

# KNOX COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Regional Newsletter

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[www.roe33.net](http://www.roe33.net)

## *Message from the Superintendent*

The Professional Advisory Team (formerly referred to as the Professional Development Team) discussed and decided to okay all five of the district exemptions for the Institute. If any cpdu's are awarded to teachers, they will be from each district.

All five Superintendents were notified on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> on this acceptance.

It really sounds like all of the districts will be gaining a lot of professional knowledge.

The following is an abbreviated account of each exemption:

Knoxville CUSD #202: The district will conduct their own professional development activities including instructions on Smartboards and Senteos use, RTI and Curriculum Mapping.

Abingdon CUSD #217: Elementary teachers will have a day-long session with Gretchen Courtney about Reading Strategies. Middle School teachers will learn how to better implement RTI strategies to improve classroom interventions for students in need. The Abingdon High school teachers will analyze test scores and other student data of their own students in lieu of using the Learning Express Advantage computerized standards-aligned software to remediate students in need as well as help students progress faster.

ROWVA CUSD #208: They will open the general session with a motivational speaker. All staff will participate in the opening RTI and how to use it in the classroom. Pre-K – 6 staff will review current discipline model and effectiveness of current model. Teachers 7 – 12 will work on alignment of the curriculum from Jr. High to High School, discipline procedures and techniques will be discussed. Finally, Professional Learning Communities will be discussed and how we can implement professional learning communities into the ROWVA communities.

Williamsfield CUSD #210: The Pre-K grades will be using a new reading series from McGraw-McMillian, Treasures and Triumphs. Fatina Hyatt, educational specialist, will be providing training for the Pre-K – 6 staff including Title 1 and Elementary Special Education.

The 7 – 12 teachers will be concentrating on reviewing results of PLAN, EXPLORE and WORK KEYS. The district has curriculum mapping that will be reviewed after the data analysis for improved alignment with the Illinois Learning Standards. This activity will be conducted by administration.

The second half of the day will be focused toward district planning for Response to Intervention as required by the State by January 2009. This will be a K-12 activity. The core team established by the ASPIRE grant will lead this with assistance from Dawn Lanning, regional coordinator for the ASPIRE grant. The book, *Implementing Response to Intervention* by Dr. Susan Hall will guide the activities.

The maintenance person, janitors, cafeteria co-directors, and transportation director will be meeting with Jim Sheffer from SIPC discussing healthy school environment and Illinois School Green Cleaning Act.

Superintendent Bush stated that the depth of the items described above will require that certified staff members work a normal workday.

Galesburg CUSD #205: Content of in-service to be provided for teachers and administrators staying in District #205 for the Institute Day.

Pre-K: The Bright Futures Preschool Director will conduct in-service for the teachers on his staff revolving around two programs that are to be implemented at the Lincoln Education Center.

K – 5: Building principals and central office staff will conduct a review of the District's standards based report card and assessment practices.

6 – 8: Building principals and central office staff will conduct in-service about establishing Professional Learning Communities in the middle school.

All training conducted in District #205 will follow the same timeline as the Teachers Institute.

### Professional Opportunities:

1) Cyber Camp – Thursday and Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at Carl Sandburg College cost \$50.00. This two day non-residential technology camp will feature hands on training sessions of technology tools that can be used in the classroom. For more information contact Lindsay Chase at [lchase@sandburg.edu](mailto:lchase@sandburg.edu) or 309-342-5286. Knox County first time teachers can have tuition paid (limit of 25 teachers) by ROE #33 with proof of attendance and completion of this camp.

2) Integrated Pest Management Plans: What Every Administrator Needs to Know ISBE #549 (also recommended for maintenance personnel) for 3 cpdu's or 1 Administrator Academy Credit. June 18, 2008 from 9:00 to noon. Cost - \$25.00 at the Galesburg Public Library, 40 E. Simmons Street. To register, call Lynne at 345-3828 by June 11<sup>th</sup>.

3) Monarch Butterfly workshop – August 11,12,13 at Knox Agri-Center, 180 S Soangetaha Rd., Galesburg, IL \$99.00. Questions call 856-582-7000.

