

PROGRAM CONTENT

Friday, November 30th

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Teacher Shortage: A Solution**

The Zurich Room

Program Area: Effective Educational Practices

Region IV Education Service Center Alternative Certification Program (ACP) is designed to fill classrooms with certified teachers by preparing college graduates who meet certain minimum criteria. State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) approved guidelines are followed. Certification is achieved while employed as the teacher-of-record, receiving a teacher salary and completing the SBEC-approved program of training and internship. ACP is considered an "alternative" route because it accomplishes certification outside the traditional university teacher preparation program setting in over 30 certification areas. Since 1991, the ACP has produced approximately 2,500 certified teachers in Region IV. It is anticipated that the interns-in-training during the fall 2001 cycle will number more than 1000. The presentation content includes admission criteria, description of the internship and training, and financial aspects. Handouts are provided, and PowerPoint is utilized to support the presentation.

Presenters, *Dr. Frank DeLaro, Chief Operating Officer, Region IV Education Service Center, Houston, TX; Dr. Bill McKinney, Executive Director, Region IV Education Service Center, Houston, TX; Dr. Joe D. Crane, Chief Officer, Human Resources Services, Region IV Education Service Center, Houston, TX*

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Two Years of eBidding and eCommerce with the Nebraska ESU Cooperative Purchasing**

The Amsterdam Room

Program Area: Entrepreneurial Initiatives and Collaborations

This session will be a review of NECOOP's two year experience with successful eBidding and eCommerce solutions that led to the development of an online NECOOP branded eMarketplace. We will discuss:

- Making the decision
- Start-Up planning
- eBidding (NECOOP and our district customers)
- eCommerce (NECOOP and our district customers)
- Successes = real savings in time and money, though some problems
- Funding the NECOOP Marketplace

Informational materials will be provided with a question and answer period at the end.

Presenter, *Lynn W. Thorpe, CEO, Nebraska Educational Service Unit Cooperative Purchasing, Ainsworth, NE*

PROGRAM CONTENT

Friday, November 30th

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Community-Based Transition Program**

The Consulate Room

Program Area: Effective Educational Practices

The session showcases partnerships among parents, students, businesses, K-12 schools, higher education, and agency personnel to improve transition outcomes for students with disabilities. Data indicate that students with disabilities experience low levels of employment and post-secondary enrollment. With a federal grant and creative partnerships, Franklin County Educational Service Center operates two Community-Based Transition Programs (CBTP) located on college campuses. The programs are designed to improve employment and post-high school outcomes for students with multiple and developmental disabilities, ages 18-22. Through CBTP, students receive in-depth work experiences and opportunities to develop and apply social skills and functional academics in a natural, community-based setting. The experiences are supported by a curriculum that emphasizes self-determination, choice, and employment that results in positive transition outcomes for students.

Presenters, Jacque Merz, Director of Special Education Programs, Franklin County Educational Service Center, Columbus, OH; Cynthia Eldridge, Coordinator, Special Education Programs, Franklin County Educational Service Center, Columbus, OH

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Linking Effective Mentoring Practices to Student Learning to Promote Success for Entry-year Teachers**

The Trinidad Room

Program Area: Effective Educational Practices

Teacher accountability is a top concern of school districts. How to measure that accountability has become a timely issue. Praxis III, a performance assessment for initial teacher licensure, is one measure of accountability. Columbiana County Educational Service Center (CCESC) has been involved in Ohio's Praxis III pilots since 1994 and has acquired archival data. CCESC is the only site selected by the state of Ohio to receive two consecutive rounds of funding for research on mentor/entry-year teacher programs. Research data demonstrate how entry-year and mentor teachers have developed a strong teaching community that promotes learning. Discussion topics include guidelines for mentor training, compatible assignments, and the coordination of mentoring — all necessary in order to retain a qualified teaching force. Presenters will share statistical data gathered from extensive questionnaires, along with regression results related to Praxis III performance scores.

Presenters, Pietro J. Pascale, Professor Emeritus, Youngstown State University, Pulaski, PA; Howard W. Pullman, Chair, Department of Educational Administration, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH; Susan E. Pullman, Educational Consultant, Pulaski, PA; Susi Turner, Educational Consultant, Columbiana County Educational Service Center, Lisbon, OH

PROGRAM CONTENT

Friday, November 30th

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Healthy Environments: Improving Indoor Air Quality in Schools**

The Magnolia Room

● *Program Area: Effective Educational Practices*

School leaders are aware of the issues of indoor air quality (IAQ) in schools, the rising epidemic of asthma among children, and the deteriorating condition of school buildings. What school leaders need now are the tools to help solve/minimize these problems. The session provides one such resource. Learn why schools are unique when it comes to IAQ and how poor IAQ may affect the learning environment, in addition to student and staff health. Find out how to obtain a free copy of EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools Kit and how to use this low-cost tool to help achieve quality indoor air in schools despite financial constraints.

