

Elementary Afterschool Clubs Positive Partnerships

Presenter: Allyson R Bohlen and Jim Donley

Description: At AC Wallace Elementary School, the staff has developed afterschool clubs to help extend the learning day and challenge students with higher level thinking activities. For 45 minutes each afternoon (Mon-Thurs) following dismissal, staff members aided by parent and community volunteers, provide the following club opportunities. 4-H Club, MASR (Math-Science-Robotics) Club, Books and Beyond, and Chess Club. The Chess Club at Wallace has been the longest running club, it has been established for 20+ years. The other clubs were developed 4 years ago in an attempt to extend the daily learning.

I'm Teaching It - But Are They Learning It? Using Formative Assessment to Guide Instruction Assessment

Presenter: Amber Vlasnik

Description: Giving students opportunities to demonstrate their understanding throughout a lesson not only makes the material more engaging, but this practice also enables teachers to adjust instruction continually to meet student needs. In this session, participants will be challenged to think beyond direct instruction and to really question student learning and understanding. 2017 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Amber Vlasnik, will provide practical methods of formative assessment that can be easily implemented in their classrooms.

Maximizing the Potential of your Professional Learning Community Educator Effectiveness

Presenter: Amber Vlasnik

Description: When teachers collaborate to create engaging learning tasks, students thrive. Yet many professional learning communities become times to simply schedule daily lessons, share materials, and fill out forms. Can that time be used for something more? In this workshop, we will experience what professional learning communities could look like if teachers talked about instruction, student learning, and how to use data to inform and adjust instruction.

Implementation Science Impact: Improving Outcomes for Children with Disabilities through Local- State Collaboration Assessment

Presenter: Amy Bunnell, Cole Johnson, and Stuart Clark

Description: Early Intervention (EI) provides services to children with disabilities birth to age 3 and their families. EI is provided through the Planning Region Team (PRT) structure in Nebraska. Local School Districts are one of the entities responsible for EI services. Results Driven Accountability (RDA) is a federal mandate focused on improving outcomes for children. NDE and NDHHS designed a plan to partner with local PRTs to implement evidence-based practices using implementation science. This session highlights strategies used by one PRT to elicit change in child and family outcomes by engaging school districts, developing leadership teams, and effective data collection methods.

Integrating the Career Readiness Standards into all Content Areas College and Career Ready

Presenter: Anita Foor

Description: Schools looking for ideas on how to integrate the Career Readiness Standards into all content areas will find practical ideas and resources in this session. Resources that will be highlighted include the ENGAGE! Career Exploration and Readiness curriculum, designed for middle school settings.

Habitudes for Career Ready Students is another resource that Nebraska schools are implementing to make the Career Readiness Standards come alive for high school students. Information will also be shared on the development of the Career Readiness Learning Progressions, a K-12 resource connecting Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines with the Career Readiness Standards. Sample resources will be available.

Evidence of Impact in Blended Learning: Observations of my Nebraska Tour Educational Opportunities and Access

Presenter: Beth Kabes

Description: As the Director of Blended and Distance Learning for the ESU Coordinating Council, I have visited the 25 Blended Pilot schools/districts during the first semester. This was an inspiring experience for me. As a result of the time spent observing classroom teachers and having conversations with students in blended classes, I am both encouraged and confident about the impact of blended learning in classrooms. In my session, I will share evidence I collected and how blended learning is impacting student engagement throughout Nebraska.

Nebraska VR School Partnerships Transitions

Presenter: Brigid Griffin and Lindsay Brown

Description: Partnering with schools to provide pre-employment transition services to all students with disabilities, highlighting the potential of work based learning opportunities, Project SEARCH, and summer transition partnerships across the state to ensure that all students have the opportunity to become work and career ready.

Continually Improving Support for English Learners Educational Opportunities and Access

Presenter: Brooke David and Aprille Phillips

Description: Is your student population shifting as you welcome English Learners in your school or district? This session will provide an overview of Rule 15 and available resources to support districts with English Learners. We'll introduce a newly created video-module focused on welcoming and enrolling English Learners(ELs) intended to support conversations among teachers and staff around continually improving the welcome of English Learners and their families. You'll walk away with resources as well as strategies for conducting professional learning in your school or district.

Continuing to Improve With Data Educator Effectiveness

Presenter: Bryce Wilson and Jen Utemark

Description: This session will discuss the ESSA reporting requirements and their impact on financial reporting in addition to current school finance issues including legislation and budget items. We will also review how data collected in NSSRS, the Consolidated Data Collections, and Grants Management System can be reviewed and verified before cut off dates.

