

Cooperative Connection

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Inside

Online learning options.....	2
HRA only programs	4 & 5
SSC's Health Promo Program	6
June Health Forum	7
Inter-district PLCs	8 & 9
New lead safety rules.....	10
Winona teacher honored.....	11
Knowledge Bowl news	12 & 13
Science Lab project honored....	14
Water is Life art contest.....	15
Recent Board actions	16
Upcoming events	17
Directory.....	18

Math and Science Teachers – Consider joining the MSTP 2011-12 cohort

by Heidi Knepper

Interested in the opportunity to collaborate with your content-area and grade level teachers from across the region? The MSTP Program might be just what you're looking for!

The 2011-2012 MSTP program will include two cohorts, one for mathematics teachers and one for science teachers.

The Science module is for teachers of life science in grades 7-12. This cohort will kick off August 18-19 from 9 AM -3 PM at Quarry Hill Nature Center in Rochester.



These kick off-days will focus on hands-on Life Science activities in different outdoor environments. Lee Schmitt from Hamline University will once again have lead the module. This cohort will also include five additional days throughout the school year at Southeast Service Cooperative.

Math and Science continued on page 16

SSC Health Forum to feature Mayo's Dr. Creagan

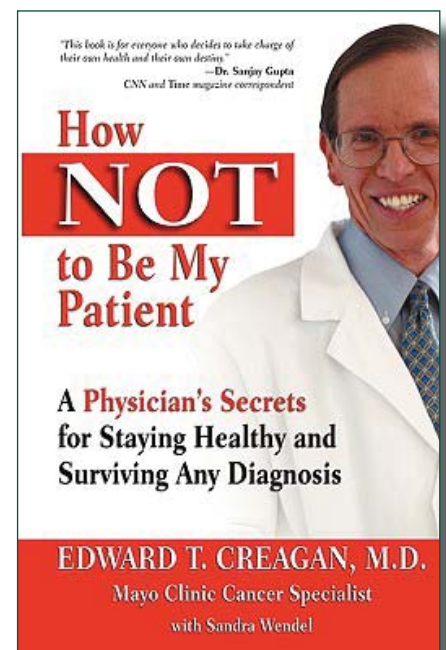
by Nicole LaChapelle

SSC is very pleased to host Dr. Edward Creagan, Mayo Clinic Professor of Medical Oncology and author of *How Not to Be My Patient*, as part of its next Health Promotion Forum. The Forum, which takes place Thursday, June 30 from 8:15 AM - 12:30 PM, will also feature an interactive demonstration on relaxation and exercise techniques that can be used right at work as well as a presentation on the importance of adult immunization.

Health Forum continues on page 7



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Online and ITV course options for SSC members

by Kari Kubicek

Are your students looking elsewhere for courses that interest them? Have budget cuts forced your district to provide a limited number of courses? Are you losing students because they need flexibility in their schedule that your district can't currently offer? SSC offers distance learning options that can help districts keep their students and retain state funding.

These distance learning opportunities are through SSC's partnership with Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative (SWWC). These opportunities include both online and Interactive Videoconferencing (ITV) course options for students that may otherwise not be available in their districts.

The annual district enrollment fee is \$500 for districts with a student enrollment under 2,499 and \$900 for districts with a student enrollment over 2,500. The annual fee covers the following services and opportunities:

- Access to the Moodle Course Management System (CMS) for receiving and offering fully online learning courses through the program. Hybrid courses will be hosted on SSC's Moodle site at no additional cost. Instructors will be required to complete SSC hosted Moo-



dle training to have access to Moodle site for hybrid/blended courses. These trainings will be offered at a discounted rate for SWWC Online Learning Community members.

- Access to online and ITV courseware
- Assistance with online course development and course certification to be offered as an online course through SWWC Online Learning Community
- Regional program administration and coordination with the Minnesota Department of Education
- Maintenance of the CMS, including program, software and server technical support
- Districts retain all state and federal funding for students enrolled in SWWC Online Learning Community courses

Districts may enroll students in an SWWC online course for the 2011-12 school year at the rate of \$425.50 per student per semester course or an ITV course at a rate of \$379.50 per student per semester course.

SSC has also negotiated an arrangement with Aventa to offer Aventa courseware to our districts while providing assistance with the enrollment and course delivery process. Member districts may purchase Aventa courseware through SSC at the rate of \$360 per student per semester rate.

