

2010 Spring Conference Program
March 23 & 24, 2010

Monday, March 22, 2010

- 4:00 -- 9:00 PM** Exhibitor Registration & Setup – Ballroom
- 7:00 – 9:00 PM** Registration (*pre-registration only*) – Back Foyer
- 7:00PM** Hospitality Rooms (As posted)

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

- 7:30 AM** Registration – Back Foyer
Coffee and Rolls – Loper Hall Exhibit Area

8:30AM General Session – Loper Hall

Presiding: President: Charles Isom, Superior Public Schools

Musical Welcome: Arapahoe Public Schools

Scholarship and Awards:

*Gary Fisher Fine Arts Scholarship
Gary Fisher Music Teacher of the Year*

Keynote: MK Mueller

10:15 AM-Refreshment Break- Ballroom

10:45 AM-11:45 AM – Tuesday Morning Select-a- Sessions:

Room AB: *The World's Most Powerful Positive Attitude Formula-MK has transformed many lives sharing her 3-letter FGH formula for positive attitude. This practical "how to" will give participants a measuring stick to easily know how positive they are in any moment and how to get back to where they want to go! Extra bonus-how to help those around you to their most positive as well. Presented by MK Mueller*

Room C: *State Aid Update- Legislative Issues, state-aid formula issues will be discussed. Presented by Russ Inbody, NDE*

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Room D: National Center for Research on Rural Education: Nebraska Directions and Perspectives- Rural educators are confronted with unique challenges in providing professional development in instructional approaches that best meet the needs of their students. This presentation will provide an overview of the long-term and immediate goals and planned research activities of the National Center for Research on Rural Education. The long-term goals of this Center are (a) to improve rural students, acquisition of reading, science, and mathematics knowledge and skills (b) to establish an infrastructure for conducting and disseminating nationally-relevant research and leadership related to rural education. **Presented by Susan Sheridan and panelists, University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Room E: Retirement Rundown- This presentation will focus on the school retirement plan. Retirement issues being considered by the 2010 Legislature will be discussed. Also, relevant retirement issues for school personnel will be discussed. **Presented by Randy Gerke, NPERS**

Room F: Principals and Teachers Standards of Performance- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) contained \$7 billion of competitive and formula grants from the United States Department of Education. The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF), State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), Race to the Top (RTTT), and School Improvement Grants (SIG) all require a data system from the America COMPETES Act that ties teachers, students, grades, and graduation rates together to evaluate teachers, principals, and schools. This session will explain where the Nebraska Department of Education is going in regards to these new requirements and the ramifications for local education agencies. **Presented by Dr. Scott Swisher, Deputy Commissioner of Education**

Exec Room: Small Schools, Big Offerings: Career Academies for Student Achievement- How can career academies assist schools in student achievement and increase course offerings? See the successful implementation of the Northeast Nebraska Project preparing students for college and careers with dual credit opportunities and real-world exposure. Hear about our Health Science academy in many rural Northeast Nebraska schools and the soon to be implemented Industrial Manufacturing academy. Gain an understanding of career academies as a larger learning community and the benefits to your school to become involved with the Nebraska career academy project. **Presented by Cynthia Baum, Northeast Community College**

12:00 PM Lunch General Session – Loper Hall

Presiding: Past President: Mark Norvell, Fillmore Central Public Schools

Scholarships and Awards:

Elementary Teacher of the Year
Secondary Teacher of the Year
ESU Staff Member of the Year
Principal of the Year

Keynote: Stuart Robertshaw (A.K.A Dr. Humor)

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM – Tuesday Afternoon Select-a-Sessions

Room AB: Social Networking- *As technology continues to progress, students are becoming increasingly involved in the technology and issues related to the social networking scene. Myspace, Twitter, Facebook, chat rooms, instant-messaging, and personal web-sites are all means by which today's students relate to one another and indeed the world. This session will address the legal problems that students' use of social networking technology creates for administrators (i.e. bullying, sexting, posting inappropriate material or personal information). Presented by Jim Gessford, Greg Perry, & Rex Schultze, Perry Law Firm*

Room C: State Aid Update- *Legislative Issues, state-aid formula issues will be reviewed. Presented by Russ Inbody, NDE*

Room D: The Engineers and Architects Regulation Act- *The history and purpose of the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act will be reviewed. Nebraska State law requires that any building that will exceed the square footages as defined by the act must be designed by an architect and/or professional engineer. There are exceptions to this requirement, which vary based on the occupancy classification of the building. It is the responsibility of the Board to ensure compliance with Nebraska Statutes through education and enforcement. Presented by Jon Wilbeck, NE Board of Architects and Engineers*

Room E: Nebraska State Accountability: NeSA-The New Tests- *Participants will learn what to expect with the new state standards and online tests in reading, mathematics, and science. Time will be provided for questions. Presented by Pat Roschewski, NDE*

Room F: Building Public Confidence: The Effective Board Meeting- *Boards of education conduct their business in an open, public session. Effectively organized and well-managed board meetings provide the public with a positive view of how their board organizes its work. This session will discuss strategies for well-organized board meetings that feature vital information and improve public confidence in schools. Presented by Larry Dlugosh, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

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3:00 PM – Refreshment Break – Ballroom

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM – Tuesday Afternoon Select-a-Sessions

Room AB: Legal Update for Rural Schools- *The school attorneys will discuss current legal issues of interest to schools including standarding negotiation computation, as well as issues currently before the Legislature. Presented by Jim Gessford, Greg Perry, & Rex Schultze, Perry Law Firm*