Research, Rigor and Relevant Teaching Practices in PreK through Third Grade Educator Effectiveness

Presenter: Catie Limbach

Description: Research highlights the need for quality teachers to engage children in individualized learning that will result in academic success; however, this looks different depending on the age of the

students in the classroom. Using research-based teaching strategies and knowledge of child development, administrators can support PreK through Third Grade teachers in implementing age-appropriate learning environments and interactions. This session will provide you with strategies and resources to use in conjunction with commonly used teacher evaluation tools to ensure high quality educator effectiveness in PreK through Third Grade classrooms to achieve academic success.

Growing Teacher Leaders Educator Effectiveness

Presenter: Chad Ackerson

Description: This session is for administrators to find ways to try and grow teacher leaders in their buildings and also for teachers to learn ways to step out and become a teacher leader. Every building has great teachers doing great things in their classrooms. We will explore ways to turn those great teachers into teacher leaders who are willing to share ideas with others.

Using GoFormative to Assess Student Learning Assessment

Presenter: Chad Ackerson

Description: Attendees will see how utilizing the GoFormative website to get frequent checks of student understanding. You can use GoFormative to create entire lessons, give quizzes and assessments, or do quick checks. Come see how providing your students with quick formative assessments can help steer your teaching to get the most from your students.

Leadership and Change: Increasing Effectiveness and Results Educator Effectiveness

Presenter: Chad Dumas, Julee Sauer, Montessa Munoz, Amy Kelly

Description: How do you increase educator effectiveness and results for all students? Hastings Public Schools, District 145 – Waverly, and multiple ESUs have engaged in a replicable process to build capacity for this—and with GREAT success!! Hear how Principals, Assistant Principals, Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Central Office Administrators, and ESU Personnel have systematically worked to understand 1) Change processes, theories, and models, and 2) Standards for professional learning. But the learning doesn't stop there—staff have actively implemented this learning through focused action research using a structured process.

Come learn about the process, results, and how you can replicate this work!

Wall-to-Wall Learning College and Career Ready

Presenter: Cherie Larson

Description: Balancing academics and career readiness can be a challenge! Plattsmouth High School is implementing a wall-to-wall career and college readiness model that is replicable in schools of all sizes. In this presentation, high school staff and students will share the AQuESTT aligned model and explain how it has been implemented in Plattsmouth. Come and learn how PHS built upon elements familiar to schools in Nebraska when implementing this standards-based model. PHS staff and students know that it is not impossible or incredibly expensive to help all students balance academics and career readiness—you can find that out as well!

Quality Preparation and Partnerships for Attracting, Preparing, Developing and Retaining Teachers Educator Effectiveness

Presenter: Chris Wilcoxon

Description: Developing teachers takes a team of university personnel, P12 educators, and community organizations working together to build the capacity teacher candidates. Collaboration, communication and constructive feedback are essential for any partnership and for program development. At the University of Nebraska Omaha, we understand the importance of attracting, preparing, developing and retaining teachers. Come hear our story and how it has positively impacted students both at the P12 and university level.

Opportunity to Learn: The Other 10% in High School Math College and Career Ready

Presenter: Cindy Gray

Description: This presentation will highlight methods that were used at Elkhorn Public Schools to reverse a trend of achievement drops for students as they progressed to the high school level. Elkhorn students have performed very well in recent years, but there was a time when groups of students were falling below national averages on college readiness measures. Levels of support have been addressed, along with changes in course offerings. The presentation will include views from district administration, principals, and high school math teachers.

Blended Learning in Action Educational Opportunities and Access

Presenter: Crystal Hurt, Jami Schaffnitt, Jason Everett, and Peg Coover

Description: If mastery is the goal, and personalization is the challenge, then blended learning is our solution! Blended learning isn't just about infusing technology; it's all around good teaching. ESU 10 is engaging schools in blended learning priority practices. Hear from teachers who are currently blending and learn about upcoming professional development opportunities for teachers.

Are your students Ready to Take Algebra in 8th Grade? College and Career Ready

Presenter: Deborah A Romanek

Description: What data could help determine if a student is prepared to accelerate their study of mathematics? What knowledge and skills are key for success of an accelerated math student? What is the data you have from your school to verify that students have reached the goal of taking an advanced math class during their senior year?

What is the Future of CIA for Math and Science and How Do We Change It From Inside Out? Assessment

Presenter: Deborah A Romanek and Sara Cooper

Description: Revisions to the math and science standards encourage new ways to think about curriculum, instruction and assessment in our classrooms. Join us as we discuss and share insights from a pilot project with 24 K-12 math and science teachers from three ESUs. We will discuss key ideas to keep in mind as you identify quality integrated math and science tasks and gather evidence needed to measure student learning using formative assessment.