Through SWWC, teachers have the opportunity to develop fully online courses. Once a course has been approved as an offering of SWWC, the developing teacher is the facilitator of the course. Students who are not enrolled in the host district pay the course enrollment fee to SWWC. \$300 of this enrollment fee is then paid to the host district. It is between the individual district and online course instructor to work out how the \$300 is distributed. Students that are enrolled in the host district pay a \$10 enrollment fee to take the online course.

Individuals interested in teaching online through SWWC must complete the *Teaching Online: Beyond the Learning Management System* training

Online options continues on the next page

through SSC. This three week course will begin with a three hour face-to-face session followed by three weeks of online study. Course content will go beyond the basic tools used in a learning management system and focus more on online communication, effective online instructional strategies, time management, and more. Individuals who have completed the three week online teacher training course offered previously by SSC will not be required to complete this training in order to teach online through SWWC.

Click on the following appropriate dates to register for the three week *Teaching Online: Beyond the Learning Management System* training. Please note that a pre-requisite for participating in this course is completion of a Learning Management System training through SSC (i.e. *Introduction to Moodle*).

Tuesday, June 14 (initial face to face session) – Friday, July 8. (Additional days have been built into this course schedule due to the 4th of July holiday).

Tuesday, July 26 (initial face to face session) – Tuesday, August 16.

SSC also provides training, opportunity and Moodle space for teachers to house blended or hybrid courses on our Moodle site, which is separate from the SWWC Online Learning Community Program site. Individuals hosting a blended course on SSC's Moodle site are required to complete an SSC hosted Moodle training.

Upcoming *Introduction to Moodle* trainings at SSC have been scheduled. To register for these trainings, click on the appropriate link below.

Tuesday, June 21
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Thursday, July 14
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Tuesday, August 9
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Each of these trainings take place as a full-day face-to-face session and introduce participants to the basic structure of a Moodle course and the tools available for adding content.

To access the SWWC Online Learning Community District Enrollment Form and further information related to the program, visit our website at www.ssc.coop or contact Kari Kubicek at (507)281-6668 or kkubicek@ssc.coop.

SSC offers assistance in implementing distance learning in your district

Is your district interested in offering distance learning opportunities to your students yet not quite sure of the next steps to take? SSC offers technical assistance services to assist districts in the planning and implementation of distance learning opportunities for students and staff. Kim Ross, recognized nationally for his expertise in online learning, is SSC's Distance Learning Facilitator and the Executive Director of the Southeast Minnesota Network (SEMNET).

Distance learning technical assistance services may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Audit of existing course offerings and recommendations
- Strategic planning of distance learning implementation
- Online program development, implementation or support
- Blended learning program development, implementation or support
- Staffing solutions and recommendations.

- School board presentations
- Program policies, procedures and contract language development
- Business model development
- State online provider application assistance
- Program review and evaluation
- Initial or ongoing supportive consultation.

For more information, please contact Kim Ross, Distance Learning Facilitator at kross@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6692.

HRA-only and “exchange” programs

by Bill Colopoulos



The value of a fixed dollar contribution-only plan is measured by the cost and benefit value of the health insurance coverage it can purchase. That’s why defined contribution-only plan values vary according to the age and health of each employee. If a younger, healthy employee can purchase an affordable policy that provides good benefits, they will be happy with the amount of the defined contribution provided by their employer. On the other hand, if a less healthy or older employee cannot qualify for, or fund adequate coverage with the amount their employer provides, they will not be happy with their defined contribution.

In either case, the value of the fixed dollar contribution will “age” rapidly with healthcare trend as it increases at three times the CPI. Over time,

the defined contribution will become less adequate for a growing number of employees. Thus, defined contribution-only or HRA-only plans, or programs that employ a third party to broker individual coverages (like Exchange Programs), are of short term value; generally 3-5 years; depending on the amount of the initial level of the defined contribution that is provided by the employer. Sooner rather than later, the value of the defined contribution will diminish and the program will lose popularity.

Most defined contribution-only plans are “front-loaded” with adequate funding.

Typically, employers entice their employees with a large fixed dollar contribution in order to be able to discontinue their group health insurance plan. They usually start with an amount equal to the amount of premiums they were paying for the group plan that is being discontinued.

Thus, the new defined contribution-only program is “front loaded” with a relatively large employer contribution that guarantees its initial popularity. In fact, if the front end contribution is large enough, the program can remain popular for several years. But inevitably, the continued popularity of the plan depends on how long

it takes healthcare trend to catch up to the employer’s contribution.

Since the “80-20 rule” applies to most groups – 80% are healthy and find the contribution sufficient – the initial defined contribution will usually remain popular for a few years. That is the group the employer targets with their initial contribution. Only when the defined contribution falls so far below the average healthcare cost curve for even the younger healthier folks in the group will its popularity begin to wane.

