

NEWSLETTER

President's Thoughts

Thoughts from NSCSS President Heidi C. Reinhart

Dear NSCSS Colleagues,

I have noticed a popular meme on Facebook this summer that goes something like this,

"Summer, when teachers get to go out to lunch like normal people."

While the thought made me smile, it is true, inservice days and vacations are time that we are not tied to our classroom with a 20-30 minute lunch break. The nature of our work can be very isolating, but it does not have to be. As we prepare to head back to school, there are more opportunities than ever to stay in touch with our Social Studies colleagues and more reasons to do so.

The Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies is committed to bringing teachers together in person, online and through social media. It has taken our small but dedicated board members (me included) a while to catch up, but you can follow NSCSS on Twitter now at NSCSS teachers! We are also on Facebook and will be working to improve our page there as well. We need followers and likes, so join us!

It's about time right? Especially since our theme for our annual fall conference is "eCitizens: Information Literacy on the Plains." Save the date for October 19, 2013 at Duchesne Academy in Omaha, NE. We are proud to announce that our keynote speaker will be Mr. Michael Blake. Mr. Blake worked for President Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns as an organizer, specifically in the area of using social media. His expertise in the area of



Reserve the DATE!
The Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies will be holding the Fall Conference at the Duchesne Academy, Omaha. The date of the conference is October 19, 2013.

social media is sure to help us understand how our students are being impacted by all of the new ways to communicate and process information and how we can best use it in our classroom. We look forward to seeing you at our conference this year in Omaha.

Good luck to all of our members as we begin another school year. We look forward to providing more professional development opportunities and supporting Nebraska Social Studies teachers in as many ways as possible!

Sincerely,



Sincerely,
Heidi C. Reinhart
President

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.

~Martin Luther King Jr.



2013 FALL CONFERENCE

**e-Citizens:
Social Studies on the Digital Plain**

**October 19, 2013
Duchesne Academy—Omaha, Nebraska**

8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



Keynote Speaker

Mr. Michael Blake

**Former National Deputy Director of Operation
Vote for the 2012 Obama for America
Campaign**

**Breakfast and lunch included with registration!
Breakout sessions on Economics, Geography, U.S. History and more!
Vendors and Raffle Drawings!
With generous support from the
Asian World Center &
The Nebraska Council on Economic Education**

NEBRASKA STATE COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES

Membership and/or Conference Registration Form

Name:	
Home Phone:	
Home Address:	
School Name:	
Work Phone:	
School District:	
Email Address:	

NSCSS Membership fee and Oct. 19, 2013 registration fee:

	\$35.00 One year NSCSS membership and Oct. 19, 2013 conference registration.
	\$75.00 Lifetime NSCSS membership (<i>if joining NSCSS for the first time as a Lifetime Member</i>) and Oct. 19, 2013 NSCSS conference registration
	\$30.00 Registration fee for current Lifetime Members for NSCSS Oct 19 conference
	\$10.00 Registration fee for conference and one year membership for students

Membership Dues: (Membership dues are tax deductible for educators)

Make checks payable to: NSCSS

Mail checks and registration to:

Bill Hayes

NSCSS Treasurer

1576 South 28th Street

Lincoln, NE 68502

billd@hayes.org

Check the NSCSS website periodically at www.nebraskasocialstudies.org for updates concerning conference details and registration procedures.

Nebraska State Social Studies Standards Conference



On June 21st, 2013, over 165 educators traveled from across the state to the student union on the University of Nebraska at Kearney's campus to attend the Nebraska State Social Studies Conference. The focus of the conference was to help educators better understand the new Nebraska State Standards which the State Board of Education approved on December 7th, 2012. To help educators better manage the standards and go into more depth, each of the ten sessions focused on the idea of "bundling" content and skills standards together into a single in-depth unit of study. The core areas of world history, American history, economics, civics and geography presented fifty-minute sessions for middle school

and high school teachers. In addition, Dr. Brad Fogo from the Stanford History Education Group (SHEG) presented a session at lunch on assessment called "Beyond the Bubble".

The reactions from teachers attending the conference were very positive. One participant stated, "Great ideas for matching our curriculum to the standards. The conference certainly has reduced my stress level.". Another teacher wrote, "The instructors were excellent. The sessions made the standards less of a challenge to understand". Conference evaluations mirrored these positive reactions to the conference. One-hundred percent of the participant indicated the presenters were knowledgeable, prepared and organized. Ninety-seven percent of the teachers stated the content provided at the conference will help them improve Social Studies instruction in their classrooms.