Presenter, Ericka Plater, Project Manager, The American Association of School Administrators, Arlington, VA

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Hire Where? Simple Solutions to Costly Employment Activities**

London

▼ *Program Area: Entrepreneurial Initiatives and Collaborations*

Technology and shrinking resources are changing the face of employment activities within ESA boundaries. Forging partnerships, cost avoidance activities, and initiating innovations that become simple solutions to complex problems are discussed. Participants will view solutions to the management of applicant data from recruiting and selection to storage, retrieval, and conversion to the information management system; the creation of a regional and state-wide data base of potential applicants for instructional and licensed instructional support positions; the reduction of manual operations when submitting permit applications to a state regulatory agency; and employment records retention and retrieval in a digital environment.

Presenters, Roxanne Buehler, ERIN Program Director, Michigan Association of School Boards, Lansing, MI; Dave Sevener, Director, Staff & Organizational Development, Bay-Arenac ISD, Bay City, MI

4:15 p.m. – 6 p.m. **AESA Business Meeting**

The Consulate Room

Proposed AESA By-law changes and AESA Candidates Forum.

PROGRAM CONTENT

Friday, November 30th

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Training Students for a Marketable Future**

The Madrid Room

Program Area: Effective Educational Practices

The Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center showcases its unique Marketing and Management Technical Academy. The career center is a leader in curriculum development, partnering business, industry, and post secondary education with high school students. The career center has 24 career and technical programs that focus on students earning national certifications, college credits, and current work skills. Four of the programs have classrooms located in the business community. Professionals from J.C. Penney, Sears, Target, and Wal-Mart have opportunities to mentor daily with students. The presentation includes information on how to get started. Questions addressed include: What are the benefits for the business community? Do students really learn better outside of the classroom? Where are these students now? The Academy staff have won national and state recognition.

Presenters, Linda L. Engelhardt, Instructional Program Development Coordinator, Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center, Bay City, MI

Saturday, December 1st

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. **Morning Coffee**

Convention Level Meeting Cluster I & II

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Building Essential Quality Brain-based Thinking and Learning Competencies in Our Young People**

Stockholm/Copenhagen

Program Area: Effective Educational Practices



How can school districts be helped to raise test scores and improve student performance? Is it enough to simply teach the material and assess student progress at the end of the unit, semester, or school year? Join the author of the bestselling book *Schools of Quality* for an interactive exploration of 12 essential thinking and learning skills that build greater capacity in students, enabling them to understand and apply the elements of the school's curriculum. By building young people's learning capacities, they have the tools and insights to learn for a lifetime. Participants receive an example-filled toolkit to share with colleagues and school-based constituents.

Presenter, John Jay Bonstingl, President, The Center for Schools of Quality, Columbia, MD

PROGRAM CONTENT

Saturday, December 1st

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **Parents and Educators as Partners**

The Summit Room

Program Area: Entrepreneurial Initiatives and Collaborations

▼ The goal of school-based wraparound process is to keep children and youth in their communities and maximize their successful participation in home, school, and community. Parents and educators working together are able to accomplish the goal. School-based wraparound processes provide the structure and leadership necessary to develop successful child-family teams and helps them meet the needs of children with serious-emotional/behavioral difficulties in both home and school settings. Learn how the wraparound process can be used effectively in any size school district. Information is available for project implementation. Data on the effectiveness of the school-based wraparound process, as well as studies depicting child-family team activities, are provided. A family member shares her story.

Presenters, Pam Davis, Family Facilitator, Educational Service Unit #9, Hastings, NE; Mary Luhr, Educational Facilitator, Educational Service Unit #9, Hastings, NE; Jane Wells, Parent, Families Care, Glenvil, NE; Dianne L Hopkins, School-Based Wraparound Supervisor, Educational Service Unit #9, Hastings, NE

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Technology + ESAs = Safe Schools**

The Zurich Room

Program Area: Entrepreneurial Initiatives and Collaborations

▼ School administrators are constantly challenged to make the school environment safer for students. Because of the need to be accessible, maintaining a safe environment is challenging. Education Service Agencies can assist school districts identify resources or provide services that make campuses safer. Region IV Education Service Center, in partnership with e-Watch™, has developed a digital surveillance system. High resolution digital camera output may be routed to multiple storage servers, wireless handheld guard stations, and wired PC-based guard stations located anywhere on the LAN, WAN or Internet. Entrepreneurial opportunities for ESAs are unlimited, including marketing and selling the equipment, installation, training, support, and maintenance. Monitoring services may be provided over the Internet. Learn more about how an ESA can help make schools safer and create new revenue streams for the organization.