Of course, the older, less healthy folks may find that even the initial defined contribution is inadequate. And, for those who cannot qualify for standard risk-rated individual policies, the cost of high risk pools (like MNCHA) may mean that they will suffer immediate financial distress when their employer discontinues their benefit plan. COBRA plan participants and retirees will also find themselves suddenly out of luck insofar as their health insurance is concerned.

However, the diminution of the adequacy of the defined contribution is inevitable for all former plan participants who will eventually put pressure on the employer to increase the

HRA-only plans continues on the next page

defined contribution amount. It is not a question of “if” but rather “when” this will happen.

When it comes time to consider increasing the defined contribution, employers will find that the consideration of defined contribution increases will be no less contentious or expensive to fund than the group’s former health insurance renewal. In fact, it may be more so. Here’s why:

The definition of an “adequate defined contribution” becomes both speculative and arbitrary, once the defined benefit plan is discontinued. Employee opinion of what is or is not an adequate defined contribution will vary according to the individual health insurance plans they each have purchased. However, one thing is relatively certain: the employer can count on all of their employees expecting an increase that will pay for all of their individual policy cost increases.

In addition to policy costs, employees may also be funding some of their out of pocket costs with their defined contributions. That means that increases in their out of pocket costs will also drive their expectation regarding future defined contribution increases.

Ultimately, employers will see that cost-shifting the responsibility of funding healthcare to their employees gives them only temporary relief



from the annual process of managing their group insurance renewal. Most will find that they have simply traded one type of cost increase exercise for another; one that may be even more complex and difficult to manage.

A defined contribution approach will result in a huge employee cost shift that a significant number of employees will not be able to afford. Thus, while the employer may use defined contributions as an exit strategy from their responsibility to fund their employees’ healthcare, it will not succeed in providing their employees with the means to be able to *afford* their healthcare. Ultimately, unfunded healthcare costs will make the employer less attractive; not only to their best employees, but to ALL of their employees. Anyone with employment alternatives will likely consider them.

Healthcare reform will increase costs faster in the individual health insurance market.

Employers will also find that recent healthcare reforms will

shorten the viability of their defined contributions-only strategy. New reform laws applicable to individual policies have increased their rate of premium increases:

- Elimination of pre-existing condition limitations
- Mandatory medical loss ratios (percentage of administration to claims)
- Narrowing of age bands

All three reforms have caused trend to accelerate, which means the cost of individual policies will be increasing *faster* as a result of healthcare reform; reducing the viability of the defined contribution faster. Also, many carriers have, in response to reform, redefined “standard risk” qualifications for their individual policies; making it more difficult for less healthy or older people to qualify for individual coverage.

The Exchange Programs cannot mitigate this trend for long, since they are committed to following healthcare reform laws, too. The bottom line is that neither government nor privately run exchanges can force insurers to insure adverse risk without causing additional increases in premium costs. This cost pressure on the individual health insurance market will make defined contribution-only plans far less viable; far more quickly.

HRA-only plans continued from page 5

affordability by adapting strategies and programs that directly attack healthcare spending and healthcare costs.

A wellness and prevention program carefully coordinated with a single benefit plan that is designed to encourage practical consumerism is a proven approach for *lowering healthcare spending*. Purchasing health insurance from carriers who have partnered with providers who offer outcome-based reimbursement programs *lower healthcare costs*. Ultimately, participation in these kinds of programs will be successful in

making healthcare insurance more affordable by making *healthcare* more affordable.

Simply handing employees a defined contribution and wishing them well is not an effective strategy for managing future healthcare spending or lowering healthcare costs. Adapting specific strategies aimed at cost and quality are the only viable approach for solving our current healthcare cost funding problems.

If you have any questions or comments about this article, please contact:
Bill Colopoulos,
bcolopoulos@ssc.coop or
(507) 206-7419

Bill Colopoulos is a healthcare economist and consultant serving the Southeast Service Cooperative's health insurance pools. He is an active member of the American Economic Association. Bill is available to present this material to all groups who are current members of the Southeast Service Cooperative.

Increase morale, productivity and attendance with a worksite wellness program funded by SSC!

If your group is a member of SSC's Health Insurance Pool, you are eligible to receive this funding. This program offers prevention-oriented health promotion services that can help you and your employees get fit, stay fit, and manage their health.

What can we use the funds for?

- Costs to start a wellness committee
- Stipends for committee members
- Incentives
- Biometric testing supplies (which SSC can supply for a small fee)
- Presenters
- Other costs directly related to providing a healthy working environment and health promotion for employees

Contact:

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



Schools - Apply after July 1!
(City and County Members may apply up to October 31)

How much funding are we eligible for?

