



Learning Opportunities

Fall 2017

Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year!

Life is about learning. There are always new insights and opportunities that await us if we are willing to take a chance. Since moving into the administrative role at ESU 4, I have a much different perspective on education in Nebraska. I officially became the fourth administrator at ESU 4 on July 1, after Mr. Jon Fisher retired on June 30, 2017. On behalf of ESU 4, I wish Mr. Fisher the best of luck as he enters retirement!

My perspective is now different. As I think about my new position, I am reminded of the “why” I do what I do, and I keep coming back to the vision of ESU 4: “To courageously lead a dynamic revolution in education.” As the year moves forward, I am committed to this vision by being present in conversations and in visits to schools with a goal to advocate for what we are doing in southeast Nebraska.

At ESU 4, we’ve started to have conversations regarding the services we offer. We are continually evaluating the effectiveness of our services. Are improvements necessary? Are there services that need to be changed or eliminated? Do teachers, staff members, and community members know the many services ESU 4 provides? And, how do we share our story?

To that end, one thing that we have decided to prune is the service of a van delivery to each district. With technology and other means of getting needed items to area schools, we have decided to run a van route on an as-needed basis. If there is something that needs to be dropped off at ESU 4 or a school, then we will make arrangements for those items to be delivered.

Please take a moment to look at our website at www.esu4.org. We’ve updated our site with photos and biographies of our staff. (This is a work in progress). We’ve added a new ESU 4 logo that captures our vision and mission statement. We’ve provided links for you to connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The goal is to have a website that is modern, refreshing, and can be a resource for area school district staff.

Finally, please feel free to reach out to me at anytime via email (grobke@esu4.net) or by calling the main office.

You make a difference every day. Make the most impact by being your best today! Have a great year!

Yours in education,
Gregg Robke
Administrator of ESU 4

To register for a workshop go to our online registration page at www.esu4.org, then click on *Workshops* at the top right. Click on *Directions for logging into ESU 4's registration system*. You will find detailed directions on how to register for ESU 4 workshops. Please note that the system does not allow others to register you for workshops. You will have to register for the workshops you would like to attend. You will be able to cancel your registration if you find you are unable to attend.

ESU 4 is taking steps to courageously lead a dynamic revolution in education ...

- So far this year health services has trained 87 individuals for asthma anaphylaxis and 29 individuals for CPR/AED/First Aid.
- Developing a staff evaluation process that includes the identification of roles, timelines, and common language which connects to the NCECBVI Instructional/Service Framework.
- Making more personal connections with parents and encouraging them to become more involved with NCECBVI.
- Ben Hanika, our new Tech Integration Specialist, has a website: www.esu4tech.weebly.com.
- The ESU 4 team is studying *Better Conversations* (Knight, 2016). We want to be good listeners and have life-giving conversations with you!
- We are looking forward to beginning the conversation of "Great Instruction, Great Achievement" on September 7th, and the ongoing discussion of creating a positive impact on education for students with disabilities.

Professional Development

Suzanne Whisler

Jen Madison

Ben Hanika

Sue Knickman

Register online at www.esu4.org.
Registration fees are \$20 per person unless otherwise noted. Please register at least one week prior to the workshop.

2017-18 ESU 4 Principals' Cadre ESU 4

Join the ESU 4 team for this year's Principals' Cadre meetings! This is an opportunity for building leaders to network, discuss relevant issues, and share best practices in education. Save the dates for the year, and principals, watch your email for additional details.

- **September 21, 2017** - 8:30 - 12:00 Meet & Greet with breakfast served by ESU 4 Team
- **November 14, 2017** - 9:00 - 12:00
- **February 7, 2018** - 9:00 - 12:00
- **April 5, 2018** - 9:00 - 12:00

ELL Network

September 22, 2017

9:00 - 3:00

NCSA (455 South 11th, Lincoln)

The ELL Network is a forum for district personnel to discuss issues related to the education of English Learners. These sessions are the primary means of sharing information throughout the ESU 4 Title III Consortium; however, a majority of our time is devoted to studying effective instruction, sharing and exploring resources, learning of updates from NDE, and networking with colleagues. We welcome everyone interested in English Learners, regardless of Title III affiliation or position. There is no cost for this session. (Please note that lunch will not be provided. Participants may bring lunch or go out.)