**Fiscal and Equitable Services Changes under ESSA
Educational Opportunities and Access**

Presenter: Diane Stuehmer

Description: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was reauthorized as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in December 2015. Changes regarding fiscal and equitable services for nonpublic schools go into effect with the 2017-18 school year. If there are nonpublic schools located within the boundaries of the public district AND/OR there are low-income resident students from the district attending nonpublic schools (within or outside the district's boundaries), attend this session to find out about the changes.

**Building Capacity through the AdvancED Continuous Improvement System
Positive Partnerships**

Presenter: Don Loseke

Description: AdvancED is transitioning from ASSIST to a System of Continuous Improvement that is supported by eProve. This session will highlight the most recent protocols and diagnostics that will be available to schools as they develop their customized Continuous Improvement System (CIS) that aligns with AQuESTT seamlessly.

**Future Partnership Model for Teacher Preparation
Positive Partnerships**

Presenter: Don R. King, Jim Powell, and Julie Downing

Description: This listening-panel presentation is to provide educational change information to PK-12 School Leaders, per the schools role in jointly preparing teachers. Incumbent upon us in PK-16 education are the continued partnership roles all have played in bringing potential teacher candidates into the profession-- from Educator's Rising org., to collegiate programming, and ultimately to placement as a student teacher and the inservicing of these professionals. The current model is considered a relic by many standards, and new models need to emerge. Focus will be on how new partnership agreements between schools, Educational Service Unit's, and teacher preparation programs can benefit all camps.

**Educational Leadership in ESSA: Key Opportunities for Higher Education
Educator Effectiveness**

Presenter: Dr. Bradley Portin

Description: This session provides an overview of work happening nationally as states consider new provisions in ESSA for supporting principals and school leaders in their role as instructional leaders. Participants will be provided with examples from states pursuing new partnerships between state education departments, school districts, and institutions of higher education to ensure high quality principal preparation and support for practicing school leaders. The session concludes with a discussion of unique opportunities for Nebraska.

**School Transformation: Partners In Teaching and Learning
Educator Effectiveness**

Presenter: Dr. Kathy L. Kennedy, Cherice Williams, Rusty Ruppert, and Cindy Nagel

Description: Educational leaders have many roles, but none as important as focusing efforts on teaching and learning. Through our collaborative work and a focus on clear compelling direction, student and staff culture and instructional leadership focused on research-based, high probability strategies, we are able to transform our schools and classrooms into vibrant, engaging learning environments. During this session, we will explore how NDE has partnered with 3 Priority Schools to provide support to enhance

student learning. Session participants will recognize the strategies in their own schools and determine their skills and strengths, and enhance their practice.

**TIP: A Collaboration between Special Education and Professional Development
Educational Opportunities and Access**

Presenter: Dr. Kelly Georgius and Dr. Jodie Sams

Description: Targeted Intervention Plan, a process for closing the gap between regular and special education student achievement, is a tremendous opportunity for student services and professional development to collaborate. We will discuss the process we have implemented in both small and large school districts to create a plan for improvement of instruction and higher achievement for special education students. We will focus on TIP plans in math, including Marzano strategies, an intervention process, co teaching, standards implementation, IEP goals, and infrastructure development.

**Mentoring Matters to All Teachers
Educator Effectiveness**

Presenter: Eileen Barks and Caryn Zietlow

Description: Mentoring programs vary from single meetings between mentor/mentee at the beginning of a school year, to a highly structured program involving frequent meetings over the course of the year and being provided with release time from normal teaching loads. ESU 2 developed a structured mentor/mentee pilot program using Mentoring Matters by Wellman and Lipton. Learn how you can positively impact your new teachers, help develop meaningful collegial relationships and offer veteran teachers the opportunity to mentor their new colleagues. We will share how we got started, some mistakes along the way and program improvement for future years.

**Working Together to Respond to Teaching Force Needs
Positive Partnerships**

Presenter: Ellie Kunkel, Sara Skretta, LaWayne Zeller, and Sheryl Feinstein

Description: Representatives of Nebraska teacher preparation programs will facilitate an interactive session to learn from Nebraska's school system representatives about their perceptions and needs related to the preparation of effective teachers to meet the current and evolving needs of schools.

**College & Career Ready Writing
Assessment**

Presenter: Erin Kunkle, Julee Sauer, and Julie Engler Brockman

Description: Representatives from Syracuse Public Schools and ESU 3 will share instructional strategies and assessment practices for student learning of the Nebraska College and Career Ready Writing Standards.

