

January Update from Grace Wilkie, NYSCEA President 2009-2011
January 10, 2010

To all NYSCEA members,

Hope your winter is going well and that you and your family are in good health.

Here is what has been happening since our last meeting and our November Update.

1. February 5, 2010 meeting

- a. You should have received information regarding registering for the meeting. Please return the registration form to Robin Wheeler (559 Hudson River Road, Waterford NY 12188)
- b. If you need a room reservation please call Holiday Inn by phone 1-800-Holiday or 518-458-7250 or online www.hialbanywolf.com. The deadline to get the room rate of \$114 is 1/14/10 code is ECE.
- c. **Draft agenda is attached. Please make arrangements to stay for the whole meeting.**

We are very

- pleased that Senior Deputy Commissioner Dr. John King and Assistant Commissioner of Standards, Assessment and Reporting David Abrams will be part of our afternoon.
- d. During the meeting between 9:35-10:15 attendees will separate into 4 groups and then one person will report back to the group. There will be a limit to the number of people in a group. If there are 2 delegates from an association I would appreciate you splitting up into different groups. Hope you find the group topics interesting and reflective of your survey requests. Thanks to Ellen Sicluna, Elizabeth Sheffer, David Payton and Jim Viola to being the group leaders. Below are the groups

Group A: What would be the most effective way for our associations to share information regarding keynote speakers, attendance at conferences, conference contracts, and what works? (group leader: Ellen Sicluna)

Group B: Commissioner Steiner had Joe Frey review the draft regulation regarding the 175 hours and conferences. What, if any, should the next step be? (group leader: Elizabeth Sheffer)

Group C: Commissioner Steiner has asked that the NYSCEA membership develop a set of key questions they would like him to address at the May meeting. This group will develop the key questions that NYSCEA should pose to the new Commissioner. (group leader: David Payton)

Group D: How are educational organizations sharing information about the instructional opportunities and challenges of working with the disconnected youths? (group leader: Jim Viola)

Please identify your first, second, third choice by emailing me at grace.wilkie@gmail.com. Do not hit reply button.

2. Working with SED:

On 11/10/09, Larry Paska held a Statewide Education Technology Committee met. Pat Barbanell was our representative. A synopsis of the meeting includes: more specificity in the language throughout the plan; more about information literacy; more explicit references to professional development, preparing adults for change; more clarity about learning requirements; clear connections to other initiatives related to reform of the larger education system and structure of schooling; a strong commitment by the Regents and SED for ongoing engagement in the future development and then implementation of this plan; specific language about access to technology tools and devices; and, more specificity about where technology belongs in the standards. Other colleagues also represented on the committee were Sue Bodgan-Ritty, Peter Reilly, and Jan Stark.

On 12/8/09 Howard Goldsmith held a Career & Technical Education meeting - in attendance: NYSCEA representatives, Peter Reilly, Kathie DeKalb, Kelly Lang, Jan Stark, William Ransom, and me; and representatives from NYSUT, Dept of Labor and SED. Howard discussed the need for changes in CTE, the statewide survey results, the priority areas and action steps. Each NYSCEA representative brought up areas of concerns i.e. teacher certification, professional development, seat time for credit, developing technical assessment, transferable credit, electronic portfolio, pre-service CTE training. We reviewed a draft from the district superintendents and gave our input to the SED representatives. Specific suggestions to the document were to move the 'Who are CTE students' to the front versus in the appendix, expand on reverse integration, include financial literacy as part of the required graduation course, Dept. of Labor's Career Zone should be adjusted for high school (presently good for grades 6-8) were among the topics. The CTE moodle being used for public comment, feedback, the e-forum, important documents, and a message from the Commissioner and comments from national researchers is <http://cte-forum.nyit.edu/>. Eric Suhr and his SED staff are reviewing all the input and comments and will be putting together a time line for implementation and will be categorizing the type of actions that each of the Discussion Framework action steps will require, i.e., technical support, policy changes, regulatory adjustments, etc

On 12/16/09, I received an e mail from Bob Bentley in the Office of Teaching Initiatives requesting a representative from NYSCEA to be part of the NYS Teacher Standards Committee. The team will meet several times initially in January and February to help develop a preliminary draft of Teacher Standards. The draft would then be brought before the Board of Regents for a motion to release the draft to the field for comment. Once we have gathered comments from the field the team would gather one or perhaps two times in May, to develop a final draft to be brought back to the Board of Regents for final approval at their June meeting. I put out an e mail to all delegates. I received names of many fine candidates. After much deliberation I selected Colleen Corsi because she is dedicated and represents a group that is unique to the committee.

