



On **Wed., Oct. 26th**, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Phi Delta Kappa Chapter #0015, presents NE State Teachers of the Year and award-winning Administrators whom will discuss their skill-sets, leadership strategies, and “take-aways” to use in your classroom and district. Share an engaging evening and “kick-off” your 2011-12 learning community.



*This evening continues our dual-track focus throughout the year on developing proficiencies in administrators and teachers directly tied to school improvement.

The UNL Phi Delta Kappa Chapter is holding a special event on **Wednesday, October 26th** that initiates our 2011-12 activities. Join us at the “Towers”, a new reception center at 69th and A Street, Clocktower Center. The PDK Executive Board in consultation with the newly formed “NE State Teachers of the Year” Group (TOYs), www.education.ne.gov/toy/Index.html, NE Council of School Administrators representatives, and the UNL College of Education and Human Sciences, has planned a Social and Interactive Sessions with recent NE State Teachers (four) of the Year including the 2011 winner (ranging from elementary to secondary in various content areas) and award-winning, NE Administrators (two). You will learn why these educators are successful, gain “take-aways” that you can immediately use and foster ties with an extended learning community.

The cost is \$13.00 for: tenderloin sliders, teriyaki chicken sticks, bruschetta bread with sun-roasted tomatoes and basil, and vegetables with cheese, crackers and dip. A cash bar is also available.

Schedule

5:00-6:00 social, heavy appetizers and registration; cash bar

6:00-7:15 interactive sessions

7:15-30 wrapup, raffle (\$150 worth of educational resources), and next steps for our December (7th or 8th; date to be finalized) activity on “21st Century Leadership and Approaches in NE Schools to Foster Proficiencies in Students, Faculty, and Administrators.”

At **6:00**, the attendees will split into "Birds of a Feather" roundtables so participants can rotate to three sessions (approx. 22 minutes/session) of personal interest. Bring a colleague so you can glean information from all sessions. You will be able to personally attend three of six sessions that address the range of K-12 teachers and administrators. Our presenters include: Bob Feurer - North Bend; Maddie Fennell - Omaha Public Schools; Mary Schlieder - Norris Public Schools; and Michael Fryda - Westside Public Schools; and Kent Mann, new Professor of Practice at UNL EDAD (formerly Principal at Wahoo, Lexington, and Grand Island). *Note **only** one teacher is annually selected from **each** state which is also true for NCSA’s selection of administrators at various levels. Refer to the next pages and pdk.unl.edu for background information on the presenters.

Sixty spots are available on a “first-come, first-served” basis. The \$ is non-refundable and the registration at Pay-pal, http://pdk.unl.edu/event_2011_10_26.html is **due Oct. 21**. Onsite registration is \$16.00. Please contact Jessica Rivera-Mueller, jessica.rivera@huskers.unl.edu, PDK Vice President or Dr. Mike McDonald, mlm@nebrwesleyan.edu, PDK President with questions.

We look forward to seeing you and celebrating your successes towards growing as life-long educators.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mike McDonald, Phi Delta Kappa President

Background information on our facilitators for October 26, 2011.

Bob Feurer---**2011 Nebraska Teacher of the Year**---bfeurer@esu2.org

Bob Feurer began his teaching career at North Bend Central 32 years ago, the only school at which he has ever taught. He served stints as head wrestling coach, assistant football coach, several class sponsorships and still coaches the throwing events in both boys and girls track and sponsors the 67 member science club. His classroom subjects have varied from 7th grade science to Anatomy and Physiology as well as teaching a science methods class to underclassmen and a graduate level class on integration of curriculum. He still considers himself a "blue collar" educator and has never seen or taught a lesson that couldn't be improved. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Nebraska at Kearney but has graduate hours from many of the postsecondary institutions in the state.

Feurer was the NRCSA Secondary Teacher of the Year in 1992, the Nebraska Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Math/Science Teaching in 1994 and the 1996 Tandy Technology Scholar Award winner. He earned the AKSARBEN Good Neighbor award for his work in the Franklin-Cotterell Greens Arboretum, an affiliate site of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum located on the grounds of North Bend Central H.S., in 2009. He was also president of the Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association and the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science. Though I'm not certain why I was named the 2011 Teacher of the Year I'd say it was my passion for my craft and my students, both current and former. That, or my wicked good looks!

