

**National Council for the Social Studies Conference,
Washington, DC
Submitted by Andy Demko, Past-President, Oregon Council for the Social
Studies
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I would like to thank OCSS for the opportunity to be a delegate for the Oregon Council for the Social Studies in the House of Delegates. It has been an honor to have been able to serve in this capacity and represent OCSS at the National Council for the Social Studies last two conferences!

During the conference, I was able to meet with social studies educators and exhibitors from across the nation. A part of this was being given the opportunity to attend Legislative Day with OCSS board member Colleen Works, where we had the chance to meet with staff members who work with different members of Congress from Oregon, to discuss current issues related to social studies and social studies education.

Among the highlights of the NCSS conference was being able to see OCSS awarded as a 2011 NCSS Gold Star Council. The certificate was presented on the second day of the House of Delegates. The criteria to receive a Gold Star can be found at the NCSS website:

<http://www.socialstudies.org/local/starcouncils> It was rewarding to see the hard work the OCSS board completed throughout the year be recognized as they were presented this award.

I was also given the chance to represent OCSS and fill in for current OCSS President, Shawn Daley, at the President's Council. One item discussed

at the President's Council was the launching of Rho Kappa onto the national scene. Rho Kappa, originally started by the Florida Council for the Social Studies as an honor society recognizing students in grades 9-12, became a national organization through the collaboration of FCSS and NCSS starting December 2011.

Attending a National Council for the Social Studies conference is an opportunity everyone should experience. By visiting the many exhibitors, to discussion with the attendees, new insights, contacts and ideas were shared and gained, providing me with the chance to better work with the Oregon Council for the Social Studies and build social studies education for our state, students and nation.