar year plan years, beta testing should commence in fall 2013; final testing targeting the first plan year subject to compliance rules for their plan year beginning after 1-1-2014.

The Southeast Service Cooperative is providing PPACA compliance support through its consultant, Bill Colopolous of Next Generation Healthcare Economics. Many member groups have already attended workshops describing how to assemble their plan and payroll data. In the months ahead – and as final rules and regulations are published – Next Generation Healthcare Economics will be helping our member groups be ready for compliance testing, reporting and to be in position to make timely, strategic benefit planning decisions for the future as their health plans transition to the new era of the PPACA. This service will also be available to SSC members that are not in the SSC health insurance pools.

For more information, please contact:

Bill Colopolous
Next Generation Healthcare
Economics
bc@nexgenhce.com

Bill is the Southeast Service Cooperative’s health benefits consultant.

Student VREP Projects showcased at Virtual Reality Event

By Kari Kubicek

SSC hosted a Virtual Reality Education Pathfinder (VREP) Virtual Showcase event on April 18, for SSC member districts. The event included virtual reality project presentations by current VREP students, a panel discussion comprised of VREP students and program administrators and/or teachers, and a presentation by Dr. Richard Robb, Director of Mayo Clinic's Biomedical Imaging Resource Lab. Dr. Robb's presentation, "Perspectives on Virtual Reality in Medicine: from X-rays to Star Trek," detailed the evolution of VR in medicine, with an emphasis on the current status in VR related to medicine and trends toward exciting future developments.

Twenty-five students and six adults from current VREP districts participated in the event. Student presenters at the event included: Kasson-Mantorville's Isaac Heins, Carter Swarthout, Ruben Valenzuela, and Dan Woeste; Kingsland's Alex Campbell, Jordan Chinnow, and Alec Kohn; Randolph's Elijah Berg, Andrew Emery, Kate Freiermuth, Ryan Hoey, Joe Howard, Nikita Kamyshnikov, John Kneffer, Alex McKay, Austin Moorhouse, Will Rad-



Randolph Senior Ryan Hoey presents his VREP project at the Showcase Event.

man, Collin Regenscheid, Alyssa Sanford, Zach Scheglowski, Ryan Schmicking, and Dylan Tonsager.

VREP National and Iowa Director Rex Kozak spoke at the event providing a glimpse of the tremendous opportunities for students involved in VREP programming. Kozak also announced a scholarship opportunity for seniors involved in VREP with future plans for a STEM related education.

VREP is an innovative program in which students are charged with creating virtual reality and 3D models, simulations and projects which serve several purposes around accelerating student learning. Projects are connected to curriculum areas and grade level expectations providing the opportunity for

other students to understand key concepts and ideas through the use of VR and 3D.

Please contact Kari Kubicek at kkubicek@ssc.coop with any questions about this program.



Randolph Senior awarded VREP Scholarship

By Kari Kubicek

Randolph High School's Ryan Schmicking was awarded a \$500 VREP Scholarship through the National VREP Program. Schmicking submitted an extensive project proposal outlining the development and recreation of a helicopter in Blender, a 3D computer graphics software product used for creating animated films, visual effects, interactive 3D applications or video games.

Schmicking initially began working in Blender in a Communication Arts course during his junior year. Randolph High School instructor, Doris Johnson, developed and offered the course to interested students when her district made the decision to sign up for the VREP program offered through SSC. Schmicking, who excelled in the course, has become a VREP leader in his school and has



Randolph senior Ryan Schmicking and Randolph High School Principal Matt Rutledge stand next to the VREP project which earned Schmicking a \$500 VREP Scholarship award.

actually led the class for a couple of weeks this school year.

Schmicking will be attending North Dakota State University for Civil Engineering next fall after spending the summer as a shooting instructor at the Phillipso Scout Reservation. When asked how the skills he learned through the VREP program will assist him in his future education, Schmicking

commented, "Problem solving and figuring stuff out is a big part of developing these projects. You have to creatively think every day which trains your brain to think differently."

Johnson's support of her students and ongoing efforts in offering the Communication Arts course to her students has resulted in an increase in student enrollments in the course since its launch. Randolph is a leader in the southeast Minnesota VREP Program due to Johnson's commitment and hard work.

Johnson was extremely pleased that Schmicking received the scholarship. "He was just tickled pink when he found out!" Johnson explained. And based on the smile you could hear through the phone when talking with Johnson about Schmicking's accomplishment, she was pretty thrilled herself.

Rochester Chamber of Commerce's Educators in the Workplace Institute

The Rochester Chamber of Commerce will offer its Educators in the Workplace Institute June 24 – 26. This three-day, interactive workshop provides an opportunity for area educators to gain a better understanding of their community and participate in interactive work site visits.

The Institute will focus on the following Career Pathway Focus Areas:

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Arts, Communications & Information Systems
- Engineering, Manufacturing & Technology
- Health Science Technology

- Human Services
- Business, Management & Administration

Click here for more information.

