



Oregon Council for the Social Studies TEACHER NEWSLETTER

June 2011 – Volume VII

<http://www.oregonsocialstudies.org>

COUNCIL UPDATES:

President's Message

By Andrew Demko

Greetings:

As the year continues, I encourage everyone to check out the OCSS Facebook page as it is another way to keep up on OCSS activities and events. The coordinator of the page is Geoff Stuckart.

If any member of OCSS is interested in running for a board position for the next term contact the chair of the nominations committee, Shawn Daley (sdaley@cu-portland.edu). Our new term will start November 1st. Also, if anyone is interested in becoming an OCSS member or in renewing their membership, please contact Gayle Thieman, membership coordinator for more information.

Quickly approaching is the OCSS Fall Conference 2011, *Oregon Crossroads*, to be held at Concordia University September 30-October 1. The Conference committee is chaired by President-Elect, Shawn Daley and also includes board members Lisa Cassidy, Ann Donica Sullivan, Geoff Stuckart and Morgan Bennett. I would like to thank each of them, and others who have been contributing to make it an outstanding conference. If you are interested in being a presenter or exhibitor, contact a committee member for more information.

Do you know someone you'd like to nominate for Oregon Outstanding Social Studies Educator of the Year at the elementary, middle, high school or university levels? Nomination applications are available on the OCSS website and are due by June 30th. We look forward to honoring the next Oregon Outstanding Social Studies Educators of the Year at the fall conference.

We want to hear from you. To reach board members see the contact list on the OCSS website and if you would like to help a committee, see the committee list. <http://www.oregonsocialstudies.org/>

Have a great summer!!

Andy Demko
President, Oregon Council for the Social Studies

OCSS Fall Conference Preview

Sept. 30th, Portland, OR

The Oregon Council for the Social Studies will be hosting its Fall Conference this year at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon on Saturday, October 1st. This year's theme, "Oregon Crossroads," will seek to address the Social Studies discipline from myriad perspectives. Presently booked is Portland educator Jeff Creswell, who will be one of two keynotes and lead a workshop training on the Storyline method. Also planned are workshops at the Oregon Historical Society and Fort Vancouver National Historical Site, as well as sessions on Civics, Oregon History, Proficiency-based instruction, and the present discussion on Curriculum Standards.

For those interested, there will be pre-conference sessions on Friday, September 30th, including a "Master Teacher" workshop with the state's best Social Studies teachers presenting their most effective lessons, a forum on School Reform and Social Studies, and planned social events at the nearby Kennedy School.

For more information, contact Shawn Daley, conference chair, at sdaley@cu-portland.edu. Shawn will also have additional information on presenting, vendor pricing, or conference events. Online registration will begin by mid-April via the OCSS website (<http://www.oregonsocialstudies.org>).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

91st NCSS Annual Conference

Washington, D.C., December 2-4th, 2011

Let's talk about WHY you should come to the NCSS conference in December!

The Dimensions of Diversity conference will be a smorgasbord of sessions and clinics and tours and entertainment to satisfy everyone!

Speakers:

- Diane Ravitch – well-known commentator on educational issues, Dr. Ravitch has become a central figure in the debates in Wisconsin.
- Rex Ellis, Associate Director of Cultural Affairs at the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian and a story teller of renown.
- Philip Zimbardo – nationally known speaker on all things psychology
- Geoffrey Canada – founder of the Harlem Childrens Project – you know, *Waiting for Superman?*
- Larry Husick of the Foreign Policy Research Institute – will speak to the issue of failure – and how not allowing our students to fail deprives them of valuable learning.
- Teta Banks – former Consul General to Liberia, Dr. Banks came of age in the modern civil rights movement. She weaves a marvelous vision of past, present and future.

The Program Planning Committee met in April, with the difficult task of selecting 325 sessions and workshops out of the over 950 submissions. There will be some excellent choices!

Vital Issues sessions will be held on Closing the Achievement Gap; Teaching East Asia; Economics; Common State Standards – with accompanying breakout sessions to continue the discussions.

Tours – These are still works in progress, but a monument tour, and candle light visit at Mt. Vernon top the list. The Smithsonian, the National Archives and National Geographic and the Newseum are all eager to host conference attendees.

In these days of increased accountability, educators often struggle to provide lessons that incorporate both the demands of "THE TEST" with the desire to open students' minds to the complexities of the world. The NCSS conference provides the solution – an opportunity to work with talented colleagues to share ideas and stories and develop lessons that are concise, informative and provocative, lessons that allow our students to grow as individuals. And isn't that what social studies education is all about?