**PBiS Establishes Clear Expectations for Safe, Secure, and Healthy Learning Environments
Positive Partnerships**

Presenter: Eugene "Mo" Hanks

Description: Over the past five years, Kimball Public Schools has systematically implemented Positive Behavior interventions and Supports (PBIS) in all areas of our school. In the process we have reduced behavior issues (including dramatically reducing tardiness) which has helped create a climate that is conducive to learning. Through hard work, this has now become our culture. A culture where students and staff have positive expectations for all areas in our district.

Nebraska Social Studies Summit & Civic Readiness

College and Career Ready

Presenter: Harris Payne

Description: Over the past several years, there has been increased discussion regarding the current and future state of social studies education in Nebraska. In response to this need, for two days in February of 2017 over fifty educators, community groups, and other stakeholders met to develop a strategic plan for Nebraska Social Studies which included the development of goals related to improving civic participation and engagement. This session will present the goals and future plans that resulted from the event.

Nebraska State ESSA Plan: Stakeholder Feedback Systems of Support

Presenter: Janine Theiler (and NDE ESSA Writing Team)

Description: In this session, presenters will outline progress made on the Draft Nebraska Consolidated State Plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Presenters will share findings from statewide ESSA engagement activities, and they will address the influence of findings on the Draft Consolidated State Plan. Session participants will be provided with an opportunity to ask questions about and discuss progress on the Draft Nebraska Consolidated State Plan.

Expanded Learning Opportunities - Your Partner in Reaching Your AQuESTT Goals Educational Opportunities and Access

Presenter: Jeff Cole, Michelle Arehart, Carrie Lienemann, and Malanie O'Brian

Description: Beyond School Bells, Nebraska's statewide ELO network, facilitates a Coalition of community-wide ELO programs across the state. During this presentation, we will provide real world examples from Coalition communities from Chadron to Omaha of afterschool and summer programs contributions to their communities' AQuESTT performance. We will also discuss the opportunities for other communities interested in developing AQuESTT-aligned Expanded Learning Opportunity(ELO) programs to learn about the ELO Design Challenge that BSB will be implementing in several Greater Nebraska communities currently without ELO programs.

Custer CAPABLE: A School and Business Partnership College and Career Ready

Presenter: Jenny Fox, Dave Mroczek, Rusty Ruppet, Dawn Lewis, Tom Bailey, and Jason Mundorf

Description: CAPABLE is a Nonprofit entity that represents all six Custer County schools in connecting with business. The goal of CAPABLE is to educate area students about the many different career opportunities that exist in our county in the hopes that we will grow our own future leaders. This is done through many experiences with students such as specialized career days, job shadowing, internships, leadership programs, mentoring programs, and many opportunities for business tours and speakers.

LOCKDOWN! - How to prepare for a School Attacker Positive Partnerships

Presenter: Jerry Mack and Libby Uhing

Description: With the emphasis of Nebraska's new Safety & Security Standards and the State adopted SRP, this session will go into detail in how to prepare staff and students for a lockdown. During the session we'll review the recommendations of national agencies, including the US Dept. of Education, to explore your school's policies and procedures compliance in protecting students and staff. Concepts of Avoid, Deny and Defend will be used in detail to provide options for school preparations.

College and Career Ready Partnerships - Right in Your Own Backyard! College and Career Ready

Presenter: Jill A Goedeken, Phil Onwiler, Jacie Milus, and Donna Hoffman

Description: The Nebraska Extension statewide College and Career Readiness team is a resource often overlooked when seeking partnerships for extended learning opportunities for students. The focus of the presentation will be to highlight current partnerships between school districts and the teams' Career Ready Standardized programs for elementary, middle and high school audiences. Session attendees will leave with an understanding how a partnership with Nebraska Extension team members can help school staff meet the needs of their students and an awareness of resources. Team members will share how their programs align to NCE new career development model of awareness, exploration, and planning.

Building CTE Alliances with Small Rural Nebraska Schools College and Career Ready

Presenter: Joe Peitzmeier, Mary Janata, and Shara Johnson

Description: Attendees will leave this session with tools and a road map to develop a CTE process that unites small rural schools, business partners, and post-secondary education that provides innovative programming to students. The presenters will demonstrate how the goals of P2T align with the tenets of AQuESTT. The presenters will review the Nebraska reVISION process that was the springboard for initiating conversations about CTE in rural schools what then developed into a program of true cooperation and trust between schools and ESU 2 will be the focus of the conversation.

