

# Cooperative Times

October 2010

**Building Connections Through Communications**

## New CSEC Staff:

Brenda Bartels, Paraprofessional  
Cynthia Bigaouette, Child Care Aide  
Cathy Burd, Child Care Teacher  
Krista Dahlke, Paraprofessional  
Richard Edel, A+/Cisco Teacher  
Matt Finnesgard, Special Ed Teacher  
Susan Galles, Paraprofessional  
Darren Kermes, Director of Special Education  
Heather McClung-Halvorson, Special Ed Teacher  
Tom McCracken, School Psychologist  
Tamara Merkins, ASL Interpreter  
Nora Nutt, Student Teacher  
Ebru Peterson, ASL Interpreter  
Mary Pineo Thurman, ELL Teacher  
Sandra Streitman, School Psychologist  
Angela Tamke, Special Ed Teacher  
Michelle Tierney, ASD Specialist  
Tom Wiczorek, Business Manager

Welcome!

## Online Learning Opportunities at CSEC

*By: Geoff Johnson*

For the 2010-2011 school year, I will be helping to manage CSEC's online learning. We have been licensed with the state of Minnesota as an official online learning provider for the last two years.



If you head to *odined.com*, you will find access to our Moodle site and links to our Plato site.

The online learning portal you should already be familiar with is Moodle.

Several new and old Moodle units are there and available for you to use as strictly a resource for your traditional classroom curriculum or to have your entire class work within the Moodle system curriculum. Many elective and required courses are available. If you are just getting started in your Moodle adventure, the task can seem daunting, but the benefits are great especially if you plan to teach a similar class the following semester or year: half your work will already be done for you.

Or Plato online learning program can be found at *ple.platoweb.com*. All staff are able to use Plato curriculum to supplement their own personal curriculum in the classroom on an unlimited basis. We do however have a user limit on students working independently on the Plato system. Students can work independently on credit recovery and work at their own pace. Students can also use a Plato course as an independent study class during the day if the class they need isn't offered during the time they need it. All core classes have a full 9-12 curriculum available. There are also BST/MCA test prep/retest prescribed classes that measure a student's strengths and weaknesses.

For inquiries related to the use of Moodle or Plato, email me ([gjohnson@cseced.org](mailto:gjohnson@cseced.org)) and we will set up a time to meet and discuss how I can help facilitate online learning in your classroom.

## Getting to Know You...

*Karsten Anderson, Superintendent  
Watertown-Mayer Public Schools*



Karsten Anderson was born and raised in Montana.

He earned degrees in mathematics, computer science, and education at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. Karsten earned a master's degree at Bemidji State and earned his administrative licenses after studying at Moorhead State. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at St. Mary's University.

Prior to becoming a superintendent, Karsten worked as a teacher and also as a principal. This is Karsten's 13th year as superintendent (3 years at Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley and 10 years at Watertown-Mayer).

According to Karsten, "The CSEC greatly benefits our school district because we are unable to maintain low incidence programming independently. Also, we benefit from the expertise that CSEC staff members provide."



## LIVING SKILLS OPEN HOUSE

*By: Denise Fedie*

The Living Skills students are gearing up for another Open House production. This year the students will be performing "Footloose." The Open House is on Thursday, November 4 at 1:00 p.m. at the Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative Main Campus, 401 E. 4th Street, Chaska. After the production, the students will be selling craft items that they have made over the past few months. The proceeds from the sale will go to purchase toys for Toys for Tots this December. It is a great way for the Living Skills students to give back to their community. So mark your calendars and don't miss this creative production of "Footloose."



## Foundation Corner

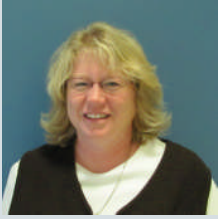
*By: Jennifer O'Brien*

**Alumna as Board Chair:** For the first time in its seven year history, the CSE Foundation board has a new chair! Ron Strand ended his 3 terms as Chair in September 2010, after serving for 6 years. Ron was one of the pioneering members of the Foundation board which included, among others, Bob Roepke, Justine Phillips, Jim Wildermuth, and Lon Hand. He will continue to serve the Foundation as an honorary board member. Beth Klehr, Human Resource Officer for Datacard and New Beginnings alumna, has taken the helm. Beth has been a board member for four years and is excited about the opportunity given her.

**New Kid On the Block:** Replacing Rachel Harmon as representative of the staff to the Foundation is Mary Jorissen, Carver-Scott High School teacher. Mary's 17 years at the CSEC will give her a unique perspective of the CSEC as a whole, and of our students and staff, in particular. Aside from her liaison duties, Mary will have the special task of educating the board about what is going on in our classrooms, and will be the staff's primary advocate. Welcome Mary!

