

## NKCES Report – November/December 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.

Beechwood  
Independent

Bellevue  
Independent

Boone County

Bracken County

Campbell County

Covington  
Independent

Dayton  
Independent

Erlanger-Elsmere  
Independent

Fort Thomas  
Independent

Kenton County

Ludlow  
Independent

Newport  
Independent

Northern Kentucky  
University

Pendleton County

Southgate  
Independent

Walton-Verona  
Independent

Williamstown  
Independent

**ASCD, November 7-10:** Executive Director Amy Razor attended ASCD Conference.

The conference was centered around Resilient Schools in Action. Ms. Razor connected with educators from across the United States to learn about cultivating a healthy culture, raising student performance and instilling the mindset of equity and respect.

**CLAG, November 12:** Executive Director Razor attended the meeting to keep up to date on economic growth in Northern Kentucky as well as business development in our area. Adam Caswell also presented on the legislative priorities of NKU.

**StrivePartnership Community Leadership Table Kick-off Meeting, November 12:** Executive Director Razor was invited to join StrivePartnership Community Leadership table in an effort to re-engage with the Greater Cincinnati community to close racial disparities and improve racial equity in our communities through education.

**State Taskforce Curriculum Development, November 13-14 :** Executive Director Razor attended a follow up Task Force meeting to continue discussions regarding state curriculum. This opportunity has been a wonderful experience and a great learning experience as this is an area Ms. Razor is extremely passionate about as it impacts student learning. Ms. Razor shared highlights & resources with superintendents.

**NKU College of Education, Semi Selection Meeting, November 15:** Executive Director Razor is part of the search committee for the new Dean. During the most recent meeting, the committee was able to agree upon 8-10 candidates that will be interviewed one final time before a final selection of four candidates is determined. Mrs. Razor continues to stress the importance of regional impact for the dean's role and the talent and experience of all the candidates made for some very challenging decisions.

**Children Inc. Board Meeting, November 19:** Executive Director Razor attended the Board Meeting to stay abreast of the work being done by the organization to provide access to the children of Northern Kentucky.

**Online Platform Luncheon, November 20:** Executive Director Razor and Dr. Karen Cheser partnered to bring several online college and career platforms to the Northern Kentucky Educators as a way to determine which platform would be best suited to use as part of the K-Tech State initiative. Overall the presentations of the platforms was well received and there was great discussion. Those who were present are filtering feedback through Ms. Razor and Dr. Cheser; this feedback will be shared out once all is collected and sorted.

**Bellevue High School Ribbon Cutting, November 22:** Executive Director Razor supported the district by attending the Ribbon Cutting ceremony to officially recognize the remodel of the high schools entryway. Bellevue district personnel, students, and community members were there to celebrate.

**State Cooperative Directors Monthly Skype Meeting, November 25:** Deputy Commissioner Amanda Ellis held the monthly statewide call to share current events and state initiatives and to hear from each of the cooperative directors regarding their specific regions. Ms. Razor was asked to share highlights from the curriculum task force panel.

**Children Inc, November 25:** Executive Director Razor scheduled a conference call with Rick and Shannon from Children Inc. to discuss the outcome at the last board meeting and to explain the concerns with the lack of data shared.

**NKCES Team Meeting, December 2:** The NKCES Team met to review upcoming items/trainings and also spent time preparing materials for the RSP Holiday store. This is always a time of team building for everyone.

**AESA Conference, December 3-7:** Superintendents and Executive Director Razor attended the AESA 2019 Conference as NKY Team. This time provides networking, a focus on other education service agencies and a protected time for our superintendents to strengthen their relationships.

**KASS Conference, December 8-10:** Executive Director Razor attended with other colleagues from around the state. NKCES also partnered with Houchens to provide dinner for the superintendents in NKY.

**NKCES Team Meeting, December 11:** The NKCES Board requested a round table and PLC meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup> in place of the regularly scheduled board meeting. This provided a time of communication on legislative agenda items and an update on the charter school application.

**NKYEC, December 12:** Executive Director Razor attended the NKYEC Board meeting as the NKCES representative. The meeting was held at Ignite and included a tour for anyone who had not already visited the school.

**Children Inc, December 16:** The Executive Board and Executive Director Razor met with Children Inc. (Shannon and Dave) to review the concerns that were articulated at our recent meeting. A plan was made for forward movement.

**NKCES Team Time, December 19:** The NKCES Team met for the end of 2019 team meeting and team building time. This always provides positive networking and relationship building for our team. Due to the nature of the cooperative, protected time like this is critical for breaking down silos and effective communication.

