

**Spring
2011**

**Inside This
Issue**

- Message from the NSCA president
- Member benefits
- Call for email
- NSCA Calendar
- Counselor Academy Information
- Storm Baseball invite
- Workshop information
- Legislative updates
- Ethics Article
- Misc. Items of information



NEBRASKA
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

Wonderful Opportunity for NSCA

Rynette Friesen ~ President

The Nebraska School Counselor Association has been asked to have a representative on the Governor's P-16 Leadership Council. In August 2009, Governor Dave Heineman announced eight education goals to help Nebraska students have a successful future while helping to ensure our state's economic vitality.

One of the main goals of the P-16 initiative is to increase the college-going rate in Nebraska. School counselors play a vital role in this endeavor. It is for that reason that NSCA was asked to have a representative serve on the council. We can provide guidance and input into strategies that will increase the likelihood that more students will have an interest in pursuing a two or four year degree.

There are two meetings held each year. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the February meeting and see how the council runs. Governor Heineman was very interested in the counselor viewpoint. This is a wonderful opportunity for NSCA and Nebraska counselors.

Help Us Help You to Be Informed Professionally! Second Call for Emails

Information is a key ingredient to being a cutting-edge professional school counselor. Communication with 100% of Nebraska **K-12** School Counselors is our goal. NSCA and School Counseling at NDE would like your help, by submitting your work email address.

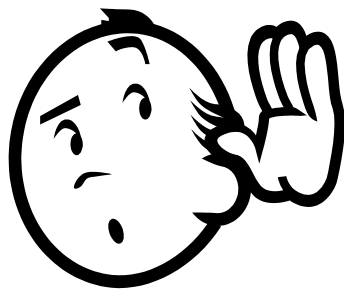
Simply send your name and school district in an email to:

Katie.Bieber@nebraska.gov

Katie Bieber

Professional Assistant to NE School Counseling at NDE

402-471-3177



Westward Ho...!

NSCA Professional Development in Ogallala

The Nebraska School Counseling Association heard your call for school counselor professional development in Western Nebraska. On February 25th, the topics of 40 Developmental Assets and College & Career Readiness were presented at the ESU#16 in Ogallala to K-12 School Counselors in the area.

Presenters were Vicky Munoz, Post-Secondary Planning Counselor, Millard West High School/NSCA Secondary VP and Nancy Bond, Supervisor of School Counseling, Omaha Public Schools/NSCA President Elect.

Please let me know if school counselors in your area would like to have professional development on a particular topic. If you can help me with a host site and some optional dates, the NSCA Board will work with you to provide the training.

Kathy Solomon, NSCA Program Chair
katherine.solomon@ops.org

NSCA Board Members

President
Rynette Friesen
 17132 Emiline St.
 Omaha, NE 68136
 402-896-8385
 Cell: 402-657-0436

President-Elect
Nancy Bond
 10615 Monroe St.
 Omaha, NE 68127
 402-537-0109
 Cell: 402-616-0007

President Elect-Elect
Cheryl Kreikemeier
 303 S Farragut St.
 West Point, NE 68788
 402-372-5876
 Cell: 402-380-0590

Immediate Past President
Tracy Post
 1420 N. 11th
 Beatrice, NE 68310
 402-223-4636
 Cell: (402) 806-3162

Secretary
Doug Hauserman
 4613 N. 148th St
 Omaha, NE 68116
 402-445-4050
 Cell: 402-290-4700

Douglas166@gmail.com

Treasurer

New NSCA Member Benefit Unveiled

The Nebraska School Counselor Association has sent out two Legislative Updates to its members with a 3rd to come out before the end of the school year. The 4-page Legislative Update is designed to keep NSCA members informed on legislative happenings both in Washington and Lincoln. The Legislative Updates thus far have kept NSCA members informed of state and national funding for education, the Elementary Secondary School Counseling Program grant, state and national legislation related to



NSCA Legislative Update

Volume 1 Number 1 February 2011

Inside This Issue
Update on Reauthorization of NCLB
Cyber-Bullying Bill Introduced
Proposed Student Rights To Express Themselves
Preliminary State Budget Cuts Education
Teacher Collective Bargaining Rights in Nebraska
Potential Support for CESA Program

Brand New From NSCA!!!

