

South Dakota Education Service Agency Region 6 Newsletter

Serving school districts in central South Dakota

November, 2004



Education Service Agencies: A New Vision for South Dakota Schools

By Randy Morris, Executive Director,
Regions 6 & 7

As rural districts, we've recognized the value of working together for a long time already. South Dakota's ESA structure affords us a new opportunity to build on our relationships and focus our energies on tough issues collaboratively and effectively. I invite you to join me in capitalizing on this opportunity for making a positive and significant difference in the individual efforts of Region 6 districts.

From my experience, essential keys to our success are open communication and mutual support. As ESAs grow and develop, we're counting on you as South Dakota school leaders to offer us good ideas. In turn, we'll do our best to serve you as individual districts and to facilitate inter-district collaboration. Specifically, we invite you to—

- Share information on ESA programs and services with your colleagues, including teachers, school board members, and community members.
- Appoint a district representative to our Advisory Council. The first Region 6 meeting is scheduled November 16 at the BLSSC Office in Pierre (see contact information on the second page of this newsletter).
- Get to know our staff. They are an energetic and dedicated group of individuals committed to serving you.
- Tell us what your needs are and offer us suggestions on how we can best help.
- Give us feedback on how we are doing.
- Advocate for the continuation of the ESA structure with local legislators. We need time to truly test the concept in South Dakota.

As with any other venture, ESAs in South Dakota will be only as good as the leadership that guides them. That leadership comes from member districts, as well as from the ESA staff.

Together, we can make this new vision for South Dakota schools a powerful reality.

Inquiry-based Learning in Mathematics & Science

Who: Classroom and pre-service teachers grades K-12 in Regions 6 & 7.

What: This series is designed to deepen the content knowledge of K-12 math and science teachers, to strengthen their knowledge of research-based instructional materials and practices that lead to meaningful learning experiences for students, and to provide ideas for improving instruction with the support of technology.

When: November 9, 16, 23, 30, December 7

4:30-6:30 PM Mountain Time; 5:30-7:30 PM Central Time

Where: Class sessions will be offered via DDN within your district or in a neighboring district with follow-up online via internet-based discussions. DDN sessions will take place in no more than eight of the following locations: Rapid City, Spearfish, Hot Springs, Sturgis, Batesland, Pierre, Todd County, Kadoka, Murdo, Winner.

Incentives: Graduate credit will be offered through Black Hills State University for \$57.30/credit hour. Upon completion of the course, participants will receive a \$150 stipend.

Registration: Online at <http://aims.tie.net>

More information: Marcia Torgrude (mtorgrude@tie.net)

Other ESA 6 Services

Data Analysis

ESA 6 offers member districts on-site training in the analysis of test scores and other data to identify areas of strength and weakness in student achievement. Districts participating in this process will receive customized reports which complement information available on the DOE website.

School Improvement Planning

Creating a school improvement plan is a good idea, not just for schools "in improvement," but for all schools. ESA education specialists are available to facilitate this process, designed to help schools and districts set goals and plan professional development aimed at these goals.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Improvement of Instruction

Assistance is available from ESA 6 in identifying effective instructional strategies to help schools and districts reach improvement goals.

Curriculum Mapping

ESA staff members are available to assist districts with a comprehensive curriculum analysis/development process designed to help teachers better align their instruction with state content standards. To learn more about the process, contact an ESA 6 education specialist.

Consolidated Application

For assistance in completing this annual application for federal funds, contact your ESA 6 education specialist. For contact information, please see the bottom of the next page.

Frequently Asked Questions on School Improvement

Question: If we are required to develop a School Improvement Plan, does our LEA have to approve the plan **before** we attend the Peer Review on November 15th?

