



NEWS

February/March 2006

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Director's Notes

The Invisible Agency

Although data shows that 42 out of 50 of our united states recognize and either formally or informally empower education service agencies (ESAs) like NCES, they remain the most invisible and least understood facet of the local and regional education picture. A contributing factor to this shroud of camouflage is that in these 42 states, ESAs are known by various terms that include but certainly are not limited to intermediate school districts, regional education service centers, board of cooperative educational services (BOCES), education cooperatives, interlocal education agencies and regional state education centers. Eight states including New Hampshire do not recognize education service agencies or formally define any role for such collaboratives.

Much of this invisibility can be traced to the fact that a majority of education service agencies nationwide were formed by local school districts to promote and benefit local schools. Local school districts took the initiative to form cooperative agreements with other districts to pool limited resources and provide services and programs that they could not maintain alone. Under this structure, success built by education service agencies is credited to the local schools and few ESAs clamor for public accolades because their basic mission is to promote a higher quality service in the local districts.

The fundamental question ESAs are now faced with is can we be more effective in fostering better collaborative educational ventures by stepping out of the shadows, claiming credit for our contributions to innovative and effective educational programs and actively pursuing a better understanding of our function by everyone from classroom teachers to parents, communities and legislative decision makers? My answer is yes, because the more doors we open; the better that everyone understands what organizations like NCES has accomplished, the better they can enable us to create new opportunities to expand cooperative ventures. NCES has provided high quality educational programs and services to North Country communities and schools for 35+ years and our accomplished staff needs and deserves the credit for their contributions as well as the opportunity to expand our services utilizing a grassroots understanding of who we are, what we do and what we are capable of.

Dr. Dan Shoemake
Executive Director
dan@ncedservices.org

Media Center Survey

Did you know that NCES has a Media Center? Our comprehensive collection of educational materials is for the classroom as well as professional development and personal use. The formats include books, games, puzzles, kits, audiotapes, CD-ROMs (over 400), and an extensive video collection (over 3,200 titles). Anyone in the North Country is welcome to visit our library to borrow materials (there is a small membership fee to have access to part of the video collection). And, our library can also come to you: did you know that most materials can be mailed to your home or school. We also provide delivery to member schools on a monthly basis.

Now we want to do more for you! This library and its materials really belong to you – the library patrons. Having your input is the only way to keep our holdings current and meaningful. To find out what you need we have developed an on-line survey. The survey will be available to take online through *Friday, February 17th*. To access it, go to the NCES homepage, www.ncedservices.org, where you'll find a link. The survey will take you only 5 to 10 minutes. Your response is invaluable.

I know how busy everyone is, especially during the school year, so I sincerely appreciate you making the time to take the Media Center Survey. The results will be shared with you and used to make improvements to our services. So, thank you! And come visit the NCES Media Center on Gorham Hill!

Vicky McGillicuddy
Media Center Coordinator
library@ncedservices.org

Computer Tuning

Instructor: Paula Churchill, Technology Integrator

Date/Time: March 16, 2006 from 4:00 to 7:30

Cost: Members \$20, Associates \$35, Non-Members \$50

A discussion on spyware, virus software and clean-up of your startup items. Learn how to make your computer feel younger and faster. (Light meal provided.)

Featured Speaker: Annette Lamb



In partnership with NHSTE, the NCES PD Center is excited to announce that Dr. Annette Lamb will be speaking at NCES on April 3. Dr. Lamb, one of this year's keynote speakers at the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference, has been an elementary library media specialist, computer teacher, and professor of education. She writes, speaks, and conducts professional development presentations and keynotes through-

out North America, focusing on ways to more effectively integrate technology into the classroom.

The Technology Storm: Fun & Frustration in the One Computer Classroom

April 3, 2006 from 9:00 to 12:00

Do you feel like you're in the middle of a technology storm without an umbrella? Although many schools have computer labs, portable laptops, and multiple classroom computers, some teachers are still dealing with a single computer in the classroom or a few old machines. Frustrated teachers ask, "What can I do with just one computer?" This session explores ways that teachers and students can use the computer in a large group setting to assess, present, access information, communicate, and produce and publish. It also examines how to use the computer as a teacher productivity tool and set-up a learning center. Finally, the session will explore integration, management, and technical issues. Regardless of whether you have one, two, or more computers in your classroom, we'll find lots of strategies for making effective use of your limited technology.

E-photography to E-scrapbooking: Thinking, Test Scores, and Beyond

April 3, 2006 from 1:00 to 4:00

Use your digital cameras, computers, and real-world experiences to promote deep thinking and increase test scores too! In this workshop, you'll try out lots of practical ideas for creating powerful, time-saving assignments such as digital scrapbooks and photo journals that promote reading, writing, and content-area thinking. Learn strategies for using the tools you already have in new ways and have fun at the same time!

**Cost: \$50/session or \$100 for the day.
Attend both and lunch is included.**

Call the NCES PDC now to register.

800-268-5437

Wilson Language Training: Foundations®

Presenter: Wilson Language Trainer

Date/Time: March 27 & 28, 2006 from 9:00 to 3:00

Cost: Member School Staff \$250/person, Associates \$300, Nonmembers \$350.

Kits: Foundation's Teacher Kit is highly recommended, additional \$340/kit

Meals: Refreshments and lunch will be provided. NCES may not be able to accommodate special dietary requirements.