Online purchasing tips

By Katie Schmitt

While making purchases online is convenient, there are some disadvantages. Avoid the pitfalls, time-traps and headaches with these tips for shopping on the world-wide web.

Comparison shopping

It can be time consuming to look for deals. It drives up soft costs, which means you really aren't saving money when someone spends hours to save a few dollars. Spending too much time to compare prices also means that other work may not be getting done, which contributes to organizational inefficiency.

Did you know SSC provides invoice comparisons for office supplies, custodial supplies and classroom supplies? If you are looking to save money and want to know how your current vendor compares with contracted vendors through the Cooperative Purchasing Program, contact me at kschmitt@ssc.ccop. We complete the comparison, so you don't have to take time out of your schedule to do the research. We also conduct line-item, market basket, and member scenario pricing comparisons when we are evaluating bid/quote proposals. Pricing comparisons are also made throughout the vendor's contract period. We recently completed a Technology Product Price Guide to provide

members with comparative pricing on technology products from Cooperative Purchasing vendors. It is important for our contracts to be competitive in price and provide overall value for members.

Pictures are worth a thousand words

It is hard to tell what you are getting without high-quality product photographs. Buy from retailers that have good images with multiple views of the product and product manuals. CDW-G provides a website for members where you can go on a Product Tour to view descriptions, technical specifications, videos or images, pricing, and alternative products.

Security

Place orders on secure websites and reputable retailers. Watch for credit card encryption and secure account log in. Steer clear of possible phishing sites offering "too good to be true" deals. Keep your anti-virus/spyware software up-to-date.

Hidden costs

Additional costs like shipping are easy to calculate. Other fees may be buried in the fine print; such as the expense to ship a return or defective product, restocking fees, and extended warranty costs. Know these costs before you make the purchase.

Customer service matters

When selecting a vendor and product, consider high-quality customer service as a value add. Is there a time-zone difference? Is there an easy way to contact customer service? Did someone recommend the vendor to you? Customer service is something we evaluate when selecting a Cooperative Purchasing vendor. In addition to checking references, we look at customer service essentials including:

- Years the company has been in business
- Location of company operations – office, warehouse, distribution centers
- Number of sales representatives in our region



Online Purchasing Tips continued from page 7

- Number of customer service representatives in our region
- How products are delivered (common carrier, company trucks, UPS)
- Quote/order process
- Return process
- Warranty details

Waiting game

Even though buying online can happen anytime, anywhere; you still have to wait for your order to arrive. Get a delivery date estimate and choose retailers that can meet your order delivery needs. Use vendors that provide order tracking tools. In some cases the wait is not long. OfficeMax offers free shipping and next day delivery for SSC members.

Managing orders

Competitive pricing and product options are great to have, but

utilizing too many retailers can drive up soft costs. Whether you need to coordinate purchases for several individuals and/or departments, or oversee the procurement practices for the entire organization, you may want to limit the number of vendors available to your staff and implement ways to consolidate orders. What are the disadvantages of too much choice and too many vendors?

- More purchase approvals need to be reviewed by administration.
- More orders are placed.
- More shipments need to be managed and tracked.
- More shipments are received and need to be unloaded.
- More invoices are received and more checks need to be written.
- More time waiting for approvals on payments.

- More issues occur with vendors as there are more orders/accounts to manage.

SSC Cooperative Purchasing vendors can help you manage orders. School Specialty created a 14-minute webinar showcasing their online ordering system and how it can make your requisition and ordering season easier.

To set up multiple cost centers within your online OfficeMax account, contact Laura Hartsell at 612-296-9887 or laurahartsell@officemax.com.

For a full list of Cooperative Purchasing vendors, visit www.purchasingconnection.org.

SSC named one of the Best Places to Work in Southeast Minnesota!

SSC was recently named as a 2013 Best Place to Work in Southeast Minnesota by Workforce Development, Inc. This is the second year in a row that SSC has received this honor.

Each company participating was required to complete a 40-question survey that allowed their employment

practices to be analyzed by a consulting firm.

The data was measured on such parameters as: turnover, rate of growth, promotion rates, employee evaluations and feedback, percentage of employee injured, diversity of management, benefits offered, training expenditures, paid days off and increase in pay.

SSC staff and Board members attended the April 25 awards banquet, held at the Rochester International Event Center.



Upcoming PD opportunities through Math Science Teacher Partnership Grant Project: Get involved now!

By Kari Kubicek

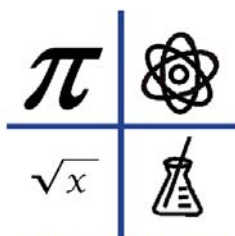
SSC, in partnership with Winona State University and Hamline University is offering exciting professional development opportunities for grades 5-8 math and science teachers through the Math and Science Teacher Partnership grant program. This programming has been made possible through an award by MDE to assist teachers in improving content knowledge and pedagogical techniques to more effectively implement the Minnesota Mathematics and Science Academic Standards with the goal of improving student learning.