The Nebraska School Counselor Association is pleased to present the first NSCA Legislative Update. The purpose of the update is to keep NSCA members informed of legislation that is currently being considered at both the state and national level as it pertains to school counselors, advocating for students and their families, and education in general. In most cases the legislation shared in the update will be for your information and NSCA will not take an official stance on the legislation. There will be cases where NSCA will have taken an official position and that will be made clear in the update. Many of the ASCA position statements refer to the role of being an advocate for students as a key function of school counselors. Therefore, if any of the legislation we share speaks to you and your situation, NSCA does encourage you to become active and contact your State Senator and/or your U.S. Senators and U.S. Congressmen. The NSCA Legislative Update will be delivered in hard copy and electronically exclusively to NSCA members three times during the Nebraska Unicameral session making it yet one more way that you benefit from your NSCA membership.

\$59 Million Goes to Save Teaching Jobs

Last fall Congress and the President authorized millions of dollars for the purpose of saving teacher jobs or adding new ones. Nebraska was allocated \$59 million contingent upon Governor Heinemann accepting the funds, which he did. Distribution of the funds required legislative approval. One of the first things the unicameral did in the current session was pass LB18 authorizing distribution of these funds and Governor Heinemann signed LB 18 on February 10th. This money won't solve our state education budget woes but every bit helps. All 49 state senators supported LB 18. U.S. Senator Ben Nelson voted for the bill at the national level.

Cuts Away From The Classroom

With school districts facing the possibility of budget cuts, Sen. Tony Fulton introduced LB531. This bill would require school districts to make cuts the furthest away from the classroom as possible. Additionally it would limit the amount of money that districts can have in reserves. Reserves are typically saved for rainy days and the thinking is that the rainy days have come. LB 531 was on the agenda for the February 1st Education Committee Meeting. This bill does seem to have quite a bit of support. NSCA has not taken a formal position on LB531.

Benefit cont.

Secondary School Counseling Program grant, state and national legislation related to bullying prevention/education, state collective bargaining rights/CIR, national legislation designed to put school counselors in high need schools, and numerous pieces of state legislation as well. To receive the Legislative Update and other NSCA member benefits join NSCA by visiting www.neschoolcounselor.org.

NSCA 2010 - 2011 Calendar

May 2011

ASCA	May 1	Advance ASCA Conference Registration Deadline
ASCA	May 14	LDI Registration forms due to ASCA Office
ASCA	May 14	2011-2012 Board Rosters and Conference information due to ASCA Office

June 2011

ASCA	June 23-24	ASCA Delegate Assembly
ASCA	June 25-28	ASCA Conference Seattle, Wash.

July 2011

ASCA	July TBD	Leadership Development Institute
------	----------	----------------------------------

Nishja Nuss Receives Conference Grant

NSCA, GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network) – Omaha, PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) – Omaha, and PFLAG-Hastings joined forces to offer a grant to send one NSCA members to a national conference in San Diego designed to help school counselor support Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and Ally youth.

The grant covered airfare, lodging, and conference registration. Nishja Nuss, counselor at Tekamah-Herman Jr./Sr. High School was award the grant based on the short essay she wrote about the need for this training. Nishja plans to share her take away's from the San Diego conference at the NSCA 2011 School Counselor Academy. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for additional professional development grant opportunities for NSCA members and an article by Nishja on how attending the conference has impacted her personally and professionally. NSCA plans to continue to offer various professional development grants to its members.

Please join us for our counselor appreciation event:

NSCA at the Storm Chasers

(Omaha's new minor league baseball team)

Sunday, May 22nd at 2:05 p.m.