Answer: No. **After** you attend the Peer Review in November and make any changes necessary to the plan, you will then submit the plan to your LEA for approval. The plan will then be submitted to the ESA on or before January 2nd. The ESA will submit your plan to the Department of Education (DOE). The State Depart-

Many Special Programs Fall Under ESA 6 "Umbrella"

South Dakota Parent Resource Network

(SDPRN) supports the meaningful involvement of parents in the education of their children. There is little debate about the importance of parent involvement in the education of their children. Effective parental involvement goes beyond volunteering at school and participating in parent teacher conferences. A parent's real impact in their children's success occurs at home. Parents who promote positive attitudes and beliefs about education, provide structure, assist with homework, teach appropriate behavior, and support healthy decisions will impact their child's educational success.

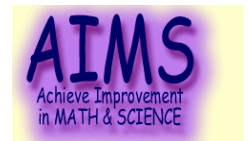
Since the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act, the role of the SDPRN has



become even more critical. Across South Dakota, SDPRN serves as the primary vehicle to increase understanding of standards and assessments, school accountability, school choice, and supplemental educational services. The South Dakota Parent Resource Network provides a varied array of direct training and information resources designed to strengthen partnerships between parents and schools towards improved student academic achievement.

For information, please contact Lori Laughlin at (lLaughlin@bhssc.tie.net) or at 800-219-6247.

AIMS (Achieve Improvement in Math & Science): Your opportunity to be a part of a community putting theory into practice.



AIMS is a regional, comprehensive professional development program designed to build the capacity of K-12 teachers in public and private schools in Education Service Agencies 6 (Three Rivers) and 7 (Black Hills). The program focus is effective, research-based methods for teaching mathematics and science with an emphasis on strategies supported by technology. Professional development activities are scheduled outside the school day.

The AIMS Program began with a week-long summer institute July 12-16, 2004 at Black Hills State University. Participants could attend 2 1/2-day sessions or a 5-day session. All participants received a stipend of \$75 per day, room and board, and up to two graduate credits.

During the fall, instructors from BHSU will take teachers through a series of inquiry-based lessons in both mathematics and science, a review of philosophy, questioning strategies, and

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)
 ideas for more effective assessment. This class will be offered via DDN and internet-based discussion boards. Dates of the events are November 9, 16, 23, 30, and December 7, 4:30 - 6:30 PM Mountain Time; 5:30 - 7:30 PM Central Time.

In the spring 2005, participants will put inquiry-based learning into practice in their classrooms through an online learning environment that supports communities of practice, modeling, case studies, and sharing what works and what doesn't. Online courses will be offered to cohorts of teachers with specific math and science content through the ESA 6 & 7 partnership with Annenberg/CPB Channel's Free Professional Development.

AIMS also supports teachers who register for professional development events being sponsored through CAMSE (The Center for the Advancement of Mathematics and Science Education, Black Hills State University), PRIME (an NSF grant focused on mathematics improvement in the Rapid City Area Schools), and ENRICH (professional development for teachers of students with disabilities).

For complete information about the AIMS Grant and professional development opportunities, visit <http://aims.tie.net>.



Teachers practicing using their geometric language skills in the reproduction of a geometric pattern.

Project ENRICH

In response to the growing need to support students with disabilities in the regular classroom, Project ENRICH and ESA 6 will soon offer professional development and follow-up to schools across the region. Project ENRICH will use existing professional development programs to disseminate information about instructional practices which lead to improved academic achievement for children with disabilities and to offer practical follow-up support to participants.

Project ENRICH acknowledges that educators are already engaged in quality professional development experiences and that the positive outcomes from these experiences include more confidence in the classroom, improved and varied instructional practices, and increased student achievement. One of the most challenging issues for classroom teachers continues to be meeting the needs of diverse learners, particularly those with disabilities.



Through Project ENRICH, educators will be provided opportunities to learn and practice instructional strategies proven effective with students with disabilities.

