

Director's Notes

Columbus Day has come and gone as we approach Veterans' Day and the Thanksgiving Day recess. Stores are replete with their display of wares for Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanzaa, and snow flakes have been drifting down on Gorham Hill from time to time, a sure sign of what is to come. Our struggling local economy and increased costs of living will tax many North Country residents this year and I would urge all educators to do what they can to ease the plight of their relatives, friends, neighbors and community at large during this season of giving.

Dr. Dennise Maslakowski of Plymouth State University has asked me to solicit the level of interest of professional staff members who are interested in their CAGS Graduate Program so they may present a series of four core courses to be offered at NCES. The original cohort began with seventeen teachers and administrators during the summer of 2007 and these people have moved on into their elective courses. NCES would also be willing to serve as the site for the PSU Masters degree program should there be sufficient applicants and I would work with Cheryl Baker of PSU to establish such a program on your behalf. For North Country residents traveling to the NCES location in Gorham is far preferable to driving to Plymouth or to any of their satellite campuses in terms of both time efficiency and money saved. If you are interested in either the CAGS or Masters Program, please send me your email address and your program preference to charlie@ncedservices.org. I will compile the data and make contact with PSU to make arrangements and will keep you apprised of the progress

of this endeavor. At this time, I have only heard from two North Country people who have expressed interest in this opportunity. Surely, there must be others!

Since the last newsletter NCES is still seeking to add a part-time School Psychologist position in Berlin to fully address school requests. NCES is also in need of either an Occupational Therapist – Registered or a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant to serve throughout SAU 58 (Groveton, Stark, and Stratford), if you should know of a good candidate. A Teacher of the Deaf will be needed by January to work with an elementary school youngster in SAU 7 (West Stewartstown). Please share this information with anyone who you believe to be qualified to provide such support to our students. Thanks.

Watch out for moose. One of our Board members was seriously injured recently while driving through Pinkham Notch – please drive with care.

Charles F. Thibodeau, Jr.,
Executive Director

Leadership & Resiliency Program

Training on implementing the Leadership and Resiliency Program (LRP) is being offered by NCES on November 7, 8 & 9 in Center Tuftonboro. This is grant sponsored training and space permitting, school personnel from northern NH may participate for the cost of meals. LRP is a school and community-based program for high school students which enhances youths' internal strengths and resiliency while preventing involvement in substance use and violence. These include adventure/outdoor activities, working with abused and neglected animals, and performing puppet skits for young children. The alternative activities focus on community service, altruism, learning about managed risk, social skills improvement, and conflict resolution.

For more information contact Lori Langlois at lori@ncedservices.org.

Yvonne Jenkins is weaving to "paint" with wool in Marcy Schepker's class at North Country Professional Development Day on October 10, 2008 at White Mountains Regional High School. This was one of several sessions offered in partnership with the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire.



LabQuests Professional Development Series

There is a new product from Vernier, the LabQuest. This breakthrough technology for science education (with plenty of mathematics applications too) puts power into a rugged interface designed for simplicity. LabQuests are splash proof and powered with a rechargeable lithium battery - making them ideal for outdoor or out-of-the-classroom activities. With a color touch screen to display and graph data immediately, this digital tool can be used as a stand-alone. That's right; you no longer need to hook up a LabPro interface to a computer. The "computer" is right in the hands of students with the LabQuest. Simply attach the necessary sensors and probes and you're ready to begin collecting data. They come with 50 science labs embedded into the LabQuest, but the sky is the limit for creating your own activities.



Join us for this three-session hands-on experience with the LabQuest. You'll participate in hands-on activities to learn how easy it is to incorporate this tool into your teaching.

Participating teachers* will have access to borrowing a classroom set of 10 LabQuests and various probes and sensors.

Intended For: K-12 Educators (limited to 20 participants)

Project leaders: William Church, Physics Teacher, Littleton High School; Steve Roberts, Science Teacher, Interlakes Jr High School; and Paul Williams, Science Consultant

Dates: Wednesdays December 3, 2008, January 7, 2009 and February 4, 2009

Time: 4:00 to 8:00 (Meal provided)

Cost for the series: Full member school staff \$30 ; Associate member staff \$50; Others: \$75

Location: NCES

Registration: Contact Becky Ring at 466-5437 or becky@ncedservices.org

*To borrow equipment you must be teaching in a NH public school in Coos, Grafton or Carroll county. Subject to availability. You will be responsible for picking up and returning equipment.