Every session received positive comments from teachers with two of the sessions being mentioned over and over again. The American History sessions and the assessment luncheon presentation by Dr. Fogo and the economics sessions were two of the teacher's favorites. As one participant commented, "Dr. Fogo was fantastic; I can't wait to try out the SHEG lessons in my class." A middle school teacher stated, "Economics was GREAT! She did the standards work for us." Despite some challenges with the wireless system, teachers also liked the two resource sharing sessions. Websites at these sessions were matched to specific standards and teachers exchanged sources of successful lessons. One teacher noted, "I will share the wealth of resources I have collected with the teachers in my service unit." Several teachers hoped that the conference would be repeated and many of the 5th grade teachers were hopeful of a future K-5 conference.

As a follow-up to the conference, teachers choose a lesson that they are going to try in their classrooms next fall. The teachers will fill-out a follow-up questionnaire in the fall which will provide feedback regarding the long-term impact of the conference on Nebraska's classrooms and well as direction for future conferences.

The conference committee would like to thank the following organizations for their generous support Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies (NSCSS), Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City/Omaha, University of Nebraska at Kearney Geography Department, Stanford History Education Group (SHEG), University of Nebraska at Omaha, Center for Economic Education, Nebraska Council on Economic Education, Geographic Educators of Nebraska (GEON), Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Bar Association, Creighton University Asia Studies Center, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Wayne State College, University of Nebraska at Lincoln and the Kearney Visitor's Bureau.

The conference leadership team invites teachers to attend the Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies fall conference; "Citizens: Social Studies on the Digital Plain", October 19, 2013, at Duchesne Academy, 3601 Burt St., Omaha, Nebraska. Check the organization website (nebraskasocialstudies.org/) for registration information.

Harris Payne
Director of Social Studies
Nebraska Department of Education



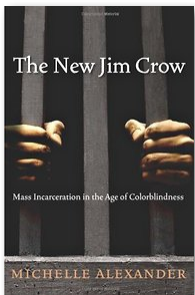
Book Review

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

by Michelle Alexander

I was born in 1980. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, this was the year of the last official lynching to take place in the United States of America. Through a seven year legal process this last official lynching of a black man in this country culminated with the bankrupting of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama. For many black southerners or for our country in general this should have been a huge triumph that would be celebrated throughout the streets of newly purchased suburban homes to long standing urban projects. So why wasn't it? The unfortunate truth is that while we saw the demise of one terrorist organization and its legacy a new and more powerful terrorist was sprawling out and destroying homes and projects. In 1987, America was fighting at full strength in a drug war that to this day we are still counting the casualties from.

For black men of my age or younger, crack has been a part of our lives and has shaped our culture from the music we listen to to the schools we are educated in. But interestingly enough, what *The New Jim Crow* tries to help readers to understand is that for millions of urban dwellers that have been impacted by the crack trade, it is not by accident. In fact, Michelle Alexander goes as far to explain that the War on Drugs and the overpopulation of our prison system, specifically with a disproportionate amount of minorities, is actually crafted and implemented intentionally.



The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander begins with a historical summary of Reconstruction and the brief period of advancement in the post-Civil War south. Following this period she explains how white supremacist groups, notably the KKK, reestablishes white political control with several state orders and laws defined as the Jim Crow laws and economic control with sharecropping and prisoner leasing. After the Civil Rights Movement shifted society in the 50's, 60's and 70's the United States Courts and criminal justice system, beginning in the 1980's, has attempted to maintain control of wealth and power of a majority by using the War on Drugs to contain, literally and physically, the minorities. Alexander examines the process for which a second class citizenship is being redeveloped from the initial interaction with law enforcement, to the

courts, into the prisons, and upon release.

For those interested in sociology, history, politics, or maybe just the students you teach, I would strongly recommend picking this book up and seeing where it takes you.

Barry Thomas
Social Studies Supervisor
Omaha Public School



Mark your calendars for 2013-2014 events you don't

FinanceChallenge ONLINE!

www.financechallenge.org

- Fall Online Competition – Nov. 4th through 13th
- Spring Online Competition – March 24th to April 2nd
- Regional Competitions in Lincoln, Omaha, North Platte – April 19
- National Competition in Kansas City, MO in MayDate: Thursday, May 30, 2013



www.nebraskacouncil.org/smg

- Fall Game – Sept. 9th through Dec. 13th
- Spring Game – Jan. 6th through April 18th
- Banquet of Champions – April 30th



Lessons Plans for Econ

As you look over the new NE state social studies standards, you will notice they call for more direct instruction in economics and personal finance than previous standards. Districts will need to make sure that they include more economics concepts in their various history and government courses in the future, if they don't have a dedicated economics course for their students.

Supply and Demand are key topics that play a major role in deciding prices in a market economy. Consequently, students need to understand how prices are determined and what make them go up and down. If it's been a while since you studied these topics yourself, here are two examples you can review and share with your students as you teach these concepts.