Project Enrich strategies will include the following:

- Introductory instructional events which include distance learning, traditional delivery mechanisms, and classroom applications.
- Classroom-based support and coaching.
- Follow-up and embedded activities to current and ongoing content area professional development activities for educators
- Intensive instructional events utilizing distance and traditional delivery mechanisms
- Graduate credit for participants

The first series of professional development opportunities through Project ENRICH is tentatively scheduled to begin in December, 2004. As more information becomes available, it will be disseminated through the ESA and TIE communication systems.

For more information on Project ENRICH, either in ESA 6 or 7, contact Laurie Bedford, Technology and Innovations in Education (TIE), 605-394-1876, (lbedford@tie.net).



Participants exploring the concepts of visualization, shape, symmetry, and transformations.

ESA Contact Information

Bob Magelky, Program Director
 221 S. Central Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501
 Email: rmagelky@tie.net
 605-224-6287 or 605-381-5061
 Website: <http://sdesa6.org>

ESA 6 Staff Offers Varied Expertise



Robert Magelky, who has been an educator for 24 years, is the Program Director for ESA 6. Bob started his teaching career in Gibbon, Minnesota teaching secondary mathematics and science. He obtained his Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Superior through an academic year institute sponsored by the National Science Foundation. In 1988, he returned to South Dakota to teach secondary mathematics and science in the White River School District. He moved to Pierre in 1993 to work as a curriculum consultant with the SD NSF-SSI. Since the Statewide Systemic Initiative, he has worked with several challenge grants as a consultant and in evaluation. Currently, he is involved in the evaluation of two NSF grants in South Dakota. Bob continues to live in Pierre with his wife, Jean. They have three sons, two are married, and two grandchildren in Alaska.



Lucy Atwood is the School Improvement Specialist for ESA 6 assigned primarily to the Todd County School District. Lucy began her teaching career ten years ago in Todd County where she worked for four years. She left for a brief time to teach in Vermont for two years and at a charter school in Taos, New Mexico for a year. Although born in Connecticut, three years ago she was drawn back to South Dakota and Todd County, which she now considers home. Lucy attended Georgetown University and the University of Maryland, and student taught in New Zealand before graduating from the University of Iowa with a B.S. in Elementary Education. She is currently working on a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Sinte Gleska University. Lucy spends her "free" time taking long walks with her dog, Jake, reading, cooking, and entertaining friends.



Craig DeTample is an Educational Specialist covering schools in northern and eastern parts of ESA 6. Craig has a B.A. in Geology from Temple University and a M.S. in Paleontology from South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. He has been a teaching assistant with the School of Mines, science teacher with the NJ State Museum, curator of education at the Calvert Marine Museum, executive director of both the South Dakota Discovery Center & Aquarium and the Children's Museum of Maine, and director of the Children's Science Center. Craig has also been adjunct faculty member at Trenton State College. Craig lives in Pierre with his wife, Jessie, and daughter Elizabeth. In his spare time, Craig volunteers, walks, rides his bike, reads, and writes.



Roxanne Everhard, ESA 6 Educational Specialist, received her undergraduate degree (elementary education with a middle school minor) from Black Hills State University in 1997. She is currently in her last semester of the Educational Technology Master's program at Dakota State University. From 1997 to 2004, she taught 4th as well as 5th and 6th grades in the White River District. Roxanne also worked with the LOFTI program in White River, was an instructor for both professional and paraprofessional TTLs, and served as a reviewer for South Dakota EdWeb. Roxanne considers Spearfish her hometown and currently lives near White River with her husband and 4-year old daughter. She also has a grown son and daughter who live in the Black Hills area.



Karen Fox, has joined the ESA 6 Team as an Educational Consultant. She earned a Bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of South Dakota and a Master's degree from South Dakota State University in educational administration. Karen has taught in British Columbia and Iroquois, SD. She was the Program Director for the Office of Technical Assistance for the South Dakota Department of Education. In addition, she was the coordinator for the Advanced Reading Enhancement Approach for the state of South Dakota. Karen and her husband, Dan, have three sons, Caleb 22, Marcus 21, and Judd 16.