Art Cadre

October 3, 2017

9:00 - 3:00

Peru State College

Join art teacher colleagues from the ESU 4 region for a day of art! Guest presenters include Sheli Petersen from Peru State College and Debbie DeFrain from NDE. Of course, time will be reserved for participants to share questions, projects, and ideas. Watch your email for information about the specific location at PSC.

New Science Standards Exploration Workshop

October 6, 2017

9:00 - 3:00

NCECBVI, Nebraska City

The new Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science are expected to be adopted in September by the State Board of Education. This means it is time for K-12 science teachers to begin exploring the new standards to build awareness and capacity. Sara Cooper will be leading teachers in activities that help to develop a thorough understanding of the standards and help school teams create a timeline for district adoption and implementation.

Technology Integration Group (TIG)

October 17, 2017

January 31, 2018

9:00 - 3:00

ESU 4

The goal of TIG is to facilitate the growth of teachers as technology leaders in their respective school districts. Teachers of all content areas, grade levels, and technology skills are welcome and encouraged to be a part of TIG!

Counselors' Networking Sessions

October 30, 2017

February 28, 2018

11:45 - 3:00

ESU 4

Counselors, join your ESU 4 colleagues for lunch (11:45) and discussion (12:30)! Bring your suggestions, questions, and concerns to the networking sessions. Please note we welcome your suggestions for guest speakers.

\$10 per person registration fee.

Music Cadre

November 6, 2017

9:00 - 3:00

ESU 4

We are in the process of planning an exciting day of learning and collaboration for music educators. Dr. Lance Nielsen, Supervisor of Music at Lincoln Public Schools, will be here to visit about aligning music curriculum to the new NDE Fine Arts Standards. The schedule for the day will also include some time for differentiated professional development by meeting in small groups (i.e. Elementary Vocal, Secondary Instrumental). We hope that all music teachers will consider joining us for the day!

Professional Development (continued)

Suzanne Whisler

Jen Madison

Ben Hanika

Sue Knickman

Analytical Scoring of TDA and ACT College Entrance Exam Writing (Grades 5-8, 11)

November 1, 2017

9:00 - 3:00

ESU 4

Join your colleagues for a day of analytical scoring at ESU 4. The year's focus will be on TDA and ACT College Entrance Exam Writing. The purpose of the workshop is to provide students with practice on writing to TDA and ACT prompts, and to give teachers the opportunity to score papers in order to determine students strengths and challenges as well as next steps needed to support student writing. One teacher should register for this workshop for every 25 papers sent for scoring. Each participating school building must designate a school contact person upon registration. All preliminary information and materials, including prompts and directions, will be sent to the school's contact person.

Please send Sue Knickman your school's contact person by September 25 at sknickman@esu4.net.

Ron Coniglio: How to Write a TDA Seminar November 17, 2017

8:30 - 3:00

ESU 4

This training is designed for teachers of grades 2 through 8 to empower them with the ability to teach their students how to recognize a Text Dependent Analysis question and be able to answer it effectively and concisely.

Leading this seminar will be renowned presenter, Ron Coniglio. Please join Ron for an action-packed day of practical, applicable and exciting strategies that will help you teach your students how to infer information from written text, revise inferential answers into text dependent analysis, formulate an answer in Bloom's analysis and synthesis levels, and extrapolate the information into a multi-paragraph TDA essay.

For more information and registration, please contact Ron at 402.476.6678 or wizardscastlepublishing@hotmail.com.

English Learner Program Review

December 1, 2017

9:00 - 3:00

NCSA (455 South 11th, Lincoln)

Rule 15 requires Nebraska districts to annually examine their English Learner programs and services. This session will provide guidance and work time for district teams toward completion of the review. Participants should bring a laptop/device, access to district data and documents related to EL services and their EL students' achievement.

There is no fee for this meeting. Please bring your lunch or plan to go out.

CIP Workshop

December 5, 2017

9:00 - 3:00

ESU 4

This workshop is designed as a work day for district CIP teams. Don Loeske will be joining the ESU 4 team to support districts in their work and to assist teams who are preparing for an accreditation visit.