Educator Preparation Initiatives Fostering Effective Teacher Development Educator Effectiveness

Presenter: Johanna Barnes, Dee Acklie, Claudia Wickham, Lyn Forester, and Sue Evanich

Description: Representatives from Institutions of Higher Education in Nebraska will present a panel discussion of current initiatives within educator preparation programs. Topics will include: Para to Teacher Program, National Board Certification preparation, Co-Teaching Model during clinical practice, teacher candidate dispositions, and support for under-resourced college students. A question-and-answer opportunity will be offered during the presentation.

PLAS to Proficient; A Story of Student Growth Positive Partnerships

Presenter: Julie Downing, Barb Edward, Chris Geary

Description: In Crawford Public Schools, you find students charting and growing in their own data every day. In this session, you will hear about the philosophy of data notebooks and Personal Learning Plans (PLPs). Crawford administrators and ESU13 staff developers will share the story of students owning their own learning and developing their own goals. You will see students in action and hear the story of PLAS to proficiency in this district. This session will be facilitated by Barb Edward, Crawford Elementary Principal, Chris Geary, Crawford 7-12 Principal and Julie Downing, ESU13 Staff Developer.

The Nebraska ACT Pilot Project and College-Going Assessment

Presenter: Justine Yeo

Description: With the goal of increasing college-going (number or proportion of students who go on to college) among Nebraska high school students, the ACT Pilot Project was conducted by administering the ACT for all 11th graders in 13 participating public high schools. This session will focus on the ACT Pilot Project that was implemented in 2011-2012 to 2013-2014. Since the ACT is replacing the 11th

grade Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) assessment beginning this 2016-2017 school year, findings from this study will provide timely support and insights on the impact of ACT on college-going.

**“What Do You Think About School?”: Statewide Results
Assessment**

Presenter: Justine Yeo

Description: The thoughts, opinions, beliefs, and sentiments of school staff, students, and parents often yield valuable information for continuous school improvement. This session will display statewide trends in school perceptions collected since the 2014-2015 school year until now. A demonstration of the perceptual survey initiative supported by the Nebraska Department of Education will also be given for school partners who are interested to begin and/or continue collecting perceptual data for informing decision-making.

**eWorkshops: Collaborative Professional Learning for Teachers of Bilingual Students
Educator Effectiveness**

Presenter: Kara Viesca

Description: This presentation will share information about 30 eWorkshops available free-of-cost to teachers, schools and districts to support effective practice for in-service teachers working with emergent bilinguals/bilingual learners across grade levels and content areas. Our eWorkshops are intended for professional learning communities of teachers to engage in collaboratively and are, therefore, innovative, multimedia, online resources that groups of teachers can access and utilize flexibly for their local learning interests and needs. These inquiry-oriented, practice-embedded eWorkshops are new to Nebraska, but funded through a large grant from the federal Department of Education that is also bringing them to 10 additional states.

**Making It Stick! Interdisciplinary ELA Strategies for Teachers
College and Career Ready**

Presenter: Katie Graham

Description: In this session, we'll dive into the ELA Standards Instructional Tool (SIT) and the new Making It Stick! Webinar series which showcases best practices for effective instruction as well as instructional strategies that integrate reading, writing, speaking, listening, and multiple literacy skills across all disciplines. Implementation of these strategies will help students apply literacy skills in authentic settings, better understand content, and strengthen their communication skills in all areas. We will explore the different strategies included in the webinar series and discuss multiple ways they can be used individually or in group professional learning settings.

**Feedback as a System of Support for High Quality Instruction
Educator Effectiveness**

Presenter: Kelly Clapp

Description: Feedback is an essential component of teacher growth and instructional improvement. Join Riverside Public Schools as they share how they have partnered with ESU 10 to create a collaborative, teacher-led system of instructional feedback through the Learning Walk process. Learn how this process has helped Riverside solidify a common language of instruction, promote feedback between classroom teachers, build teacher capacity, and foster a culture of improvement and growth.

**Getting to Know You Conference: Supporting Transitions and Family Partnership
Transitions**

Presenter: Kim Bodensteiner, Nikole Schubauer, Kelsea Lambert, Pam Hemick, and Chris Maxwell

Description: Successful transitions occur when teachers build relationships with families and get to know their children right from the start! Through beginning-of-the-year listening conferences, Belleaire Elementary School teachers have conversations with parents about their hopes and dreams for their children. These conferences began as part of a district kindergarten jump start program. Due to the positive results, “Getting to Know You” conferences will be conducted in Pre-K through Grade 6 next year. The principal, teachers, and Buffett Early Childhood Institute staff will share how we successfully initiated and expanded this strategy to enhance transitions and build positive relationships among teachers, parents, and students.