**New School Year, Same Goal:** Raise money for the programs and services of the Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative—that is the goal—and the Foundation remains committed to that end. This year, we continue to grant \$30,000 to the CSEC, continue to support our graduates by providing scholarships to those students in need, and are raising \$25,000 specifically for updating our current van pool. In the next few months, the Board will take a look at the needs in the classrooms, evaluate Foundation resources and determine how the Foundation can better serve our students.

**A Plea:** However, raising more funds for our programs and services is contingent on our reach—where and who—and the Foundation's current reach can only do so much. The Foundation is looking for new relationships to build and nurture. Please take a look at your friends list, contacts, your program alumni and parents and see if there is someone there who you feel we can establish a relationship with for friend—and fundraising. We are also looking for board members so if you know someone we can approach, please let Mary Jorissen ([mjorissen@cseced.org](mailto:mjorissen@cseced.org)) or Jennifer O'Brien ([jobrien@cseced.org](mailto:jobrien@cseced.org)) know. Together we can bring the Foundation to the next level.



## Our Staff At CSEC...

*Deb Clark, School Nurse*

If you are looking for a career where the days are never dull and something new is always happening, being a school nurse may be for you. I had always thought about being a school nurse, mostly because of the hours it offered (summers off). I started my nursing career graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College with a nursing degree. I spent quite a few years in hospital nursing. I started in adult nursing and did not enjoy that at all then quickly moved over to pediatrics.

My first job was in Colorado at Denver Children's, then I moved back to Minnesota and worked at Minneapolis Children's for quite a few years, followed by several smaller hospitals in pediatrics. I loved working with the kids and their families and so I think school nursing was a natural switch.

I have been married for 22 years and we have two great sons. We love staying busy and trying new things. In the summertime we spend lots of time on the lake and in the winter we love to ski and snowmobile. There are always so many fun things to do and so little time!



## Technology Update

*By: Brian Lewandowski*

The 2010-2011 year is upon us and with it comes brand new challenges and opportunities for integrating technology in your classroom! A quick Google search brought me to an article listing ten tips for getting ready to integrate technology. Of the ten tips, two caught my attention.

First, **gain perspective**. Here the author suggests asking yourself the following questions based upon the last school year:

- Did I use technology?
- If I did, did the technology enhance the lessons? If not, why not?
- If I didn't use technology, how can I use it this year to enhance and reinforce what I teach?

There are many ways you may have or could in the future use technology to enhance your lesson. Simply asking your students to gather information via the Internet or requiring papers to be written using Microsoft Word integrates technology into your classroom. Remember, it doesn't have to be elaborate or complex to include technology. Perhaps the most important question in gaining perspective for the new year is *if you didn't use technology to enhance your lesson, why not?*

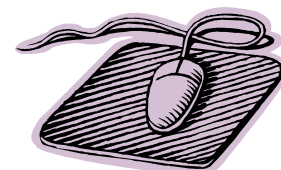
The second tip that really challenges us is to **prepare something new**. Start simple and prepare at least one new lesson plan that integrates technology on some level. This doesn't mean you have to upload your curriculum to a website. Have students utilize the technology we have in place to create and/or evaluate information. Students can conduct a survey and utilize

Excel to create graphs that can be put into a PowerPoint presentation. My stepdaughter's class recently setup a website to chronicle a service learning project. There are many simple ways we can integrate technology into the classroom but we have to start by planning and preparing something new.

In closing, I'd like to share a recent "challenge" I experienced in trying something new with technology. In setting up a planning session for technology goals for 2010-2011, I attempted to utilize web-based video conferencing. I picked a free website that seemed to offer what I needed. I did some testing and all seemed to go well. On the day of the meeting, things didn't go so well. Only 3 of the 5 people could get connected and we were unable to have a meeting. Even though the first meeting attempt didn't go as planned, I feel that participants had the opportunity to learn something new. We utilized cameras, microphones and the Internet. We had to adjust settings and troubleshoot when things didn't go as planned. Maybe the meeting didn't work overall but it still provided an experience that the participants could learn from. Probably the most important lesson learned is that instead of giving up, we will try again using a different web-based conferencing tool to see if we can get it to work next time.

Starr, Linda. "Get Ready to Integrate Technology: Ten Tips". Education World.

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_tech/tech/tech039.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/tech/tech039.shtml) (October 5, 2010).





## From The Executive Director...

*Dr. Randall Zitterkopf*

With the start of the 2010-2011 school year, important changes have taken place regarding the makeup of the administrative team and two governing boards at the Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative (CSEC).