Instead of those famous "widgets" used in many economics texts, these lessons use more relevant examples that students experience in their daily lives. Both examples incorporate technology and ask students to find information from primary sources to understand and speculate why prices go up and down for the items they purchase.

EconChallenge ONLINE!

www.econchallenge.org

- Fall Online Competition – Nov. 25th through Dec. 6th
- Spring Online Competition – March 3rd through 12th
- State Finals – Friday, March 28th



www.moneysmartnebraska.org

- November 3rd through 9th

For information on any of these programs, Please contact:

Jennifer Davidson, M.Ed.

Director of Programs and Community Development

Nebraska Council on Economic Education

402.472.2333

jdavidson@nebraskacouncil.org | www.nebraskacouncil.org

For grades 6-8, try using "The Ice Cream Stand", an interactive lesson from econedlink.org, a free website of economics lessons hosted by the Council on Economic Education. The website features a teacher and student version of the lesson and after exploring the way prices are determined, ends with students working in groups to create and sell ice cream treats. www.econedlink.org/e853

For high school students, try using a demand and supply simulation featuring blue jeans from the UNO Center website: Ecedweb.unomaha.edu This 5 part simulation can be used for whole class instruction/ demonstration or have your student research and work through each section themselves as review. Each part explores the concepts of demand, prices, supply, changes in demand and supply and finally puts it all together for students exploring equilibrium prices. The unit includes discussion questions for each section and graphs as well as a self-check quiz.

ecedweb.unomaha.edu/Dem_Sup/demand.htm#

As you plan your fall lessons, make sure to check these out!

May Lynn Reiser

UNO Center for Economic Education



The Federal Reserve and You

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia has released a new, free 24-minute educational video, "The Federal Reserve and You," which looks inside the Federal Reserve System and highlights the Fed's role in the U.S. economy. The video was primarily produced for high school students studying economics, business, or related subjects in social studies.

For more information go to: www.phil.frb.org/education/



Understanding Fiscal Responsibility

The 24 free lessons in A Curriculum for Teaching about the Federal Budget, National Debt, and Budget Deficit connect students to current public policy debates. These 2 day lessons, for grades 9 - 12, can be used in most social studies classes and math. The lessons can be taught separately, are nonpartisan, and invite participants from all points of view to ask:

- 1 What do the decisions we make about the federal budget, national debt, and budget deficit say about who we are as a people?
- 2 How should we address our nation's fiscal challenges now and in the future to assure that our decisions are consistent with our values and traditions?

For more information go to: teachufr.org



TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST TO GRADES 4-6

October 29, 2013 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST TO GRADES 4-6

Jewish Community Center
333 S. 132nd Street Omaha, NE
Cost: \$15

This workshop is specifically designed for teachers at the 4th, 5th and 6th grade level who are currently teaching Holocaust units or wish to add them to the curriculum. The workshop will provide historical background, rationale, and guidelines for providing age-appropriate instruction. Teachers will gain pedagogically sound guidance in lesson planning.

An interdisciplinary lesson involving art analysis will be modeled.

The workshop will consider three suggested approaches to teaching the Holocaust in grades 4-6:

1) life before the war, 2) stories of rescuers, and 3) being an upstander.

Teachers will receive practical suggestions and resources for the classroom.

Contact: Donna Walter, Education Coordinator,
Institute for Holocaust Education at
dwalter@ihene.org



Holocaust Education Conference

Chadron State College Chadron, NE

Sept 29 - Oct 1



Topics include: History of the Holocaust, Guidelines for teaching the Holocaust, Using video testimony in the classroom, Understanding Judaism,

Model lessons and ideas.

This conference is suitable for teachers of History, Literature, Religion, Ethics, Media and related curriculum. Pre-service and experienced teachers are welcome.

Cost: \$50 for teachers, \$25 for pre-service teachers.

Contact: Donna Walter, Education Coordinator, Institute for Holocaust Education at dwalter@ihene.org



Farmers Education Programs

These award-winning, standards-based DVD's and lesson plans are used by more than 4 million students in over 200,000 classrooms nationwide

We invite you to explore our rich and varied library of free teacher resources. And see what Farmers is doing to support education in our communities: one school, one teacher, one student at a time.

For more information go to: www.gofarmersed.com



US History Collection

The online U.S. History Collection is easy to search! It includes a collection of classroom activities, teaching ideas, and articles from Social Education, Middle Level Learning,

and Social Studies and the Young Learner. Search by historical period, grade level, or key word. Check out the collection today.



For more information go to: www.socialstudies.org/teacherslibrary



Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad/U.S. Department of Education



Study tour to China in the summer. K-12 Educators and Admin. China's increasing global influence presents a need for U.S. educators to fully understand its transformation into a worldwide economic powerhouse and related challenges. This Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program will provide a unique in-country study experience for U.S. educators and administrators to examine China's history, culture, society, and economy.