FREE for each NSCA member

\$4.00 for school counselors who are not NSCA members (a 50% discount)

\$8.00 for all additional guests

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

NSCA MEMBER	Number of Tickets _____	Free
Counselor who is not a NSCA Member	Number of Tickets _____ x \$ 4.00 =	\$ _____
Additional Guests (over the age of 2)	Number of Tickets _____ x \$8.00=	\$ _____

Please include your check made out to NSCA as payment Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Registrations must be received by May 9th 2011. Please send this form to:

Vicky Muñoz
Counselor, Millard West High School
5710 S. 176th Avenue
Omaha, NE 68135

Please note: Tickets will be available one hour before the game. You will receive an e-mail with final instructions for picking up your tickets one week prior to the game. Please direct any of your questions to Vicky at (402) 715-6013.

Membership Benefit Opportunity

The bigTent Conference is coming to Omaha in November. NSCA would like to take this opportunity to offer one member a chance to get the registration fee covered. Please look at the application on the following page of this newsletter and submit the form by the deadline.

What is the bigTent Conference? It's the most comprehensive professional development opportunity for people who work with youth in their schools and in their communities, helping them to succeed in life. You will leave the conference more effective, further energized, and better equipped to help kids succeed in schools, families, and communities. The conference is hosted by the Search Institute. It will be held November 3 – 5 at the Qwest Center.

Keep looking for other opportunities like this from NSCA.

****save the date**save the date**save the date**save the date****



Nebraska School Counselor Academy

October 13 and 14, 2011

**Union College
3800 South 48th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska**



**Application for Grant to Attend:
Big Tent Conference hosted by Search Institute
November 3-5, 2011 in Omaha, Nebraska**

Application must be **RECEIVED** by June 1, 2011

Name: _____ Home Phone: _(____)_____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email address: _____

School District: _____ School Name: _____

Please include a 100-200 word statement about how attending this conference would meet a need for you and/or your school.

All applicants must be a NSCA member to be considered for this grant.

Check One:

_____ NSCA Member _____ Membership application and payment enclosed
(membership application available at www.neschoolcounselor.org)

This grant covers the conference registration fee for 1 person.

Submit application by email or mail to: Rynette Friesen, NSCA President
RLFriesen@mpsomaha.org

or

Rynette Friesen
Anderson Middle School
15404 Adams St.
Omaha, NE 68137

Recipient will be asked to share what he/she learns with other Nebraska School Counselors by presenting at the NSCA 2012 School Counselor Academy

PROGRAM DEADLINE:

Must be postmarked by June 15, 2011

Please submit proposals by the deadline so that presentations may be scheduled and the conference schedule can be published on the website. Presenters will be notified by email.

Nebraska School Counselor Association

Making the Dream Come True

2011 School Counselor Academy PROPOSAL FORM

Union College

Lincoln, Nebraska – October 13 and 14, 2011

(All programs are 1 hour or 2 hours in length. Please specify program length on the proposal.)

E-MAIL OR RETURN TO:

E-mail: katherine.solomon@ops.org

Fax: 402-557-2169

Dr. Kathy Solomon, Academy Program Chair

Omaha Public Schools, Room 365

3215 Cuming Street

Omaha, NE 68131

402-557-2166

1. Contact Person (all information will be mailed or e-mailed to this person):

Name:			
Position:			
Address:			
Telephone	Work:	Home:	Cell:
E-mail Address:			

2. Program Title

--

3. Program Length: 1 hour 2 hours

4. Presenter(s):

Name:	Position:	School/System:	Cell Phone:

Note: Presenters planning to attend other sessions must register for the Academy.

5. **Target Audience** (Check all that apply): _Elementary _Middle/Junior _Secondary _All

Would you be will willing to present your program more than one time? _____ Yes _____ No

6. **Brief Abstract:** Please **type** a brief (50-75 words) abstract of your presentation in the space provided below. Be thorough, but **concise**. This abstract will appear word-for-word in the School Counselor Academy Program. Academy participants will choose which sessions to attend based on this information. **Your presentation should connect to the ASCA model and assisting students in “Making the Dream Come True.”**

Abstract:

7. Please include a brief **resume** and your **credentials**. Continuing education requirements mandate this information be kept on file.

8. **Presenters:** Please pick up the packet of evaluations for your session at the registration table. Distribute the evaluations to members of your audience. Collect the completed evaluations and return the packet to the registration table at the conclusion of your session. We will email you the tabulated evaluation responses.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
Each presenter must furnish all audiovisual equipment
and assume full responsibility for its safety.

