

NCSS Staff Report

NCSS House of Delegates

November 2014

Education/Knowledge

NCSS will be the premiere educational organization for professionals who seek social studies knowledge, resources, learning opportunities, and collegiality throughout their careers.

Annual Conference

- Registration revenue has surpassed the pre-registration goal by \$15,000 and is about \$18,000 short of budget goal, as of Nov. 14. Will update at meeting.
- Exhibit revenue has exceeded budget goal by \$9000, as of Nov. 14. Clearly a large increase since the September report.

Online Learning

- Fall webinars included:
 - “Sparking Curiosity—Geography, the C3 Framework and the Inquiry Arc,” held on September 3
 - The series “Get Digital with Discovery Education and NCSS,” featuring three sessions during late September
 - “Mapping the Nation: Making Global Classroom Connections,” conducted by the Longview Foundation and the Asia Society in mid-September. This webinar is complimentary, and is full.
- Proposals for the spring series are being reviewed.

Online Resources

- NCSS is reworking “Socialstudies.org” to make NCSS resources more easily accessible to members and potential members. Navigation for the site will be reorganized so that articles from NCSS Journals will be more prominently identified as resources and not solely organized into an “archive” of articles. Additionally, the site will feature a “responsive” template that will adjust itself to the size of a user’s screen to make the site more user friendly on smartphones and tablets.

Periodicals

- The November-December 2014 conference issue of Social Education is titled “Advancing the Civic Mission of Schools,” and its contents match this year’s conference theme. Its articles

cover a wide range of topics, including progress in advancing civic learning in four different states, civic action based on the C3 Framework, and the teaching of controversial issues, as well as a commemoration of the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, which takes place in June 2015.

- In the current school year, Social Education plans to publish regular features focusing on the C3 Framework.
- The November-December issue of Social Studies and the Young Learner deals with “Tackling Challenging Topics” at the elementary level. The articles cover both contemporary and historical topics, including immigration, the exploration of identity, slavery, gender roles, and children’s social relationships.
- For budgetary reasons, *The Social Studies Professional* (TSSP) continues to be entirely an electronic, members-only publication, with eight issues a year now being published, compared to six a year when it was a print publication. One of our goals this year is for TSSP to provide regular coverage and updates on implementation of C3 across the country, so that it will come to be a clearing house for information about the progress of C3.
- *Middle Level Learning* is now in its fifth year as an online-only periodical for NCSS members.

Books

- Our first Bulletin with lesson plans showing how to put the concepts of the C3 Framework into practice has just been printed. The Bulletin, edited by Kathy Swan and John Lee, is titled Teaching the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework: Exploring Inquiry-Based Instruction in Social Studies, and includes lesson plans that have been prepared by the educational staff of 15 different institutions active in the field of social studies.
- Soon after the Bulletin, we will publish another book, Case Studies in Elementary Social Studies: Becoming Integrated Thinkers, which has been edited by Linda Bennett and Elizabeth Hinde.
- A manuscript that was approved this year by reviewers for publication as a future Bulletin is “Social Studies for Exceptional Learners,” written by Timothy Lintner and Darren Minarik. The authors have made progress on revisions to their lesson plans to link them to the C3 Framework, and our plan is to publish this book in the fall of 2015.

Advocacy/Visibility

Educators and public policymakers will regard NCSS and its members as leaders in shaping educational policies affecting social studies.

Summer Leadership Institute

- In July, President Michelle Herczog, with support from Vice President Peggy Jackson, and NCSS staff hosted one of our most successful Summer Leadership Institutes ever. Though Ana Post was not there physically, her many hours of planning and countless conversations with Michelle, Susan, Jordan and Ashanté provided a solid outline for a remarkable 3 days with affiliate leaders from around the country.
 - Catriona Macdonald, CEO of Linchpin Strategies, worked with Michelle and Ana to refine talking points for Congressional visits.
 - Veteran Hill Advocate, Peggy Jackson, provided coaching and guidance so everyone was prepared and comfortable for visits to Congressional offices.
 - A new reporting mechanism provided the opportunity for immediate feedback to Linchpin Strategies via phone calls immediately after each visit.
 - The debrief with Cat and council leaders following the visits verified the quality of the interchanges.
 - Objectives—building relationships with Congressional offices and communicating the importance of social studies to students around the country—were achieved.
- Education policy occurs primarily at the state level. Underscoring what can be done was outlined by:
 - Corbin Moore’s review of Ohio CSS’s campaign to save their world history requirement
 - Eugene Earsom and Kelly Curtright recap of Oklahoma’s successful effort to save social studies assessments
 - Janis Kyser’s statewide civics initiative
 - Beth Ratway’s “how-to-do-it” on building coalitions and partnerships in your state
- Sponsors make a difference—thanks to Randy Rice, Farmer’s Insurance for supporting this year’s SLI, and Barbara McCormack and Maggie Crawford for a lovely afternoon tour and reception at the Newseum.

