

Tillotson Fellowship

Congratulations to the area's first recipients who were named Louise Tillotson Fellows and were honored on September 17 at a gala event hosted by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation at the Highland Croft Center. The Fellows were recognized by the Neil and Louise Tillotson Foundation for their outstanding contributions to both their communities and schools over their years of service. The Fellows for 2007 – 2008 are: Janine Fogg Brady, Grades 3 & 4 Teacher at Canaan School in Vermont; Michael Brosnan, Social Studies Department Head and Teacher at Gorham Middle-High School; Sharon Breeze Lane, Multigrade Teacher at the Errol Consolidated School; and Ginette White, Comprehensive Business Teacher at Colebrook Academy.



ABOVE (left to right) Robert Mills, Superintendent of SAU #7; Irene Mosedale, Director of the North Country Teacher Certification Program at Plymouth State University; Raymond Burton, Executive Councilor District 1; Jeannine Fogg-Brady, Recipient; Sharon Lane, Recipient; Ginette LeMayWhite, Recipient; Peter Benson, Charitable Foundation Senior Program Officer; and Charlie Thibodeau, Executive Director of North Country Educational Services.

Alcohol Abuse Prevention Programs

Did you know there is a federal grant for alcohol abuse prevention benefiting schools in the North Country. Six high schools partnered with North Country Education Services to apply to the Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse Program through the US Department of Education Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools. The grant will bring nearly a half million dollars of SAMSHA prevention programs and curriculum to the area over the next three years. There should be opportunity to involve additional schools and personnel from related service agencies in the training in these prevention programs. Training will be offered on the programs:

- LifeSkills
- Prime for Life
- Leadership Resiliency Program
- Reconnecting Youth

If you are interested in any of these programs, please contact Lori Langlois for additional information at lori@ncedservices.org.

Director's Notes

September has flown by very quickly and NCES is now ready to present the annual North Country Professional Development Day thanks to the tireless efforts of Lori Langlois, NCES Associate Executive Director & Co-Director of Professional Development. Again, we are very grateful to White Mountain Regional High School and White Mountains Community College for serving as gracious hosts for various presentations. At the time of this writing, over 500 professionals and paraprofessionals have signed up for specific workshops. This represents a significant decrease from the approximately 750 people who attended last year and may indicate a need for NCES to address the professional development needs of school staff in a different manner. Stay tuned to further developments.

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“GOING GREEN”

This may be your last paper NCES NEWS issue.

In an effort to conserve paper and mailing costs, NCES will soon begin a trial run of an online version of this newsletter. Schools will be contacted about distribution to staff via email. Those not affiliated with a North Country school who wish to continue receiving this newsletter should email their email address to becky@ncedservices.org. Requests to continue receiving a paper copy can be directed to 800-268-5437.

First Steps in Mathematics

The First Steps in Mathematics (FSiM) resources are the result of over five years of intensive research that reveals characteristic phases in the development of students' thinking about major mathematical concepts. First Steps in Mathematics uses professional judgment as the starting point for making decisions about where to begin the mathematics teaching cycle. Combined teacher resources and professional development help teachers make informed decisions over time. This course will provide the professional development needed to understand and use the First Steps in Mathematics resources.

Participants will:

- understand how to progress every student through the mathematics teaching cycle,
- make sense of student work samples and responses to diagnostic tasks in mathematics,
- make links to phases of development in mathematics,
- determine the key understandings that a student needs to grasp to move forward,
- understand why some mathematical experiences don't teach students what we intend them to learn.

Participants will have the opportunity to take this course for two credits through Plymouth State University.

Additional information about the First Steps in Mathematics professional development courses and resources may be found at www.stepspd.com/us/courses/firststepsmath.asp

This K – 6 teacher class will be held at NCES. The course includes 6 sessions held on October 20, 27, November 3, 10, 24 and December 1, 2008. All sessions will be held from 4:00 to 8:00 with dinner provided.

Instructors: Christine Downing, NECAP Mathematics Content Specialist for the NH DOE, and Kathy Tremer, Title I Mathematics Educator for Groveton Elementary School.

Cost of series: NCES Member School Staff \$20, Associate member School Staff \$25, Others \$30. This is regularly a \$500 series!

Optional Graduate Credit: Contact NCES for pricing on graduate credit.

Registration: Contact Becky Ring at becky@ncedservices.org or 603:466-5437

Questions: please contact Matt Tremer matt@ncedservices.org or 603-466-5437.

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.

Extinction and Extreme Events

There have been five major mass extinctions and several minor extinction events in Earth's history. Using a time line, we will relate these to overall geologic history and especially New Hampshire geologic history. We will compare living and extinct organisms with threatened and endangered ones.

Visit www.ncedservices.org/profdev.htm for the full list on NH Science Frameworks targeted in this workshop.

Presenters: Paul Williams and Steve Roberts

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2008

Time: 4:00 to 8:00

Meals: Dinner will be provided.

Cost: NCES Member School Staff \$20, Associate Member School Staff \$25, Others \$30

Location: NCES, Gorham, NH

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

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

Lindamood LiPS[®] or Seeing Stars[®]?

NCES is planning to schedule one of these Lindamood trainings in November or December. We are trying to determine which program has the most interest. Please email lori@ncedservices.org ASAP with your input. Info on both programs is available at www.lindamoodbell.com.

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.

The Key Vocabulary Routine emphasizes growth of vocabulary through wide reading, multiple exposures to words and linking new words to background knowledge. The two-day 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.

...*Director's Notes continued from front page*

NCES is still seeking to add at least another 0.5 FTE School Psychologist position to fully address school requests. NCES is also in need of either an Occupational Therapist – Registered or a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, 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.

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. If you are interested in either the CAGS or Masters Program, please email 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. Have a great October!

Charles F. Thibodeau, Jr., Executive Director

Wilson Foundations®

Foundations® is a research-based program that provides students in kindergarten through third grade with a solid foundation for reading and spelling. It provides explicit and highly systematic daily instruction in key areas necessary for effective reading, including: phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, word and syllable study, vocabulary, sight word instruction, fluency, and word and sentence writing practice. Critical thinking, speaking and listening skills are practiced during regular Storytime activities. Foundations is designed to supplement literature-based language arts programs. This two-day training will provide teachers with an overview of program principles and guidelines for implementation. The dates of this two-day training are pending, but anticipated to be offered at NCES in November. Please email lori@ncedservices.org if you would like to be notified.

Reading Without Comprehension

The North Country Reading Council, a branch of the Granite State Reading Council, is bringing Christopher Kaufman, Ph.D. back to the North Country. He will cover the neurodevelopmental bases of comprehension struggles and what they mean for instruction.

Date: Thursday October 30, 2008

Time: 4:00 - 7:00

Location: The Mountain View Grand, Whitefield, NH

Cost: \$40 for Reading Council Members, \$50 for others. A buffet meal is included.

For additional information or a registration form, contact Heather Stocks at hstocks@littletonschools.org or Marge Leblanc at mleblanc@littletonschools.org.