At the October 2009 meeting, some delegates signed up for SED work groups, professional growth under Alysian Slighter and/or the reading resource center under Susan Megna.. Alysian has 10 delegates in her workgroup and has asked them to discuss the NYS Professional Development Standards and Kathy's rubric. She will be reporting back to the group by 1/29/10. Susan has not advanced with work groups because she and her group have had to spend the past two months revisiting some content and fiscal foundational pieces of the NYSRRC which will be continuing through 2011.

3. Governor's Summit

The overall goal of the Governor's Summit and the Statewide Organizations Group is to: improve student engagement so that students will want to come to school and remain in school until graduation; decrease the dropout rate; improve the graduation rate; and enhance student post-secondary educational and career opportunities.

On December 7, 2009, I represented NYSCEA at the State Capitol (what a beautiful building! I digress). The meeting was run by our colleague, Jim Viola. There were presentations by Kristen Wilcox (SUNY Albany, Just for Kids Best Practice Research), Mark Barth (Social, Emotional Learning and Development), Allyson Knox (Microsoft Academic Program Manager, U.S. Partners in Learning), Milton Lawney (Public Advocacy Coordinator for the New York State Dental Foundation), and Patricia Fahy (Associate Commissioner for Intergovernmental Affairs and Federal Policy at the New York State Department of Labor). Some interesting information:

- Approximately 199,000 youth aged 16 thru 24 are disconnected youth. They are out of school and out of the workforce for at least one year.
- For the disconnected youth the unemployment rate stands at more than 30%.
- The cost to our economy of high school dropouts is on the billions in lost wages, taxes and productivity over their lives.

The next meeting will be January 29, 2010. **Attached are year end reports (GS SWO Annual Report.doc and report attachment.pdf).**

4. Survey regarding SED associates attending annual conferences

A fellow NYSCEA member brought a concern to my attention. She said that her organization was having difficulty getting SED associates to be allowed to come to her conferences/events due to a SED travel ban. On 10/11/09, an e mail survey was sent to the presidents of our member associations. I received only 11 responses. In regards to "Is SED attending this year's conference?" the responses were: 6 yes, 1 "I believe so", 2 no, and 3 unknown/doubtful/don't know. **Attached are - the survey and the results of that survey.**

5. Things to be on the watch for:

The first meeting of the NYCATE Blue Ribbon Panel was Jan 6-7, 2010. It will be interesting to see how this panel will be connected to the Teacher Standards Committee under Bob Bentley. I am sure you will be reading and hearing a lot more about these efforts.

"The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) today announced the formation of an expert panel on clinical preparation and partnerships, signaling the beginning of a sea change in the preparation of the nation's teachers. The work of the Panel, called the [NCATE Blue Ribbon Panel on Clinical Preparation, Partnerships and Improved Student Learning](#), will culminate in recommendations for restructuring the preparation of teachers to reflect teaching as a practice-based profession akin to medicine, nursing, or clinical psychology. Practice-based professions require not only a solid academic base, but strong clinical components, a supported induction experience, and ongoing opportunities for learning. This redesign is intended to bring educator preparation into better alignment with the urgent needs of P-12 schools. Such changes in the way teachers and other P-12 educators are prepared potentially have far-ranging effects on the structure of schools of education. Dr Nancy Zimpher, Chancellor, State University of New York System, and Dr. Dwight Jones, Commissioner of Education, Colorado, will co-chair the panel." http://www.ncate.org/public/010410_BRP.asp NCATE Blue Ribbon Panel Initiates a Mainstream Move to More Clinically Based Preparation of Teachers January 5, 2010)

Looking forward to seeing you on February 5, 2010.

Sincerely,



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