



# Get the FACS

New York State Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Education  
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***This e-news was held until the close of the February Board Meeting. Additional information may be as a result of that meeting.***

**President's Message:** Hi Everyone! We are so excited to have our new webpage just about ready. Be looking for the newly organized page. Special thanks to Charlene Regan for a wonderful job! Thank you so much Charlene.

Enjoy your President's Day off or week if it applies! Kelly

## **UPDATE FROM BARB MIKLER-CRANDON, President-Elect:**

I just returned from Albany yesterday afternoon and can report that I was so refreshed and encouraged by the message shared by Dr. John B. King, who is the Senior Deputy Commissioner to the new State Commissioner of Education, Dr. David Steiner. They have been working together in these roles for four months and I believe are a breath of fresh air to NYS education!

Dr. King addressed the following points as he spoke to us at the NYS Council of Educational Associations (NYSCEA) on Friday, Feb. 5:

Dr. Steiner and Dr. King have **three convictions about education** in NYS:

- 1: The quality of the students' teachers is the most important factor in their success in school.
- 2: A student's experience in education must be engaging, and
- 3: We have a long way to go in supplying a quality education for our students given that there is currently only a 70% graduation rate in NYS, and less than 50% rate in schools with low SES populations.

He presented the question "How do we ensure the NYS Education Dept. is supporting teachers and schools?" and went on to answer it by describing the **five "Priority Buckets"** he and Commissioner Steiner have set. This is a summary of my own notes I took to try and capture the essence of his message:

**Standards and Assessments** We need higher, more rigorous standards. Regents diploma students should not be taking remediation classes their first year of college. We need richer curriculum frameworks; standards are important but they are not the curriculum and they should not stand alone. ELA and Math cannot crowd out the important of Career and Technical Education (CTE). We need better assessments; our current assessments deliver some but not all of what we need to know about achievement. We need to shift the paradigm to more open-ended questions, more scenario based assessments, more writing. Related to all this, we need to take professional development to another level; it cannot be a potpourri but we need to align professional development with the development of rich curriculum and assessments.

**Data** We need a more comprehensive collection of data in NYS; it is expected to cost \$150 million over time to do this. There

needs to be state-wide links between K-12 and higher education. For example, are the current math regents a good predictor of college math success? We need to connect the different sets of data. We also need to connect the educational data to non-education data systems in NYS.

## **Develop Better Connection Between Schools and Teacher Education**

Teacher education (pre-service) needs to be more clinically practical. New teachers need to be better prepared for what they will face in the classroom. The same is true for Principal (administrative) preparation; for example, principals can't be considered instructional supervisors if they are not trained to do so in the first place. There needs to be a bigger investment in professional development for teachers. He spoke to the belief that student progress should be a significant factor in assessing teacher effectiveness, and there needs to be multiple ways to provide professional development training and more support and coaching for teachers. He spoke of building into the certification process the question – are students making progress.

**Student Turnaround** It is not acceptable to move schools off "lists" when they go from very bad to just breathing. We need to look at schools that are achieving poorly in a radically different way. He raised the following questions: "Are we doing high school in the right way if a school only has a 30% graduation rate?" "How can we use CTE and the arts to keep kids engaged in school?" "How to use technology to keeps kids in school and successful?"

**Early Childhood Education** How are we doing at this? Universal Pre-Kindergarten needs to really be universal for children in NYS. We need a comprehensive plan to meet the needs of children and their parents and need to link the community and schools.

He went on to speak of the important of securing Race to the Top funding for NYS in order to help fund all these priorities. He spoke to the goal of having each student coming to school with the mindset or thought that he (she) makes the difference in someone's life with his presence in school, as should each and every adult who is employed in a school district.

Throughout the day, I heard in multiple different ways from different speakers the need for schools to keep hands-on programs that keep kids engaged in their education and desiring to come to school; the need to have strong programs that have a high impact on students; the need to engage local business and students together in shadowing experiences and internships; the need for alternative graduation requirement plans (not just the one plan that we have now) and that the regents would be addressing this at their meeting on Feb. 8.

I thought there was a very exciting promotion of CTE woven into the day in a roomful of presidents/delegates of forty educational associations which included Principals, Math, Science, English and Social Studies teachers! Please put this on your to-do list for today: Go to the following link and watch/listen to our NYS Commissioner of Education, Dr. David Steiner, speak to this: [http://tblsmac.nyit.edu/ctevideos/David\\_Steiner.html](http://tblsmac.nyit.edu/ctevideos/David_Steiner.html) You will

be so encouraged!! Share this with your CTE colleagues! Share the link with your administrators!