### **Special Education Update:**

The regional IEP task group met in November. They have developed exemplar IEP goals in the area of reading, writing, math, and behavior. Along with IEP goals are samples of Specially Designed Instruction and Supplementary Aids and Services. All the sample goals were shared with the Northern KY Directors in November. Karen Michalak-Parsley, Director of Unified Champions Schools from Special Olympics, was in attendance at the November DoSE meeting. She shared information and resources with the special education directors on how to be a Unified School and how to increase inclusive practices in our districts. Mrs. Sommer Rosa, Director from Ft. Thomas, shared how the Unified Bocce Program came to fruition at Woodfill Elementary. Regional trainings included SNAP, Trauma Informed Care, and Orton Gillingham.

The IDEA team attended the KY CEC Special Education Conference at the Galt House on November 24-26th. Merissa Waddey, NKCES Special Education Coach, is President of KY CEC. She did an excellent job leading the conference, which had more than 900 attendees from around the state. Laura Clarke and Merissa Waddey worked collaboratively with a state team to train 75 emergency certified and new special education teachers on Sunday of the conference. Laura Hellmann, DoSE from Erlanger-Elsmere, who retired on June 30th, was recognized as Administrator of the Year. Lots of great information was shared at the conference from the state. We will be sharing this info at upcoming meetings/trainings.

In December, Misti Carr and Becky Nixon completed multiple Indicator 13 (Transition) trainings in schools. Also, in December, NKCES was awarded a grant of 17 site licenses for The Social Express, a license for a pilot school in each NKCES district and for the Regional Schools Program. The site license includes unlimited use of The Social Express for teachers, students, and administrators at each pilot school site for 12 months. The Social Express is an online platform focused on Social-Emotional Learning and Career Explorations. It includes animated interactive lessons that allow students to practice real-life social and career skills in a safe environment.

### **OVR Update**

**In-school Pre-ETS workshops** - During November, six high schools participated in Self-Advocacy and Workplace Readiness workshops. Topics included: When and How to Say No, Owning Your Mistakes, and Understanding Learning Differences.

**Transition Specialist PLN** – On November 19, six Transition Specialists participated in our first meeting, connecting with colleagues and sharing resources. Our next meeting will take place on March 24, 2020.

### **Professional Learning (PL) Update**

**November Professional Learning:** NKCES supported a total of 87 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, and special education during the month of November, serving 713 educators.

**December Professional Learning:** NKCES supported a total of 79 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, and special education during the month of December, serving 462 educators.

**PL Consortium:** The PL Consortium meets monthly on the third Friday of each month. The Consortium met on November 15 and discussion topics included the K-Tech grant, Regional Online Platform and Google training opportunities. Lynne Keen, from KASC, shared a variety of training opportunities, and Jerome Gels led an in-depth discussion on the many opportunities at Ignite.

**SNAP- Building Support Tools for Classroom:** “What a fabulous morning! ... It did indeed feel like Christmas!!!” Math teachers from across the region who were previously trained in administering the SNAP tool came together to create activities to use with their students based on their data. For 3 hours teachers shared ideas and strategies while creating specific resources to move students forward.

**New Teacher Academy:** The November New Teacher Academy brought nearly 40 teachers together to dig deeper into topics such as: Behavior: Why and Now What?; Trauma Informed Social Emotional Learning; and I have the data...now what? The feedback again was very positive as new teachers add additional resources to their toolbox. The rotating station format after a long day of teaching provides an engaging learning environment for all.

**Online Platform: Regional Collaboration:** Thirty-five leaders gathered on November 20 @FTLaunch to seek input on an optimal online platform with the goal to increase the number of Work Based Learning (WBL) opportunities available to students. The session included demonstrations from a variety of potential online tools. Input was sought to help determine which would be best for our region, would meet students’ needs, and would incorporate all of the elements in the KY WBL manual.

**The Foundations for Learning to Read:** The objective of *The Foundations for Learning to Read* workshop is to equip educators with a deep knowledge of phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, and phonics while also allowing time and resources to practice activities that will help build these skills in students. This workshop was offered for the third time on December 4 at capacity.

**#JoyfulLeaders Book Study: Kindness and Wonder:** NKCES Literacy Consultant, Amelia Brown, has partnered with Bethany Hill (founder of the #JoyfulLeaders hashtag) and Sean Gaillard (author of *The Pepper Effect*) to launch a national book study on the book [Kindness and Wonder: Why Mister Rogers Matters More Now Than Ever Before](#) by Gavin Edwards. The timeliness of this book study surrounds World Kindness Day, the release of the new movie *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, based on the real-life friendship between journalist Tom Junod and television star Fred Rogers, and the upcoming holiday season. The book study launched on Nov. 24th with over 150 participants from around the United States and Canada, including the author. Approximately 20% of those participating are from Kentucky schools. The book study will focus on Part II of the book and how we can be more like Mister Rogers right now in our schoolhouses.