Artifact Review: Document, Celebrate, and Spread Effective Practices Educator Effectiveness

Presenter: Kim Bodensteiner, Chris Maxwell, and Kristi Reinsch

Description: How can we capture examples of progress in our school improvement efforts? Buffett Early Childhood Institute is documenting stories of ten schools working toward a School as Hub approach to early education. One of our documentation and community of practice tools is an artifact review protocol. Some principals are also using artifact review in other professional development to celebrate and spread the use of effective instructional strategies. Buffett Institute staff and principals will share artifact review protocols and specific ways they are being used to document, celebrate, and spread effective practices within and across schools.

Porcupines & Fishhooks: Inspired Afterschool Partnerships Positive Partnerships

Presenter: Kim Larson

Description: The KIDS Klub afterschool program within North Platte Public Schools will share information regarding their highly successful steps to building partnerships inside and outside the community. KIDS Klub has relationships with over two dozen businesses and organizations that provide programming aligned with school day learning objectives to the great benefit of their students. Leveraging multiple sources of funding, KIDS Klub created a robust “Working with Wildlife” program with Nebraska Game & Parks and the Lincoln Children’s Zoo. Project partners will speak regarding their participation. Should weather and temperament allow, the Zoo may also attend with some surprise “special guests”.

Breaking Down the Preschool to Prison Pipeline Educational Opportunities and Access

Presenter: Kristine Luebbe, Amy Bunnell, and Teresa Berube

Description: Expulsions and suspensions for children in early childhood is triple the national rate for K-12 children combined. These expulsions and suspensions contribute significantly to the preschool to prison pipeline. Nebraska averages 4-7 preschool-aged expulsions per 1000 children, which puts us at the average national rate. This presentation will discuss the definitions of suspension and expulsion for early childhood including how to track it and how to prevent it.

The 2015 AQuESTT Evidence-Based Analysis – A Primer Systems of Support

Presenter: Kunal Dash

Description: The AQuESTT Evidence-Based Analysis (EBA), first created in 2015, was designed to obtain information from Nebraska schools in support of AQuESTT processes. A descriptive analysis of the 2015 EBA results was conducted to help stakeholders understand how schools were performing across all six

AQuESTT tenets. The analysis involved a comparison between schools that were classified as good, great, and excellent versus those classified as needing improvement. These schools were compared across all tenet activities they were performing and what kind of technical, professional development, and other supports they had requested. In this session, we bring to you unique insights from this descriptive landscape.

An Evaluation of the Impact of Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment on College-Going in Nebraska College and Career Ready

Presenter: Kunal Dash

Description: Listen to a story! In Nebraska, taking college level coursework at the high school level is an important indicator of college going (proportion of students who go on to college). This study compares high school students who enroll and earn dual credit versus those who do not on their difference in college going. Students are compared on attributes like race/ethnicity, gender, high ability learning, and NeSA performance, with enrolling and earning dual credit being the differentiating aspect. Insights from this study provide valuable guidance to schools, policymakers, students, and parents on the importance of college coursework at high school.

“DESTINATION: GRADUATION”: A Collaborative, Student-Centered Program That Drives Academic, Social and Emotional Growth Positive Partnerships

Presenter: Kyle Hoehner

Description: “Destination: Graduation” is a collaborative, relationship-driven, school-community initiative created six years ago to address the challenges of 75 percent poverty, 20 percent ELL, and some of the state’s lowest achievement scores and graduation rates. Our shared mantra, “Teachers Will Never Give Up On Students and Students Will Never Give Up On Themselves or Each Other,” drives weekly 1:1 student-teacher growth conferences, academic pep rallies, cohort graduation competition, activity-driven academic team tutoring, and Foundations of Leadership freshman SEL program. Our current 95% daily attendance and 90% cohort graduation rates support a dramatic 4-year growth in state reading, writing and math assessments.

Data...Do You Dig It? Educational Opportunities and Access

Presenter: Larianne Polk, Marci Ostmeier and Steve Rinehart

Description: So, you get a bill from ESU, but what does ESU do for you. How do you know what ESU offers your district? How do you know what your school participates in? What if there are services you want, but are not currently offered? How often does ESU collaborate with our school district? Does every school district receive the same services we do? What’s the role of the ESU? It’s all about your DATA! Come hear how school leaders in ESU 7 dig into their local data, state data, and regional data to determine customized services to their districts.

