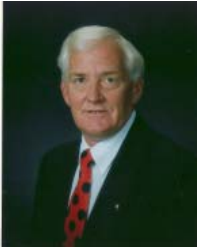


# South Dakota Education Service Agency Region 7 Newsletter

*Serving school districts in the Black Hills area and southwestern South Dakota*

*October, 2004*



## Education Service Agencies: A New Vision for South Dakota Schools

By Randy Morris, Executive Director, Regions 6 & 7

As rural districts, we've recognized the value of working together for a long time already. South Dakota's ESA structure affords us a new opportunity to build on our relationships and focus our energies on tough issues collaboratively and effectively. I invite you to join me in capitalizing on this opportunity for making a positive and significant difference in the individual efforts of Region 7 districts.

From my experience, essential keys to our success are open communication and mutual support. As ESAs grow and develop, we're counting on you as South Dakota school leaders to offer us good ideas. In turn, we'll do our best to serve you as individual districts and to facilitate inter-district collaboration. Specifically, we invite you to—

- Share information on ESA programs and services with your colleagues, including teachers, school board members, and community members.
- Appoint a district representative to our Advisory Council. The first Region 7 meeting is scheduled October 22 at the TIE Office in Rapid City (see contact information on the second page of this newsletter).
- Get to know our staff. They are an energetic and dedicated group of individuals committed to serving you.
- Tell us what your needs are and offer us suggestions on how we can best help.
- Give us feedback on how we are doing.
- Advocate for the continuation of the ESA structure with local legislators. We need time to truly test the concept in South Dakota.

As with any other venture, ESAs in South Dakota will be only as good as the leadership that guides them. That leadership comes from member districts, as well as from the ESA staff.

Together, we can make this new vision for South Dakota schools a powerful reality.

## Inquiry-based Learning in Mathematics & Science

**Who:** Classroom and pre-service teachers grades K-12 in Regions 6 & 7.

**What:** This series is designed to deepen the content knowledge of K-12 math and science teachers, to strengthen their knowledge of research-based instructional materials and practices that lead to meaningful learning experiences for students, and to provide ideas for improving instruction with the support of technology.

**When:** November 9, 16, 23, 30, December 7

4:30-6:30 PM Mountain Time; 5:30-7:30 PM Central Time

**Where:** Class sessions will be offered via DDN within your district or in a neighboring district with follow-up online via internet-based discussions. DDN sessions will take place in no more than eight of the following locations: Rapid City, Spearfish, Hot Springs, Sturgis, Batesland, Pierre, Todd County, Kadoka, Murdo, Winner.

**Incentives:** Graduate credit will be offered through Black Hills State University for \$57.30/credit hour. Upon completion of the course, participants will receive a \$150 stipend.

**Registration:** Online at <http://aims.tie.net>

**More information:** Marcia Torgrude ([mtorgrude@tie.net](mailto:mtorgrude@tie.net))

## Other ESA 7 Services

### Data Analysis

ESA 7 offers member districts on-site training in the analysis of test scores and other data to identify areas of strength and weakness in student achievement. Districts participating in this process will receive customized reports which complement information available on the DOE website.

### School Improvement Planning

Creating a school improvement plan is a good idea, not just for schools "in improvement," but for all schools. ESA education specialists are available to facilitate this process, designed to help schools and districts set goals and plan professional development aimed at these goals.

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

### Improvement of Instruction

Assistance is available from ESA 7 in identifying effective instructional strategies to help schools and districts reach improvement goals.

### Curriculum Mapping

ESA staff members are available to assist districts with a comprehensive curriculum analysis/development process designed to help teachers better align their instruction with state content standards. To learn more about the process, contact an ESA 7 education specialist.

### Consolidated Application

For assistance in completing this annual application for federal funds, contact your ESA 7 education specialist. For contact information, please see the bottom of the next column.

## Frequently Asked Questions on School Improvement

**Question:** If we are required to develop a School Improvement Plan, does our LEA have to approve the plan **before** we attend the Peer Review on November 16th?

**Answer:** No. **After** you attend the Peer Review in November and make any changes necessary to the plan, you will then submit the plan to your LEA for approval. The plan will then be submitted to the ESA on or before January 2nd. The ESA will submit your plan to the Department of Education (DOE). The State Department will not formally approve the plan; they just require that a copy of the plan be submitted to them.

## Many Special Programs Fall Under ESA 7 "Umbrella"

The goal of **South Dakota Parent Resource Network (SDPRN)** is

to support the meaningful involvement of parents in the education of their children. There is little debate about the importance of parent involvement in the education of their children, however effective parental involvement goes beyond volunteering at school and participating in parent teacher conferences. A parent's real impact in their children's success occurs at home. Parents who promote positive attitudes and beliefs about education, provide structure, assist with homework, teach appropriate behavior, and support healthy decisions can impact their child's educational success.