Title 1 Cadre

December 14, 2017

12:30 - 3:00

ESU 4

Title I teachers you won't want to miss this opportunity to network with your colleagues! Please bring your suggestions, questions, and concerns to the networking session. In addition, this will be an excellent time to share resources and learn from others in the group.

There is no registration fee for this cadre.

Save the date!

CTE Cadre - January 10, 2018

New Teacher Boot Camp Follow-Up -

January 30, 2018

ESU 4 Engaging Educators Conference -

February 19, 2018

MTSS 101 with Dawn Miller - February 26, 2018

MTSS: Moving Teams Forward -

February 27, 2018

Special Education

Ellen Stokebrand

CPI (Crisis Prevention/Intervention) Training

By using Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® training as part of a comprehensive crisis prevention and intervention plan, you can learn how to defuse challenging and disruptive behavior before an incident escalates to a crisis situation. Successful implementation leads to a change in organizational culture, a change in adult professional behavior, and a change in staff relationships with both service users and stakeholders.

1) New Staff/Certification Training

September 18-19, 2017

9:00 - 3:00

NCECBVI

OR

January 22-23, 2018

9:00 - 3:00

Location: TBA

Registration fee \$150.00 per person (includes training materials, meals and future recertification.)

2) Recertification Training

FULL DAY - October 8, 2017

9:00 - 3:00

Location TBA

(Registration by Invitation ONLY!)

FULL DAY - January 29, 2018

9:00 - 3:00

Location TBA

(Registration by Invitation ONLY!)

Share Your Feedback

September 26, 2017

4:00 - 7:00

ESU 4 Learning Center
(1701 R Street, Auburn)

NDE will be conducting SPOT Analysis input sessions regarding the quality of education for children ages birth to 21 who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. NDE will be looking

for input on **S**trengths (things that are going well), **P**roblems (things that could be better), **O**pportunities (things that can be done that we may not have thought about), and **T**hreats (things that can make change difficult).

Registration for this session can be completed through the following link - <https://goo.gl/forms/HGiZz9HIwJRPYJ0S2>. If you are not able to attend, NDE will happily accept written input through e-mail to rhonda.fleischer@esu9.us or teresa.coonts@nebraska.gov. You can also send a video message through Glide to rhondafleischer (username).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

First Monday Zoom!!! - Following our initial conversation about “Great Instruction, Great Achievement,” join a monthly conversation to talk through supporting achievement and growth for students with disabilities. We’ll begin at 3:30 and conclude between 4:15 and 4:30. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

Monday, October 2, 2017

Monday, November 6, 2017

Monday, December 4, 2017

Monday, February 5, 2018

Monday, March 5, 2018

Monday, May 8, 2018

To receive the zoom link, you must register via the ESU 4 website.

ENTC - Annual Transition Conference for Students with Disabilities

September 27, 2017

Southeast Community College - Lincoln
Campus (84th & O)

Registration information will be emailed to high school special education teachers and directors/coordinators. Please register students and staff with Jodie by Wednesday, September 13th. For more information, contact Ellen (estokebrand@esu4.net)

Special Education (continued)

Ellen Stokebrand

ENTC - Annual Transition Conference for Parents of Students with Disabilities

September 27, 2017

Southeast Community College
Lincoln Campus (84th & O)

Registration information will be emailed to high school special education teachers and directors/coordinators. Please share with parents.

28th Annual Para-Educator Conference! “Para-Educators are Difference Makers!”

October 10, 2017

Younes Center, Kearney, NE

For more information: <https://para.unl.edu/conference/conference.html>

Training Opportunities from the Southeast

ASD Network for 2017-2018:

Please be sure to access our website...

[Southeast ASD Regional Training Site](#)

For more information for ASD Training and webinars, please contact Mary Flory, SE-ASD Coordinator...

mary.flory@esu6.org.

ASD Webinar Reminders!

This year, the ASD Network is again participating in the Tri-State Collaborative Webinar Series. These webinars will be recorded and posted on the Nebraska ASD Website.