### Job Opportunities:

Science teacher collaborators – these are new positions that will enhance the work begun in the last year at the Center for Education in Small Urban Communities at the College of Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Questions about the positions, call Sue Lewis 217-244-0708 or [sml@uiuc.edu](mailto:sml@uiuc.edu).

### Grant:

Improving Literacy through School

The U.S. Department of Education's (USDE) Improving Literacy through School Libraries (LSL) Program has announced its 2008 competition focused on providing funding to public local school libraries in districts with 20 percent or more family poverty. Applications are due on Friday, March 7. The application package can be found on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) along with instructions for registering. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Irene Harwarth, Team Leader, at [Irene.harwarth@ed.gov](mailto:Irene.harwarth@ed.gov).

### A great place to visit:

Fred Francis Park

Three miles northeast of Kewanee is Francis Park (Woodland Palace) is the home of Fred Francis, inventor and innovator, artist and poet. Born near Kewanee in 1856, he graduated from the Illinois Industrial University, Urbana, in 1878. While there, he was one of the designers and builders of the 'Class of 78' clock, now in the north tower of the Illini Union. In the home, which he built, he incorporated many innovations, including a water purification system and air conditioning. Francis died in 1926 and bequeathed his estate to the city of Kewanee, to be maintained as a city park and museum.

### Field Trips:

"Picturing Hemingway: A Writer in his Time" is on exhibit at the "Barn" at Carl Sandburg Historic Birth Site. It is currently on display.

### Educational Resources:

Gale Holdren works for a Fulbright program that sends educators overseas during the summers. They are there to experience the country and culture. They are not expected to teach or lecture. The government pays for 90% of all expenses (travel, lodging, most meals, etc.) The new application is coming out in May. If you have any questions, contact: Gale Holdren, U.S. Department of Education, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1990 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-8521. 202-502-7691 or [gale.holdren@edu.gov](mailto:gale.holdren@edu.gov)

### Organ donations:

The Regional Office is required to send out material about organ/tissue and blood donor and transplantation programs. Please use and distribute as needed. The links below contain information of these programs:

Organ & Tissue donation in the classroom (Secretary of State) <http://www.lifegoeson.com/teachers.html>

Blood donation (America's Blood Centers) <http://www.americasblood.org/go.cfm>

Organ and Blood Donation (American Red Cross) <http://www.redcross.org/>

Organ and tissue donation (Gift of Hope) <http://giftofhope.org/programs-outreach/high-school-program.htm>

*“We often look so long and regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.” – Alexander Graham Bell*

**SCHOOL SERVICE PERSONNEL & PROVISIONAL VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATE HOLDERS:**

As the new fiscal year approaches, we must keep in mind that school service personnel certificate holders will soon have professional development requirements for certificate renewal. Beginning July 1, 2008, all school service personnel certificate holders will be required to complete professional development before they can formally renew their certificate. The administrative rules that address this issue have not yet been finalized. Also, provisional vocational certificate holders will have professional development requirements for renewal in the near future. We will pass on additional information as it becomes available. We also suggest you check the website at ISBE and click on Certification for any ISBE updates. [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net)

**Certification:**

For those teachers whose certificates are up for renewal in 2008 – REMEMBER, this must be done before school starts in the fall. We highly recommend you have all your professional development entered into ECS no later than July 15, 2008. This gives the Regional Office of Education enough time to review your professional development and notify the teacher if there are any problems. If this process is not complete by the start of school, you will enter a “penalty” phase. This puts your certificate into the “lapsed” category. If you have questions or need help, call the Regional Office of Education at (309) 345-3828.

Administrators should be aware that they must complete one Administrator’s Academy course for each year your certificate is being used. (If you are employed in a position that requires a type 75 administrative certificate.)

**U.S. HISTORY TEACHERS SELECTED TO TRAVEL TO NEW YORK CITY:**

The Federal Teaching American History Grant is in the final year of the second grant. The amount of the grant is \$581,019 and serves selected junior and senior high U.S. History teachers in 22 counties in West-Central Illinois. This year the 28 U.S. History teachers will be traveling to greater New York City from Monday, June 9, 2008 – Monday, June 16, 2008. The following teachers from Knox County have been selected to experience this all-expense paid educational trip: Michael Brown-Abingdon Middle School, Christopher Campagna-ROWVA High School, Christopher Johnson, ROWVA Jr. High School, Benjamin Rees, ROWVA High School.