Depending on your group size, you can receive between \$1250 - \$2750 in funds for your wellness program.

This includes funds for wellness coordination, which are used to either reimburse staff for their time, or for your organization if staff use work time to coordinate activities.

Health Forum continued from page 1

The Forum is free for anyone in SSC's Health Insurance Pool. There is a \$25 fee for anyone else wishing to attend. Lunch, all materials and door prizes are included.

Dr. Creagan is an extraordinary speaker who possesses an incredible wealth of knowledge about what keeps people healthy. Seeing him in person is truly not an opportunity to be missed.

His presentation is sure to be an eye-opening, thoughtful look at the lifestyle choices, both big and small that we make everyday, that can effect our future in a variety of ways.

Attendees of the forum will then partake in an interactive session where a practitioner from the Rochester Area Family YMCA will demonstrate relaxation techniques that allow you to de-stress almost anywhere. A "no-sweat" seated work-out will also be shared.

With Whooping Cough unfortunately making a comeback, especially in Minnesota, adult immunization is more important than ever. Steven Hanke from GSK will briefly present on this timely topic.

There will also be time for networking and sharing successful wellness programming ideas.

Click here for more information or to register.

Registration still open for the Hormel Foundation Gifted and Talented Education Symposium

This symposium provides an opportunity for educators, counselors, administrators and parents to gain greater understanding of the unique needs of gifted and high potential learners.

This intensive educational experience for educators through the Midwest is made possible through a grant from the Hormel Foundation and collaboration between the Minnesota Department of Education and Austin Public Schools. Invited speakers include many of the field's finest regionally, nationally and internationally known presenters, focusing on foundational knowledge, creativity, curriculum strategies, and social/emotional needs.

The registration fee is \$175 and includes: daily keynote presentations and sessions, all conference materials, several meals, Monday evening reception at the SPAM Museum and a banquet at the Hormel Historic Home on Wednesday evening. Please click here for registration information.

A one-day session for Administrators, School Board members and Counselors will be held on Monday, June 13, from 8:30 AM to 3:45 PM. Dr. Peter Demerath, University of Minnesota will present: *The Perils of Hypercredentialing in American Schools: Preserving Learning in a Competitive World*. Additional topics will be presented by Dr. Diane Heacox, St. Catherine University; Chrystyna Mursky, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



and Wendy Behrens, Minnesota Department of Education.

Registration cost is \$55 and pre-registration is required.

For general information, contact Denise Farnsworth, Austin Public Schools, denise.farnsworth@austin.k12.mn.us

For program information, contact Wendy Behrens, Gifted & Talented Education Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education, wendy.behrens@state.mn.us

Southeast educators will start inter-district professional learning communities

Southeast Minnesota Learner Achievement Collaborative

by Suzanne Riley

It's a little like turning a few loaves of bread and fish into a meal for hundreds. One teacher's innovative strategies, shared with others, breeds new ideas and instructional methods among colleagues, increasing student motivation to learn not in just one classroom, but in many classrooms and schools.

This summer, teachers and principals in several school districts across southeast Minnesota will begin a formal inter-district voyage to share their knowledge, with a common vision of improving student learning.

Beginning with training for district leadership teams and principals in August, the educators will initiate, develop, cultivate, and sustain professional learning communities (PLCs). Locally, the district team will determine their areas of focus and structure of school level PLCs.

Regionally, teachers who want to dialogue with and learn from other teachers will be able to join an inter-district PLC network tailored to their particular needs.

Expertise gained over many years by Solution Tree, Richard

and Rebecca DuFour, and other acclaimed instructional leaders will serve as the foundation for PLC professional development through the newly formed Southeast Minnesota Learner Achievement Collaborative (SEMLAC). Team and Principal professional development will be delivered by DuFour trained PLC experts from Metro ECSU. Inter-district PLC implementation will be coordinated by SSC staff.

Here's the 2011-2012 schedule of SEMLAC professional development.

