



Updated - NDE PROGRAM - July 29, 2015

Younes Conference Center, Kearney, Nebraska



(DRAFT Eff. 7/21/15)

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	Pre-Conference Area
8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	OPENING SESSION	Diamonds 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 & 10
	Welcome - Rachel Wise, State Board of Education President, District #3	
	Keynote - AQUESTT: You Are Part of Something...Broader, Bolder, Better. Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner of Education	
9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Break	
9:45 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.	CONCURRENT SESSION I	
	Nebraska Career Education: Growing Jobs, Industries, and Talent	Diamond 1
	Presented by: Cory Epler and Rich Katt, NDE	
	Nebraska Career Education (NCE) bridges the gap between schools and employers in order to educate, train, and recruit a qualified workforce that meets Nebraska economic needs. This session will highlight the work of the NCE, share strategies designed to strengthen Nebraska's talent pipeline, and showcase opportunities available for industry professionals to engage with tomorrow's workforce.	
	School Finance Update	Diamond 2
	Presented by: Bryce Wilson, Shane Rhian, and Jen Utemark, NDE	
	This session will provide an update on school finance, grants and other federal requirements, and state aid.	
	Action "CAN" Change Bullying	Diamond 3
	Presented by: Jolene Palmer, NDE	
	Nearly one in three students report being bullied at school. How can schools respond? What protocols can schools employ to help students? How can the upstander population be increased? What curriculum elements can be effective when teaching students about bullying and cyberbullying? How can schools avoid victims and/or bullies? Can anything help? This session will provide ideas how to turn the cans into action.	

	Transition to College and Career Ready NeSA	Diamonds 4, 5, 9 & 10
	Presented by: Valorie Foy and Jeremy Heneger, NDE	
	In September 2015, the State Board of Education adopted College and Career Ready English Language Arts Standards. Revision to the NeSA-Reading and Writing tests will reflect these changes. Information will include the transition schedule, a preview of new item types, overview of the professional development being provided by NDE throughout the upcoming year, and capabilities being provided in Check4Learning.	
	How Can Family Engagement Enhance Student Success?	Diamond 6
	Presented by: Diane Stuehmer, Karen Stevens, Brad Conner, and Pat Frost, NDE; and Lisa St. Clair, Assistant Professor, Munroe Meyer Institute/University of Nebraska Medical Center	
	We all conduct Parent Teacher Conferences and invite the community to attend student performances, but is that really engaging parents and the community? Have you ever wondered what other schools are doing to truly involve and engage more than just students and teachers in the education process? Attend this session to get some ideas that might just boost student success in your school.	
	Closing the Opportunity Gap	Diamond 7
	Presented by: Joan Luebbers, NDE and Amy Bornemeier, Associate Vice President of Early Childhood Programs, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation	
	Sixpence & Early Head Start in partnership with childcare are working to close the gap for young children and their families by providing educational and comprehensive services within local communities. By supporting young children and families communities benefit with healthier families, stronger schools, higher graduation rates and a prepared workforce to compete in the future. Learn how you can participate.	
	Replacing Nebraska Student and Staff Record System (NSSRS)	Diamond 8
	Presented by: Dean Folkers and Matt Hastings, NDE	
	This presentation will present vital information regarding NDE's plans to deprecate and replace the Nebraska Student and Staff Record System (NSSRS). We will highlight the architecture of Nebraska's new data system and unveil the Nebraska Educational Data Standard (NEDS). Additional information about the timelines and just how they will affect your district will be addressed.	

	Changing the Culture of Concussions	Ruby 6
	Presented by: Rose Dymacek, NDE; Ron Higdon, Assistant Director, Nebraska School Activities Association; Angie Kovarik, School Psychologist and Jamie Christensen, School Psychologist, ESU 11; Daren Hatch, Superintendent, Elwood Public Schools; and Renee Hosek, Speech-Language Pathologist, Lincoln North Star High School	
	As of July 2014, the Nebraska Concussion Awareness Act requires school districts to establish a Return to Learn protocol for students who have sustained a concussion. Learn the importance of a Return to Learn protocol and how two districts have implemented a gradual Return to Learn through partnerships and accommodations in the classroom.	
	Make Professional Development Count: Focus on Math and Science	Ruby 7
	Presented by: Jan Handa, NDE; Helen Banzhaf, NMPDS Project Director, ESUCC; and Deb Paulman, KICKS3 Project Director, ESU 16	
	This session will be presented by project directors from the statewide mathematics and science professional development grants. Come explore how the Nebraska State standards translate into classroom content and practice.	
10:35 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Break	
10:45 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.	CONCURRENT SESSION II	
	AQuESTT, AdvancED, and ASSIST-Together, Broader, Bolder, Better	Diamond 1
	Presented by: Don Loseke, Teresa Coonts, and Rose Dymacek, NDE	
	The AdvancED Standards for Quality Schools and ASSIST provide support for the AQuESTT Tenets and Domains. The session will demonstrate how the standards, indicators, and ASSIST modules strengthen AQuESTT by a discussion covering a crosswalk of the indicators and Tenets. In addition, the Special Education requirement for Results Driven Accountability (RDA) will be shared and aligned with continuous improvement and the AQuESTT Tenets.	
	2015 State and Federal Legislation	Diamond 2
	Presented by: Brian Halstead, NDE	
	Presenter will provide information about 2015 State Legislation and Federal Legislation.	