Sue Blanchette incoming NCSS President (July 1, 2011)

WORKSHOPS:

Leadership Program

PSU Center for Women, Politics & Policy

PSU Center for Women, Politics & Policy

Teens Lead 2011

<http://hosted-p0.vresp.com/405899/dac0e5d48c/ARCHIVE>

The Center for Women, Politics & Policy is excited to announce the third year of our successful teen girls' leadership program, Teens Lead. A non-residential, intensive week of civic engagement and leadership training for incoming junior and senior high school girls in the Metro area, Teens Lead is designed to train, educate, and motivate the next

generation of women leaders.

July 18-22, 2011 at PSU Campus--Open to incoming junior and senior girls in the Portland metro area and beyond.

2011 Summer Tour	CACBC
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The Chinese American Cultural Bridge Center (CACBC), a non-profit organization promoting cultural exchange since 1992, regularly leads tours to China for educators (teachers/librarians/principals), retired educators, and student groups. CACBC specializes in taking educators and plans two tours for this summer, which both family and friends can attend. Deadline for both: Till it's filled.

1. Educators Tour to China: July 7 - 21, 2011 – a 15-day tour to Beijing, Xian, Kaifeng, Luoyang, Zhengzhou, Shaolin Temple, and Shanghai., all at an *inclusive price of \$4,350.

2. Retired educators Leisure Tour to China: August 16 - 30, 2011 – a 15-day tour to Beijing, Xian, Chongqing, Yantze River Cruise, Suzhou, & Shanghai, all at an *inclusive price of \$4,295. We offer an additional optional tour to Tibet that can be connected to this tour.

*Teachers can earn 50 cpdu's

For more information please contact Jennifer Chan: call (847-902-7229): travelstudychina@gmail.com or visit http://cacbc.org/Educational_Tours/

Women's Leadership Curriculum	Center for Women, Politics and Policy, PSU
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"To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of women's suffrage in Oregon in 2012, the Center for Women, Politics & Policy (CWPP) at Portland State University is developing a Women's Leadership curriculum for Junior and Senior high school students. The curriculum consists of a four-day program of 50 minute lessons and a culminating project assessment.

Students will begin with a lesson on the current levels of women's representation, and will learn how the beginnings of the fight for suffrage have contributed to the context of women's leadership.

Students will review major historical US documents to understand their role and impact in the struggle for women's representation. Students will learn that not all women were considered equal due to social and political structures, and that different women have different experiences. Students will be introduced to Oregon's major suffrage players, and will understand their respective roles in the political process statewide- and will learn how Oregon helped set the stage for national women's suffrage. Finally, students will interview and write essays about women in their community who are active and engaged citizens, and will thus discover how women are making a difference in Oregon.

CWPP is seeking teachers who would be interested in piloting the curriculum and lesson plans, as well as teachers willing to help critique and refine the material. Please contact Sunny Petit, Associate Director at (503)725-2895 or at petits@pdx.edu."

21 st Annual Summer Institute on International Affairs for Educators	The World Affairs Council
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The New Middle East? - Power Shifts and Global Implications

July 27-August 1, 2011

Washington, DC

Tectonic shifts are underway in the Middle East as revolts take place in Tunisia and Egypt, the Saudi military comes to the aid of the ruling family in Bahrain, riots erupt in Syria and Yemen, and NATO forces engage in military action in Libya. Across the Middle East, unrest and uncertainty mount. Change is here. But what does it mean for long term stability, for US influence in the region, for the Arab-Israeli situation, for prices at the pump?

The World Affairs Council – Washington DC presents its 21th annual Summer Institute for High School Educators. Sessions offer teachers from across the US the opportunity to interact with foreign policy experts and other educators, while expanding their knowledge base and developing skills to bring global issues into the classroom. Site visits include embassies and major international organizations in DC.

3 graduate credits (Catholic University of America) (if desired), or professional development credits available.

Registration Fee: \$350 Includes classroom resources and meals

Additional fees apply for housing and graduate credits

For more information please contact Amanda Stamp via email at astamp@worldaffairsdc.org or phone at 202-293-1051.

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AWARDS:

Outstanding Social Studies Educator of the Year	OCSS
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OCSS is currently accepting applications for Oregon Outstanding Social Studies Educator of the Year at the Elementary, Middle School, High School and University levels. Nomination deadline is June 30, 2011.

We encourage you to nominate an educator who you consider an outstanding candidate. **It's easy.**

- 1) Read the criteria below
- 2) Fill out the attached pdf nomination form You can fill in the form electronically.
- 3) Save the file in pdf as: OCSS Educator of Year Nominee Name
- 4) Attach the completed pdf nomination form AND a brief essay in Microsoft word that is titled OCSS Educator of Year Support Nominee Name.