Teacher PLC School Leadership Team Development – five full days of training

August 11-12, 2011
December 7, 2011
February 28, 2012

During the two-day August session, leadership teams will engage in processes to build a common understanding of the philosophy and structures of Professional Learning Communities based on the research of Dr. Richard DuFour. Teams will explore the differences between a PLC and a traditional team meeting, the six traits of PLC teams, roles and responsibilities of team members and structures that support meetings focused on



the four DuFour questions: What is it we expect our students to learn? How will we know when they have learned it? How will we respond when they don't? How will we respond when they already do? The follow-up two days (December and February) will be customized, using input from the leadership teams. Each session will include:

- Facilitation skills to maintain team focus on the four DuFour questions
- Use of data and student work to inform instruction
- Exploring strategies and best practice in the PLC

Principal PLC Training and Development – one full-day and two half-days

August 8 – full day
December 8 – half day
February 29 – half day

The principals will examine the importance and type of leadership support necessary for effective PLCs, including:

- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of facilitators, participants and administrators.
- Examining effective leadership behaviors that play an integral part of successful PLC's.
- Examining effective leadership behaviors that are necessary for first and second order change.
- Understanding the impact of school culture on PLC implementation as well as the role of the leader in developing or changing a school culture. This includes the identification of possible supportive structures for "fundamentalists and believers". Identify actions and behaviors evident in an effective or successful PLC.
- Developing structure for teacher PLC's.
- Developing structure and protocols to sustain district wide, sub-regional, or regional PLC's for Principals.

All-Educator Common PD on October 24 at a central site in southeast Minnesota, with these sections:

- Keynote Presenter – Jane Kise, expert on "creating a coaching culture for PLCs"



- Presentations by area seasoned PLC school district education teams
- District team planning with facilitated assistance

Implementation of Inter-district Professional Learning Communities, initiated during this first year, supported by technology and SSC staff, and designed with help from the SEMLAC advisory team.

SEMLAC participating school districts will experience these benefits:

- Greater cost efficiencies and training effectiveness with pooling funds for professional development.
- High quality training and support for cultivation of effective professional learning communities focused on student achievement.
- Effective outreach for individual content/grade level teachers.
- Honoring teachers as professionals.

- Collaborative in addressing change. (e.g., Common Core standards).
- Sharing data, strategies, successes among teachers and administrators across multiple school districts.

If you'd like to know more, contact Heidi Knepper, SSC Director of Instructional Services, at hknepper@ssc.coop

Reminder! New lead safety rules

by Megan Rooney, IEA

As summer construction season approaches, a reminder of the new rules regarding the prevention of lead contamination when performing renovation, repair, or painting projects that have the potential to disturb lead-based paint in child-occupied facilities.

Under the rule, child-occupied facilities are defined as residential, public, or commercial buildings constructed prior to 1978 where children under age six are present in common areas on a regular basis. This includes, but is not limited to, homes, day care centers, preschools, and kindergarten classrooms. Common areas are defined as areas that are routinely used by children under age six, such as restrooms, cafeterias, and gymnasiums. Common areas that children under age six only

pass through (e.g., hallways, stairwells) are not included. Exterior areas covered under the rule include areas immediately adjacent to common areas, such as the exterior window frame outside a kindergarten classroom.

The rule excludes renovations affecting painted building components that have been found to contain lead equal to or less than 1.0 mg/cm² or 0.5% by weight by a certified lead inspector or lead risk assessor. The rule does not apply to minor maintenance or repair activities where less than 2 square feet of lead-based paint is disturbed in a room or where less than 20 square feet of lead-based paint is disturbed on the exterior of a building.

The rule requires all renovations subject to this rule be performed by a contractor that is EPA



certified. In addition, the rule requires that all workers performing renovation work either be certified renovators or perform renovation under the direction of a certified renovator. To become a certified renovator, the individual must successfully complete an accredited renovator course.

For more information on having your building inspected or questions regarding the new EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting rule, please contact IEA at (763) 315-7900 / (800) 233-9513.

SELCO to offer Camp Read-A-Lot this August

Camp Read-A-Lot is a summer workshop for practitioners working with children from birth to grade 5. SELCO is offering two days of camp and two different tracks, August 8-9, at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro, Minnesota.

Monday, August 8 features books for Primary Grade (Grades 2-5) and presentations by University of Minnesota's Rebecca Rapport and award-winning author Avi.

Tuesday, August 9 features books for Early Literacy (Birth-Grade 1) and presentations by Early Childhood Educator Deby Ziesmer and MN author



David LaRochelle. The registration fee is \$25 per day and lunch is included.

To register for one or both days of camp, please visit the registration survey by clicking [here](#) or call SELCO at 1-800-992-5061. To see the agendas for both days and the book lists, please visit www.campread.selco.info.

Winona teacher is state's finest

by Mike Hughlett
Star Tribune

Katy Smith of Winona won Minnesota Teacher of the Year honors Sunday, the first time the 47-year-old award has been bestowed on a teacher who specializes in Early Childhood Family Education.

