



# Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies

Annual Conference

June 24, 2016



*With major support from The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Omaha Branch, The University of Nebraska at Omaha, VOCES from Teacher's Discovery, Cengage Learning/National Geographic Learning and the Asian World Center at Creighton University*



## Our NSCSS President's Welcome

Dear Hardworking Teachers who put the 'Pieces Together',

Welcome to the 2016 Nebraska State Council for Social Studies Conference. This is our third year at the Weitz Civic Engagement Center, very aptly named in this political year. Our 2017 Conference will probably be in Kearney....or maybe Canada (just joking).

The academic year of 2015-16 was full of surprises and civics lessons for all of us.

In February, Karen Graff, NSCSS Board member testified against the LB 868 Civics Test at the Nebraska Board of Education in Lincoln. This bill was later tabled.

Barry Thomas, who will be our new NSCSS president beginning at lunch today, will attend the 2016 Summer Leadership Institute sponsored by the NCSS in Washington, D. C. this July 12-14. Barry will be speaking with Nebraska Congressional representatives about educational issues. I attended last year.

Dr. Randy Bertolas from Wayne State has published a new 4th grade Nebraska Atlas that has been chosen as one of the main books to be part of the 150th Anniversary of Nebraska's Statehood Celebration. Nebraska is one of seven states that have their own atlas!! Yes, we are 'that' cool.

I have been working with the Durham Museum to get some of their special exhibition's speakers out into metropolitan schools. Bob Sperry, BBC photographer spoke at Millard West, Jim Blight and Janet Lang, experts on the Cuban Missile Crisis spoke at Central High School and Tatanka Means spoke to Native American students at the TAC

building.

And, while this Conference is going on, NSCSS Board member Barry Jurgensen from Arlington High School is retracing the Underground Railroad path from Nebraska City to Chicago!!! He is walking to illustrate the historical trail and also to highlight the modern crisis of sex trafficking. We'll speak with Barry today during lunch and also during the Un-Conference in room 209.

Enjoy the conference and all the great presenters. During the Un-Conference share with your 'countrymen' cool lesson plans, apps, fieldtrips, contacts, speakers and projects.

And, thus, as the sun sets on my reign as Queen of Social Studies, I bid you adieu.

A fond farewell,

Sonya Stejskal

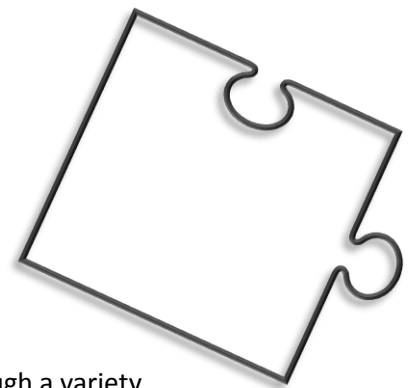
Queen Dowager of Social Studies





**Keynote to be delivered at 8:30 am**

**Judy Bee** is the Associate Director of the Teaching with Primary Sources Midwest Region at Illinois State University funded by the Library of Congress. She develops and delivers professional, graduate, undergraduate, classroom and community courses and workshops. She uses a variety of modalities in delivering courses and workshops including on-line, face-to-face, and train-the-trainer models. She also plays a significant role in program evaluation, program recruitment and training in seventeen states. She travels to universities, colleges, institutions in the Midwest Region to train educators, review grant programs, and collaborate on new initiatives.



Judy assists with the creation and implementation of online learning through a variety of courseware, including Blackboard and ReggieNet. Through these technology tools, she teaches classroom teachers, media specialists, and faculty members how to integrate primary sources into standards-based lesson plans that enhance their curriculum. Her other duties include developing processes for encouraging collaboration, including virtual meetings, developing systems to monitor progress, and developing evaluating systems including online surveys.

Judy has taught adult audiences, including Country Financial, State Farm, GrowMark, and Caterpillar. She has developed classes and curriculum using media such as web, video, Microsoft Office, Dreamweaver, Adobe Suite, Opal, Elluminate and Photo Story. She has presented and trained at local, state, and national conferences on curriculum development, technology education, and teaching with primary sources.

Judy is currently working toward a Doctorate in Higher Education Administrations with a focus on effective professional development. She earned a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Saint Xavier University. She also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and is certified in K-9 education. She has twenty-five years of teaching experience and has taught grades Pre-K–16.