Since the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act, the role of the SDPRN has



become even more critical. A statewide program, the SDPRN serves as the primary vehicle to increase understanding of standards and assessments, school accountability, school choice, and supplemental educational services. The South Dakota Parent Resource Network provides a varied array of direct training and information resources designed to strengthen partnerships between parents and schools towards improved student academic achievement.

For information, please contact Lori Laughlin at (lLaughlin@bhssc.tie.net) or at 800-219-6247.

### Mountains of History: Teaching American History through the Black Hills



ESA 7 is partnering with Mount Rushmore National Memorial (National Park Service), Crazy Horse Memorial, Black Hills State University, and the Chiesman Foundation for Democracy to develop, document, evaluate and disseminate this professional development program for teachers of American history in grades 5, 8, and 11. During guided, on-site summer immersion experiences at the Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorials, teachers will assume the role of historians. They also will receive off-site, content-focused training during the school year, including lectures by historians, guided reading/analysis of primary sources, in-depth Socratic method seminars, guidance for accessing technology-based resources, and networking opportunities.

The program covers traditional American history, focusing on historical periods and primary source documents represented by the four presidents on Mount Rushmore (1750-1920). Participants also study historical chronology from this nation's beginnings, with a focus on Native cultures and perspectives

**Question:** If we are a Non-Title School, do we still have to notify parents that our school has been put into school improvement?

**Answer:** Yes. The school does have to tell the parents and the community that the school has been placed in school improvement. Also, the district is required to release the AYP status of all schools within the district. These requirements come from Title I Part A Section III (H) – reports and pertain to all public schools and districts in the state, not just Title I schools.

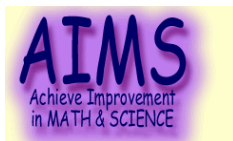
## ESA Contact Information

**Sandy Gaspar, Program Director**  
1925 Plaza Blvd., Rapid City, SD 57702  
Email: [ggaspar@tie.net](mailto:ggaspar@tie.net)  
605-394-1876 or 605-642-2326  
Website: <http://sdea7.org>

on the period from pre-colonization/pre-reservation to the turn of the 20th century. Participants will develop a "toolkit" of effective strategies for weaving historical methods into their teaching. Three 15-member cohorts of 5th grade teachers will participate in a year-long program (for 4 graduate credit hours); one 15-member cohort of 8th grade teachers and one 15-member cohort of 11th grade teachers will participate in a more intensive, three-year program (for 10 graduate credit hours).

More information on "Mountains of History" will be distributed soon to ESA 7 schools. In the meantime, if you have any questions on the program, please contact Jill Jordahl at 605-394-1876 ([jjordahl@tie.net](mailto:jjordahl@tie.net)).

**AIMS (Achieve Improvement in Math & Science): Your opportunity to be a part of a community putting theory into practice.**



AIMS is a regional, comprehensive professional development grant designed to build the capacity of K-12 teachers in public and private schools in Education Service Agencies 6 (Three Rivers) and 7 (Black Hills). The program focus is effective, research-based methods for teaching mathematics and science with an emphasis on strategies supported by technology. Professional development activities are scheduled outside the school day.

The AIMS Program began with a week-long summer institute July 12-16, 2004 at Black Hills State University. Participants could attend 2 1/2-day sessions or a 5-day session. All participants received a stipend of \$75 per day, room and board, and up to two graduate credits.

During the fall, instructors from BHSU will take teachers through a series of inquiry-based lessons in both mathematics and science, a review of philosophy, questioning strategies, and ideas for more effective assessment. This class will be offered via DDN and internet-based discussion boards. Dates of the events are November 9, 16, 23, 30, and December 7, 4:30 - 6:30 PM Mountain Time; 5:30 - 7:30 PM Central Time.

In the spring 2005, participants will put inquiry-based learning into practice in their classrooms through an online learning environment that supports communities of practice, modeling, case studies, and sharing what works and what doesn't. Online courses will be offered to cohorts of teachers with specific math and science content through the ESA 6 & 7 partnership with Annenberg/CPB Channel's Free Professional Development.

AIMS also supports teachers who register for professional development events being sponsored through CAMSE (The Center for the Advancement of Mathematics and Science Education, Black Hills State University), PRIME (an NSF grant focused on mathematics improvement in the Rapid City Area Schools), and ENRICH (professional development for teachers of students with disabilities).

For complete information about the AIMS Grant and professional development opportunities, visit <http://aims.tie.net>.

