

Executive Director's Report - October 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 customer services to districts, communities & our students.

Beechwood Independent

Bellevue Independent

Boone County

Bracken County

Campbell County

Covington Independent

Dayton Independent

Erlanger-Elsmere Independent

Ft. Thomas Independent

Gateway Community & Technical College

Ludlow Independent

Newport Independent

Northern Kentucky University

Pendleton County

Silver Grove Independent

Southgate Independent

Walton-Verona Independent

Williamstown Independent Vander Ark Next Generation Learning Sessions: Newport Independent Schools hosted the second face-to-face session in their new auditorium. It was exciting timing, as a press-conference was held the day prior to announce Newport as the first possible smart city in the mid-west. The momentum continued with a knowledgeable panelists of community members, leaders and teachers. Ginger Webb led the panel discussion which was followed by a reflection time in roles groups by NKCES. The sessions concluded with Jenny McMillen leading the group in a Voxer activity. The success of this event is an example of a strong professional learning product when synergy is created by our districts. "Smart Schools: Focus on Next Generation Learning Series" is a unique learning experience that provides an opportunity to strengthen your knowledge and partnerships as active learners, as we work together to prepare our students as 21st Century Learners. It's not too late to register for the keynote speaker, Tom Vander Ark, author of Smart Cities who will be speaking at NKU on November 8th. The cost of \$200.00 includes all three workshops, online curriculum, e-book, soft copy of book and lunch on the final day. The power of this event lies within the participants—it's not too late to register for this event to help make NKY~TheBestPlaceToLearn! A special thanks to the planning committee for their extra support in making this event a success!

Kentucky Continuous Improvement Summit: NKCES was invited to present at this state-wide conference and highlight the work we are currently doing around regional PLCs. The Professional Learning Consortium is creating regional PLCs that build capacity to support educators as learners, provides effective communication and is responsive to the needs of the members by organizing PL opportunities, POP tours and provides a forum for sharing resources and ideas. This work will be highlighted in the KY Teacher and also was recognized by the Commissioner as one of eight "Best Practice Awards" given at the conference.

Facility Improvements at NKCES *to improve the offices and utilize the space more effectively:* Ms. Patti Dischar has created slides to highlight the progress on current improvements to include a conference room on the main floor, small improvements to the main floor bathroom, awnings are ordered to assist with more efficient access to building, The downstairs hallway(near the professional learning training room) is in the process of updates to include moving the work space for teachers to this location. Relocation of employees and RSP space has been reorganized with a focus on efficiency and safety.

KASS Sessions: Tom Shelton and Liz Storey have reached out to NKY for presenters for the winter conference. A request went out to all districts to help NKY shine and we are

Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Education Services
Amy Razor, Executive Director
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Cold Spring, KY 41076

Serve.

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excited to have 3 districts turning in proposals to present which include: Fort Thomas Independent Schools, Boone County Schools and Campbell County Schools.

Regional School Programs: The transition into the new school year continues to go exceptionally well. RSP is off to a great start and we appreciate her stepping up to the plate to assure the students had a great start to the 2016-17 school year. Our regional school programs received the Alternative School of Distinction Award and this was highlighted through the Commissioner's Press Release in the KY Teacher!

The Regional School Programs received additional recognition for the work of their educators and programs that serve at-risk students as being named by KDE as Alternative Programs of Distinction for 2016 in the Kentucky Teacher publication. Click Kentucky Teacher to read more.

PL Consortium: The PL Consortium is lengthening their meeting time so that they can also have time to network together on common areas, share resources and plan together. We have created a Live Binder for easy access to all flyers and resources from our meetings. The PLC's that are currently meeting continue to be an effective time for networking and sharing resources—the possibilities are tremendous!

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 & if funded it will begin in the fall of 2017 and include an opportunity for our NKY region.

Novice Reduction Training: SECOND TRAINING ADDED FOR NKY! Upon the request of the PL Consortium, I reached out to KDE to ask for an additional training for NKY which they readily accommodated.

See below for initial memo on training: I attended the state-wide meeting for cooperate directors and their teams to see firsthand the Novice Reduction Training. It was great to see that the training focused on core instruction for all students and specifically utilized the Thinking Strategies Work and Explicit Instruction that we have focused our work on at NKCES. The regional training will be October 6^{th} at Ralph Rush Training Center.

NISL: The third session of NISL was held at Boone County's Ralph Rush Training center with our NKY Cadre of Principals. The trainers requested more room so that they could accommodate the large number of principals and also be able to have adequate space to train. We look forward to continuing to support this work.

Early Childhood Guest Speaker: As a positive step forward, NKCES, NKYEC, United Way and the Prichard Committee worked together to keep

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the light shining brightly on early childhood education for our region. Niki Patton Rowe was an exceptional speaker and delivered a powerful message on the brain research to support the importance of Early Childhood. President Brewer discussed finding way to bring her to NKY again so that more educators and community members can hear her message. This would be one way to support the critical work you already do to champion this effort.