Link to 17-18 Webinar information... [http://](http://files.constantcontact.com/7fd109d8301/142ba200-2966-4203-9a30-9bee314c1063.pdf)

[files.constantcontact.com/](http://files.constantcontact.com/7fd109d8301/142ba200-2966-4203-9a30-9bee314c1063.pdf)

[7fd109d8301/142ba200-2966-4203-9a30-9bee314c1063.p](http://files.constantcontact.com/7fd109d8301/142ba200-2966-4203-9a30-9bee314c1063.pdf)

[df](http://files.constantcontact.com/7fd109d8301/142ba200-2966-4203-9a30-9bee314c1063.pdf)

Autism Internet Modules (AIM)

Autism Internet Modules (AIM): The Nebraska Autism Spectrum Disorders Network has partnered with the Ohio Center for Autism, the Autism Society of America, the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders, and the Geneva Centre for Autism, to support the development of a variety of user friendly, free, web training modules on issues related to autism spectrum disorders. For more information...

<http://www.unl.edu/asdnetwork/training.shtml>

Student Health

Catrina Zentner

Ivon Johnson

Mary Jo Huettner

Nurses Networking Session

September 7, 2017

9:00 a.m.

ESU 4

To register contact Catrina at czentner@esu4.net

The health van is now out seeing students in schools. Should you have a student with a concern you would like checked immediately, please contact Catrina

at [402-414-3040](tel:402-414-3040) or czentner@esu4.net. Also, please let us

know of any student health needs you need assistance with including any assistance with glasses, prescriptions, or head lice.

Transition Workshop for Parents of Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired at NCECBVI

September 10, 2017

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

This workshop will focus on parents of students who are considering going on to post-secondary education, obtaining gainful employment, and/or living independently after high school graduation. (Students are invited to attend and will spend time participating in recreation and leisure activities, while parents attend the workshop). This workshop will be led by Leslie Wagner, M.Ed., Transition Specialist at NCECBVI. Leslie has more than ten years of experience working in the field of Special Education and Transition. She provides Outreach services to students who are blind or visually impaired, parents, and teachers across the state of Nebraska. There is no cost to attend and dinner will be provided.

To register, please contact Tanya Hilligoss at: thilligoss@esu4.net or 402-873-5513.

Paraprofessional Training: For Paras Working with Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired, and/or Multiple Disabilities, including Deaf-Blindness

This workshop is designed to be interactive and to review the roles of the Paraprofessional. The specific needs of students with visual impairments and additional disabilities will be discussed, along with strategies to use in functional and academic settings. There is no cost to attend.

The workshop will be led by Donna Hultman, M.Ed., Consultant at NCECBVI. Donna has forty years of experience working in the field of Special Education/ Visual Impairments. She currently provides Outreach services across the state of Nebraska.

Workshops are offered at the following dates, times, and locations:

September 11, 2017 Lincoln (4:00 - 7:00 p.m.)

October 13, 2017 Hastings (8:30 a.m. – Noon)

November 10, 2017 Omaha (8:30 a.m. – Noon)

January 19, 2018 NCECBVI (12:30 – 4:00 p.m.)

Register online at: www.ncecbvi.org under 'Professional Development.'

Sensory Safari at the Lincoln Children's Zoo

October 4, 2017

What an exciting opportunity for people of all ages!

Please consider joining us at the Lincoln Children's Zoo for this year's Sensory Safari. This one-day, annual event is a chance for individuals with disabilities to have the opportunity to experience first-hand the sights, sounds, and feel of the zoo. Thanks to a partnership with Nebraska Game and Parks, students can get an 'up close and personal' zoo experience unlike a typical day at the zoo. There is a small fee to attend and transportation scholarships are available for schools.

Registration will be done through the Lincoln Children's Zoo website: www.lincolnzoo.org. For questions about transportation scholarships, please contact Tanya Hilligoss at: thilligoss@esu4.net or call 402-873-5513.

Fall Foliage October 26-27 NCECBVI.

You are invited to attend our annual fall conference on October 26-27 (Thursday all day and Friday until noon) This year's presenter will be Millie Smith, private consultant for students with visual and multiple disabilities.