Smith, a native of the Twin Cities' western suburbs, has taught in the Winona school district since 1993 and works out of Goodview School. She has long specialized in Early Childhood Family Education, a program available in almost all Minnesota public school districts. The state is a leader nationally in the field, authorities say.

The program is based on the idea that the family provides a child's first and most significant learning environment and parents are a child's first and most important teachers, according to the Minnesota Department of Education's website.

Parents and children from infancy to pre-kindergarten together attend childhood-family education classes.

"You learn so much that really covers you through your parenting life," Smith said after the award was announced at a banquet for the 10 finalists at Brooklyn Park's Northland Inn. Finalists were whittled down from 108 candidates in the original field.



Katy Smith being named Minnesota Teacher of the Year. Laura Sharp, from Little Canada Elementary School, is on Katy's right, and Megan Speers, Wayzata West Middle School, is on her left. Photo by David Brewster.

For Smith, a typical morning would include a session in which children and parents together help build relationships through play. Then, children older than infants are separated from parents to attend pre-kindergarten early-childhood classes. The parents, meanwhile, are educated on milestones in children's cognitive development and educational methods that will allow their kids to best be prepared for school, among other things.

"Everyone leaves her class feeling like a better parent -- one reason why her ECFE classes are so popular and are often filled to capacity," Tina White Smeby, a Winona parent who's enrolled in Smith's classes, said in a news release.

Smith, 51, got a bachelor's degree in social work from Winona State University and a master's in education from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She started as a chemi-

cal dependency counselor, then moved to her current field, with which she's had a long association. Smith went through Early Childhood Family Education with her three children, who are now ages 21 through 26.

Education Minnesota, the statewide teachers union, organizes and underwrites the Teacher of the Year program, which also receives support from several other nonprofit organizations and companies. Teachers can be nominated by parents, colleagues, students or their local teachers unions. A panel that includes education experts and community representatives makes the selection.

As Minnesota's Teacher of the Year, Smith will be the state's nominee for National Teacher of the Year for 2012.

Other finalists for 2011 Minnesota Teacher of the Year were Joyce Baumann, Cold Spring Elementary; Scot Hovan, Mahtomedi High School; Mark Nechanicky, Lakeview Elementary in Albert Lea; Mary Perrine, Chaska Middle School East; Peter Redmond, St. Louis Park High School; Christi Schmitt, St. Paul's L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School; Laura Sharp, Little Canada Elementary; Megan Speers, Wayzata West Middle School, and J. Scott Urban, Mankato West High School.

This article was reprinted with permission from the Star Tribune.

Six Knowledge Bowl teams advance to State

By Kirsten Kuehl

Ninety teams participated in Senior High Knowledge Bowl during the 2010-11 season. Twenty-eight schools from across southeast Minnesota fielded teams that began competition in December.

Round robin competitions took place 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 15-16 at the Rochester Community and Technical College, Heinz Center. Twelve teams from each tier advanced to Regionals on March 17-18 at the Southeast Service Cooperative. The top five teams received trophies for their school and individual medallions for each team member.

The top three teams from tier A and tier AA advanced to the State Knowledge Bowl Competition. The event was held April 7-8 at Cragun's Conference Center in Brainerd.

Twenty-four teams, from two tiers 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



Rochester Mayo High School team stands proudly after receiving their medallions for 5th place.

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 the next page. Congratulations to these teams on their great showing!

Schools that participated in Senior High Knowledge Bowl are:

Albert Lea
Austin
Caledonia
Cannon Falls
Dover-Eyota
Fillmore Central
Goodhue

Grand Meadow
Houston
Kasson-Mantorville
Kenyon-Wanamingo
Kingsland
LaCrescent
Lanesboro
Lewiston-Altura
Mabel-Canton
Northfield
Pine Island
Plainview-Elgin-Millville
Red Wing
Rochester Century
Rochester Mayo
Rushford-Peterson
Southland
Spring Grove
St. Charles
Stewartville
Triton

State standings of southeast Knowledge Bowl teams

Teams from southeast Minnesota made a great showing at 2011 State! Teams from Dover-Eyota (2) and Goodhue represented Tier A. Teams from Northfield, Red Wing and Rochester Mayo represented Tier AA.

Southeast Minnesota placements at State:	
Tier AA:	
Rochester Mayo	5 th
Northfield	18 th
Red Wing	19 th
Tier A:	
Goodhue.....	19 th
Dover-Eyota Rainbow.....	21 st
Dover-Eyota Pink.....	23 rd



Top teams at Regionals

Tier A



Goodhue 1 - 1st place



Dover-Eyota 4 - 2nd place



Dover-Eyota 1- 3rd place

Tier AA



Northfield Platinum - 1st place



Rochester Mayo Gold - 2nd place



Red Wing 1 - 3rd place

Mobile Science Lab project; team member honored



SSC wins award for coordination of Mobile Science Lab program



Guy Finne presenting at the awards ceremony.