Presenters, Dr. Frank DeLaro, Chief Operating Officer, Region IV Education Service Center, Houston, TX; Dr. Bill McKinney, Executive Director, Region IV Education Service Center, Houston, TX

PROGRAM CONTENT

Saturday, December 1st

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

REACH! Regional Services to Support School Improvement

The Madrid Room

Program Area: Effective Educational Practices

The Puget Sound ESD transformed its Research, Evaluation and Assessment Center into a service that provides customized school profiling, planning, and technical assistance to support the improvement of individual schools. Regional school improvement facilitators are matched with teams from participating schools in this highly individualized development process. The initial pilot-program of 27 schools is now a regional model with over 75 schools participating in this fee-for-service program. Learn about the REACH model, including the processes for developing a school profile and providing on-going technical assistance for school improvement. Examples and materials are shared and discussed from a variety of REACH components, such as the data retreat, online surveys, assessment data management, action research facilitation, online study modules for instructional and assessment leadership, and customized professional development planning. Explore the use of fee-for-service as a tool for regional program expansion.

Presenter, *Monte L. Bridges, Assistant Superintendent, Puget Sound Educational Service District, Burien, WA*

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Community Learning Centers: A Rainbow of Talents, Services and Successes!

The Consulate Room

Program Area: Entrepreneurial Initiatives and Collaborations

The Community Learning Center concept has created a positive opportunity for Educational Service Centers to step forward and provide youth and families with safe, academically supportive, and enriching after-school programs. Through active community partnering, the Community Learning Center of Wood County has developed a rainbow of workshops, activities, and academic supports offered within multiple school districts serving elementary students. The Center will showcase information about the innovative collaborative effort that brought together nearly 100 partners — school systems, local businesses, service organizations, agencies, and colleges to address educational needs in a large rural county. Participating students show a more positive attitude toward school, an increased interest in school, improved school behavior, and better academic performance. Parents view school more favorably and are more involved in their child's education.

Presenters, *Dr. Douglas M. Garman, Superintendent, Wood County Educational Service Center, Bowling Green, OH; Warren D. Fauver, M.A., LPCC, Project Director, Community Learning Centers, Wood County Education Service Center, Bowling Green, OH*

PROGRAM CONTENT

Saturday, December 1st

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Career Pathway System Does It Work — The Data**

The Trinidad Room

Program Area: Effective Educational Practices

● For the past five years, the Career Pathway System has been implemented in twelve high schools in Berrien County, Maryland. The project provides data about vocational and school-to-work programs. The data review also provides trends about the programs. Data are shared that indicate the impact of programs, such as Career Pathways, Career Prep, Tech Prep and school-to-work, on the education delivery system in Berrien County. The session reviews the connection or linkage between the Career Pathway System and the Community College educational system.

Presenters, Loan Maas, Teacher, St. Vrain School District - Silver Creek, Longmont, CO; Daniel Maas, Director of Technology Services, Centennial BOCES, Longmont, CO

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Distance Education for the Everyday Classroom Teacher**

The Sydney Room

Program Area: Effective Educational Practices

● In the age of “digital kids,” teachers are challenged to find ways to integrate technology into the curriculum. But with limited computer lab time, how can teachers effectively integrate? Using the PlaceWare web conferencing system, staff met with students weekly at a socio-economically diverse high school in the Denver metro area to conduct pre-assessment review sessions. Students demonstrated a statistically valid increase in interest level after the use of the web conferencing, while gaining valuable experience with this business communication tool. The teacher used the information from the web conferencing system to determine how the class was dealing with the content and to identify students with specific problems. This is a prime example of how a distance education tool can provide instant data-driven instruction.

Presenters, Loan Maas, Teacher, St. Vrain School District - Silver Creek, Longmont, CO; Daniel Maas, Director of Technology Services, Centennial BOCES, Longmont, CO

PROGRAM CONTENT

Saturday, December 1st

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Creating New Partnerships for Schools Through Technology**

Amsterdam



Program Area: Entrepreneurial Initiatives and Collaborations

The session describes the success of schools working together to push the limits of bandwidth technology. Seventy-three sites in southeast Nebraska converted their 100% fiber-based analog distance learning system into IP (Internet Protocol H.323). The result for those schools is their own 100Mbps full duplex network connection to a 2 Gbps backbone. The connection services an IP-based static distance learning classroom, plus the option of adding portable full functioning distance learning carts, faster Internet connections, video on demand, online learning, IP phones and sufficient bandwidth for emerging technologies. Enrichment activities, such as real time connections to consortium partners, enable students to participate in nontraditional classes and interact with partner site staff on issues related to their school curriculum.