**Explicit Instruction:** On December 4, participants from across the region attended the Explicit Instruction six-hour professional learning session where they worked together to build additional structures and routines when teaching facts, skills/strategies, and vocabulary into daily practices. The participants also worked to design, select, and adapt deliberate practice activities that are consciously devoted to the improvement of a skill. It was a great opportunity for general education and special education teachers to share strengths and struggles but more importantly to set goals to incorporate what they learned into their daily practices. Participants' Reflections: I intend to: change my vocabulary instruction; correctly use the I do, We do, You do strategy but also to use more WE do's (most important part); interrupt the forgetting process using retrieval practice; use practices activities that match the skills.

**#NoLimitsEDU Podcast Episode 6:** The sixth episode of the #NoLimitsEDU podcast is the first one to have a Northern Kentucky principal on as a guest. NKCES podcast host Amelia Brown interviewed the principal of Woodfill Elementary School, Mr. Keith Faust. Mr. Faust shared details of the unified sport, bocce, that he initiated at his school this year. Listen to this interview and be inspired at <https://bit.ly/NoLimitsEDU6>.

**Professional Learning Networks (PLNs):** Our PLNs in November and December included: Physical Education, NKAGE, Visual and Performing Arts, Media Specialists, and Special Education. PLNs provide opportunities for educators to grow professionally in a collaborative environment focused on collective learning.

### **Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:**

We hosted our annual Thanksgiving lunch on 11/21/19. We had an incredible turnout! Thank you, Ms. Betsy, for the wonderful meal prepared for our students and their families. Hickory Grove Church donated and delivered Thanksgiving meals for our students (providing ham, pumpkin pie, and all sides, etc).

The staff at Mix 94.9, specifically the Morning Show with Holly and Shannon, once again led an incredible community food drive "Pack the Pantry" for our holiday baskets that we deliver to families before the winter break. This year they facilitated this through an Amazon wish list, and what a blessing our program has received from the listeners and other community members!

NKCES is once again going to provide a holiday shop for RSP students on December 6th. This event is one of our most heart-felt events of the year, and we are so thankful for the NKCES team!

Our next RAP (Regional Alternative Program) meeting is scheduled on December 11th from 4:00-5:30pm, and it will be hosted at Bartlett; please share out with any staff in an alternative program!

Students were blessed to receive gifts from Kroger this holiday season, and Darling donated to the school to buy personal items for each student. Counselors personally delivered food baskets and gifts to families the last week of school.

Students return to RSP on Tuesday, January 7th, 2020.

### **English Learners (EL) Program Update:**

The EL Consultants provided direct services to the EL students in their districts until the second week of December. They are scheduled to assess approximately 120 students in 17 schools in 7 districts from the second week of January through the first week of February. Direct services will resume after ACCESS tests have been shipped.

### **NKY Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):**

Joe Bertucci and Vicki Dansberry, along with project evaluator Dr. Joan Ferrante (NKU), submitted the Annual Performance Report to the U.S. Department of Education on November 7.

Mr. Bertucci observed collaborative, arts-integrated units at Boone County High School, Southern Elementary, Arnett Elementary, Newport High School, Collins Elementary, Grandview Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Williamstown Elementary, and Lindeman Elementary.

Mr. Bertucci also attended unit-planning meetings at Newport High School, Ockerman Elementary, RSP, Collins Elementary, Tichenor Middle School, Grandview Elementary, Lindeman Elementary, Howell Elementary, and Boone County High School.

NKIAE organized two professional learning experiences in November at local arts organizations. 35 Teachers attended a performance and talk-back session at The Carnegie on November 10, and 26 Teachers attended the Cincinnati Art Museum's Evening for Educators on November 21.

Mr. Bertucci led two virtual Visual/Performing Arts PLN meetings on November 19. Information about the 2020-2021 Program - Integrating the Arts with Science - will be available in mid-January.

### **Grant Consortium Update:**

#### **Grant Status**

Strategic Prevention Framework: In implementation (Erlanger-Elsmere)

NKY ASAP – Pending for Regional School Programs Project Yoga, finalist, sent to state for review

Project Prevent – In implementation with numerous community partners (Erlanger-Elsmere and Covington)

Striving Readers Supplement: Due January 10 for schools with Striving Readers grants

ArtsWave: \$5,000 grant received to be processed through NKIAE to supplement school needs for arts integration projects

KYOSA: Application for regional PLN for after-school providers was submitted but not funded. Covington's application was funded.

Innovative Approaches to Literacy: In implementation; reports were submitted. (Bellevue and Erlanger-Elsmere with 5 additional districts)

District/schools grants submitted include: David Herriman Fund at Greater Cincinnati Foundation; ArtsWave/Arthur Daniels Midland fund; Andrew Lloyd Webber Classroom Resources; 21st CCLC; and KDE Academic Standards (KAS) Implementation Professional Learning Mini grant

**Next meeting:** January 15, 8:30 am, NKCES first floor meeting room