**Although these are tough economic times in NYS we are also on the cusp of what could be a fabulous wave of opportunity for us a career and technical educators! If we let this opportunity go by we are foolish.** Today is the day to begin to **strengthen your own middle school or high school program** – make sure what you are doing has real quality, meaning and purpose to your students and their futures and be passionate about what you teach. Today is the day to stop *intending* to **put out a PR item** in your community about the great things happening in your classroom and **DO IT!!!** Get an article or photo out to the school paper, the school website, the community newspaper, your state and national representatives. Today is the day to begin to **learn how to use at least one new tool of technology** -- I know I have so much to learn in this regard – we can't keep our heads in the sand! Today is the day to do some self-evaluation and begin walking taller and **project an even more professional image** to those around us of what CTE and most especially Family & Consumer Science is about. **We need to be quality teachers carrying out a quality program in each of our schools.** Go team!!!

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## Ask a Pro

*Dear Pro: With all that's going on with the state budget, my district is worried about cuts and is looking at all kinds of ways to save money. Since Home & Career Skills is mandated, is my program is safe or do I need to worry?*

**Dear H&CS Teacher:** Probably and probably. While the mandate does provide a certain amount of protection, when districts get desperate all kinds of proposals get tossed around and they're not always in the best interest of students or the valuable material we teach.

The best way to deal with this potential threat is to have a good program and make sure everyone knows how important and valuable it is. Start with your students. Make sure they know how important the skills they're learning are to their lives and futures. Provide real-life opportunities for students to reach out to others with what they're learning such as: cooking a meal at home for extra credit, writing pamphlets or public service announcements on money saving strategies for families or seniors, doing videos on dealing with peer pressure for 6<sup>th</sup> graders or reading to preschoolers. Every group you reach out to is another link recognizing the value of FACS. Great learning and good PR aren't mutually exclusive.

Make sure your administrators know about all the good things you're doing in relation to state mandates such as fire safety and other critical areas such as personal safety, bullying and other hot topics. Since research shows that students that have goals for the future are less likely to drop out of school, helping students set goals and plans for achieving them is working towards a smaller drop-out rate. Make sure administrators know what you're doing in your classroom. Invite them to the class or at least e-mail them about what you're doing.

Be sure to let the local media know what your students are doing as well. It can be as easy an e-mail inviting them to send a photographer or reporter to an event. Don't do this just once, do it often. Maybe it won't get covered every time but you're letting people know about good things happening at school.

Not only do students benefit from these activities and the recognition but administrators, parents and school board members all look very favorably on any program that makes their schools look good.

Consider starting an FCCLA group if you don't already have one. It accomplishes all of the above and more. One teacher I know was called into the principal's office during the last budget crisis. He told her she didn't need to worry about her program being cut even though they were above the state mandate. With all the good things her students and FCCLA were doing, the board was impressed and also thought the students and parents would riot if anything in FACS was cut.

I don't know what sports person said that the best defense is a good offense, but it works well in education too.

What's bothering you? What would you like ideas/suggestions about? Just e-mail [phillip3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:phillip3@twcny.rr.com) If it's urgent, just mention that and we'll get back to you sooner than the next e-news.

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If you are working on next years budget for your department here is something you will not want to miss. **Fall Best Practices Conference October 22-23, 2010 Holiday Inn Kingston 12401.** This conference will provide all FACS teachers with Best Practices from all areas for both Middle and High school courses. The tentative costs will be \$175 conference fee for members and the room is \$109 each night. Information on how to register will come later. There will be only 130 participants. **Do you want to be one of the presenters? Send your best practices to Debbie Hall at [dfacs01@yahoo.com](mailto:dfacs01@yahoo.com)** Twenty PB's are needed in each area. We know you have some great lessons....take the time to present it to your peers during the October meeting!

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**Online Professional Development for FACS teachers:** Go to [www.teachsharp.com](http://www.teachsharp.com) or E-mail: [support@teachsharp.com](mailto:support@teachsharp.com) Wanda Fox, Ph.D. Also working on this project is our board member, Andrea Mosenon from Queens College.

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**NYS AFCSE Board needs new members!** If you are interested in serving on the NYSAFCSE board please contact Kelly Lang or Barb Mikler-Crandon. There are a few slots open: **FCCLA Liaison, Teacher Recruitment,** and other members are interested in training new recruits: **Awards, E-News** and possibly others. Add new dimension to your career. Be an active member by serving on the board.

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If you have not already signed up for the FACS list serve with NYSED, please go to the FACS webpage and do so know. Get up- to-date FACS information from SED.

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Please contact your area coordinator if you have someone in mind for the 2010 Awards for NYSAFCSE. Log on to our website for details and descriptions about each. Deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>, but time is needed to complete the awards. Contact your coordinator now to give ample time to the awards committee in your area.

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Elections for NYSAFCSE will be held in March. Please look for the ballot as part of your e-news message in March. The nominations committee is looking for a president elect to follow Barb Mikler Crandon. Other openings will be available.

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E-news is brought to all NYSAFCSE members If you have any questions please contact

Editor: [Dodi.cechnicki@gmail.com](mailto:Dodi.cechnicki@gmail.com)

Distribution: [SWare@nscsd.org](mailto:SWare@nscsd.org)