## **Pre-Conference Workshops: Weitz Center at University of Nebraska Omaha**

**Thursday, June 23rd 9:00-12:00 a.m. Rm. 201**

### **Teaching with Primary Sources**

Primary sources are the raw materials of history that will engage students in active learning. The Library of Congress website has a wealth of ideas, resource and tools to help support educators to meet state standards. Participants will gain strategies for using primary sources to help students analyze documents, develop critical thinking skills and build content knowledge.

*Hosted by Judy Bee, Library of Congress*



**Thursday, June 23rd 1:00-4:00 p.m. Rm. 205**

### **Making the Population Connection: Hands-on Activities for the People and the Planet**

This hands-on workshop addresses the complex issues that challenge our world of 7.3 billion people through engaging, interdisciplinary lessons that ask students to consider and evaluate our choices as individuals and as a global community. Discover engaging, K-12 activities that can be used with groups of all ages to examine world population trends and their impact on land use, food and water availability, biodiversity and more!

*Hosted by Sonya Stejskal and Connie Schaffer, Population Education*





## Presentations

### Primary Sources and Active Learning (Rm. 201)

Primary sources are the raw materials of history that will engage students in active learning. The Library of Congress website has a wealth of ideas, resource and tools to help support educators to meet state standards. Participants will gain strategies for using primary sources to help students analyze documents, develop critical thinking skills and build content knowledge.

*Presenter- Judy Bee (Audience k-12)*

### Smithsonian Museum and Teacher Resources (Rm. 205)

This session will go over a number of resources (with an emphasis on digital resources) and lesson ideas that have been gained while serving as Nebraska Teacher of the Year, as well as discussing ways that we can advocate for the Social Studies as districts are under pressure to prioritize STEM and other areas.

*Presenter- Tim Royers, Nebraska Teacher of the Year (Audience 7-12)*

### Nebraska Studies in Elementary Schools (Rm. 209)

Heather Ropes contributed to the virtual tour of the Nebraska Capitol and lessons that address how a bill becomes a law, the Capitol as human history, and how it inspires public service. She may also present lessons with the Giganto Map of Nebraska.

*Presenter- Heather Ropes (Audience Elementary)*

### Public Service Stories (Rm. 201)

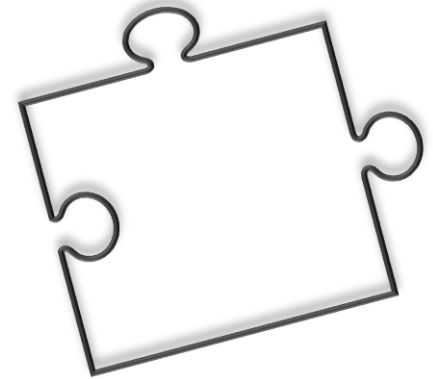
Take a look at [www.publicservicestories.com](http://www.publicservicestories.com) for videos about people in public service that you can use in your classes, with your advisees/mentees, and more! Like us on our Facebook page, Ask Me Why I Care!

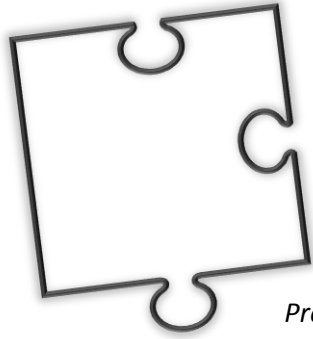
*Presenters- Mary Hamilton and Rita Paskowitz (Audience 9-12)*

### Studies Weekly, Inc. (Rm. 205)

Primary sources are amazing tools! The Library of Congress states, “teaching with primary sources helps students ask meaningful questions, develop critical thinking skills, and acquire new knowledge.” In this session, attendees will actively participate in mini-lessons using primary sources and a variety of low- and high-tech tools. Attendees will leave the session with strategies to help facilitate students’ analytical thinking, cooperative learning and technology-integration skills in order to create, publish and have their students become part of a primary source photo!

*Presenters-Todd Chenn and Nicholas Ogren (Audience k-12)*





### **The Student Atlas of Nebraska (Rm. 209)**

The Student Atlas of Nebraska was developed as a classroom tool to augment the teaching of Nebraska Studies at the elementary and middle school levels. Created in concert with suggestions from teachers statewide, the Atlas visually displays spatial data in a way that can be readily understood by young learners. The maps, tables, and pictures can be used to present lessons in geography, history, civics, and economics.