Mathematics Formative Assessment Probes

Mathematics Formative Assessment Probes are designed to uncover student understanding and misunderstanding of conceptual and procedural knowledge of mathematics to assist teachers in planning classroom lessons.

NCES will be hosting two full day sessions on the use of mathematics formative assessment probes in classrooms, using curriculum topic studies and designing probes. One session is for elementary/middle teachers and the second is for middle/high school teachers.

Each person attending the workshop will receive a copy of *Uncovering Student Thinking in Mathematics: 25 Assessment Probes for K – 6 teachers* or *Uncovering Student Thinking in Mathematics: 30 Formative Assessment Probes for Secondary Classrooms*. The authors provide 30 formative assessment probes—brief, easily administered activities targeting specific mathematics ideas—to reveal common understandings and misunderstandings in student thinking. Field-tested with teachers and students at various grade levels, these powerful diagnostic tools help teachers modify their teaching and identify areas that require more instruction. Written in accessible language, this invaluable book:



- Discusses standards, research results, and practical craft knowledge
- Describes the purpose, structure, and development of mathematics assessment probes
- Helps teachers build on students' current understandings while addressing their identified difficulties
- Offers examples of the faulty thinking students are likely to exhibit and typical obstacles they may encounter
- These assessment probes will help teachers make sound instructional choices and increase the mathematics knowledge of all their students.

Presenter: Christine Downing NECAP Mathematics Content Specialist for the NH DOE.

Dates/Time: K – 6 Teachers on November 10 and Grade 6 – 12 Teachers on December 8, both from 9:00 – 3:00

Cost: NCES Member School Staff \$20, Associate Member School Staff \$25, Others \$30. Refreshments and lunch provided.

Registration: Contact Becky Ring at 466-5437 or becky@ncedservices.org

Questions: Contact Matt Tremer @ 466-5437 or matt@ncedservices.org.

Location: Unless otherwise noted, workshops and courses will be held at NCES, 300 Gorham Hill Road, Gorham, NH.

Technology Integration

NETS • S

Learn to make sense of the National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NET-S) and see examples of student work that reflect these standards. Each workshop covers the NETS Standards and displays student work with different curriculum, grade level and software content. Participants will learn to identify what standards they already incorporate into student activities and devise ways of tweaking classroom activities to encourage higher order thinking. Participants will be shown various technology integration activities. These include the use of sound and digital imaging, sound editing, movie making, understanding and displaying data, and creating portfolio quality activities from the standard MS Office Suite.

NETS•S with Grade K-3 Student Activities

Date: Wednesday, November 5, from 3:30 to 5:30

NETS•S with Grade 4-6 Student Activities

Date: Tuesday, November 18, from 3:30 to 5:30

NETS•S with Grade 7-8 Student Activities

Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2008 from 3:30 to 5:30

Repeated: Tuesday, November 18, from 6:00 to 8:00

NETS•S with Grades 9-12 Student Activities

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2008 from 3:30 to 5:30

Presenter: Paula Churchill

Cost/session: Member School Staff \$5, Associate Members , \$10, Others \$15.

Note: These are not hands-on workshops.

A Picture Tells a Story

Using a single digital image and simple image editing tools, students can create a movie. After identifying the story elements: characters, setting, plot, students use a cropping tool to create images related to the story elements and sequence the images to tell the story. Soundtracks and narration will finish the project. This project is appropriate for Grades K-4.

Presenter: Paula Churchill

Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2008 from 3:30 to 6:30

Cost: Member School Staff \$10, Associate Member Staff \$15, Others \$20

Note: This is a hands-on workshop.

Interview a Famous Person

Using mp3s of famous speeches and Audacity (a free sound editing program) students can interview a famous person. With the text of the speech, students identify key sentences that define the meaning or purpose of the speaker. Students compose and record questions which those sentences would answer. The recorded questions is juxtaposed with the those sentences to create an interview. This project is appropriate for grades 7-12.

Presenter: Paula Churchill

Date: Thursday, December 11, 2008 from 3:30 to 6:30

Cost: Member School Staff \$10, Associate Member \$15, Others \$20

Note: This is a hands-on workshop.

Teaching Geometry Inductively

Students will deepen their understanding of geometry and how to teach it inductively. The course will be driven by activities and experiences that use inductive reasoning to help students better understand geometry. Students will leave with ready to use activities for their classrooms and practice finding and writing such activities. The course will span most traditional geometric topics including basic principles found in the middle school through more challenging concepts found in upper level high school geometry courses.

Instructor: Greg Superchi

Dates: Thursdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29 and February 5 & 12, 2009.

Time: 4:00 to 8:00

Cost: Regular Plymouth State University rates for two credits.