The programming for both the math and science cohorts is comprised of one, two-day session in August 2013, and four one-day professional development sessions during the school year, for each cohort. Cohort members will also be expected to participate in all professional development opportunities, PLC collaboration, and grant evaluation activities. Upon successful completion of all cohort requirements, teachers will receive a \$500 stipend.

MSTP 2013-2014 Math Programming - Mathematical Modeling in a Science Context for grades 5-8 math and science teachers

Dates of Programming – All sessions will run from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM
 August 8 & 9, 2013
 September 26, 2013
 November 14, 2013
 January 30, 2014
 March 6, 2014

The primary objective of this STEM workshop is to focus on using a learning cycle (inquiry) to take data from real-world systems for learning



and applying mathematical and scientific concepts. School teams of science and math teachers will find the most benefit from this workshop. However, teams of math or teams of science teachers as well as individuals (math or science) may also apply (math participants do not need to have any scientific specialty/background and conversely science teachers do not need to have any math specialty.) The facilitators will work through several lessons that (1) begin with hands-on activities to take data and explore/develop integrated scientific and mathematical concepts and (2) are especially pertinent to mathematical topics relevant to grades 5-8 middle school teachers. Participants will experience standards-based activities that help students build understanding of algebra and promote inquiry in the classroom. The major emphasis will be on constructing mathematical models, equations, and principles based on data from scientific systems.

Hands-on/minds-on activities will be used that promote understanding and help students visualize the content. A technology component will be built into some of the workshops. In addition, teachers will be broken out into grade-band areas to adapt the tasks to different classrooms.

Goals/Learning Objectives

- Develop mathematical models that describe real-world phenomena and to solve real-world problems
- Use the process of science to design and implement experiments to collect data
- Organize data to facilitate the extraction of the mathematical model/pattern; this includes, for example, tables and common graphical displays, such as line graphs, scatter plots, histograms, and frequency tables
- Express the relationships illustrated in graphical displays and tables clearly and correctly in words and equations
- Use appropriate technology to describe and solve quantitative problems.

Presenters

Nicole Williams, Ph.D., has been a professor at WSU's Math and Statistics Department for nine years and is interested in strengthening teachers' understanding of mathematics through rich investigative activities. She has collaborated with elementary and middle school teachers developing curriculum and implementing standards-based activities. These activities have been presented at NCTM conferences and published in *Teaching Children Mathematics* and *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School* journals.

Andrew Ferstl, Ph.D., teaches in the WSU's Physics Department. He has been a professor there for 13 years which includes a rich history of STEM K-12 teacher preparation and professional development. He has developed standards-based

PD opportunities continued from page 9

curriculum for pre-service teachers based on best practices from several disciplines and looks forward to working with more teachers.

To sign up for this opportunity, click [here](#) to access the MSTP Math Cohort Agreement.

MSTP 2013-2014 Science

Programming - Grade 6 Physical Science and Engineering for grade 6 Science Teachers

Dates of Programming – All sessions will run from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Tuesday, August 20 and Wednesday, August 21, 2013

Thursday, October 24, 2013

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Recharge your science curriculum!

Join your 6th grade science teaching colleagues from around the region for a series of interactive, content-rich, teacher-focused science workshops.

The Minnesota Science Standards for 6th grade offer a special challenge for students and for their teachers. The mixture of systems-based engineering and physical science requires a strong science background and innovative strategies to help young students grasp challenging concepts.

Help your students meet the science standards. Experience a review of key concepts in physics and chemistry from a variety of presenters, gather resources, expand your skills in scientific inquiry and engineering, and prepare to translate these skills and knowledge to your students.

The goal of these modules is to enhance teachers' understanding of how to initiate standards-driven,



inquiry-based science instruction in a classroom. The outcomes are as follows:

- Teachers increase their content knowledge in science with emphasis on concepts that enrich the benchmarks outlined in the Minnesota Academic Standards in Science (2009).
- Teachers increase skills in designing inquiry-based investigation and engineering experiences.
- Teachers increase curriculum time devoted to science and student-directed investigations
- Communication and reflective practice among teachers is increased.

Presenters

Lee Schmitt is Associate Director for Professional Development and faculty in the Hamline University School of Education. His work involves developing and implementing programs and courses for in-service teachers of science in the areas of science content, inquiry/best practices, and standards-based curricula. Schmitt has facilitated three MSTP Science Academies in Rochester, and in other regions of the state, related to elementary science content and elementary/secondary programs on the nature of science and engineering standards. Schmitt has 15 years of classroom experience as a science teacher and 20 years in teacher professional development.

Jamie Crannell is a chemistry and physics teacher for Chaska and Chanhassen High Schools. He has a BA in Chemistry and an MA in Science Curriculum and Instruction. He has been instrumental in establishing “mastery learning” in the sciences in his district, and in moving the high schools to a “physics first” science curriculum. Crannell has been recognized by the American Chemical Society for excellence in chemistry teaching and served on the committee that wrestled with establishing the first Minnesota K-12 Science Standards.