Two new administrators have joined the district team: Tom Wieczorek (Business Manager) and Darren Kermes (Special Education Director). Both administrators will have joint responsibilities involving the Minnesota River Valley Special Education Cooperative (MRVSEC). Mr. Wieczorek will serve as the business manager at both CSEC and MRVSEC. In addition to serving as the Special Education Director at CSEC, Mr. Kermes will also serve as the Executive Director at MRVSEC. Fulfilling their joint responsibilities will certainly keep both administrators busy!

A change has also taken place on the CSEC governing board. Belle Plaine board member Mike Daly is being replaced by Jeremy Updike. Mr. Daly, board treasurer, has faithfully served since January, 2006. Mr. Updike will be joining the current board members, each representing his/her member district: Thomas Anderson, Prior Lake; Dennis Havlicek, New Prague; Mary Romansky (Chair), Shakopee; Therese Salonek, Watertown-Mayer; Richard Schug (Treasurer), Norwood-Young America; Dick Tirk, Eastern Carver County; John Weinand (Vice-chair), Waconia; and, Tammy Will (Clerk), Jordan.

The Carver-Scott Educational (CSE) Foundation board is also experiencing some changes. Ron Strand, who has served as a member -- and chairman of the board -- from its beginning in 2004, has decided to step down. Mr. Strand will be replaced by Beth Klehr. The board is in the process of reorganization which will include the recruitment of new members. Speaking of new board members, it's terrific that Mary Jorissen has volunteered to be the teacher representative on the CSE Foundation board. Ms. Jorissen has served as a special education teacher at CSEC for 16 years. Other Foundation board members include the following: Brian Johnson, Laurie Gauer, Gary Klatt, Bob Roepke, Russ St. John, and John Weinand. The executive director of the Foundation is Jennifer O'Brien.

It is evident that members of the CSEC governing board and the CSE Foundation board bring a great deal of expertise, commitment, and passion to their responsibilities. Their focus, as is the case for all CSEC staff members, has been and will continue to be on the success of our students.

## Statewide Health Improvement Program

*By: Joyce Eissing*



Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) is an integral part of Minnesota's nation-leading 2008 health reform law that strives to help Minnesotans lead longer, healthier lives by preventing the chronic disease risk factors of tobacco

use and exposure, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity. It is taking a comprehensive approach to improving the policies, systems, and environments across four sectors including schools, worksites, health care and communities. The Cooperative is working with the Carver Scott SHIP initiative in schools to create or enhance an environment that supports life-long, healthy eating habits in students. It is a goal to implement comprehensive nutrition policies including breakfast promotion, healthy lunch/snacks, concessions, vending, school gardens, and farm-to-school initiatives. Wilder Research has conducted an assessment in the CSEC main campus, East Creek Family Center, Crosby Park, and the Waconia ALC, and has provided feedback with recommendations.

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, Kay Guenther and Joyce Eissing met with a select group of students -- Team Nutrition -- who will act as the leadership group to development activities toward implementation. The student representatives are from CSHS, New Beginnings, Spring Lake ALC, and Waconia ALC. They reviewed the recommendations, and strategized how they will get their teachers and peers involved.

CSEC will also participate as a worksite and will receive assistance in reviewing health and wellness policies, and developing wellness initiatives in our workplace. Wilder Research will conduct an environmental scan in the same buildings similar to the school assessment, and they will provide feedback along with recommendations. Key informant interviews will be conducted at each location and staff surveys completed to gather input from all who work here.

*Building Connections  
Through Communications*

***Enriching Lives  
Through Education***

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## **CSEC Teacher receives Award**



*Cindy Walters presents David Dettman with award.*

David Dettmann, CSEC Criminal Justice Instructor, was awarded the Outstanding Educator award at the recent MACTA (Minnesota Association of Career and Technical Administrators) Conference in Mankato. Cindy Walters presented him with the award and said this about David, "During his tenure the program has nearly doubled in enrollment. He consistently is running classes of 35 students and the students really enjoy coming to CSEC for the program. All students, whether they have Criminal Justice or not, know and respect Mr. D. He incorporates Crime Scene Investigation materials and hands-on activities in each session to engage the students. Dave has gotten his students involved in the SkillsUSA organization. His students took first place two years in a row at the State Skill Conference Competitions in the Crime Scene Investigation contest. They did well nationally as well. He also was recently involved in the Technical Skill Attainment work group for criminal justice and I was informed that he was a valuable asset to that group. He works hard to run an excellent program and is willing to step up when asked for his opinions and assistance."

David thanked MACTA for the award after first thanking his wife for her support and his colleagues in Career and Technical programs at CSEC.