Safe Schools: The KY Internet Crimes against Children task force has provided helpful information concerning the applications and practices that predators use to trap young people. See attached flyer for more details.

Representing Region for October:

- ✓ Attended KASA Governance Meeting in Frankfort
- ✓ Children's Inc. Award Luncheon
- ✓ Dean Reed meeting to discuss upcoming projects
- ✓ Pre-K Works Meeting
- ✓ Beechwood Independent School District to hear more about OTUS (platform for multiple tools).
- ✓ State Cooperative Director's Conference: Commissioner Pruitt met with us to discuss his belief in this state-wide structure and to share updates.
- ✓ Kentucky Reading Project: Attended reception to support NKU's work in this critical area
- ✓ Attending with community member during superintendent meetings to seek input on possible project
- ✓ Early Childhood Conference: Attended to hear Nicki Patterson's presentation
- ✓ Met with Tara Wittrock to discuss the potential of a regional Early Childhood
- ✓ Children's Home of NKY: Fundraiser Event

NKCES Grants Consortium

In attendance: Bellevue (Deneen Zimmerman, Rob Sanders); Boone County (Anna Marie Tracy); Erlanger Elsmere (Mary Burch); Silver Grove (Julie Kaeff); Southgate (Greg Duty, Rob Sanders); Pendleton County (Rhonda Moore); NKCES (Vicki Dansberry, Amy Razor); Williamstown (Amy Harris). Visitor: Tutor Gen, Adam Helbig

Speaker: Adam Helbig of Tutor Gen described potential benefits to district through research grants in connection with partners such as Cincinnati Children's Hospital; Tier I; Cintrifuse; and Tutor Gen. He will work through Vicki and the Consortium to reach out when researchers are looking for students and/or schools.

Grant Status

Innovative Approaches to Literacy: NKCES not awarded. Many congratulations to Newport Schools, awarded \$988,726 for year one, with a total of nearly \$2 million. We are excited to see the progress that will come through this funding!

Carol M. White Physical Education Program: NKCES not awarded. 14 grants were given, mostly to areas with very high population.

Investing in Innovation (i3): on hold pending development of research grant

IES Research-Practitioner Partnership (RPP): pending, announcement later in the year.

KDE Early Childhood: Ludlow, Southgate and Williamstown will each receive about \$25,000 for Tier I planning grants, and Bellevue, Boone County, Dayton, Erlanger-Elsmere, and Newport will each receive up to \$150,000 for Tier II implementation grants.

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KDE RTTT EC Homeless: on hold at KDE.

Erlanger PEP No Cost Extension was approved. They will fund an additional year of staffing.

Math Achievement Fund: Silver Grove, Boone County, Ludlow and Newport reported that they applied.

Farm to School Grant: Vicki reviewed the basics of this grant and asked schools to contact her for more information.

Grant News

21st CCLC RFA: Several districts are interested in applying for this funding. After a brief overview, they agreed to contact Vicki for individual district meetings.

Foundation Directory Online: Vicki will subscribe to this service to identify grants of specific interests to staff of any member district.

WAVE Foundation: Newport Aquarium's affiliated foundation would like to work with schools in the future. Next month Scott Wingate will speak at the Grants Consortium about their work.

GRANTS CONSORTIUM NEXT MEETING, November 2, 10:30 am

NKCES Report from Regional Special Education Director

On September 29, 2106, NKCES had 170 participants engaged in The KAGAN Tour, held in the Ballroom at NKU. Tennessee, Ashland Independent, Bourbon Co., Burgin Independent, Fayette Co., Fleming Co., Harlan Co., Henry Co., Madison Co. and McLean Co. were among our neighboring counties who participated in this fantastic training. Evaluations expressed gratitude and excitement for this highly effective training, which delivered a promise to help our N KY teachers engage our students and promoted the synergy required for highly effective learning.

Explicit Instruction on January 5-6, 2017, continues our journey with Anita Archer, who is the author and presenter for this training. When teachers look at how they are engaging their students, the KAGAN Tour and Explicit Instruction go hand in hand. In order to provide follow-up after the training in January, we have two coaches, (completely trained in Explicit Instruction) who are prepared and able to assist coaches and teachers as they intertwine these strategies within their settings. We are proud of our staff as we move through the year and we believe we could not have said it any better than the words reported on the participant's evaluation forms, which truly indicates how the partnership between NKCES and our districts are impacting the students in NKY:

"We invite kids to be engaged; we don't ensure they are engaged".

"Good teaching = Good Learning!"

"This was very meaningful content. It is the piece I feel we are missing to help close the gap in student learning."



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In review of September 2016, we are excited to report that we have tripled our outreach from the same time period in September 2015. The below graph charts the comparison and reveals the increase of the N KY participation within our districts.