Regarding Sales: Sales to take place in the exhibit area only. There will be no selling at programs.

PRESENTERS: PLEASE CHECK BEFORE MAILING:

Program proposal must include:

- An abstract
- Your resume and credentials

School Counseling Group Work – Ethical Considerations

Paul Barnes, Ph.D., NCSC

Group work can offer an efficient and effective counseling process to address student needs and is an important part of successful school counseling programs. If you are considering offering groups or are currently offering school groups, there are many ideas and ethical issues to think about. For example, is the group really needed and how will you know it made a difference? Can the benefits of this group be measured and does it support the academic success of students? If you're unsure, consider how you can measure the value of the group or whether the group really is the best use of counselor time and resources.

Another frequently asked question relates to parent/guardian consent. Can students participate in school counseling groups without signed consent?" Is a blanket notice (e.g., newsletter or handbook) really ethical? Understandably, the nature of the group and the individual student and family can cause counselors to be confused about what is best or ethical.

In 2010, our professional organization (ASCA) helped clarify the issue by offering Ethical Standard A.6.b, which states, "Professional school counselors recognize that best practice is to notify the parents/guardians of children participating in small groups."

For further ethics related to group work see section A .6,
<http://www.schoolcounselor.org/files/EthicalStandards2010.pdf>

State Education Funding

Governor Heineman's proposed budget included \$810 million in state aid for education. In mid-February the appropriations committee's preliminary proposed budget included \$812 million in education funding. Nebraska has received \$59 million from the Federal Education Jobs funding that will be distributed in addition to the amount of state aid budgeted for this year. For a frame of reference state aid for education this year is \$950 million. Even after adding the \$59 million to the \$812 million in state aid, there would be a significant cut in education funding.

Some good news finally came on February 25th when the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board released its revised state revenues projection. The February projections showed a \$54 million dollar increase in revenue from the October projections.

On March 9th Senator Greg Adams, Chair of the Education Committee, made LB235 his priority bill. Among other things LB235 calls for \$822 million in state aid for education for 2011-12 and \$880 million for 2012-13. Add the one-time \$59 million in Federal Education Jobs funding to the 2011-12 and state would be closer to maintaining current education funding level but still short by approximately \$70 million.

Personal and Professional Journey in Supporting LGBTIQA Students

By: Nishja Nuss

In November, I presented a guidance lesson to our 8th grade students titled Understanding Differences and Accepting all Individuals. I left this lesson proud of the work accomplished and the questions our students were asking, but also worried that I had left them many unanswered questions, especially when working with individuals of a different sexual orientation than them selves. Our students had many questions and I felt that I had left them unanswered. I immediately started looking for more things to add to my curriculum regarding lesson involving discussions about sexual orientation. I know for some of our students this might make them uncomfortable and many parents might be worried about this as well. I was prepared to handle questions and ease the comfort level of students with the intention that the more experience they have now will only help them in the future. In addition to using the internet and books, I also applied for the PFLAG and NSCA sponsored grant to the Solutions to a Crisis: Supporting Students, Saving Lives Conference in San Diego. This conference was about supporting students that have identified as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Intersex students.

This conference was just the thing I needed to help me update the guidance curriculum and assist my students that might identify as GLBTQI and for the students in the future that I can support. I also gained some valuable resources that I can share with the teachers in my school as well as other counselors in the State of Nebraska. One session I attended was titled, Creating Safe and Inclusive Classrooms. During this very hands on session, there were different activities that I could use in guidance lessons with students, as well as lists of books that teachers can include in their curriculum that will help reduce stereotypes and gender roles. One of the most important things was a curriculum tied to building a family in the classroom using different books and topics to include everyone and learn how to accept differences in people. This is a great elementary classroom unit that will teach students to accept everyone regardless of race, socioeconomic status, religion, sexual orientation and culture and could be adapted to fit middle school and high school classes.

