

NKCES Report – Summer 2019

The mission of the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services is to strategically leverage the united voice of the superintendents and public schools as we connect, grow and serve the region with vital services as we: provide targeted support services for education professionals, enhance quality learning for students, model and support innovative instructional leadership practices...through a united voice.

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NaviGo Conference Call, June 3: Executive Director Razor, along with members of NKCES Executive Committee, participated in a conference call with Mr. Tim Hanner to discuss the working relationship and how to partner in the future.

NKYEC Board Meeting, June 5: Executive Director Razor attended the Board Meeting to stay current on NKYEC's work in the region with business and how NKCES can collaborate to incorporate the voice of our Superintendents for the betterment of students. Dr. Poe led the meeting and discussed strategic transitions so that services would not overlap.

PL Consortium Meeting, June 7: Executive Director Razor attended the PL Consortium meeting to share out current work that NKCES is involved in, as well as, learn about our districts needs as we continue to work together to build human capacity.

Northern KY GoDigital, June 11: Executive Director Razor attended the Go Digital Conference sessions virtually, along with many other educators from around the state. It's awesome to see NKY taking the lead on sharing new and interesting ways to incorporate technology into classrooms.

Superintendent Retreat, June 12-14: Executive Director Razor, Jon Stratton and Jessica Faust assisted in the execution of the Superintendent Retreat. This time together is so important to continue our united voice work and build fellowship. **The theme of the 2019 retreat: #Bamboostrong**

State Cooperative Directors Meeting, June 17: Executive Director Razor attended the monthly Skype meeting to stay on top of current events regarding education in the state.

Secretary Derrick Ramsey Meeting regarding K-TECH, June 18: Executive Director Razor & several NKY Superintendents attended the meeting to learn more about Secretary Ramsey's vision for K-TECH and how it can be instrumental in helping NKY Students navigate potential career paths while still in highschool.

Essential Workplace Skills Committee Meeting, June 19: Executive Director Razor held a check in meeting with the Essential Workplace Skills Committee. The purpose of the

meeting was to put final touches on the information that will highlight the work districts in NKY are doing to prepare students. This information was shared with the WIB by representatives of the committee, Martha Setters and Bill Bradford.

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Polly Page Retirement Celebration, June 19: NKYEC Board Members and friends of Ms. Polly Page attended a retirement celebration to show appreciation for her dedication to NKY and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Tim Hanner Retirement Celebration, June 20: Executive Director Razor and a few NKCES Board members attended a retirement celebration for Tim Hanner, founder of Navigo and retired superintendent, to show appreciation to his dedicated service to NKY.

NCERT, July 10-12: Executive Director Razor and Ms. Stephanie Turner, Principal attended the Summer NCERT conference in Del Mar, California. The conference focus was on student mental health and school safety, both of which are very important and relevant topics for our region. Executive Director Razor and Ms. Turner brought back an incredible amount of information and strategies, as well as, several new contacts of experts in the field.

KASA Conference, July 16-19: Executive Director Razor attended the state conference to stay current on best practices. She also took time to meet with other state cooperative directors to touch base on current work and network with colleagues state-wide.

K-TECH Meeting, July 24: The committee's goal was to listen to the parameters of the funds and then design a program that will best meet the needs of students in the region. We will give updates to the board as the work progresses. Committee: Joe Buerkley, Kathy Burkhardt, Robb Smith, Francis O'Hara, Karin Cheser, David Rust, Amy Razor

Special Education Update:

The Regional Director of Special Education, Becky Nixon, has started. She is very excited to be at NKCES. She is looking forward to her first meeting with the DoSE Advisory Board Meeting on August 19th.

Becky attended the 2019 Special Education Legislative Summit in Washington, DC. She, along with other KYCEC and KYCASE members, met with Senator McConnell and Senator Rand Paul office, along with Representatives, John Yarmuth, Brett Guthrie, Thomas Massie, Hal Rogers, James Comer, and Andy Barr's

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office to discuss issues currently challenging the field of special education and early childhood education. She advocated for full funding for special education, keeping public funds for public education, address the shortage of special education teachers and early intervention providers, build positive climate for learning by investing in mental health and investing in IDEA early childhood programs.

Special Education New Staff: We are pleased to welcome two Professional Learning Coaches to our team. Their names are Merissa Waddey and Misti Carr. We are excited to begin the 2019-2020 school year with a full staff.

State Consultant Work: This work for the 2019-2020 school year will kick off on August 27th in Louisville. NKCES consultants will collaborative work in the areas of literacy, mathematics, behavior and low incidence.

KDE 2019-2020 IDEA Proposal: The proposal was approved for the 2019-2020 school year. In addition, each co-op received additional funding for the 2018-2019 school year. This additional funding has to be encumbered by September 30th.