On April 13, SSC was honored to receive a Government Innovation Award from The Humphrey School's Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center for its coordination of the Mobile Science Lab program. Dale Walston attended the award ceremony held at the Humphrey Center in Minneapolis, along with Guy Finne, Recruitment Advisor at the Mayo Clinic, Randy Johnson, Executive Director of Workforce Development Inc., Tim Penny, President and CEO of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, and Sonya McNamara, Health Science Career and Technical Education Coordinator at HealthForce Minnesota. Guy gave a brief presentation about our partnership, as did representatives from the other organizations receiving awards. The event was followed by an informal reception.

Driving force behind Mobile Lab project, Ross Aleff, awarded honor



We would like to congratulate Ross Aleff, instructor of the Mayo Clinic Educator Academies, who was selected as the state winner of the Minnesota Association of Agriculture Educators (MAAE) Outstanding Cooperation award! Ross has been a driving force behind the development of the Mobile Science Lab project. His dedication to teachers is evidenced by his commitment and has significantly enhanced science in the classroom!



Rochester student receives Water is Life Art Scholarship



Nancy (Siyang) Yang pictured with her award-winning sculpture.

Nancy (Siyang) Yang, a student at Rochester Century High School, was chosen to receive a \$500 scholarship on May 4th at the Freshwater Society's 7th Annual Water is Life Art Contest. Yang, one of six scholarship recipients, was chosen from 32 finalists, who had emerged from a field of more than 225 artists from more than 85 schools across Minnesota. Each entry was accompanied by a statement about how the artists' work represented the value of water or the threats that water faces in today's world.

Her sculpture, which is also a fountain, depicts women from Africa, India and the American Southwest gathering water. She explained, "Though each culture is different, water feeds them all, so I made all the figures feminine, to exemplify water's life-giving property. When water is pumped out of the fountain, some of it leaks through the holes at the side, representing how water at times is wasted or lost; but

most of it flows as if through the figures and out of their spouts from their hands, to show how water cycles through us and returns to Earth."

The other five scholarship recipients are: Valerie Hart, Barnesville High School, Ali Nordberg, Eden Prairie High School, Alyssa Sinnen, Watertown Mayer High School, Eric Stevens, Elk River High School and Marion Tucker, Perpich Center for Arts Education.

2011 is the seventh year the Freshwater Society has offered this successful scholarship contest to Minnesota high school students. The contest is a collaborative effort with Minnesota Education Service Cooperatives to educate youth about the importance of protecting and safeguarding freshwater resources and acknowledge the creativity and talent of Minnesota's youth.



Regional semi-finalist Andrew Betzolt, a student from Kasson-Mantorville High School.



Hundreds of amazing art pieces representing water's beauty, importance, and degradation have been created by students across Minnesota for this contest.

Each year's winning art pieces are displayed at various events and locations throughout the state, including the Minnesota State Capitol, University of Minnesota, Pollution Control Agency and other locations and recognized in publications across the state. The art can be viewed at www.freshwater.org or on Facebook at *Water is Life Art Contest*.

Recent Board meeting actions and information

April 2011 Regular Meeting

(Note: The March meeting was canceled due to inclement weather).

Awarded a fiscal audit three year contract to Abdo Eick & Meyers for audits of the 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 fiscal years.

Accepted the recommendation for the 2011 School Health Insurance Pool Bid and award the group health contract to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.

Adopted the School Health Insurance Pool 2011 Plan Year Renewal stop loss levels and rate adjustment formula as recommended by the Formula Committee and outlined in the document for this meeting, a copy of which will be attached to the official minutes of this meeting. The Board authorized the Executive

Director to offer conditions to specific groups with significant needed rate increases as an incentive to earn the maximum pool rate relief.

Authorized the Executive Director to submit a proposal to the U.S. Department of Education for funding under the Teaching American History grant program.

Established the membership fees for 2011-2012 using the same schedule and calculations as last year, using updated counts (AMCPU/student for schools and employee counts for other members).

Accepted the request for Local Government Membership for the City of Goodview effective April 1, 2011.