During Thursday's workshop, Millie will discuss students with visual and multiple impairments and how they have very unique educational needs. When their present levels of performance are at the sensorimotor stage, regardless of chronological age, they learn about their worlds and develop basic skills by participating in experiences that allow them to use sensing and acting systems. She will speak about the barriers to learning imposed by sensory, cognitive, and motor impairments and how they must be overcome by teams of professionals who can use research-based strategies to design highly effective instructional activities.

On Friday morning, Millie will be talking about a new product she is developing which focuses on functional vision and learning media assessments for students with visual and multiple disabilities.

Register online at: www.ncecbvi.org under 'Professional Development.' The cost to attend is \$75.

Parent Workshop: Adapting Toys for Your Child who is Blind or Visually Impaired and/or Deaf-Blind

November 12, 2017

NCECBVI

Need ideas for a birthday or holiday gift? Looking for specialized toys and games designed for a child who has a

visual impairment? Would you like ideas for how to modify a toy or game from 'off the store shelf' to make it accessible for your child? Join us for an interactive workshop and share your ideas with other parents. This workshop will be led by Audrey Graves, NCECBVI Principal and endorsed teacher of the visually impaired. There is no cost to attend and dinner will be provided.

To register, please contact Tanya Hilligoss at: thilligoss@esu4.net or 402-873-5513.

Technology

Dustin Buggi Kim Robke Jake McCormick

Important Dates:

TCadre (9:00 - 3:00):

- September 6, 2017
- October 11, 2017

NSSRS Workdays

- September 12, 2017
- October 5, 2017

**2017 Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference
November 2-3, 2017 in Kearney**

For more information and to register, please visit:

www.netasite.org

ADVISOR Ed-Fi Workday

November 7, 2017

Help us welcome the following to ESU 4 and NCECBVI

To learn more about our new employees go to ESU 4's home page and check out their bios!



Amy Smallfoot is joining NCECBVI as an RN.



Linda Cutler is joining NCECBVI as a residential assistant.



Tim Graves is joining NCECBVI as a residential assistant.



Kevin Walters is joining NCECBVI as a residential assistant.



Rob Addy is joining NCECBVI's Maintenance Department.



Webb Keene is joining NCECBVI's Maintenance Department.



Ben Hanika is joining ESU 4 as the Technology Integration Specialist.



Whitney Mumma is joining ESU 4 as a Speech Pathologist.



Jake McCormick is joining ESU 4 as the School Technology Support Specialist.



Denise Buethe is joining ESU 4 as the BFIT Classroom Teacher.



Ann Alden joined ESU 4 in January as an EDN Services Coordinator.

ESU 4

919 16th Street
Auburn, NE 68305
402.274.4354
402.274.4356 (fax)
www.esu4.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vacant - Member

Vision of ESU 4:

Courageously leading a dynamic revolution in education!

The Mission of ESU 4 is impacting student learning through communication, accountability, and leadership.

Administration

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ESU 4 Administrator

Kathy Taylor
Admin Assistant

Accounting/Van Operation

Chuck Hummel
Accounting/Van

Pat Latta
Receptionist/Production Secretary

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Professional Development Director

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Technology

Dustin Buggi
Technology Director

Kim Robke
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Jake McCormick
School Technical Support Specialist

Student Health

Catrina Zentner
Student Health Services Director

Ivon Johnson
Student Health

Mary Jo Huettner
Student Health

NCECBVI

Sally Giittinger
Administrator

Lynn Wurtele
NCECBVI Administrative Assistant

Cory Starner
Fiscal Assistant

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT 4
P.O. Box 310
919 16th Street
AUBURN, NE 68305-0310

Educational Service Unit 4 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination:

Gregg Robke, Administrator
Educational Service Unit 4
919 16th Street
Auburn, NE 68305
402-274-4354

If parents, employees, and students do not feel that their complaints regarding Title IX, Title VI, Section 504 have met with resolution at the local level, they can appeal their grievances to the regional Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. This would be their final opportunity for resolution. This address needs to be readily available to parents, employees, and students for their appeals.

Office for Civil Rights
8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037
Kansas City, MO 64114
816-268-0550
Fax: 816-823-1404; TDD: 800-437-0833