

hours of time at the very end of 2015 on developing a new system of middle school standards to better meet the diverse schedule of middle school classrooms. This team includes Jan Smaus, Beatrice Public Schools; Anne Schmall, Scottsbluff Public Schools; Angie Ehlers, Overton Public Schools; Janine Krohn, Norfolk Public Schools; and Mary Lou Vossler, Exeter-Milligan Public Schools. These standards will be accessible for input starting in February.

In addition, work has begun on high school standards. On December 7, leaders of business and industry and post-secondary institutions met with secondary educators to discuss the knowledge and skills needed for students to be prepared for the next level. We had groups representing Family and Consumer Sciences,

Information Technology, and Education and Training.

On December 8, a group of secondary teachers met to determine how those knowledge and skills could be organized into larger Programs of Study. Family and Consumer Sciences was represented by Krystal Kolb, Omaha Public Schools; Tracy Way, Lincoln Public Schools; Kristin Vest, Kearney Public Schools; Mallory Gregory, Waverly Public Schools; and Kandi Rohrs, Auburn Public Schools. These individuals put in a lot of work and I'm so pleased with the work that came out of the business and industry input. Thank you to this outstanding team. The business and industry representatives commented on how refreshing it was to work with professionals who could express their opinions, disagree, and still get along

and work toward the best interest of students in Nebraska.

This work on high school standards will continue June 14-16, 2016 in Lincoln. I will put a call out in the beginning of the new year for teachers interested in this paid standard writing opportunity.



I think you can agree that it will be a busy and productive 2016. I'm excited to see the gains that we will achieve together!

FCCLA Updates

Nebraska FCCLA has so many things going on that it's hard to highlight just a few but here are the big ones!

The Peer Education Conference will take place on February 28-29 in Kearney, Nebraska. This is a great opportunity to learn what peer education is all about as well as equip your students with the skills necessary to teach others through peer education.

The State Leadership Conference on April 3-5 is guaranteed to be great! The State Officers have been hard at work planning and we have an outstanding keynote speaker, Alex Sheen from because I said I would, who will be addressing the students, advisers, and guests at Opening Session.

The award season is upon us so be sure your students are aware of the great scholarship and recognition opportunities at the State and National levels.

Making it Stick

Purpose

This webinar series will help teachers integrate reading and writing skills across all disciplines. Each tool was selected to help students on their NeSA-R and NeSA-W and also to provide a teaching strategy for a classroom teacher

Close Reading

September 14, 2015

Engage students in the practice of careful analysis to find the deeper meaning of a text.

RAFT

October 5, 2015

Task students with writing that reflects real-world experiences and contexts rather than simply writing for the teacher.

All webinars can be accessed on the release date listed using the web address below:

<http://bit.ly/NDEStandardsTool>

Text Coding/Think-Alouds, Self-Check Paragraph Writing, and Peer Editing will all be released this month!

Listserv

See what you're missing

Listervs provide an excellent opportunity to network with professionals from around the state, get the latest updates, and share great resources. The following are two listservs you might want to be a part of.

FACS

This listerv is dedicated to Family and Consumer Sciences content for the classroom and beyond. This where you would share resources, ask for new ideas, and gain support of a variety of things related to FACS.

FCCLA

This is your one-stop shop for updates and resources related to FCCLA including curriculum integration and updates.

To join either of these listervs simply email [Allison Kreifels](#) or [Whitney Antons](#). You will receive a confirmation email once you are signed up that will give information on how to send items through the listserv.

NCE Conference Preview

June 6-9, 2016 in Kearney, Nebraska

While the dream of summer may be too far off to feel on a 20 degree day, the NCE Conference is already well into planning mode. I am excited about the sessions planned this year.

Our preconference on Monday, June 6 will include an FCCLA Adviser session for new and experienced advisers. On Tuesday, June 7 we will have Wayne State College teacher educator Carol Erwin present on technology resources for the FACS classroom as well as other activities.

The conference schedule will look slightly different this year as well with mini-sessions. These mini-sessions will be shorter in length, cross-curricular and will include a variety of topics such as copyright, technology, and social media.

We will of course continue with our traditional sessions as well. Whether it's learning about the Buffet Early Childhood Institutes work to get more early childhood educators, updates from the field of interior design, the making of an in-school daycare, food and nutrition resources, FACS grants, or the always popular Food Trends 2016, there will be so many choices for whatever you teach.

And finally, don't forget the recognition and networking opportunities. Whether it's an NCE Award or celebrating the outstanding Teachers of the Year at the Awards Banquet on Wednesday Night these are events you won't want to miss. FCSTN will also be hosting it's very popular event the FACS Social on Tuesday night. Join your friends and colleagues for a night to relax and share updates and news!

NCE Conference is a definite don't miss. It is one of the great opportunities to connect you to the people and resources you need to be your best. Family and Consumer Sciences is consistently well represented at this conference and I take the responsibility of arranging outstanding sessions very seriously. I'm so excited about what this year's conference will bring and hope you will join us.

Registration will open in March so for now, block the dates and watch for more updates throughout the spring.

Calling all Mentors!

You can help a new Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers succeed.

Thanks to a partnership with Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers of Nebraska (FCSTN), I am excited to share that beginning in the fall of 2016 we will have a formal mentoring program available for our new FACS teachers. This two year program will be open to all new and new to the field teachers and will provide support and knowledge from an experienced teacher.

This program which was developed in November 2015 by a team of 9 FCSTN members will be ready for roll-out in the coming months. In the meantime, start thinking about serving as a mentor in 2016. This would be an excellent opportunity to not only give back but also gain valuable knowledge and skills from someone with recent academic experience.

Watch the listserv and the FACS Beginning Teacher Program this spring for more updates.

On the Calendar...

Dates for 2016 Fall Workshops are already set!

Fall Workshops are an outstanding opportunity to connect and learn in the fall. This year's dates and locations are set with more details to come.

- October 4-Scottsbluff
- October 5-North Platte
- October 6-Grand Island
- October 11-Norfolk
- October 18-Omaha
- October 20-Lincoln