*Presenter-Dr. Randy Bertolas (Audience Elementary)*

### **Nebraskans for Civic Reform (Rm. 201)**

Nebraskans for Civic Reform is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization working to create a more modern and robust democracy for all Nebraskans. Experiential learning, service learning, and civic engagement can reinforce any and all concepts delivered in social studies classes. Specifically, Nebraska State Social Studies Standard 12.1.2 requires engaging in meaningful civic participation in community issues, our area of expertise!

*Presenter-Kelsey Arends (Carter Service Learning Award Recipient) and Julie Smith (Audience 9-12)*

### **Teaching Asian Studies in High School (Rm. 205)**

With an increasing number of Asian students coming to the US, high school students should become more familiar with the culture of their new peers. It is easy to interest secondary students in Asian studies.

*Presenters- Tadashi Nomura, Japan Foundation JOI Coordinator at the Asian World Center, Creighton University  
Maorong Jiang, Asian World Center at Creighton University (Audience 9-12)*

### **Economics for Elementary Teachers (Rm. 209)**

During this session we will show teachers how to use children's literature to teach economics in their elementary classrooms. All participants will receive a free copy of the curriculum guide "Teaching Economics Using Children's Literature." The Federal Reserve will showcase its resources to give elementary teachers the materials to teach their students economic concepts. Participants will learn fun and innovative ways to successfully implement economics from the state social studies standards in their class.

*Presenter-Dr. Jamie Wagner, University of Nebraska Omaha and Nebraska Council for Economics Education*

*Nicole Connelly, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas-Omaha Branch (Audience Elementary)*

### **Analyzing Historical and Modern Issues Objectively (Rm. 128)**

This presentation will include ideas for implementing critical thinking in the classroom. Regardless of 'learner level', all students should have the opportunity to develop critical thinking. I will be sharing lessons on critical thinking, lesson plans and help you develop the art of reason among your students specifically in 9-12 Social Studies.

*Presenter-Austin Barnes, Teacher Pawnee City (Audience 7-12)*





### **HippoCampus (Rm. 201)**

Nebraska's branded HippoCampus website will be reviewed, a free, core academic website that delivers videos, animations and simulations for high school social studies teachers and their students. Participants will be shown how to log in with an account, create playlists, and search for content correlated to the Nebraska Standards. To get the most of this session, attendees are requested to bring a laptop (this application is not suited for tablets using Flash). Come away with resources you can use next fall!!

*Presenter-Beth Kabes, ESUCC (Audience 9-12)*

### **Google Cardboard for Geography Classes (Rm. 205)**

Using free phone apps and cardboard "glasses" teachers can take their students on virtual reality field trips. Let us show you how we took our students on tours of the Eiffel Tower, Yosemite National Park, and New York City without stepping outside the classroom. Google Expeditions is the newest way to engage students globally.

*Presenter-Sarah Elger, Teacher Aurora (Audience k-12)*

### **Learning from Mrs. Globe (Rm. 209)**

Known as Mrs. Globe, has been an educator for over 28 years. National Geographic is a many faceted resource to look at the world-past, present and future—and a way to prepare us for future journeys. Whether the Head Start teacher, an elementary teacher or a high school AP teacher, we all strive to prepare young people to be successful when they begin their own adventures.

*Presenter-Deb Anderson, Geographic Educators of Nebraska (Audience k-12)*

### **Opportunity Education (Rm 128)**

Opportunity Education, an Omaha based non-profit foundation that works to break the cycle of poverty through education in Africa and India.

*Presenter-Becky Walters, Opportunity Education (Audience 6-12)*

### **Streaming Awareness Walk (Dialogue Room)**

Barry Jurgensen will be streaming from his walk tracing the Underground Railroad from Nebraska City to Chicago. Barry is also working to promote the Trafficking-Free Community Project Hosted by Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives. Visit with him!!

### **Un-Conference (Rm. 201 and 205-209)**

All teachers are invited to rotate around the rooms and share ideas, apps, and resources, etc. There will also be drawings for a year's subscription of VOCES and other prizes.