So Much To Do! How Do We Pull It All Together? Educational Opportunities and Access

Presenter: Larianne Polk and Marci Ostmeier

Description: So, you have school improvement plans, accreditation goals, district initiatives, administrator goals, professional growth plans, data from AQuESTT, EBA, summative assessments, etc.! How do you possibly find the time, personnel, funding, location, and expertise to prioritize, train, learn, implement, and reflect on all of that? You don’t have to do it alone. Your ESU is designed to do JUST

THAT! Let us show you how we can save you money, time, and personnel resources and still help you move your school in the direction you want it to go.

**Danielson Is More Than an Evaluation Tool!
Educator Effectiveness**

Presenter: Larianne Polk

Description: How to use your Instructional Model beginning with the hiring process, and through onboarding, evaluation, reflection, personalized professional development plans, and agency reflection. Connection to your instructional model begins with recruiting and hiring staff. This session will provide to you with a sampling of ESU 7's process of using Charlotte Danielson's framework. You will be exposed to the tools ESU 7 uses, as well as the training, and the process involved.

**Teachers are Students, too!
Educator Effectiveness**

Presenter: Marci Ostmeyer, Mark Brady, Brooke Kavan and Larianne Polk

Description: Every school year, school districts have the opportunity to send their teachers to trainings to strengthen their teaching skills, learn new strategies to use with their students, or partner with others to begin new programming. These days are vital to teacher growth and school improvement. Many of these opportunities are provided by your Educational Service Unit. How does the ESU know what trainings and supports to offer? What input does your school district have in the services offered? How does the ESU know their services have been implemented at the district level? How does the ESU follow up?

**BlendEd Learning—What do I need to start blending? What's the next step? And other Nagging
Questions about Blended Learning!
Educational Opportunities and Access**

Presenter: Linda Dickeson, Beth Kabes, Craig Hicks

Description: What is your school's status with blended learning? Are you still skeptical about the concept and success of blending classrooms? Are you hooked, but have a couple of questions to clarify your next step? These are examples of questions that can be asked during this session with the BlendEd Initiative Leaders. See how blended learning strategies strengthen tenets of AQuESTT, specifically Educational Opportunities and Access, and College and Career Readiness. Come with questions and an open mind!

**ESSA Provisions on School Stability for Children in Foster Care
Positive Partnerships**

Presenter: Michele Borg, Sara Hulac, and Pat Frost

Description: Do you have students who are State wards in foster care? Knowing when students are in out-of-home care, whether a change in schools is in their best interest, and current status in the child welfare system is crucial! This session highlights ESSA provisions on educational stability for foster children, immediate enrollment, records exchange and transportation.

**Teacher Evaluation: Can It Improve Teaching and Learning?
Educator Effectiveness**

Presenter: Nancy Fuller

Description: Educators in Auburn Public Schools have embraced the Marzano instructional model. In 2015, they decided to design a teacher evaluation plan aligned with the Marzano model. Using multi-faceted resources, teacher representatives and administrators worked for an entire school year to codify

a process before taking it to the teaching staff and the board of education for approval. The plan is now in its first year of use. Presenters will share successes, challenges, and next steps.

NSSRS to ADVISER Systems of Support

Presenter: Pam Tagart, Ginny Carter, Katie Graham, Aimee Muehling

Description: In this session we'll talk about any changes in NSSRS for 2017-2018 and the schedule for moving forward with Adviser. We will share the things that won't change and the new processes and terminology.

Preparing Students For the ACT Assessment

Presenter: Rob Dennis

Description: The ACT is the nation's leading college and career entrance exam. And there are a dizzying array of test prep materials available. Explore effective and proven strategies, easily implemented in a classroom, to enhance student ACT scores. This session will feature ACT's new OpenEd and PreACT programs.

Understanding the ACT Student Score Report Assessment

Presenter: Rob Dennis

Description: Are your students approaching you with questions about ACT Benchmarks, subject scores, or their identified career interest, all listed on the ACT score report? This session will review the varied facets of a student's ACT score report, how the results and scales are calculated, who receives the information and how the report can be translated to promote student success.

99 Accounts and 1 Password Educational Opportunities and Access

Presenter: Ron Cone

Description: An interactive journey into single sign on and common authentication. Participants will experience a couple of the leading in-state authentication solutions that provide access to multiple online applications with a single password. Includes an overview of the state's vision and expectation for single sign on and a discussion on how ESUs and individual school districts can participate with ease.