Room C: 2010-11 EHA Plan Renewal- *The 2010-11 EHA plan renewal will be announced. During this session claims, medical trends, and renewal rates for the upcoming plan year for the EHA will be reviewed. New benefit options for EHA members to consider will be announced. Presented by Kurt Genrich & Kent Trelford-Thompson, EHA & Blue Cross Blue Shield*

Room D: The Appropriate Roles and Responsibilities for Superintendents and Board Members- *Who does what, when, and why? This session is designed to help clarify appropriate roles for both superintendents and individual board members. The critical components of a Superintendent/Board "Operating Protocol" will serve as the framework for discussion. Presented by Dan Ernst & Larry Ramaekers, NCSA & Aurora Public Schools*

Room E: Beyond Scholarships- *This session will discuss what school-based foundations are doing with a little vision and a lot of community support. Using the charitable vehicle of a Foundation, your schools and communities can make a difference in shaping the future. Presented by Brian Hale & panelists, NASB*

Room F: - The Extent to Which Public Schools May Use Religious Music in Connection with Concerts, Holiday Celebrations, and Graduation- *There is still considerable confusion regarding the use of religious music in concerts, holiday celebrations, and graduation. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," though clearly secular, was almost grounded this year at Murrayville (North Carolina) North Elementary School after a parent complained on Establishment Clause grounds. In 2006 a school in Washington State prohibited the use of a student selected-instrumental-only version of "Ave Maria" at a school graduation ceremony. School attorney Neal E. Stenberg will discuss current law on this subject; explore the limits on the use of religious music; discuss policy development; and procedures which will allow public school districts to use religious music to the extent permitted by law. Presented by Neil Stenberg, Stenberg Law Firm*

Exec Room: NIMS: The National Incident Management System- *This session will provide an overview of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and non-governmental organizations to work together during a catastrophic incident. A variety of training is available to meet the needs of school personnel in creating a systemic response to a crisis. Presented by Aaron Alward, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency*

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4:30 PM. – NRCSA Business Meeting with Legislative Update – Room C

5:30 PM – Christian Administrators Meeting-Rm F

5:30 PM – Hospitality Rooms Open

6:30 PM – Country Buffet

7:30 PM – Casino Night

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

7:30 AM Registration – Back Foyer
 Coffee and Rolls – Ballroom

8:15 AM-9:15 AM – Wednesday Select-a-Session

Room AB: What Do Lawyers Know About Staff Termination- *It is an unfortunate fact of life that many school personnel matters are intensively governed by statute. That is particularly true regarding the employment of certified staff. Though the statutes do not prevent boards from terminating teachers' employment, they require administrators and boards to jump through several hoops in a specific order. Kelley Baker and Karen Haase will review the statutory requirement governing the termination of teachers' employment so that administrators and boards will know what they have to do and the order they have to do it. Presented by Kelley Baker & Karen Haase, Harding Schulz Law Firm*

Room C: 2010-11 EHA Plan Renewal- *The 2010-11 EHA plan renewal will be announced. During this session claims, medical trends, and renewal rates for the upcoming plan year for the EHA will be reviewed. New benefit options for EHA members to consider will be announced. Presented by Kurt Genrich & Kent Trelford-Thompson, EHA & Blue Cross Blue Shield*

Room D: District Sharing-Option to Consolidation- *Laurel Concord School District has been involved in institutional and financial sharing with other school districts for several years. Richard Patton, superintendent at Laurel-Concord will explain some of the advantages and disadvantages of sharing. Presented by Rich Patton, Laurel-Concord Public Schools*

Room E: High School Activities: The Other Half of Education- *This session will address pertinent issues involving high school activities and the NSAA. A time for questions and answers will be provided. Presented by Jim Tenopir, NSAA*

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Room F: - Legal Issues Related to Student Safety and Security- *The administration at Arnold Elementary School in Lincoln, Nebraska, had a safety and security plan in effect which was supposed to keep students safe from being harmed by intruders. The exterior doors were locked except for the one entrance door nearest to the administrative office. A sign posted at that entrance notified visitors to proceed to the administrative office to sign in. Visitors were required to sign in and were then issued a nametag. The administrative office had a window allowing staff to observe the entrance. Those procedures were not enough to keep an intruder from entering the school building and allegedly assaulting a kindergarten student in a school restroom. The incident resulted in the filing of a lawsuit against the school district. The matter is currently on appeal before the Nebraska Supreme Court. The case raises some very difficult issues. Do we need to turn our schools into fortresses with armed guards in order to avoid liability? In this session, school attorney Neal Stenberg will discuss the circumstances under which a school district may be held liable for assaults perpetrated against students by intruders, school employees, and fellow students, and talk about steps which schools can take to limit their potential liability. **Presented by Neil Stenberg, Stenberg Law Firm***

Exec Room: Special Programs & Opportunities... Helping Students "Find Their Way- *To ensure that all students have additional preparation for their future, a variety of programs and events have been implemented for Aurora High School students. An overview of each program will be outlined. Results from student surveys about the programs will also be provided. **Presented by Doug Kittle & Maggie Rasmussen, Aurora Public Schools***

9:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. Brunch Buffet-Loper Hall

10:30 A.M. Closing Session – Loper Hall

Presiding: President Elect: Tim Shafer, Broken Bow Public Schools

Musical Welcome: Pierce Public Schools

Scholarships and Awards:

*NRCSA Scholarship Announcements
Outstanding Board Member
Outstanding Superintendent*

Keynote Address: Carol Grace Anderson