<i>(Repeats in Session IV)</i>	Effective Evaluations to Improve Teaching and Learning	Diamond 3
	Presented by: Donlynn Rice, NDE; Toby Boss, Director of Professional Development, ESU6; and Suzanne Whisler, Director of Professional Development, ESU 4	
	What are the keys to improving student achievement through effective evaluations? This session will highlight the teacher and principal evaluation models built from the Nebraska Teacher and Principal Performance Framework. Learn how you can get started using these models in your district. What do you need to do first and what training opportunities will be available to assist you with this process?	
<i>(Repeats in Session III)</i>	AQuESTT: A Broader, Bolder, Better Approach to Accountability	Diamonds 4, 5, 9 & 10
	Presented by: Sue Anderson, Valorie Foy, Matt Hastings, and Aprille Phillips, NDE	
	The implementation of AQuESTT, Nebraska's new accountability system, includes the classification of school and district performance, the designation of priority schools, and intervention processes for priority schools. Details and timelines will provide school, district, and Educational Service Unit staff with insights to understand how AQuESTT goes beyond meeting minimum accountability requirements through the use of data to support continuous school improvement.	
	Is Community Eligibility Provision Right for Your District?	Diamond 6
	Presented by: Sharon Davis, Diane Stuehmer, SuAnn Witt, and Bryce Wilson, NDE	
	Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows eligible high poverty school districts the option to provide free breakfast and lunch to students without collecting meal applications. Learn the basics of CEP and participate in a panel discussion on the implementation of CEP and its impact on the school environment and processes.	

	Data Literacy and Perceptual Data for Continuous School Improvement	Diamond 7
	Presented by: Russ Masco, NDE; Melissa Engel, Staff Developer, ESU 16; Marilou Jasnoch, Staff Developer, ESU 3; and Annette Weise, Staff Developer, ESU 5	
	Nebraska schools are embracing the imperative use of perceptual/survey data for school improvement more than ever. This session will highlight opportunities and tools available to districts in the use of survey data. The purpose of the presentation will touch on topics relevant to increasing response rate and doing simple analyses of data. There will be discussion around reading the results and reports. A joint initiative between ESUs, NDE and districts is developing the means to build and support a data literate culture in schools across the state. Educators have common analysis techniques that invite all to participate in meaningful conversations about their data, and how they might respond with effective planning for continuous improvement. This session is repeated from the AQuESTT conference in May.	
	Weaving it All Together: Contextual Teaching and Learning	Diamond 8
	Presented by: Cory Epler and Tricia Parker, NDE	
	Join us to learn about the use of language arts strategies within multiple subject areas. Contextual teaching and learning provides the opportunity for teachers to use research-based ELA strategies to help students to apply literacy skills in authentic settings, enhancing students' learning of both the targeted content area as well as enhancing their communication skills.	
	Fine Arts Vision Process (Become Broader, Bolder, Better in Four Steps)	Ruby 7
	Presented by: Debra Wehrmann DeFrain, NDE; Caroline Winchester, Superintendent; Jerry Mack, Principal; Nick Dressel, Principal, Chadron Public Schools	
	A Fine Arts Vision for your school/community is key to providing students with comprehensive instructional opportunities while infusing school/community engagement. Be poised for immediate and long-term change to benefit all district stakeholders. Chadron Public Schools is a shining example of how school/community/NDE teamwork produced meaningful change – EVERYBODY WINS! Bingo cards will be provided.	
11:35 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (On Your Own)	