Here is an example:

OCSS Educator of Year Ms. Teacher.pdf OCSS Educator of Year Support Ms. Teacher. doc

- 5) Email both the pdf nomination form and the MS word support statement to OCSS President Andy Demko at d5_cel@q.com by June 30, 2011

Here are the criteria: The educator must be nominated by a current member of OCSS who is in good standing. The nominee does not have to be a current member of OCSS. You may not nominate yourself. Educators will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Evidence of effective instruction
- Creativity in the Classroom
- Community Connections
- School Committees/Functions
- Awards/Recognition
- Professional Activities

Nominations must include the following:

1. An OCSS Nomination Form
2. Short essay that describes the nominee demonstrating the stated criteria (see above)

Applications are due to the OCSS Board by: June 30, 2011

The award recipient will receive:

- A Plaque
- A monetary award in the amount of \$100
- 1 year membership to OCSS and NCSS
- Upcoming OCSS Fall conference registration fee
- Recognition at OCSS Fall conference

Winners will be notified prior to the OCSS 2011 Fall conference at Concordia University in Portland on Friday, September 30--Saturday, October 1, 2011

Please email completed nomination materials to:

OCSS President Andrew Demko d5_cel@q.com

OCSS Classroom Incentive Grants	OCSS
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OCSS has budgeted \$1,000 per academic year for classroom incentive grants to provide teachers the opportunity to expand their great, creative ideas. These grants are intended for actual instruction. Potential projects could include but are not limited to: Student created multimedia productions (ex.: documentary film, or website); Community forum; Mini-classes; Community service projects. Classroom materials to support student projects may be covered by grant funds on a case by case basis.

Applicants are encouraged to apply in the fall of the school year, though applications are accepted year around.

CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS:

- Must be an OCSS member in good standing
- A full time K-12 teacher
- Responsible for teaching at least one Social Studies disciplines in the teaching assignment. Grade school teachers teaching Social Studies are also encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be for a classroom project ranging from \$250.00 to \$500.00
- Grant cannot be for capital equipment
- Grant must be spent within current academic year
- Must include a description of the project—1/2 to one page in length
- Must include a financial budget
- A financial report with receipts must be submitted to OCSS within a year of the grant being awarded
- Must have an Administrator Sign-off for the project
- Project award will be given to the individual teacher and will be that teacher's property
- Two to four grants will be awarded each school year

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE # (____) _____ - _____

SCHOOL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

GRADE LEVEL: _____

PROJECT NAME: _____

ADMINISTRATOR NAME: _____

ADMINISTRATOR APPROVAL: Letter of approval for the project on school letterhead.

Award approval will be based on project merit, need, and submission of all required materials. For further information contact

the OCSS President, Andy Demkio d5_cel@q.com Send completed application to:
Oregon Council for the Social Studies
OCSS President Andy Demko
P.O. Box 2131
Salem, OR 97308-2131

TEACHER IDEAS AND RESOURCES:

Book Review: Child of Steens Mountain

Jeff Moore, Bandon High School

Listening to Eileen O’Keeffe McVicker read in a clear voice from her own book, Child of Steens Mountain, I was struck by the opening lines, “I was an outdoor child all my life.” The book is a short (160 pages) but straightforward chronicle of homesteading life in Southwestern Oregon for a young girl in the midst of the Great Depression. The book captures the simple beauty of a life formed by work, weather, family and open spaces. The Steens Mountains are an exceptional place and the book succeeds in capturing the ways in which the landscape and familial responsibilities both have a hand in forming the character of this young girl. (“I was never bored in my life.”) An entertaining coming of age story, Eileen’s joy in life’s small pleasures was an inspiration to me and presents a view of life that can still resonate with young adults and high school students. It may be a good story to read to a class (do teachers do that anymore?) or to assign. 2008 by Oregon State University Press.

Visit the Oregon Encyclopedia

By Rick Hardt

At the May 14 OCSS board meeting, Rick Hardt, Co-Editor-in-Chief of The Oregon Encyclopedia of History and Culture, made a presentation about the project. The OE is a free, electronic resource about all things Oregon and thus is a remarkable teaching tool available to anyone who has access to the internet. With close to 1,000 entries posted so far, the website [www.oregonencyclopedia.org] offers authoritative information about people, places, groups and institutions, events, and flora and fauna specific to the state. Entries are written by knowledgeable authors and carefully reviewed and fact-checked by specialists from across the state to ensure accuracy.

The website grows each week, providing new entries and resources. It gets thousands of hits each month and from 168 different countries. Larger topics (e.g., “Japanese Americans in Oregon,” Willamette River”) are treated in major essays.

The project is sponsored by Portland State University, the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, and the Oregon Historical Society. There will be a presentation on The Oregon Encyclopedia and its classroom applications at the OCSS fall conference. For questions, consult the website or write pdx05508@pdx.edu

Tips for Teachers

Websites

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304432304576369421525987128.html>

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