Partnerships and Transitions = Student and Family Success Transitions

Presenter: Sara Paider

Description: Creating opportunities for students to transition into a new and unknown world is crucial in helping them succeed. St. Paul Public Schools has come up with some innovative ways to provide the necessary opportunities for their incoming kindergarten and junior high school students and families to gain a clear understanding of what they can plan to experience in their upcoming school year. Both preschool and sixth grade students have multiple opportunities to explore classrooms, meet the teachers, and learn about the expectations and procedures in kindergarten and seventh grade. Students have less anxiety and more confidence from the start!

Student to Teacher Partnership Pipeline
Positive Partnerships

Presenter: Sarah Edwards, Dr. Gerry Huber, Chris Wilcoxon

Description: Join the conversation on how the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a dozen partner schools are collaborating to prepare future teachers. By maximizing available programs such as Dual Enrollment and Educators Rising, UNO and its partner schools are diversifying the future teacher workforce with a strategic plan focused on a student to teacher pipeline. Come join us to talk more about how your school and local university might collaborate to develop local opportunities for a student to teacher pipeline in your community.

Cultivating Growth Through Mindfulness
Positive Partnerships

Presenter: Theresa Ritta-Olson, Dallas Lewandowski, and Susan Evans

Description: What educator would pass up a chance to raise test scores, have fewer playground fights, and create a more peaceful classroom environment? Nurturing a mindful classroom cultivates conditions where both students and teachers can develop a growth mindset. Through mindfulness, school leaders will discover ways to foster their own self-care as well as gain strategies which will improve social-emotional learning.

Strengths Based Leadership
Educator Effectiveness

Presenter: Tim Hodges, PhD

Description: Extensive Gallup research shows that people succeed when they focus on what they do best. Everyone has strengths - and more than 16 million people have taken Gallup's assessments to learn more. Knowing your unique strengths and putting them to good use not only feels good, it has been proven to meaningfully improve performance of individuals, teams, and schools. This session will explore the keys to being a more effective leader: knowing your strengths and investing in others' strengths, getting people with the right strengths on your team, and understanding and meeting the four basic needs of those who look to you for leadership.

School Engagement: Building a Great Place to Work and Learn
Positive Partnerships

Presenter: Tim Hodges, PhD

Description: Gallup research with more than 25 million employees around the world points to 12 key elements of employee engagement that impact what matters most to successful workplaces. The Gallup Student Poll has studied responses about engagement from more than 5 million students - many from our own state of Nebraska. But effective schools don't just measure engagement of their employees and students, they act on it! This session will explore the key questions used to measure engagement, explore the relationships between employee and student engagement, and share best practices that can transform our schools into great places to work and learn.

Use of Formative Data and Timely Assessment Results to Improve Student Learning
Educator Effectiveness

Presenter: Valorie Foy

Description: NDE will partner with Hastings Lincoln Elementary and Millard High School to provide department information and in-school experiences about effective use of formative assessment and timely assessment results.

**Understanding and Incorporating ACT Report Data Into Classroom Instruction; Inclusion of ACT Data for State Reporting
College and Career Ready**

Presenter: Valorie Foy

Description: Annually ACT issues district and school profile reports which correlate to ACT's College and Career Readiness Standards. In addition, ACT data will be incorporated into the Nebraska assessments reports and AQuESTT accountability system. This session will explore classroom use of ACT data to impact instruction and provide an update on the upcoming standard setting process for ACT.

**A Psychometric Review and Evaluation of the AQuESTT Evidence-Based Analysis (EBA)
Systems of Support**

Presenter: Yukina Chen

Description: The Data, Research and Evaluation team at the Nebraska Department of Education conducted studies on the psychometrics analysis of the AQuESTT Evidence-Based Analysis (EBA) questionnaires. A psychometrics analysis is usually performed to assess the reliability and validity of a designed survey instrument. This presentation focuses on the statistical methods used in the analyses and their key findings. It also introduces and explains revision work made to the 2016-2017 AQuESTT Evidence-Based Analysis (EBA) based on the psychometrics analysis findings.

**An Examination of Advanced Placement (AP) Course Taking and College-Going in Nebraska
College and Career Ready**

Presenter: Yukina Chen

Description: The Data, Research and Evaluation team at the Nebraska Department of Education examined the relationship between Nebraska high school students' participation in Advanced Placement (AP) courses and their college-going (number or proportion of students who go on to college) behaviors. In this study, AP and non-AP students are compared with each other based on similar demographic backgrounds (such as gender, race/ethnicity, immigration status, and NeSA performance), with AP enrollment being the only difference. Findings from this study provide information on AP programs and insights on how to better prepare Nebraska students for post-secondary education.