Angie Lawrence is the STEM coach for Chaska Elementary and serves as a district science committee leader in the Eastern Carver County Schools. She is also a graduate student at the University of St. Thomas working on her Ed.D in Ed leadership and her Ed.S degrees. Ms. Lawrence has taught science methods for elementary education graduate students at St. Thomas and elementary chemistry courses with Jamie Crannell through Hamline for many years.

Eric Koser helps students learn about physics at Mankato West High School. His 20 years of classroom work focuses on engaging students with physics concepts through experimentation, discussion, and through a variety of educational technology. Koser is a visiting faculty at Gustavus Adolphus College where he also coordinates an educational outreach program for the annual Nobel Conference.

To sign up for this opportunity, click [here](#) to access the MSTP Science Cohort Agreement.

Feel free to contact Kari Kubicek at kkubicek@ssc.coop with any questions about the MSTP Project.

Positively PBIS

By Katie Schmitt

Wrapping up the School Year

Before you put on flip flops and dust off the grill (or unearthing it from 13 inches of snow), here are a few year-end tips for setting up your PBIS team for a successful 2013-14 school year.

- At your final team meeting analyze recent data (SAS, SET, ODR), identify what worked well in your team, discuss areas needing improvement, schedule team meetings for next school year including a kick-off planning meeting, and work on budget planning.
- Provide a year-end PBIS report for administration, board, staff, students, and parents.
- Ask team members to re-commit for next year.
- Recruit new team members if needed.
- Mark your calendar for important dates (i.e. team meetings, school wide PBIS events, team trainings and coaches trainings).
- Celebrate! Thank your team members and staff for making PBIS a priority.

PBIS Program Updates

Grant Award: The Southern Regional Implementation Project (SRIP), comprised of Southeast, South Central and Southwest West Central Service Cooperatives, was once again awarded a PBIS grant administered by Minnesota Department of Education. We are looking forward to continuing our work in helping schools implement PBIS! The lead project coordinator is Bob Braun of SW/WC.



Coaches Training: Coaches play an integral role within PBIS teams. To support coaches, the SRIP hosts Coaches Training sessions three times per year. The training provides information, resources and networking. The final Coaches Training Session of the school year was held on April 25th at SSC. Mark your calendar for Coaches Training dates: September 26, 2013, December 5, 2013, April 24, 2014. The sessions are open to coaches in Cohorts 1-9. View the Coaches Training Flyer for more information.

Summer Institute: MDE is hosting the Minnesota PBIS Institute and Film Festival on June 17 and 18 at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph. The institute focuses on Minnesota examples of PBIS Implementation. Breakout sessions were selected to assist existing PBIS teams with implementation fidelity and sustainability. The Film Festival will share the creative talents of Minnesota schools implementing PBIS and using video to provide a fun showcase to share. Register at: <http://www.ecsu.k12.mn.us/Registration/Events>. Choose the event titled The 2012 PBIS Minnesota Institute and Film Festival – Positively Minnesota!

Sustainability: On April 30th, the Southern Regional Implementation Project (S-RIP) hosted a team training session in Mankato to support schools no longer in the

cohort training cycle. Trainers shared information on community involvement, sustainability, team buy-in, revitalizing PBIS efforts, and best practices. Save the date for next year's sustainability session: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 in Mankato.

Cohort 9: Congratulations to SSC member schools selected for Cohort 9: Bluffview Montessori School, Kenyon Wanamingo Elementary, Kingsland Elementary, Northfield Area Learning Center, Northfield High School, and Northfield Middle School! Team training for Cohort 9 begins in August.

PBIS Resources:

www.pbismn.org
www.pbis.org
www.challengingbehavior.org
 SRIP Resource Library
 SRIP Past Training Handouts

Become a PBIS School: PBIS is a framework to help improve student academic and behavior outcomes emphasizing four elements: data for decision making, measurable outcomes, evidence-based practices, and systems that efficiently and effectively support implementation. If your school is interested in becoming a PBIS school, visit the Getting Started webpage at pbismn.org or contact me for more information. Applications for the 2-year SW-PBIS Implementation training are available in the fall and due to MDE in January.

For more information, contact Katie Schmitt at kschmitt@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6676.

Clarity - A Solution for Understanding how Effectively Technology is Being Used in Your School

By Kari Kubicek

SSC is very excited to offer our districts the opportunity to purchase Clarity from brightBytes. This is a needs assessment survey tool that collects data from administrators, teachers, and students in four areas (classroom, access, skills and environment). These four areas represent the analyses necessary to successfully assess technology integration and its impact on student learning. The framework examines the measurement of student and teacher access to technology at school and at home, teacher and student skills, and factors in the school environment, such as relevant policies and administrative support. All three areas converge to produce the results in the classroom, which closely examines both teacher and student use of specific technologies for various types of learning.

The results obtained through the survey will help districts measure and drive technology decisions and investments, position students for success with technology in the 21st Century, measure the impact of technology spending on student learning, and save money on technology projects and professional development. At its core, the Clarity platform

captures the link between school technology use and student achievement. It provides a quick, efficient way to measure the degree of instructional technology integration in the classroom, resulting in a detailed report that shows technology strengths in the district, provides a plan for meeting standards, identifies professional development needs, and allows districts to track progress over time. Furthermore, the aggregate regional data will help SSC identify common needs and target regional professional development opportunities.

