



Executive Director's Report – August 2016

5 year Vision: *NKCES will be a trusted partner with local school districts and the learning community to research and apply innovative 21st Century practices by leveraging resources, developing strategic alliances and inspiring powerful leadership while providing exemplary customized services to districts, communities and our students.*

Beechwood
Independent

Bellevue
Independent

Bracken County

Covington
Independent

Dayton
Independent

Erlanger-Elsmere
Independent

Ft. Thomas
Independent

Gateway
Community &
Technical College

Ludlow
Independent

Newport
Independent

Northern Kentucky
University

Pendleton
Independent

Silver Grove
Independent

Southgate
Independent

Walton-Verona
Independent

Williamstown
Independent

NKAGE: As part of NKAGE moving under the NKCES umbrella of services, I met with NKAGE Leadership to move their bank account so that we were also on the account (NKCES).

Regional School Programs: Stephanie Turner is currently the acting principal of RSP and we are requesting that we make her interim principal for the 2016-17 school year and repost the position in the spring. We will work to provide internal support for the assistant principal role through Sarah Cornett (counselor).

Vander Ark Next Generation Learning Sessions: We are excited to provide "Smart Schools: Focus on Next Generation Learning Series". This will be a unique learning experience that will provide an opportunity to strengthen your knowledge and partnerships as active learners, as we work together to prepare our students as 21st Century Learners. The cost includes all three workshops, book and lunch on the final day. The power of this event lies within the participants—please register and share this event to help make KY~TheBestPlaceToLearn!

Audit: I met with Mr. George Sparks at Barnes Dennig to review procedures and expectations for our NKCES audit. The meeting went very well and we are optimistic that this years' experience will be more positive and yield a better process. They were on site for four days, August 2-5.

Strategic Planning Retreat: Thanks to the NKY Leaders who were able to attend the strategic planning retreat. The time allowed us to have thorough conversations, a time to reflect on future goals to enhance meeting structures and also to refine the strategic plan. We will be sharing outcomes of this meeting with all members.

Golf Outing/Retirement Celebration: The retirement celebration provided a great end of the year event to honor those superintendents service to our region. We hope that you join us next year. We appreciate our partners for sponsoring the food and providing items to celebrate the retirement.

Facility: Houston Brothers has submitted a proposal and contract for the needed repairs on the brick of the building. This will occur in the spring of 2017.

Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Education Services
Amy Razor, Executive Director
5516 E Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076

KASA Sessions:

- *Early Childhood Session at KASA:* Presented with Michele Augsback, NKCES, Mike Shires, Boone and Executive Committee
START NOW: Preparing our Youngest Citizens
Early Childhood learning is the "great equalizer" that sets a child on a successful path to College-Career-Readiness. Partnering with the community in the first five years changes everything--closing the achievement gap before it starts. Join us to see how Northern Kentucky is using a common message to empower our community as we support our youngest citizens on their path to college and career readiness. Strategies and resources will be highlighted that engage families and community to actively prepare their youngest citizens with START Now. Participants will also be able to ask questions of panelists that have been involved in Northern Kentucky's work which include NKCES Executive Committee: Superintendent Jay Brewer, Superintendent Robb Smith and Superintendent Anthony Strong, along with other key leaders in this work.
- *OECD Session for NKY Districts at KASA:* Thirteen of our 16 districts met together to explore the benefits of OECD (a PISA-Like assessment) and learned more about the product through a national speaker and past superintendent. Rob Johnson, NWEA Representative, is offering a discount to NKY Districts who sign up this year.
- *KY Cooperatives hosted a breakfast* for all new superintendents to share services and offer on-going support as they begin their journey

Be Inspired: On Monday, July 18th Physical Education and Arts & Humanities teachers from across the region gathered at North Pointe Elementary school for the first NKCES PE and Arts Edcamp. The eighty eight NKY teachers participated in six unconference sessions, completed a collaboration project, and had the opportunity to hear Jamie Sparks, KDE School Health and Physical Education (SHAPE) Director, discuss the impact of ESSA on teaching and learning. The NKCES PE and Arts Edcamp allowed teachers to connect and grow. We look forward to cultivating those connections this school year through our PLCs so that our teachers are able to serve every student!

The Orton Gillingham Training scheduled for July 11 – July 15, 2016, was held at the Gateway Community and Technical College, with international speaker/presenter, Michele Wenger. This 5-day conference had 19 teachers that participated in an instructional approach intended primarily for use with persons who have difficulty with reading, spelling, and writing of the sort associated with dyslexia. Evaluations proved the authentic learning from our attendees throughout the N KY region.

Para educator Training: The para educator training this year was held at Gateway Community and Technical College, with presenter Mina Hammons on June 27 – June 30, 2016 to 380 para educators in our region. The “Learning Differently” training provided a look at how we are all diverse and how para educators can use differentiation to tailor instruction and

Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Education Services
Amy Razor, Executive Director
5516 E Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076

enhance learning to meet the needs of all students, both regular and special needs classes. The presentation also discussed, define, and examined ways to implement lessons, improve teaching materials, and explore various approaches so all students, according to their specific needs, will help our students learn and retain content successfully. Evaluations were proof of this highly effective training, as well as the countless requests for a return next year.

Partnership with University of Cincinnati (for preschool): We are excited that NKCES has entered into a partnership with the University of Cincinnati regarding the Building Preschool Children's Complex Language Using Expository Science Texts Grant, as well as the Text Organization for Preschoolers in Special Education (TOPS) Grant. The Text Organization study will begin September 2016 and follow through to May 2017, and is opened to early childhood educators and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) who work with preschoolers with language impairment in early childhood special education classrooms. Several of our districts in the region will participate in the study this fall. The grant for Expository Science is in the process of being submitted for funding and if funded it will begin in the fall of 2017 and include an opportunity for our N KY region.

Grants Consortium

- KDE Preschool Grant: Eight districts participated in the overview meeting and Vicki is meeting with them to help with planning, writing and reviewing for submission. Grants are due August 29.
- Districts discussed activity regarding grants: Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, Learning Links, Dollar General, and more.
- RTI Research-Practice Partnership: This grant will establish a relationship with a major research organization. In this initial project, all 13 Grants Consortium districts signed letters of support to research a multi-district PLC in middle school mathematics. Submission date is August 4.
- SSS grant (formerly i3) will be pursued through a different funding stream, through the Institute of Education Sciences, letter of intent due April, grant due August 2017. More information as it develops.
- KDE Mathematics Achievement Fund, due October 4. Planning, writing, and reviewing support will be available.
- 2013 ESSC (counseling) grant has received a no-cost extension so we can spend out the relatively modest amount of funds left over through the next year.
- NKCES Project Aware is about to wrap up and targets are achieved. Boone County already has achieved Year 3 numbers in Year 1!
- A UC researcher contacted Linda Alford to get districts to participate in a preschool program.
- Anna Marie Tracy brought up some issues about IRB policy for districts with regard to research grants.
- Congratulations to Bracken County. They were awarded \$15,000 from RC Durr Foundation to buy 60 Chromebooks and mobile carts for the high school.
- Grants pending: Drug Free Communities; Innovative Approaches to Literacy, to be announced Sept 30. IES Research-Practitioner Partnership with RTI is being submitted today!

Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Education Services
Amy Razor, Executive Director
5516 E Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076