Register: Download registration form at www.plymouth.edu/graduate and use course registration number (CRN): 20076.

Performance Pathways Users' Support Group

These video conferenced sessions are to provide a context for users to ask questions of each other and to share experiences including tips, tricks and best practices regarding the development and support of Performance Pathways applications including TechPaths, Assessment Builder and Performance Tracker.

Dates: November 14, January 9, February 13, April 10 and June 12 from 9:00 to 11:30.

Register: Contact Becky Ring for the NCES location at 466-5437 or becky@ncedservices.org

Save the Date!

Educating the 21st Century Learner

April 1, 2009

Inns at Mills Falls, Meredith, NH



lesn

local education support center network

The Key Vocabulary Routine

Keys to Literacy



The Key Vocabulary Routine is a content vocabulary program for grades 4 through 12 that can be used in all classrooms. The two-day workshop emphasizes the integration of vocabulary instruction in any content area (e.g., science, social studies, language arts, math). Research has found that there is no one best method for vocabulary instruction, and that vocabulary should be taught both directly and indirectly. It has also found that the least effective instructional practice is the memorization of word definitions.

This workshop includes hands-on practice for the following:

- Providing direct, systematic instruction of specific content vocabulary and how to select the most appropriate new words from content reading material
- Teaching a word in relation to other words using activities such as categorizing, semantic feature analysis, and semantic mapping
- Analyzing word structure and teaching word parts, including the most common roots, suffixes and prefixes
- Teaching strategies for using context to determine word meaning
- Teaching strategies for effective use of a dictionary and creating student generated definitions

Attendees are asked to bring reading material from their classrooms so they can generate a sample list of vocabulary words that will be used to practice developing Key Vocabulary activities.

This workshop is for grades 4 through 12 content teachers (e.g., history, science, language arts, math), special education, and reading teachers who want to teach vocabulary strategies, and for administrators who want to learn more about The Key Vocabulary Routine. For more information about the workshop please go to www.keystoliteracy.com.

Instructor: Becky DeSmith, M.Ed.

Dates: December 2 and 3, 2008

Time: 9:00 to 3:30 (Registration and refreshments at 8:30)

Location: Video conferenced to NCES, Gorham, NH

Cost: \$250 for NCES Member School Staff, \$275 for Associate Members, \$300 for others.

Registration: Register for the NCES location by contacting NCES. Payment or purchase order must be received by the registration deadline of 11/23/08.

Graduate Credit Option: Two credits available from Plymouth State University. Find a registration form for graduate credit and information about graduate requirements at www.seresc.net/events, or contact the PSU Graduate Studies office at 1-800-FOR-GRAD.

Wilson Foundations[®]

Wilson Foundations for K-3 is a phonological/ phonemic awareness, phonics and spelling program for the general education classroom. Foundations is based upon the Wilson Reading System[®] principles and serves as a prevention program to help reduce reading and spelling failure. Rather than completely replace core curriculum, Foundations provides the research-validated strategies that complement installed programs to meet federal standards and serve the needs of all children.

Teachers incorporate a 30-minute daily Foundations lesson into their language arts classroom instruction. Foundations lessons focus on carefully sequenced skills that include print knowledge, alphabet awareness, phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, decoding, vocabulary, fluency, and spelling. Critical thinking, speaking and listening skills are practiced during Storytime activities. Furthermore, targeted small group intervention is available for students in the lowest 30th percentile.

Dates: November 20 & 21, 2008. Day one will cover the introductory and intervention modules, day two will cover the Level 1 & 2 modules.

Time: 8:30 to 3:30

Location: NCES, Gorham, NH

Cost: Full member school staff \$250, Associate member school staff \$275, Others \$300

Level K-2 Kit (optional): Additional \$870/kit

Register: Contact Becky Ring at 466-5437 or becky@ncedservices.org preferably by November 3 or visit www.ncedservices.org/profdev.htm to download brochure.

Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing[®]

Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing[®] (LiPS[®]) will provide an overview of the sensory and cognitive processes basic to written language development and speech. In addition to demonstration and practice in developmental techniques, class members participate in evaluating their own phonemic awareness.

Dates: December 3, 4 & 5, 2008

Time: 8:00 to 4:30

Location: NCES, Gorham, NH

Cost: Full member school staff \$825, Associate member school staff \$850, Others \$875 (includes manual and meals).

Register: Contact Becky Ring at 466-5437 or becky@ncedservices.org preferably by November 3 or visit www.ncedservices.org/profdev.htm to download brochure.