SSC has contracted with brightBytes to offer the Clarity tool at the dramatically discounted annual fee of \$0.54/student, which allows you to offer unlimited surveys throughout the year. Districts must sign up by June 30 and their survey window will open on September 1. To sign up for this opportunity, [click here](#) to access the Clarity order form.

For those of you who would like to learn more about Clarity before signing up, you can explore the Clarity for Schools website. A recorded webinar is also available for viewing upon request. Please contact Kari Kubicek at kkubicek@ssc.coop with any questions.



INVALUABLE AND
INSIGHTFUL DATA



Understand how your teachers
and students are using
technology for learning



MEASURABLE
PROGRESS



Measure how much your programs
and professional development
are impacting student learning



SIMPLE STEP-
BY-STEP PLANS



Implement plans developed
by experts and successfully
implemented at schools

It's not too late to join SEMLAC and take your Professional Learning Communities to the regional level!

By Amy Grover



Over the last two years, have you heard the buzz about the Southeast Minnesota Learner Achievement Collaborative (SEMLAC)? Impressed with the work that they have done to build their professional learning communities, both locally and regionally? Amazed that they have attracted big name speakers such as Jane Kise and Thomas Many? Participating districts (Dover-Eyota, Hiawatha Valley Education District, Kingsland, Lanesboro, Mabel-Canton, Plainview-Elgin-Millville, and Wabasha-Kellogg) will continue capitalizing on regional expertise, maximizing resources, and developing inter-district PLCs and job-alike groups. They will continue their adventure during the 2013-2014 school year, continuing the Leadership Team Training series, which will be led by new facilitators Billie Finco and Julie Jensen from CESA 4 in Wisconsin.

SEMLAC activities will also include keynote speaker Dr. Anthony Muhammad, a much sought-after educational consultant, at the annual professional development event. A practitioner for nearly 20 years, Dr. Muhammad has served as a middle school teacher,



Dr. Anthony Muhammad

assistant principal, and principal, and as a high school principal. His tenure as a practitioner has earned him several awards as both a teacher and a principal. Dr. Muhammad's most notable accomplishment came as principal of Levey Middle School in Southfield, Michigan, a National School of Excellence, where student proficiency on state assessments more than doubled in

Upcoming SEMLAC Dates:

August 8, 2013 – Leadership Team Training

October 21, 2013 – Common Professional Development Day (with Anthony Muhammad)

January 24, 2014 – Leadership Team Training

August 7, 2014 – Leadership Team Training

October 20, 2014 – Common Professional Development Day

January 23, 2015 – Leadership Team Training

five years. Dr. Muhammad and the staff at Levey used the Professional Learning Communities at Work™ process for school improvement, and they have been recognized in several videos and articles as a model high-performing PLC.

Each year, we invite new districts to join the collaborative. For those that were more advanced in their PLC implementation, they may find that SEMLAC now better meets their needs. Our process for member district entry into SEMLAC includes assisting you with a PLC self-assessment and PD needs assessment to determine whether your school district's professional development needs and PLC functioning are an appropriate fit. We understand that calendars may already be set for this year, but it's not too soon to look ahead, so we've set the dates for the next two years for your planning purposes. The Common Professional Development Day is hosted by one of the collaborative districts for ALL licensed staff, whereas the Leadership Team Trainings are for a smaller cohort of educational leaders driving your PLC work.

Please contact Amy Grover at 507-281-6693 or agrover@ssc.coop, who serves as the regional SEMLAC coordinator if you are interested in learning more about participation in the 2013-2014 year, or 2014-2015 year. Any of the member superintendents are happy to discuss the benefits with you as well.

Kasson-Mantorville science teacher named Minnesota's best

By Brett Boese

A Kasson-Mantorville Elementary School teacher was named science teacher of the year last month by the Minnesota Science Teachers Association. The award recognizes excellence in science teaching, contributions to science education and the overall impact the teacher has had on students.

Sharie Furst was selected for the honor after being nominated by Michele Koomen, an associate professor at Gustavus Adolphus College. She has worked for nine years in the K-M district, where she's currently a third-grade teacher. She is married to *Post-Bulletin* Managing Editor Jay Furst.

"I read (the letter) three times because I couldn't believe it," Furst said of her initial reaction to the news."

Despite downplaying her achievement, Furst's list of credentials is long. She's the Region 10 director for the Minnesota Science Teachers Association, and a board member for the Rochester Area Math and Science Partnership. She's an adjunct faculty member for Hamline University as well as for the Science and Nature Conferences. Locally, Furst



Sharie Furst will present two STEM focused sessions at SSC this August.

serves on the K-M science committee, and judges at area science fairs.

Furst, who has 23 years of teaching experience, is a 1990 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She earned her master's degree from UW-Stout, and has been a longtime advocate for STEM programming, which focuses on changing the methods of teaching science.