## Award Winners



**Lori Broady**  
Johnson-Brock High School  
Nebraska Gilder-Lehrman  
Teacher of the Year



**Mary Reece**  
Omaha Benson High  
School  
Paul Beck Outstanding  
Social Studies Educator

**Kelsey Arends**  
Nebraskans for Civic Reform  
Jimmy & Rosalyn Carter  
Service Learning Award



**Alison Kelley**  
Lincoln Southwest High School  
Gildersleeve-Stoddard-Stone-  
Bertolas Award for Service to  
Geographic Education



**Steve Sayer**  
Syracuse Dunbar Avoca  
Community Schools  
1st Congressional District  
Outstanding Social Studies  
Teacher



**Scott Wilson**  
Omaha Central High School  
2nd Congressional District  
Outstanding Social Studies  
Teacher



**Melanie Steskal**  
Valentine Middle School  
3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District  
Outstanding Social  
Studies Teacher

**Katie Thelen**  
Omaha Beveridge Magnet  
Middle School  
2nd District Outstanding  
Social Studies Student  
Teacher



**Nathan Shaffer**  
Johnson County Central High School  
3<sup>rd</sup> District Outstanding Social Studies Student Teacher







## Agenda

**7:30 -8:00 Breakfast (Dialogue Room)\***

**8:15 Welcome and Keynote Presentation (Room 201 and 205)**

**Session I (9:30-10:10)**

Room 201	Room 205	Room 209
Primary Sources and Active Learning	Smithsonian Museum and Teacher Resources	Nebraska Studies in Elementary Schools

**Session II (10:20-11:05)**

Room 201	Room 205	Room 209
Public Service Stories	Studies Weekly, Inc.	The Student Atlas of Nebraska

**Luncheon and Awards Ceremony in Rooms 201, 205, and 209 (11:20-12:50)\*\***

**Session III (12:50-1:25)**

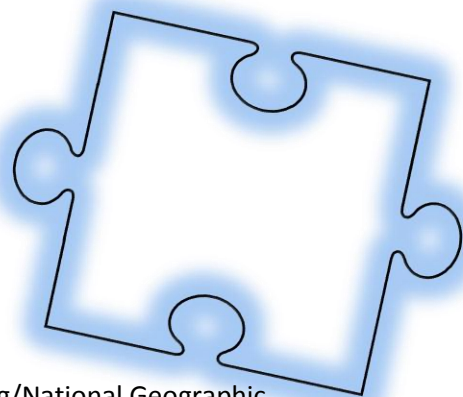
Room 201	Room 205	Room 209	Room 128
Nebraskans for Civic Reform	Teaching Asian Studies in High School	Economics for Elementary Teachers	Analyzing Historical and Modern Issues Objectively

**Session IV (1:35-2:15)**

Room 201	Room 205	Room 209	Room 128
HippoCampus	Google Cardboard for Geography Classes	Learning with Mrs. Globe	Opportunity Education

**Session V (2:20-3:05)**

Dialogue	Room 201
Streaming Awareness Walk	UnConference



\*Sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank and Cengage Learning/National Geographic

\*\*Sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank





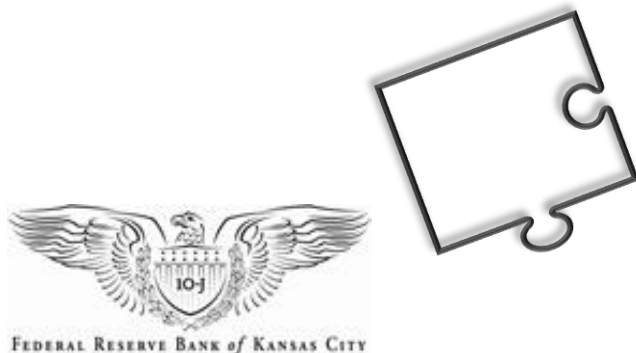
The NSCSS Executive Board would like to thank the following institutions and organizations for their generous support of today's conference:



UNO's Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center



VOCES from Teacher's Discovery



The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Omaha Branch



The Asian World Center—Creighton University  
Director Dr. Maorong Jiang



Nebraska Council for Economic Education  
President, Jennifer Davidson



Geographic Educators of Nebraska  
Alliance Coordinator Dr. Randy Bertolas



The Nebraska Department of Education



Library of Congress