1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSION III	
	Don't Stop Believin! Healthy Kids = Healthy Students	Diamond 1
	Presented by: Julane Hill, NDE and Travis Miller, Superintendent, Bayard Public Schools	
	Follow the journey of Bayard Public Schools as they successfully incorporated innovative strategies to improve student behavior & concentration, increase attendance & student engagement, leading to increased test scores. This session will also address the connection between AQuESTT and Coordinated School Health and participants will leave with strategies they can easily replicate in their own schools/districts.	
	Educational Opportunities and Access with Federal Programs Dollars	Diamond 2
	Presented by: Diane Stuehmer, Randy McIntyre, Jan Handa, Karen Stevens, Lindsay Ickes, Sue Henry, Brad Conner, Pat Frost, NDE	
	Can Federal Programs money support AQuESTT? Can AQuESTT support Federal Programs? Attend this session to find out how Title I-A, Title I-C (Migrant), Title II-A, Title III, and 21st Century Community Learning Center funds support Educational Opportunities and Access.	
	Elevating Expectations: The Implementation of More Rigorous and Relevant ELA Standards	Diamond 3
	Presented by: Tricia Parker, NDE	
	This session will provide an overview of the updates to the Nebraska ELA standards and the pieces that may need special emphasis as the focus moves from adoption to implementation. There will also be information about the alignment to national standards, the interweaving of the Career Ready Practices into the standards, and updates on the upcoming changes to NeSA.	
<i>(Repeats from Session II)</i>	AQuESTT: A Broader, Bolder, Better Approach to Accountability	Diamonds 4, 5, 9 & 10
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	Step Up to Quality - Early Childhood Quality Rating & Improvement System	Diamond 6
	Presented by: Eleanor Shirley, Ann Adams, Lauri Cimino, Jessica La Chere, and Diane Lewis, NDE	
	This session will highlight Nebraska Step Up to Quality, an early care and education quality rating improvement system, and alignment with the six tenets of AQuESTT as well as the potential collective impact and benefits for participating public schools.	
	Rule 10: Update & Conversation	Diamond 7
	Presented by: Freida Lange and Dennis McGuire, NDE	
	All public school districts in Nebraska are required by law to be accredited. This session is designed for those in administrative positions who want a quick refresher of Rule 10 regulations that govern a school's accreditation status as well as information regarding the revisions the State Board of Education has approved. You will also have an opportunity to share ideas regarding potential Rule 10 issues.	
	Meeting Employer Demands	Diamond 8
	Presented by: Cory Epler and Rich Katt, NDE	
	Career Education continues to change to meet the demands of employers in Nebraska's growing economy. This session will focus on the latest information concerning career education including work-based learning, literacy strategies, and career readiness.	
	Positive Behavioral interventions and Supports (PBIS) - Building Positive Relationships for Student Success	Ruby 6
	Presented by: Mary Ann Losh and Amy Rhone, NDE	
	Student engagement through positive relationships is fundamental to student success. The NE Network of Positive Behavioral interventions and Supports (PBIS) provides schools with training and support to implement a safe, positive, learning environment. Information about NE PBIS, the training system and school participation will be provided. Bancroft-Rosalie Community School will share their experiences.	
	Cooking Your District High Ability Learning (HAL) Program: Bon Appétit!	Ruby 7
	Presented by: Mary Duffy, NDE	
	Not every HAL program in every district will look the same! Many options are available to meet student needs with your district's available resources. Learn the different "menus" that are available and how they can be implemented . Bon Appétit! With challenges come opportunities! There are many innovative instructional strategies that can be used to provide instructional opportunities for ALL Nebraska students, no matter where they are located.	
	1:50 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Break	

2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.	CONCURRENT SESSION IV	
	Trends and Developments in Math, Science, and Social Studies	Diamond 1
	Presented by: Sara Cooper, Harris Payne, and Deb Romanek, NDE	
	The session will update educators regarding standards, assessment and resources for math, science and social studies.	
	Safe & Secure Schools = Student Success and Access	Diamond 2
	Presented by: Jolene Palmer, NDE	
	Safety and security in our schools are critical elements for schools to provide a quality education. In 2014 Nebraska LB 923 created mandates for stronger school safety in Nebraska. An update of changes, progress made to this point, and how schools will be affected will be discussed. Topics will include safety standards, security assessments, statewide standard response protocol and standard reunification plan.	
	Doing Your Part to Promote Better Early Childhood Programs	Diamond 3
	Presented by: Kristine Luebbe and Linda Meyers, NDE	
	As more and more early childhood classrooms are observed and assessed using the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) and Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), learn more about the importance of support from administration for these tools as well as how to use the data to promote and sustain program improvement.	
(Repeats from Session II)	Effective Evaluations to Improve Teaching and Learning	Diamonds 4, 5, 9 & 10
	Presented by: Donlynn Rice, NDE; Toby Boss, Director of Professional Development, ESU6; and Suzanne Whisler, Director of Professional Development, ESU 4	
	What are the keys to improving student achievement through effective evaluations? This session will highlight the teacher and principal evaluation models built from the Nebraska Teacher and Principal Performance Framework. Learn how you can get started using these models in your district. What do you need to do first and what training opportunities will be available to assist you with this process?	
	Federal Programs Questions and Concerns	Diamond 6
	Presented by: Diane Stuehmer, Randy McIntyre, Jan Handa, Karen Stevens, Lindsay Ickes, Sue Henry, Brad Conner, and Cathy Mohnike, NDE	
	Why have there been changes to Title II-A processes? Why does my District need to consult with nonpublic schools for ESEA programs? What's happening with AYP? My District/School has been identified for Title I Needs Improvement! Now What?	