For example, she took her students outside Thursday to show them the merits of using a sundial.

"They go out and experience this, then we go to class and start talking about it," Furst

said. "They discover the learning rather than reading about it." The award comes with a \$1,000 grant from Medtronic Foundation that must be used for classroom projects. Furst plans to create a peace garden behind her school building, which could double as an outdoor classroom. Groundbreaking has been tentatively scheduled to coincide with Earth Day on April 22.

Paul Anderson, a physics teacher from Buffalo, was named Minnesota's top high school science teacher at the Feb. 22 conference in Duluth where U.S. Sen. Al Franken was the featured speaker.

This article appeared in the March 8, 2013 *Rochester Post Bulletin* and was re-printed with permission.

Five Knowledge Bowl teams advance to State, Chatfield and Winona win Heritage Spirit Awards

By Kirsten Kuehl

Participation in Senior High Knowledge Bowl during the 2012-13 season increased to 106 teams. Thirty-one schools from across southeast Minnesota fielded teams that began competition in December.

The top three teams from tier AA and top two teams from tier A advanced to the State Knowledge Bowl Competition. The event was held April 11-12 at Cragun's Conference Center in Brainerd. The teams that advanced were from: Albert Lea, Chatfield, Fillmore Central, Rochester Mayo, and Winona.

We are proud that the two Heritage Spirit Award winners (one from each tier) were Chatfield and Winona. This award is given for qualities and conduct becoming a champion competitor. Officials and teams cast votes for this award at the State competition.

Minnesota winter weather complicated Sub-Regionals, Regionals and even State for all regions and many teams across the state this season.

Teams participated in round robin competitions once a month in December, January and February. Teams were divided into two tiers and took part in Sub-Regionals in March. These competitions were held March 19-20 at the Rochester Community and



Chatfield (L) and Winona (R) teams stand proudly after receiving their Heritage Spirit Awards.

Technical College, Heinz Center. Twelve teams from each tier advanced to Regionals on March 21-22 at the Southeast Service Cooperative. The top four teams received trophies for their school and individual medallions for each team member.

Twenty-four teams, from two tiers (48 total) competed with teams from across Minnesota. Teams consist of five students (including the alternate). All team members work together on a 60-question written round. Four team members compete in five oral rounds. At the state meet, four person teams compete against one another in one written and five oral rounds of interdisciplinary questions for a total of 285 questions. Success at the competition requires the ability to work as a team, as well as to recall information quickly in a variety of areas of study. Knowledge Bowl is sponsored by eleven Service Cooperatives around the state.

Over 800 teams from 290 school districts throughout Minnesota



participate in Senior High Knowledge Bowl.

The teams that advanced to State are pictured on page 16. Congratulations to these teams on their great showing!

Schools that participated in Senior High Knowledge Bowl were: Albert Lea, Austin, Caledonia, Cannon Falls, Chatfield, Dover-Eyota, Fillmore Central, Goodhue, Grand Meadow, Houston, Kasson-Mantorville, Kenyon-Wanamingo, Kingsland, LaCrescent, Lanesboro, Lewiston-Altura, Mabel-Canton, Medford, Northfield, Pine Island, Plainview-Elgin-Millville, Red Wing, Rochester Mayo, Rochester Off Campus, Rushford-Peterson, Southland, Spring Grove, St. Charles, Stewartville, Triton and Winona.

Southeast Minnesota Knowledge Bowl placements at State Tier AA



Winona13th

Teams from southeast Minnesota made a great showing at 2013 State! Teams from Chatfield and Fillmore Central represented Tier A. Teams from Albert Lea, Rochester Mayo, and Winona represented Tier AA.



Albert Lea17th



Rochester Mayo17th

Tier A



Chatfield12th



Fillmore Central20th

COMPONENT ONE: Collection of District Data Related to Instructional Technology

After extensive research, SSC has purchased a regional subscription that provides member districts with access to a comprehensive needs assessment tool offered by nationally recognized speaker and author Rob Mancabelli, an expert in educational technology and personal learning networks. His company brightBytes offers Clarity, which provides a quick, efficient way to measure technology use in the school, resulting in a detailed report that shows technology strengths and opportunities for growth, provides a plan for meeting state and national standards, and allows districts to track progress over time.

Clarity surveys and collects data from administrators, teachers, and students in four areas (classroom, access, skills and environment) which represent the analyses necessary to successfully assess technology integration and its impact on student learning. The framework examines the measurement of student and teacher access to technology at school and at home, teacher and student skills, and factors in the school environment, such as relevant policies and administrative support. All three areas converge to produce the results in the classroom, which closely examines both teacher and student use of specific technologies for various types of learning. *(More information about Clarity can be found on page 12)*

Collection and aggregation of this data will provide SSC and

participating districts with valuable information to allow the Regional Technology Integration Specialist to work with each client district to develop a data-driven, prioritized plan and to identify professional development needs. The tool is not designed to evaluate technology infrastructure, or recommend particular equipment or software, rather it focuses entirely on integration in the classroom and the impact on student learning. While all SSC members can purchase Clarity for a per student fee, districts that opt to participate in SSC's Instructional Technology Service will be required to purchase Clarity.