Application due in October. Fully Funded \$450 contribution required. Study tour for 4 weeks.

For more information go to: www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpssap/elsecseminars.html



Newseum Education department resources

The Newseum Education department is pleased to present a new online learning module designed to support your classroom coverage of the presidential campaign. Decision 2012: Exploring Elections and the Media is available free to educators through the Newseum's Digital Classroom and offers comprehensive lesson plans and interactive elements. These materials can be adapted for students at the middle school through college levels.

Access to the Newseum's Digital Classroom is available free to all educators.

For more information go to: www.newseum.org/digital-classroom/



NEWSEUM
digital
classroom

CURRENT NSCSS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

- President: Heidi Reinhart
- President Elect: Sonya Stejskal
- Past President: Holly Glade
- Treasurer: Bill Hayes
- Recording Secretary:
- Executive Secretary: Richard Brown
- Advisor: Harris Payne (NDE Director of Social Studies)
- Editor:
- Congressional District 1 Reps:
- Congressional District 2 Reps: Andrew Brooks, Michael Young
- Congressional District 3 Reps: Ken Meyer

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- Barry Thomas, Supervisor Omaha Public School
- John LeFeber, Tech. Implementation and support (Council for Economic Education)

- Aaron McLaughlin, Professional Assn. Liaison (GEON)
- Donna Walter, Professional Assn. Liaison (Institute for Holocaust Education)
- Jennifer Davidson, Mary Lynn Reiser, Professional Assn. Liaison (Nebraska Council on Economic Education)
- Erin Redemske, Professional Assn. Liaison (Federal Reserve)
- Linda Wojtan, Professional Assn. Liaison (National Consortium for Teaching about Asia)



Choose a membership level: New membership or Renewal Member number. Comprehensive: Includes your choice of *Social Education* or *Social Studies and the Young Learner*, plus *Middle Level Learning*, *TSSP*, and bulletins; Conference discounts and all other membership benefits.

Choose one: Individual \$73 Institution \$98 Regular: Includes your choice of *Social Education* or *Social Studies and the Young Learner*, plus *Middle Level Learning* and *TSSP*; Conference discounts and other membership benefits.

Choose one: Individual \$62 Institution \$82 First Year Teacher: Available to classroom **teachers in their first year** of paid employment as a teacher. Includes benefits of regular membership.

Choose one: **Individual** \$33 Comprehensive \$43 Student or Retired: Includes your choice of *Social Education* or *Social Studies and the Young Learner*, plus *Middle Level Learning* and *TSSP*; Conference discounts and other membership benefits. Available to retired persons and full-time students.

Students must provide the name of the institution and the signature of the instructor. Choose one: Retired \$33 Student \$33

National Council for Social Studies Membership Application Form

Name of institution:	_____
Instructor signature:	_____
Expected graduation date:	_____

Choose one journal you wish to receive as a member benefit:

- _____ 7 issues of *Social Education*
- _____ 4 issues of *Social Studies and the Young Learner* plus
- _____ 2 issues (September and May/June of *Social Education*)

Expiration Date: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Please return this application with payment to:

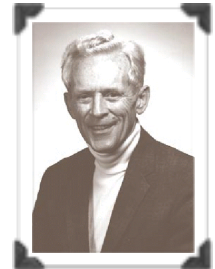
NCSS Membership
P.O. Box 79078
Baltimore, MD 21279-0078



Each year the NSCSS recognizes outstanding social studies educators. Please consider nominating a deserving educator.

PAUL BECK AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION

This award is in honor of the late Dr. Paul Beck who was a professor of history at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Dr. Beck was the consummate professor who not only excelled in the university setting, but he was also a true friend to the social studies teachers in public and private education. He is a past president of the NSCSS and one of its founding fathers. Any college/university professor or teacher at the public or private level is eligible for this award.



NSCSS OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

The Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies also recognizes one outstanding social studies educator in each of the three legislative districts.

NSCSS OUTSTANDING STUDENT TEACHER AWARD

Each spring the Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies recognizes the quality work of Nebraska Social Studies student teachers.

NSCSS PRESIDENT CARTER SERVICE LEARNING AWARD

The purpose of this award is to recognize teachers and students for their efforts in service learning. Service learning goes beyond community service to include background knowledge and research of an issue that students can connect to. Projects should examine not only the current status of the community issue, but should also include a study of the causes and the potential solutions the problem.

The recommendation form for all of these awards can be found on the Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies web page -- the address for that page is www.nebraskasocialstudies.org

You can also go directly to the listing of the awards by going to www.nebraskasocialstudies.org/awards.html