	Continually Moving Forward with Check4Learning	Diamond 7
	Presented by: Jeremy Heneger, NDE	
	Last year, over 190 districts took advantage of the Check4Learning system. This session will provide a brief description of the C4L interim assessment system and provide districts with an update about its future. In addition, district representatives will provide information about their current utilization of C4L.	
	ADVISER: Nebraska's Educational Data Dashboard	Diamond 8
	Presented by: Dean Folkers and Matt Hastings, NDE	
	This presentation will showcase Nebraska's educational data dashboard known as ADVISER. The result of a nearly two year collaboration between NDE, ESUs, and nine pilot school districts, ADVISER provides near real-time information to teachers and administrators to support continuous improvement. We will highlight the timelines for onboarding new school districts interested in utilizing ADVISER.	
	Dear Teacher: What Students Really Want You to Know About Tech Integration	Ruby 6
	Presented by: Tricia Parker and Kristina Peters, NDE	
	This session will be a panel discussion highlighting some promising practices in technology integration from around Nebraska. Participants will answer moderated questions as well as taking questions from the audience about their experiences and wish list for their educational experience.	
	Rule 10 for Class D Schools	Ruby 7
	Presented by: Rick Moses, NDE	
	This sectional is specifically designed for D-1 and D-2 schools and the Rule 10 issues that these Nebraska schools face. Open discussion will include such issues as 7th and 8th grade extra-curricular practice, use of 6th graders in interscholastic competition, instructional unit requirements, teacher endorsement levels, and suggestions for addressing teacher shortages.	
	2:50 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Break	
	3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSION V	
	Statewide Assessment: District Assessment Contact 101	Diamond 2
	Presented by: Valorie Foy and Jeremy Heneger, NDE	
	District Assessment Contacts who will be taking on this important role for the first time in 2015-2016 will receive an overview of the expectations and helpful information to provide aid in navigating their first year in an assessment leadership role.	

	Technology Update	Diamond 3
	Presented by: Brent Gaswick and Kristina Peters, NDE	
	This session will provide updates on current technology issues impacting school districts. Distance Education, eRate, and more will be covered.	
	AQuESTT and Attendance: Every Student. Every Day	Diamonds 4, 5, 9 & 10
	Presented by: Aprille Phillips, Commissioner Blomstedt, NDE; Tim DeWaard, Superintendent, Centennial Public Schools; Sarah Graham, Douglas County Attorney; Treva Haugaard, Director of the GOALS Center, Omaha, Nebraska; and Heidi Schutz, School Board Member, Grand Island Public Schools, Members of the Council on Student Attendance	
	Every student. Every day. The Council on Student Attendance (created under 79-527) worked throughout the 2014-2015 school year studying attendance data, researching best practices, and considering ways to support schools in reducing incidents of absenteeism. A panel of council members will share an update of their work and how they see supports around student attendance fitting into the AQuESTT framework.	
	The Role of the World Language Education in Ensuring College and Career Readiness	Diamond 6
	Presented by: Janine Theiler, NDE	
	How is learning a world language important for college and career readiness? This session explores this question in detail, considering the research base and the needs of today's learners as we prepare them for success in an increasingly global society. The presenter will follow by addressing multiple programmatic options for offering world language learning experiences for K-12 learners.	
	Helping Students Become Career Ready	Diamond 7
	Presented by: Cory Epler and Rich Katt, NDE	
	The Nebraska Department of Education has developed a one-of-a-kind resource package designed to help students master the Nebraska Career Readiness Standards. The foundational component is the "Habitudes for Career Ready Students" book and lesson plans. This session will showcase the Habitudes for Career Ready Students resource package and provide information for implementation within your school.	
	Revised Local Education Agency (LEA) Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Requirements	Diamond 8
	Presented by: Greg Prochazka and Pete Biaggio, NDE	
	This session will focus on the IDEA school district maintenance of effort (MOE) final regulations released in the Federal Register on April 28, 2015. During this session, we will examine the major revisions in the LEA MOE regulations and the implications for Nebraska Schools.	

3:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.	Break		
3:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	COMMISSIONER'S WRAP-UP	Diamonds 4, 5, 9 & 10	