**Project ENRICH**

In response to the growing need to support students with disabilities in the regular classroom, Project ENRICH and ESA 7 will soon offer professional development and follow up to schools across the region. The intent of Project ENRICH is to use existing professional development programs to disseminate information about instruc-



tional practices which lead to improved academic achievement for children with disabilities and to offer practical follow-up support to participants.

Project ENRICH acknowledges that educators are already engaged in quality professional development experiences and that the positive outcomes from these experiences include more confidence in the classroom, improved and varied instructional practices, and increased student achievement. However, one of the most challenging issues for classroom teachers continues to be meeting the needs of diverse learners, particularly those with disabilities. As such, through Project ENRICH, educators will be provided opportunities to learn and practice instructional strategies proven effective with students with disabilities.

Project Enrich strategies will include the following:

- Introductory instructional events which include distance learning, traditional delivery mechanisms, and classroom applications.
- Classroom-based support and coaching.
- Follow-up and embedded activities to current and ongoing content area professional development activities for educators
- Intensive instructional events utilizing distance and traditional delivery mechanisms
- Graduate credit for participants

The first series of professional development opportunities through Project ENRICH is tentatively scheduled to begin in December, 2004. As more information becomes available, it will be disseminated through the ESA and TIE communication systems.

For more information on Project ENRICH, either in ESA 6 or 7, contact Laurie Bedford, Technology and Innovations in Education (TIE), 605-394-1876, ([lbedford@tie.net](mailto:lbedford@tie.net)).

---

---

## ESA 7 Staff Offers Varied Expertise



**Sandy Gaspar**, who has been an educator for 26 years, is the Program Director for ESA 7. Ms. Gaspar began her career as a graduate teaching assistant at Purdue University, where she earned a master's degree in English literature. She later served as a teacher and school communications specialist in the Todd County School District. After earning an Ed.M. in school administration, she served for many years as a cooperative director, middle school assistant principal, curriculum director, and college instructor. She is currently completing her doctoral studies in Educational Leadership at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Originally from Redfield, SD, Sandy currently lives in Spearfish with her husband Dennis and two cats. The Gaspars have two grown children.



**Pam Lange** is the ESA 7 education specialist assigned to the Northern Hills area. She also works extensively as a mathematics consultant at Todd County Middle School. Pam earned a BS in Business Education and a BS in Business Administration from BHSU. Her masters degree in Human Resources Administration is from USD. For the last six years, she has been an education consultant to Pearson Ed Tech, implementing math and reading software at schools in a five-state region. She was the Nova Net Coordinator at Belle Fourche High School for two years and the Assistant Director of Human Resources at Lantis Enterprises in Spearfish four years prior to that. Pam and her husband Damon have three teenage children and live in Belle Fourche.



**Debbie O'Doan** is the education specialist assigned to ESA 7 schools in the Southern Hills area. In addition, she works part-time with Project Enrich, the region's professional development program for teachers of students with disabilities. Debbie grew up on her family ranch outside of Vetol, just east of Martin. She earned her BA in Elementary Education from Black Hills State University and, while teaching in Canton, her masters degree in Technology Training and Development from the University of South Dakota. She has also taught at HeDog School in Todd County, in Bennett County, and in Harrisburg. Last year, Debbie was an Instructional Technology Specialist for Rapid City Area Schools. She lives in Rapid City and is a member of the Black Hills Runners Club.



**June Preszler** works with ESA 7 schools in the central Black Hills area, having come to the TIE staff last January from Mankato, MN. There she was the Associate Managing Editor for Capstone Press, publishing school library books for the past two years. June is originally from Webster, SD and graduated from Sturgis, where her family still lives. For 15 years she taught Language Arts at Lead-Deadwood Middle School. Currently working toward her masters degree in literature, June earned her BA in English and Journalism from SDSU, and her teaching certification and graduate endorsement as a Reading Specialist from BHSU. She served the Worthington, MN Schools as a Reading Specialist/Coordinator for three years. June lives in Rapid City, where she likes to walk her dog, Risk, and read. She enjoys watching her son play football for Concordia College in Moorhead, MN.



**Micky Wienk** has joined the ESA 7 Team as an Educational Consultant. She earned a degree in Speech Communication with an emphasis in Speech Pathology from South Dakota State University in 1971, a Master's Degree in Speech Communication in 1974, and a Master's Degree in School Administration in 1989. Micky taught high school in DeSmet and middle school and high school in Lemmon. She served as Director of Northwest Area Schools Educational Cooperative, was the Statewide Tech Prep Coordinator through the South Dakota Office of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education, and was a Special Assistant in the Office of the Governor. She has been a member of the adjunct faculty at Black Hills State University in the Department of Education and Department of Speech. Micky and her husband, Vince, live in Spearfish, SD. In their spare time they pursue their hobbies of bicycling, traveling, and visiting family and friends.

---

---