COMPONENT TWO: Regionally Shared Instructional Technology Specialist

The Instructional Technology Specialist will be a shared regional resource whose main responsibility will be to support and enhance learning with teachers and technology staff. The support and services provided by this individual will present opportunities for district partners resulting in regional efficiency and effectiveness meeting common district needs while maximizing resources and adding value. Sharing of this person/resource will allow SSC districts to affordably access quality instructional technology integration services on an as-needed basis.

This individual will be responsible for planning, implementing, and supporting the effective integration of technology into the curriculum of contracted school districts in southeast Minnesota. Duties will include assessing local and regional

needs, developing and delivering professional development, coaching and supporting teachers as they integrate technology in the classroom, and facilitating a regional technology integrationist network.

The chief objective of this service will be to support building capacity among educators for effective instructional integration of technology in teaching and learning. The Instructional Technology Specialist will provide support and services based on both the gaps identified in the collected data as well as other district identified needs. Specific technology integration services will include some or all of the following support based on district needs and services:

- 1. Needs Assessment and Planning:** Work with assigned districts to complete a comprehensive needs assessment using Clarity to collect baseline data and determine curriculum and instructional technology and professional development needs and develop a plan of action to achieve integration. Guide and support district leaders in their efforts to monitor progress toward identified instructional technology goals.
- 2. Facilitating Teaching and Learning:** Coach classroom teachers during the planning, implementation, and assessment of instructional media and instructional technology. Guide teachers in the design of engaging

Instructional Services continued from page 16

lessons and units of study that integrate technology into core academics, providing support as needed. Model effective teaching strategies and best practices in the classroom and provide non-evaluative feedback based on classroom observations. Provide support related to adaptive technology and its use to meet the differentiation needs of diverse learners. Provide advisory service to administrators, technology management staff, and educators regarding application of new technologies.

3. Professional Development Service Design and Delivery:

Design, develop, and deliver job-embedded professional development related to the integration of educational technologies and best practices for using technology to enhance instruction, meet curriculum standards, and improve student achievement. Create and collect learning resources for educators in an online repository. Coordinate regional workshops and training opportunities that support the integration of technology into the curriculum, and provide on-site trainings at participating districts.

The qualifications for this position are extensive and require a Bachelor's Degree in education, technology, computer science, library/media, and/or a related field. The individual must possess a valid Minnesota teacher's license, or valid licensure from out-of-state and have a minimum

of three years of successful full-time experience as a classroom teacher. In addition, two years professional development experience educating teachers in the integration of technology for instruction and a minimum of two years of experience delivering and integrating technology in an instructional setting is preferred.

Benefits to Participation

Data driven analysis of technology program and professional development needs.

Through analysis of a participating district's data related to technology integration in their district, districts will be provided the following:

1. Compelling data and key insights into technology use among students and teachers.
2. Identified technology projects and professional development best suited to a district's needs.
3. A picture of local and SE Minnesota region's readiness to meet standards, including identification of service opportunities on an individual school's basis.
4. Regional comparison and analysis of common need to support efficient and effective regional service delivery and maximize local funds and SSC membership value.
5. Opportunity to measure progress in meeting technology integration program goals through collection and analysis of data two or three times per year.

Instructional Technology Specialist Services.

1. Cost savings and risk reduction for districts not equipped to support a full time Instructional

Technology Specialist; access high quality services based on specific local needs.

2. SSC will manage all the personnel aspects, including interviewing, hiring, and evaluation. Districts will not be responsible for HR, contracts, benefits, and can opt out of the service on an annual basis so there is no risk.
3. Customized support to address varying levels of literacy and preparedness for the integration of instructional technology in teaching and learning.
4. Multiple modes of delivery will be employed to deliver content and cultivate teacher networks
5. Comprehensive data to analyze, plan, track, and monitor progress including baseline data from initial assessment.
6. Facilitated regional network.
7. Development of internal capacity to implement and use instructional technology and enhance student learning.
8. This shared position is NOT a technology coordinator or an IT manager. This individual will not be involved with software or hardware installation, infrastructure decisions or management, or "help desk" support.

Districts participating in this new service will be able to contract with SSC to receive direct on-site and off-site services and access to the consortium services based on the districts specific needs as outlined above. If interested, please contact Kari Kubicek at kkubicek@ssc.coop to obtain the Intent to Participate form, to be submitted by June 14, 2013.

Recent Board meeting actions and information

Note: Complete SSC Board of Directors meeting minutes are available on the SSC website at www.ssc.coop.

In addition to routine fiscal and routine business actions, the Board took the following actions in recent meetings:

March 2013 Meeting

Awarded a contract to Crescent Landscape.

Awarded a contract to Netchemia/ TalentEd Perform and Mods4EDU.

Approved the opening of a new position of Instructional Technology Specialist.