OVR Program Summer Update:

June 3 – June 7, Agri-Career Summer Camp

Seven students from Campbell County, Boone County, Scott, Conner, and Walton Verona high schools participated in this week-long, work based learning experience at Intrepid Farm in Walton, KY. Students were responsible for daily horse and stable care. Other hands-on activities included construction of a fire pit, transplanting trees, fence repair, and harvesting.

June 18 – 21, Transformation Nation Summer Camp

Fourteen students from Dixie, Lloyd, Scott, Simon Kenton, Boone County, and Conner high schools participated this year in four days of fun, hands-on activities that emphasized empowerment, self-discovery, and teamwork. Rounding out the week's activities, students took on team and individual challenges practicing principles of good sportsmanship--winning with honor, losing with grace, showing respect to teammates, and congratulating the opponents.

Professional Learning (PL) Update

June and July Professional Learning: NKCES supported a total of 31 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate and special education during the month of June and July serving 530 educators.

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PL Consortium: The PL Consortium meets monthly on the third Friday of each month. We will kick off the school year with our first meeting on August 16 from 10:00 to noon.

2019 NKY Instructional Assistants Summer Conference: Across four days this summer, paraprofessionals from fourteen northern Kentucky districts gathered at NKCES to grow in their confidence and ability to support students. Topics covered included trauma-informed practices, student engagement, strategies to strengthen executive functioning challenges, thinking strategies, and behavior supports.

The #NoLimitsEDU podcast launch: On June 3rd, we launched the #NoLimitsEDU podcast. The goal of this podcast is to tap into the expertise and strengths of the educators in our region to cover a variety of topics for professional learning. The podcast is a way to reach more educators in Northern Kentucky in a way that does not depend on finances, time constraints, or geography. The podcast has its own website at <http://NoLimitsEDU.buzzsprout.com>. Thus far, it has reached well over 100 educators in NKY and beyond.

The Foundations for Learning to Read: On July 17th, twenty educators from 7 districts came together to learn strategies focused on the structure of language that will support primary students learning to read and older students with gaps in their reading abilities. In this day-long training, educators dove deep to answer the question, *What are phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, and phonics?* They also learned and practiced hands-on strategies to support each. Every participant left with resources to help them implement the strategies in their classroom this school year.

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs): Our PLC's will begin once again in September and will include: School Counselors, Instructional Coaches, Physical Education, Autism Spectrum Disorder/Low Incidence, Homeless Coordinators, Arts and Humanities, English Learners, Special Education and Media Specialists. PLCs provide opportunities for educators to grow professionally in a collaborative environment focused on collective learning.

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

Kroger Community project came to RSP June 4th and donated an incredible amount of time, completing several projects throughout our building for improvement. These include things like new gym mats hung, a mural in the gym, new flooring in the front office, painting all classrooms, organizing our donations and food pantry, cleaning out our memorial garden, redoing our staff lounge, and putting together a sensory room.

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Several RSP staff attended the Behavior Institute, and the administrative team, along with Officer Lucas, presented during the conference. Some staff also attended the Persistence to Graduation Summit.

RSP is hosting a Back to School Open House on August 6th.

RSP's first day back for students is August 8th, 2019.

English Learners (EL) Program Update:

We are currently in the interview process for a new EL Consultant as Elizabeth Winkler recently resigned. The position is posted and we are accepting applications.

Daniele attended the Title III Coordinators Training on Friday, July 26. She will be scheduling a meeting with the Title III Directors to review the information with them and to plan student services and professional development opportunities for the 2019-20 school year.

NKY Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):

One hundred educators from 17 schools and 9 school districts across our region came together for our Arts Integration Workshop July 22 - 25. Focused on integrating the arts with math, teachers collaborated to design instruction that helps students grapple with and express understanding of math concepts through the arts.

Additionally, ELA teachers from last year's program interested in continuing their professional learning attended 6 hours of the workshop.

Participants will continue their collaboration at a September training / work session, and complete 10 additional hours of professional learning. With support from NKIAE Manager Joe Bertucci, teachers will implement their new integrated units during the 2019-20 school year.

Grant Consortium Update:

Grant Status

CS 4 ALL – pending for Erlanger and Dayton with NKU, October 1

Strategic Prevention Framework – pending for Covington, Erlanger, and Williamstown separately, October 1

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Education Innovation and Research – pending for Newport, Bellevue, Dayton, Williamstown, Pendleton County, Bracken County together, October 1

Full Service Community Schools – pending for Erlanger Elsmere (3 grants proposed)

NKY ASAP – pending for Regional School Programs Project Yoga

PNC Charitable Trust – awarded to Regional School Programs Project Yoga. \$5,000

Interact for Health: School Based Health Centers – Bracken County awarded, \$35,000 with potential for more after this planning grant

Youth Engagement in Sports: pending, Erlanger-Elsmere, October 1

Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented: pending, all GC districts, October 1

Project Prevent: pending, Erlanger-Elsmere and Covington (together), October 1

Next meeting August 7, 8:30 am, NKCES first floor meeting room