Social Studies Advocacy Web Page

- NCSS is preparing a redesign of the Advocacy web pages as part of a larger website refresh.
 - **How will it work?** - The new page will feature a blog-like design that will highlight up-to-date information on NCSS advocacy efforts, updates from state councils and social studies education related news. All entries will be

categorized by topic for easy access. The format will also make it easier to post links to these items on the NCSS Facebook page and Twitter to pull the public back to the NCSS webpage/site.

- **What information will it include?**

- **Blog-like section** - The information posted will include things such as news (media articles, reports from institutions, etc.), updates (news from Catriona Macdonald, NCSS leaders, and staff; letters received from legislators; latest call to action with link to NCSS Action Center.
- **Resources Section** – “How To Advocate” resources, including: Toolkit; webinars; letters written by leaders and members of the social studies community that can serve as inspiration for others; NCSS Position Statements, etc.
- **Media Section** – where the media will have direct access to our most recent news releases, official NCSS information (e.g., background statement; Board of Directors information; standards info/hot initiatives, etc.); a media kit; conference related media registration, etc.

Membership

NCSS will embrace and unite professionals representing all levels and disciplines of social studies education.

Membership Marketing

- Our 2014 membership campaign is focused on recruitment and reinstatement of lapsed members. This is a focused and ambitious effort that will consist of new initiatives to address member erosion and result in membership growth.
- Membership statistics are provided in a separate document.

Communities

- A Connected group for NCSS Community Leaders was developed, and we hope to be able to use it to deliver messages to all Community Leaders. We are also hopeful that, once they are accustomed to it, that they will begin to network with one another in the space.

Citizenry and Social Studies Excellence

Social Studies knowledge and skills will be central to sound decision making and engagement in civic life.

Social Studies, based on NCSS policies and standards, will be recognized as a core subject to be taught by highly qualified educators.

C3 Framework

- Robert R. McCormick Foundation and S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation contributed \$20,000 each for a planning grant to convene a C3 Implementation Meeting that included:
 - representatives from CUFA, NSSSA, and CS4
 - representatives from C3 Task Force organizations, one each from civics, economics, geography, and history
 - classroom teachers—one primary, one upper elementary, one middle school, and one high school
 - chair of the California Civics Task Force
 - chair of the Illinois Civic Mission of Schools Campaign
- Final report to use as proposal for further funding is being finalized.
- Grant proposal prepared by Ana Post, Michelle Herczog, Susan Griffin, with assistance from KaiLonnie Dunsmore, National Center for Literacy Education from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was funded for \$205,000, covering 18 months.
- Work on the Gates grant is moving forward: 200 teachers interested in leading teams; 17 teams will be part of state networks organized through SSACI; two sessions for those already selected and those who may be interested at the Boston conference. Resource Development Plan evolving, first draft reviewed by Kathy Swan, John Lee, Tina Heafner, and Daisy Massey.
- Presentations have been made Pennsylvania CSS (staff) and (whatever is in the officers' reports)
- Connecticut and Kentucky presented draft state frameworks based on C3 Framework at the SSACI meeting in Orlando last month. The Connecticut team, led by Steve Armstrong and John Tully did an outstanding job and the work was very well received. Kentucky and Connecticut explained what this process and product looks like in their “local control” states.
- Susan Griffin provided a C3 overview to the Illinois Frameworks Task Force that is just beginning their work. Latishia Moore from Kentucky DOE presented their draft as did John Tully for Connecticut.
- Susan also provided a C3 workshop at the National Conference on Citizenship in

Washington, DC.

Teacher Preparation (CAEP)

- Susan Griffin worked with Leah Englehardt, outgoing NCSS Program Coordinator for Council for Accreditation of Education Professionals (CAEP) formerly National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, to interview and select Leah's replacement. NCSS member Brandi Benton is CAEP Program Review Coordinator as of August.
- NCSS/CAEP Teacher Preparation Standards are currently under revision to align with C3 Framework and new CAEP guidelines. Tim Daly and Susan are providing support for that work.

Awards

- Award winners for this year are:
 - ETOY- Mary Nine, IN
 - MTOY- Kelley Graves, VA
 - STOY- Sara Shackett, CO
 - Robert H. Jackson Award for Teaching Justice- David Sherrin, NY
 - Career Research- William B. Stanley, NJ
 - Exemplary Dissertation- Joel Breakstone, CA
 - Exemplary Research- Wayne Journell, NC
 - Christa McAuliffe Reach for the Stars- Shawn Daley, OR and Marc Turner, SC
 - Global Understanding- Kimberly Young, MA.
 - Grant for Enhancement of GeoLit, Kimberley Statham, DE
- Additionally, a new co-sponsor has been found for the Grant for the Enhancement of Geographic Literacy- GENIP

Rho Kappa

- We now have over 390 chapters, including a new chapter in China. There will be a Rho Kappa event on Saturday afternoon, 4:40-5:35 in the Jefferson Room at the Sheraton.