Another powerful session that I attended was titled Learning the Lingo and Safe Place to learn. During this session, I really was thinking of the students that have a large number of absences and how having an unsafe school might be a reason why some students do not want to attend school. I immediately started thinking of ways to incorporate this information into a staff meeting and how as a staff we can improve practices in our school to support all students and make school the safest place for them to be.

This conference provided numerous resources that I can use in the classroom, with staff as well as with parents and families. I have used many of the things I learned with students already, have had an opportunity to present to PFLAG Omaha – which was another “out of my comfort zone” experience for me, which I am fortunate to have had, and have presented to staff on different things I have learned from the conference. I am a different person as a result of attending this conference and am excited to share the resources I learned to other counselors so that they can support their students in understanding and accepting individual differences.



LEFT: Doug Hauserman, NSCA
Government Relations Chair and
Nancy Bond, NSCA President, outside
Sen. Johann's Office in Washington, DC

NSCA Visits Capitol Hill

Nancy Bond, NSCA President Elect, and Doug Hauserman, NSCA Government Relations Chair, visited Washington, D.C. in March to learn about current national legislation and to meet Nebraska's congressional leaders.

After meeting with ASCA's Public Policy Director, visits were made to the offices of Senators Nelson and Johanns and Representatives Terry and Smith. During the visits NSCA's leadership shared recent Nebraska data showing how school counselors positively impact student achievement and are critical to implementation of Governor Heineman's P-16 Initiatives.

Support was requested for several upcoming pieces of legislation related to school counselors and for the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Program Grant. An appeal was made to not further reduce education funding, given that \$1 billion has already been cut in a recent continuing resolution to keep the government operating.

NSCA also expressed concern that President Obama's Blueprint for Education Reform focuses only on teachers and administrators. We encouraged looking at adding 3rd component as proposed by the National Center for Mental Health in School at UCLA and the National Association of School Psychologists.

The proposed 3rd component is designed to enhance the blueprint and by adding the need to respond to and prevent academic, behavioral, and social-emotional problems. NSCA continues to advocate for the profession and students on both the state and national level.

Volunteers Needed!

The Nebraska School Counselor Association has several standing committees that need volunteers. Please look over the list to see if you would be interested in helping promote school counseling and the NSCA.

Program Committee—Setting up and implementing long-range program of activities, including the NSCA Counselor Academy

Membership Committee—Promoting and maintaining membership

Publication Committee—Publishing news of interest on the local, state and national levels

Nomination and Election Committee—Conducting impartial nominations and procedures for the election of officers

Professional Standards and Ethics Committee—Increasing the level of professional personnel practices

Bylaws Committee—Reviewing and recommending the chapter and area of specialty bylaws

Government Relations Committee—Studying current legislation at the state and national level

Professional Recognition Committee—Soliciting nominations to include outstanding school counselors and outstanding contributors to the field of guidance

Technology Committee—Providing a variety of resources that will help integrate technology, maintaining the NSCA website, and helping organize technology workshops

New Look, Resources Coming Soon to *Nebraska Career Connections*

Nebraska Career Connections, powered by Kuder® (www.nebraskacareerconnections.org) will debut a new look and additional resources on April 18, 2011!

While the primary resources in the current system will remain available within the new framework, here are some of the changes that you can expect to see:

- *Kuder® Navigator* will enhance the current system for students in grades seven through 12. It features a fresh design and navigation utilizing a step-by-step guidance approach, along with updated tools and new resources.
- *Kuder® Journey* (for postsecondary students and adults) will be updated with a new appearance to reflect the *Nebraska Career Connections* look and feel.
- Both *Navigator* and *Journey* through *Nebraska Career Connections* will be backed by a more robust administrative database management system.

Current system users will not need to change their user names and passwords to access all of the information saved and stored within their accounts.

For more information, please contact *Nebraska Career Connections* Project Manager Anne Klute at necareerconnect@hotmail.com or 402.432.0096. For customer support or technical assistance, please contact *Nebraska Career Connections* Field Trainer Charlie Winterboer at winterboerc@kuder.com or 877.999.6227.



New Nebraska Career Connections Portal Page



New student portal page.



Rynette Friesen
17132 Emiline St.
Omaha, NE 68136