Presenters, *Don Ferneding, Director K-Necton, Educational Service Unit #5, Beatrice, NE; Charles Doyle, Director SNDLC, Educational Service Unit #5, Beatrice, NE*

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Role of Regional Best Practice Centers in “Academic Review” of Low-performing Schools**



The Quebec Room

Program Area: Effective Educational Practices

Virginia has a new “Academic Review” process for those schools receiving a state accreditation rating of “Accredited with Warning” in one or more of the four core academic areas. The state-mandated academic review process was conducted for the first time in 2001. Staff of Virginia’s network of eight regional Governor’s Best Practice Centers conducted reviews of 211 schools using the “Academic Review” process prescribed by the state Department of Education. The session addresses lessons learned from the reviews, including procedures and materials used. The presenters will facilitate a discussion among participants regarding the role of ESAs in state-mandated school improvement initiatives that target low-performing schools. This session is valuable for all regional educational agencies who must focus significant effort on increasing the capacity of school districts to improve student academic achievement.

Presenters, *Dr. Hobart L. Harmon, Educational Consultant, AEL, Timberville, VA; Dr. Richard W. Layman, Director, Region I Governor’s Best Practice Center, Virginia Department of Education, Richmond, VA*

PROGRAM CONTENT

Saturday, December 1st

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Future Purchasing Out of "The Box"**



The Magnolia Room

Program Area: Entrepreneurial Initiatives and Collaborations

One of the common denominators across political boundaries is the need for essentially the same products and services. Combining efforts in a cooperative manner refocuses purchasing energy by tapping into a national level to access the best purchasing process leading to the very best products and services available. A new business plan that offers a process to expand successful contracts based on common needs into national and/or multi-state purchasing opportunities includes the following components: the importance of developing a personalized communication link to other states and purchasing agencies; creating an attitude of cooperation with no geographic boundaries; creating an interest in change; and multi-state intergovernmental cooperation agreements.

Presenter, Mike Hajek, Director of Cooperative Purchasing, North Central Service Cooperative, Staples, MN

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Technology for Special Education Administration: Anytime, Anywhere, from Any Computer**



The London Room

Program Area: Entrepreneurial Initiatives and Collaborations

The session showcases the technology, the community, and the culture embodied by the eDataDoc Cooperative formed to deploy software and share information for special education data maintenance, document management, and reporting. Features of the session include a review of the evolution and progress of the cooperative, a demonstration of the Academic Tracker software, and a discussion about how users can access the system anytime, anyplace, from any computer with the Citrix ICA client. Information includes the unique training and support model that makes the system successful. Learn about the important role that educational service agencies can play as application service providers, help school districts to deploy database applications throughout their region and beyond.

Presenters, Dr. Joel Phillip Kanter, Ph.D., President/CEO, Kanter Computing, Inc., Redmond, WA; John Reeg, Director Network Services, Puget Sound Educational Service District, Seattle, WA; Dr. John Mick Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Puget Sound Educational Service District, Seattle, WA

PROGRAM CONTENT

Saturday, December 1st

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **High Stakes, High Performance: How to Help School-Based Educators Succeed in the Face of High-Stakes Standards and Assessments**

The Stockholm/Copenhagen Room

Program Area: Effective Educational Practices



How can ESA staff help constituents successfully meet the challenges of today's need for school improvement along with the demand for high-stakes assessments? How can educators prepare students for achievement tests as they strive to improve their teaching and learning practices that enhance real learning and understanding? Is it possible to raise test scores and improve student achievement while avoiding "teaching to the test" with absolute reliance on direct instruction to "cover the curriculum"? Join the author of the best selling book *Schools of Quality* for a discussion on increasing learning and test scores. Learn 12 practical research-based strategies that can be used to raise test scores through interactive, hands-on teaching and learning. Handouts are available.

Presenter, *John Jay Bonstingl, President, The Center for Schools of Quality, Columbia, MD*

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Concept-Based Education: A Model for Aligning Curriculum to State or National Standards**

The Madrid Room

Program Area: Effective Educational Practices



The presentation describes how the concept-based model of curriculum development, rooted in brain-based research and cognitive psychology, is far more efficient and effective than the traditional standards-topics model. Discover how this concept model can streamline any curriculum framework into pathways to higher performance for *All* students on standards-based tests. Through informative handouts and exercises, participants learn how the concept-based model goes beyond the facts of standards-based testing to flexible, higher-order thinking and creative problem solving.

Presenter, *Shirley Gilfether, Curriculum Specialist, Hampshire Educational Collaborative - cCBe, Northampton, MA*

