



NEWSLETTER

2009 Fall Conference Report:

- Many thanks to the presenters, exhibitors, volunteers and, dedicated Social Studies teachers who made the 2009 Annual NSCSS Conference a huge success.
- On October 3, sixty professionals gathered together at the NET studio in Lincoln to participate in professional development and build community between Social Studies professionals. NET's General Manager Rod Bates began the day with opening remarks about NET's contributions to the state of Nebraska and the nation.
- Breakout sessions on several different topics from Korea to Tanzania to the Bill of Rights followed. Presenters included representatives from the Institute for Holocaust Education, We the People, the Bill of Rights Institute, GEON, NET, as well as several other independent presentations. All sessions were well received.
- Following breakout sessions, participants enjoyed a delicious lunch, had the opportunity to listen to the 2009-2010 NSCSS award winners and almost everyone in the room won a door prize.
- The NSCSS board honored three social studies leaders for their outstanding work.
 - **Harris Payne**, social studies supervisor for the Omaha Public Schools, was honored as the 2009 Paul Beck Award winner. The award is given in honor of the late Paul Beck, one of the founding members of NSCSS, and recognizes outstanding life-time achievement in social studies instruction and leadership.
 - Omaha Bryan teacher, **Melissa Gates**, was named the Second Congressional District Outstanding Teacher for 2009. Gates was recognized for her work inside and outside the classroom to improve the instruction of social studies across the state.
 - **Angela Bosack** was chosen as the Outstanding 2009 student teacher. Congratulations to these three wonderful educators who have made and will continue to make significant contributions to the Social Studies!
- After receiving his award, Harris Payne commented that NSCSS is the only organization that encompasses all of the Social Studies disciplines across the entire state and represents Social Studies teachers at the legislative level. He encouraged everyone to become more involved. Echoing that sentiment, the Executive Board of the NSCSS wants to know how we can better serve you. The Board is committed to improving the teaching of Social Studies and promoting professional development for teachers. We would love to hear your ideas about opportunities you would like to see beyond the Annual Conference.

FOR MORE DETAILS, CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

<http://www.nebraskasocialstudies.org>





**NSCSS
2010**

October 9, 2010,

- The Annual NSCSS Conference will take place at the Durham Western Heritage Museum.
- Thank you to the many dedicated educators and future educators who attended the conference this year and we will see you at the conference next year.

Book Review

Submitted by Larry Starr

George Washington Carver: Scientist, Inventor, and Teacher

Author: Michael Burgan
Compass Point Books
3109 West 50th Street, #115
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55410
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- George Washington Carver, born into slavery in 1864, dedicated his life to the study of plants. He rose to prominence as head of the agriculture department at the Tuskegee Institute, where he was a popular teacher and esteemed researcher.
- Carver is best known for his work with peanuts, inventing more than 300 products from the humble “goober.”
- The book is well illustrated with pictures from the time period. Historical notes on many of the pages explain the importance of his work. The timeline and glossary add relevant information for the reader.
- George Washington Carver: Scientist, Inventor, and Teacher is a book for all middle school students to read. It has a reading level of 5th to 8th grade.

More on the Award Winners:

- **Harris Payne**, social studies supervisor for the Omaha Public Schools, was given the Paul Beck Outstanding Social Studies Educator Award. Harris is a veteran educator and multiple award-winning classroom teacher who taught at Omaha North and was a curriculum coordinator at Omaha Burke prior to assuming his current position. He has been a long-time member, presenter and advocate for GEON, a statewide organization of geography teachers.
- **Melissa Gates** of Omaha Bryan won the Second Congressional District Outstanding Teacher Award. She was cited for her tireless commitment to professional development and how the many hours invested have enabled her to use multiple resources and strategies to reach students at all ability levels.
- **Angela Bosak**, a student teacher at Millard South during the Spring '09 semester, received the Outstanding Student Teacher plaque.

NSCSS is continually seeking nominations for its awards. One award is available for a teacher in each of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Congressional districts. The Paul Beck award, named after the late UNO history professor and one of NSCSS's founders is a statewide award. Up to three outstanding social studies student teacher awards are given--one for each Congressional district.

Questions regarding the on-line nominations process may be directed to rdanfordbrown@aol.com

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