

2010 Candidates for Board of Directors and their Biographies

Oregon Council for the Social Studies

Candidate for Vice President

Candidates for 2 year Delegate positions (5 openings available):

Colleen Works **High School** **Corvallis, OR**

I have been teaching social studies in the Corvallis School District for the last 25 years. I taught middle school for over half of those years but now teach high school US history, government, and sociology. I began my social science teaching in Eugene and have taught in several small, rural school districts as well. I have had the privilege of serving on the ODE Social Sciences Content and Assessment Panel since its inception in the mid-1990s, an intriguing journey. Each experience contributed to my love of the social sciences and my fascination with teaching them. Having enjoyed the benefits of OCSS, I feel it is now my turn to contribute. While the national education focus tends currently toward math and science, I believe that social science education is equally critical and that citizens who are well educated in history and civics are essential to effective democracy. I'd bring that commitment to the OCSS board.

Geoff Stuckart **Recent graduate of PSU** **Portland, OR**

As someone who worked in federal and state government, politics and public affairs for more than a dozen years, I am passionate about the need for active and educated citizens. In my previous profession, I often encountered a disturbing lack of civic engagement and civil discourse, which helped convince me to begin a second career as a social studies teacher so I could help provide students with the analytical and critical-thinking skills they need to make well-informed decisions.

I bring to the teaching profession a unique and positive perspective of our discipline, a desire to advocate with elected officials for high-quality social studies education, a highly collaborative and creative personality, and the motivation to work hard to make social studies relevant and engaging for all students.

I would embrace the opportunity to bring those qualities—and my energy and enthusiasm—to the OCSS Board, and I would welcome your support.

Jeff Moore **High School** **Bandon, OR**

I have been a Social Studies teacher in Oregon for the past 29 years. I have seen a general decline in emphasis in the teaching of History during my teaching tenure, but I'm hopeful and excited by the challenge of serving on the OCSS Board. As a board member, I could use the opportunity to serve as a liaison for the remote region of the southern Oregon coast with the hope of getting more teachers involved with their colleagues at the state level as well as working to help improve the quality of their teaching and assisting them in some innovative ways.

It has been remarked about me that I have "a passion for History" and for historical content and its potential to enrich and ground the lives of us all. I admit to having a lifetime interest in studying historical narrative. Some of my adventures in History are because the TAH Program, Landmark Seminars, a NEH Seminar, World Affairs Council and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Joe Usselman **Middle School** **Stayton, OR**

I have been teaching social sciences for almost 23 years and there has been many changes that have come and gone since I first started teaching, but the one thing that has remained consistently is the need for a strong social sciences curriculum. In this era of globalization social sciences needs to be in the forefront of education. To achieve this goal I incorporate mock trials that begin with using the state police crime lab to having lawyers work with my middle school students. I also have created a mock house of representatives unit in which the students are on committees attempting to get actual bills passed. Our goal as social studies teachers should be to prepare our students to be active citizens in their communities and the world.

Lynn Songer **Lane Community College** **Eugene, OR**

As a nominee for a position on the Oregon Council for the Social Studies Board of Directors, I would like to express my appreciation for the nomination and to address my qualifications for service with this body of scholars. I have been a third-grade, fourth-grade, and alternative education teacher in Springfield, Oregon. As a teacher in the public schools, I was fortunate to be able to teach multiple subjects in the Social Studies. I have a passion for cross curricular education and for teaching relevant hands- on lessons. My background in K-12 education will help me understand and support the leadership goals of OCSS – primarily the diverse spectrum of social studies education.

Currently, I am an instructor at Lane Community College teaching geography and GIS and am a primary investigator for an NSF-ATE grant to implement professional development workshops for Oregon K-12 teachers. The work has helped me understand the many ways we can support classroom teachers: from curriculum to integrating technology and addressing changing state and national standards.

I have a passion for teaching and working with teacher that I believe makes me a strong candidate and college.

Again thank you for considering me for this position.

Lisa N. Cassidy

High School

Newberg, OR

My name is Lisa Cassidy and I am interested in serving on the board of OCSS. I have taught social studies in New Mexico and Oregon, in public, charter and alternative settings. Prior to teaching, I maintained a career as a criminal law attorney. What I would bring to the board is a varied base of experience and a commitment to making the social studies compelling and accessible to every student, particularly those who are struggling. I would like to see OCSS assist teachers in sharing their best practices, including hands-on, project-based curricula, simulation, and participation in their communities. I will be teaching social at the Newberg alternative high school program in the fall.

Candidates for 1 year delegate (1 opening available)

Morgan Bennett

Classroom Law Project

Portland, OR

I welcome this opportunity to serve the mission of the Oregon Council for the Social Studies as a member of the Board of Directors. In these challenging times, OCSS's work to strengthen social studies education and connect key stakeholders is more important than ever. I feel I would be a valuable asset to the OCSS Board because of my past experience as a classroom teacher, strong interpersonal skills, and longstanding commitment to civic engagement. As the Program Manager of Classroom Law Project, I have worked to ensure that students at all grade levels learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens. I have supported teachers from Medford to Pendleton with resources and high-quality professional development, and gained an understanding of the needs of Oregon's diverse communities. If elected to the Board, I look forward to utilizing my experience and enthusiasm to represent the interests of OCSS members across the state.

*****For more information about the nomination process for OCSS
contact the 2010 Nominations Committee
(Andy Demko, Chair d5_cel@q.com)***