Foundations® is a systematic and explicit phonemic awareness, phonics and spelling program for the general education classroom that fits into your K-3 literacy block. Based upon Wilson Reading System principles, Foundations serves as a prevention and early intervention program to help reduce reading and spelling failure. The 30-minute daily lessons provide a multisensory approach to teaching that benefits all your students.

Teaching about Genocide: Dafur - A Case Study

Presenter: Tom White, Cohen Center

Date/Time: April 6, 2006 from 4:00 to 7:00

Cost: \$20.00 (includes supper)

For: Middle and high school teachers

Genocide continues to be a critical and challenging issue in world affairs. How can we help students understand the complexity and importance of genocide when it often seems far removed from the realities of New Hampshire life? Using Darfur, now probably the world's worst humanitarian crisis, Tom White, Coordinator of Educational Outreach at the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies at Keene State College, will share thoughts on how to do this. Beginning with the definition of genocide and a brief video clip, "Darfur Destroyed," the workshop will explore the background history and the geographic and politically-sponsored catalysts that have led to the current situation in Darfur. Sudanese government actions against Darfur currently include: inflaming ethnic conflict; impeding international humanitarian access, resulting in deadly conditions of life for displaced civilians; bombing civilian targets with aircraft; and murdering and raping civilians. The presentation will include ideas for lesson plans, including genocide studies in world and American history classes, material resources, teaching strategies, and ideas for engaging students.

Tools for Learning™

2-day professional development event for grades 6-12 teachers

Presenter: Kathleen McClaskey, EdTech Associates

Date/Time: May 24 & 25, 2006 from 9:00 to 3:30

Cost: Members \$100, Associates \$125, Non-Members \$140

Lunch: Meal and snacks provided. NCES may not be able to accommodate special dietary requirements.

The daily challenge for educators is to teach to the diverse learners in their classroom. This hands-on workshop will present how to use accessible technology to support students that have difficulties in reading, writing, organizing and expressing ideas through language. Activities will include developing a Plan for Learning Diversity™ using the Universal Design for Learning® model by applying instructional strategies with the use of common desktop software and online tools presented in the workshop. Teams of teachers are encouraged to attend. Each teacher will receive a CD that will include all the workshop handouts in addition to a comprehensive set of resources to support diverse learners.

Registration deadline: May 17th, space limited to 15.

Want to Doodle with Moodle?

Instructor: Paula Churchill, Technology Integrator

Date/Time: Monday, March 13, 2006 from 10:00 to 1:00 (geared to administrators) **OR** 4:00 to 7:00 (geared to teachers and potential users). You may attend either session.

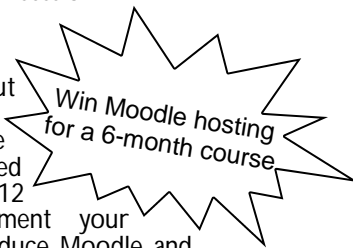
Cost: Free, lunch provided.

Have you been hearing about Moodle and wondering what it is all about? Moodle course management software can be used for online courses. In the K-12 classroom, Moodle can compliment your regular curriculum. Paula will introduce Moodle and provide an overview of its features. These include online quizzes that are graded immediately, resource listings, calendar with syllabus and assignments, secure uploading and downloading between students and instructor, a survey tool, discussion forums, glossary section, news alerts/announcements, and automatic notification by email when students post to the site.

We will draw two names for a **free six-month hosting** of a Moodle course.

A day of training will be offered later this spring for teachers interested in learning how to use Moodle in their classrooms.

Registration deadline: March 8, 2006.



Learning-Focused Relationships

Consulting, Collaborating & Coaching for Professional Excellence

Presenter: Bruce Wellman, Co-Director MiraVia

Dates/Time: August 7, 8 & 9, 2006 from 8:00 to 4:00

Cost: SAU 3, 36 & 68 teachers free*, member school staff \$200, associate member school staff \$250, Non-Members \$280 (includes meals, refreshments, text and materials)

This a three-day training for mentors, peer coaches and other professionals with interest in expanding and refining their knowledge and skills for promoting adult learning and growth. The institute offers practical tools, focused templates and technical tips for educators who support others in improving their instructional practice.

Explore a continuum of interaction for:

- è Consulting: sharing expertise & providing technical assistance
- è Collaboration: shared planning and problem-solving
- è Coaching: non-judgmental interaction which supports reflection and develops professional capacities

Participants will develop skills for applying a set of templates to structure purposeful planning, reflecting and problem-solving conversations. They will also develop a toolkit for effective communication, including non-verbal subtleties and verbal complexities.

Registration deadline: May 31, 2006.

Learning-Focused Supervision

The Four Cs of Professional Excellence for Administrators

Presenter: Bruce Wellman, Co-Director MiraVia

Dates/Time: August 10 & 11, 2006 from 8:00 to 4:00

Cost: Free* for administrators in SAUs 3, 7, 20, 23, 35, 36, 58, 68 & 77. Other administrators, \$200 each.

Engage in discussions on how to promote the growth of teachers toward developing greater understandings of their students' learning. Examine the standards-driven protocols for conversations that promote the four Cs of professional excellence.

Registration deadline: May 31, 2006



Bruce Wellman consults and provides training nationally on learning-focused relationships. He is the co-director of MiraVia with Laura Lipton. They regularly present at national conferences for NSDC and ASCD.

* Supported by the North Country Induction-with-Mentoring Project

Registration is required for all events by call 466-5437 or 800-268-5437 or emailing becky@ncedservices.org. All events are held at the NCES Professional Development Center, Gorham, NH unless otherwise noted.