Each of the 28 teachers selected to travel completed an essay which was scored by five leaders of the grant for the selection of teachers to travel. It is an honor to have been selected and each of the teachers from Knox county selected will be happy to share with you information regarding the trip. The teachers will attend an all day mandatory meeting on Sunday, April 20, 2008. During the meeting the U.S. History components will be presented by Dr. Larry Balasmo, retired Chair of the Department of History at Western Illinois University (WIU); and Dr. Richard Filipink, Associate Professor in the Department of History at WIU. Their areas of presentation will provide knowledge of the places to be visited during the travel experience. The remainder of the day will deal with the teachers’ pre-evaluation and with the evaluation process their students will be involved with during the early fall. The government requires that proof of learning for both the teachers and their students must occur. If you have any questions regarding the grant, please call Jean Lewis, U.S. History Project Director at 309/837-4821. Give your congratulations to the above teachers, they have and will continue to earn this award!

“A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.” – St. Basil

**Homeless grant provides free elementary books:**

During the month of April, the Regional Homeless Liaison (Mary Scanlon) will be distributing a hardback elementary book to all Knox County elementary schools. These books were received as part of the homeless grant. Librarians, be on the look out.

“By learning you will teach; by teaching you will learn.” – Latin proverb

*Congratulations to all of the Retirees in Knox County:*

Abingdon

Dr. Magie Stuart-Abingdon Superintendent  
Victor Randle- HS Custodian  
Denis Burns- GS Custodian

Williamsfield

Connie Wight-5 & 6<sup>th</sup>

ROWVA

Lois D. Freberg-Kindergarten  
Mary N. Stiers-English  
Loretta Woodside-Bus Driver  
Ross Woodside-Bus Driver

KWSED

Darla Taylor-Speech Therapist  
Joyce Allison-MMI/LD-LMS  
Joy Behrens-Psychologist  
Sheryl Yard-LD/MMI

Knoxville

Diane Shea-Kindergarten  
Teresa McKeague-HS PE/Health  
Katherine Mattson-Elementary Music  
Pat Hughs-Transportation Director  
Deloris Hillery-Bus Driver  
Herman Hillery-Bus Driver

Galesburg

Patricia Willems-Library-Churchill  
William Allison-English-High School  
Glenn Busse-Social Studies-High School  
John Hughes-5<sup>th</sup> Grade-Gale  
Sheryl Hinman-English-Lombard  
Marilyn Gehring-Social Studies-Lombard  
Cindy Cline-Spanish-High School  
Charlene Armstrong-Art-Lombard  
Kathy Schramm-Library/Media-Cooke/King/Silas  
Karen Truelove-Math-High School  
Monica Clevenger-P.E.-King/Silas/Cooke  
Mary Eileen Conover-4<sup>th</sup> Grade-Nielson  
Elyse Kuchenthal-1<sup>st</sup> Grade-King  
Carol Heath-1<sup>st</sup> Grade-Steele

Galesburg Support Staff

Larry Seideman-Administrative Assistant-Payroll  
Diane Copeland-Administrative Assistant-Superintendent  
Judy Leonard-Administrative Assistant-A.S. of Cur/Inst.  
Delores Lard-Secretary-Lombard  
Theresa Swanson-Secretary-Churchill  
Shirley Stomberg-Secretary-Steele  
Dennis Frisby-Custodian-Cooke  
Mary K. Peterson-Custodian-Churchill  
Steve Glasnovich-Maintenance  
Gerry Carlton-Food Service Driver  
Susan Bruns-Head Cook-Lombard  
Hilma McDorman-Cook's Helper-Lombard  
Mary Beth Greenstreet-Head Cook-Churchill  
Karen Harmison-Cook's Helper-High School  
Rebecca Derry-Cashier-Silas Willard  
Cheryl Johnson-Cook's Helper-Lombard  
Jeanette Potts-Cook-High School  
Janette Wooldridge-Cashier-Gale  
Marilyn Sage-SPED Paraprofessional  
Gail Rabenau- Administrative Assistant-KWSED Director