Future meetings of the SSC Board of Directors are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, May 25
 Wednesday, June 22
 Wednesday, July 27
 Wednesday, August 24
 Wednesday, September 28
 Wednesday, October 26
 Monday, November 28
 Wednesday, December 21
 Wednesday, January 25, 2012 – Regular and Annual Meeting

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

Math and Science continued from page 1

These days will focus on participants' classroom applications of these concepts.

The mathematics module will be focusing on the Rational Numbers strand for teachers in grades 3-8. This cohort will kick off August 2-4 from 9 AM to 3 PM at Southeast Service Cooperative and will have four additional days spread throughout the school year. We have the privilege of working with Susan Beseler and Nicole

Williams of Winona State on this module.

If you are interested in participating in this cohort, applications are now being accepted. Contact Heidi Knepper, hknepper@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6669 for an application or if you have any questions about this great opportunity.

Session for Elementary Science Teachers this August

SSC is pleased to offer **Engineering is Elementary with Inquiry-Based Learning!** on Thursday August 11, and Friday, August 12, from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. This two-part session will allow educators to experience the fun of inquiry and engineering, its value in science teaching and learning, along with a wealth of teaching ideas developed for each grade level with resources and web sites to enhance lessons.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Calendar

June

Review of 2011 Education Laws (with Tom Melcher)

June 7
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Annual H&S Town Hall Meeting

June 8
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

SMART Board Basics 2

June 15
8:30 - 11:30 AM

AAC Meeting

June 16
12:00 - 3:30 PM

2010 Language Arts Standards (Elementary)

June 20
8:30 - 11:30 AM

2010 Language Arts Standards (Secondary)

June 20
12:30 - 3:30 PM

2010 Language Arts Standards (School Leaders)

June 21
8:30 - 11:30 AM

Moodle Introductory Workshop

June 21
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

2010 Language Arts Standards (Secondary Teachers in Other Content Areas)

June 21
12:30 - 3:30 PM

SSC Board Meeting

June 22
5:30 - 8:00 PM

SMART Board Lesson Activity Toolkit

June 27
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

SMART Board Basics 1

June 28
8:30 - 11:30 AM

SMART Response Training

June 28
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Save Your License Series

June 29
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

SSC Health Forum with Dr. Edward Creagan

June 30
8:15 AM - 12:30 PM

July

SMART Board Basics 1

July 13
8:30 - 11:30 AM

Moodle Introductory Workshop

July 14
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

SMART Board Basics 2

July 26
8:30 - 11:30 AM

SMART Board Lesson Activity Toolkit

July 27
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

SSC Board Meeting

July 27
5:30 - 8:00 PM

SMART Response Training

July 28
8:30 - 11:30 AM

SSC offers SMART Board trainings on most up-to-date equipment

SSC will offer a variety of SMART Board trainings for users of all skill levels in the coming months. SSC's SMART Board trainings take place on a new, state-of-the-art, dual-touch SMART Board. The Board was installed this spring by Tierney Brothers.

Click the links below for more information and registration details.

SMART Board Basics 1

June 28
July 13

SMART Board Basics 2

Must complete Basics 1 before attending.
June 15
July 26

SMART Board Lesson Activity Toolkit

Must complete Basics 1 and 2 before attending.
June 27
July 27

SMART Response Training

Must complete Basics 1 and 2 before attending.
June 28
July 28



SSC is a 2010 Recipient of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility.

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- Call toll free, 1-800-657-6996, then an option:
- 1..... Cooperative Purchasing
 - 2..... Dental Reimbursement
 - 3..... Staff Development
 - 4..... EHSM
 - 5..... Student Academics & Conferences

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 and one of our staff or our auto-attendant will direct you from there. To send a fax dial (507) 288-7663.

	name	phone	email	service area
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SSC to offer a Save Your License Series on Wednesday, June 29

Will you need to renew your teaching license soon? SSC will offer a Save Your License Series on Wednesday, June 29. The sessions will be held from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM at SSC's Wood Lake Meeting Center. Attendees may register for as few or many sessions as they require.

The Minnesota Legislature, by statute, requires ALL teachers to evidence the four following areas to renew a license:

- **Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies**

addresses positive behavioral intervention strategies.

- **Accommodations to Meet Graduation Standards** addresses accommodation, modification, and adaptation of curriculum, materials and instruction to appropriately meet the needs of varied students in achieving graduation standards.
- **Reading Literacy** addresses comprehensive, scientifically-based reading instruction to include instruction and practice

in phonemic awareness, phonics and other word recognition skills, and guided oral reading for beginning reader, as well as extensive silent reading and vocabulary instruction.

- **Warning Signs of Mental Health Disorders** addresses understanding of key warning signs for early-onset mental illness in children and adolescents.