Approved the SSC purchase of Clarity for a pilot for 7,500 students with an investment of \$800 as a one-time fee and \$4,000 as an annual fee, and to authorize staff to expand the contract as demand increases.

Approved proposal for SSC to serve as fiscal host and provide regional coordination services for an e-textbook collaborative.

April 2013 Meeting

Adopted the School Health Insurance Pool 2013-2014 Plan Year Renewal rating formula and plan as recommended by the Formula Committee; authorized the Executive Director to use up to \$3 million of the School Health Pool RSR Margin Reserve to apply toward

rate reductions and wellness incentive programming subsidy as recommended by staff and the Formula Committee.

Authorized staff to continue WLMC expansion planning and to request that the architect produce construction documents and cost projections for presentation to the Board at the May meeting.

Honored Susan Phillips with the 2013 Southeast Outstanding Service award. She will be honored at the summer MSC Board Conference.

Approved the membership fees for 2013-2014.

Adopted the recommendation of the SSC Board Personnel Committee for 2013-2014 employee compensation.

May 2013 Meeting

Approved annual memberships in associate organizations.

Approved award of CPS eProcurement contract/ consortium, including a cost share equal to the other participating Service Cooperatives, with a commitment up to \$25,000 per year for the years 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16.

Approved a contract with Next Generation Healthcare Economics to provide compliance testing and reporting services to group employers in

the SSC Health Insurance Pools during the 2013-2014 year for a cost of \$36,750 and to pay for these services with RSR Margin and/or reserve funds.

Approved a rate adjustment correction for Owatonna Public Schools in the 2013-2014 school health pool renewal.

Adopted the proposed service fees for 2013-2014.

Approved resuming SSC's agreement with Express Pros for the services of Regan Limuti at an updated hourly rate for up to a maximum total of 720 hours.

Adopted the recommendation of the SSC Board Personnel Committee to finalize 2013-2014 the compensation package.

Changed the date of the August Board meeting to Wednesday, August 28 and the date of the September Board of Directors meeting to Monday, September 30, 2013.

Future Board Meeting

Dates:

- Wednesday, June 26
- Wednesday, July 31 (fifth Wednesday)
- Wednesday, August 28
- Monday, September 30
- Wednesday, October 23
- Monday, November 25

Calendar

June

Annual Town Hall Meeting for Health and Safety Funding

June 6

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Math Strategies - Grade 6 - High School

June 10

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Save Your License Monday

June 10

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

MSTP Elementary Science Cohort

June 17 & 18

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Understanding by Design: Frameworks for the Visual & Media Arts

June 17

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

An Introduction to Reading Power: Linking Thinking to Reading Instruction

June 19

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

MSBA/Education Minnesota Work Day: Building a Teacher Evaluation Plan

June 19

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

SMART Board Beginner with updated Notebook 11 Software

June 20

8:30 - 11:30 AM

Astronomy: Connecting Awe with Aha!

June 20

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

AAC Meeting

June 20

12:00 - 3:00 PM

MSTP Math Cohort Session

June 26 & 27

8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

SSC Board Meeting

June 26

5:30 - 8:00 PM

July

Statistics Workshop for High School and Middle School Teachers

July 15 - 17

9:00 - 3:00 PM

SSC Board Meeting

July 31

5:30 - 8:00 PM

August

Data Mining

August 6

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Do it, Read it, Click it the STEM Way

August 12 & 13

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

SMART Board Beginner with updated Notebook 11 Software

August 13

8:30 - 11:30 AM

"E"xplore the "E" in STEM! "E"xcellent "E"ngagement "E"xperiences in "E"ngineering

August 15

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

SMART Board Intermediate with updated Notebook 11 Software

August 15

8:30 - 11:30 AM

SSC Board Meeting

August 28

5:30 - 8:00 PM



SSC is a 2012 Recipient of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility.

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Southeast Service Cooperative direct dial phone numbers, e-mails, and 800

We want to be there when you call, so try dialing us directly at the numbers below. Our voice mail system allows you to leave a detailed message if the person you're calling isn't able to answer right away. If you don't know who you need to talk with, dial (507) 288-1282 or 1-800-657-6996 and one of our staff or our auto-attendant will direct you from there. To send a fax dial (507) 288-7663.

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Did you know? Website resources to watch...

In our ongoing desire to help our education members sort through the vast resources available online, SSC staff continually finds, reviews, and posts high-quality links on our own website. We have entire sections devoted to:

- Classroom grant finding resources.
- FREE Professional Development webinars.
- iPad training and app resources.
- 1:1 and BYOD resources and links.
- Bullying prevention, digital citizenship, and Internet safety.
- K-12 science education links.

- K-12 American History links.
- 9-12 agricultural education links.
- Farm to School resources.

Please take a moment to visit www.ssc.coop, scroll down under the Announcements and Headlines column, and explore these fantastic finds, all in one place, and all pre-screened for quality. If you have any resources or links to suggest, please contact Amy Grover at 507-281-6693 or agrover@ssc.coop.