Bob will discuss how to make students "smart" through a framework developed by Art Costa and Bena Kallick called "The Habits of Mind". His district is integrating this K-12 strategy for its strength in developing positive behaviors as well as providing opportunities for advanced cognitive development at all grade levels. The skills are universal to all disciplines and coursework, are timeless and apply to all walks of life after graduation.

Michael Fryda---**2010 Nebraska Teacher of the Year**---mfryda@westside66.org

In his ninth year as an educator, Michael teaches physical science at Westside High School in Omaha. Michael has led the development of the course curriculum with innovative inquiry lessons, practical assessment methods, and a team approach to adaptive instruction. A graduate of the 2003 UNL Nebraska Assessment Cohort, Michael has led testing reform at the local and state levels, modeled in-class feedback and conferencing, and developed grading practices that celebrate success rather than punish failure. An expert in assessment reform, Michael's methods have been showcased in *A Repair Kit For Grading: 15 Fixes For Broken Grades* (O'Connor 2010), *The Essentials of Science, Grades 7-12: Effective Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment* (Allen 2007), and *Democratic School Accountability: A Model For School Improvement* (Jones (Ed.) 2006).

Michael's selection as a NE TOY was driven by his passions for school reform and creativity in motivating students. A quality teacher is the most important factor in influencing learning (Wright, Horn, and Sanders 1994). Michael believes that the largest barrier to learning is teacher inaction. Successful teachers are those that are encouraged to flex their cognitive muscles and use their

understanding of their students to make decisions that will promote learning. It is only through questioning and examining what doesn't work and then pushing for sustainable reform that we can truly improve. Michael also has developed a reputation of success with students at risk and has made positive motivation a centerpiece of his classroom. Michael works with students to help them unlock their own strengths and defeat learned helplessness.

The topics of Michael's sessions are not narrowly defined but he would be happy to discuss assessment, scientific inquiry, curriculum development, motivation or any other topic based upon the needs and curiosities of each group.

Mary Schlieder-----**2008 Nebraska Teacher of the Year**--mary.schlieder@gmail.com

Mary Schlieder is a special educator for the Norris School District. Currently, she runs the high school inclusion program for at-risk students with behavior disorders and other mental health issues. She also co-teaches Algebra and Geometry. In addition, Mary is an adjunct professor for Doane College, serves on several committees for the NE State Education Department, the SE Nebraska Autism Advisory Board, and is a professional development consultant for school districts across the country.

Recognized as the 2008 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, in part for her work on developing peer mediated support systems for students with social challenges, Mary focuses on practices which foster inclusion for students with problematic behaviors. "If you can't get them into the regular classroom setting with content expert teachers, their education will likely be substandard". This session will highlight Mary's work on the 'Circle of Friends' project which is currently being implemented in over fifty schools across the state of Nebraska. Participants will learn how to use this strategy for students with social challenges and their peers in any K-12 school setting. Web site: www.schoolswithopenarms.com

Maddie Fennell---**2007 Nebraska Teacher of the Year** --mfennell1@cox.net

Maddie has served as a first, fourth and sixth grade teacher for over twenty years, and she has held various other leadership positions in education, including President of the Omaha Education Association. She has served on Association Boards of Directors on the local, state, and national levels, and is currently the Chair of the Commission on Effective Teachers and Teaching. Maddie Fennell holds both an undergraduate degree from Creighton University and a Master of Science from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in Elementary Education. She also has an endorsement in assessment from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and a Certificate of Urban Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In addition to serving on various committees in Omaha and throughout Nebraska, Maddie has been active in education by writing curriculum, conducting trainings, and providing professional development and keynote addresses across the county. She is on the Steering Committee of the National State Teachers of the Year Strategic Planning Team and is chairing the 2012 NSTOY conference in Omaha. Her honors include the Carol Howe Humanitarian Award from the NEA and the Ruth E. Pyrtle Leadership Award from the Nebraska State Education Association as well as the 2007 TOY.

Take away:

As Chair of the Commission on Effective Teachers and Teaching for the past year, Maddie has worked with 20 accomplished educators from throughout the country and a panel of advisors (Linda Darling Hammond, Charlotte Danielson and others) to develop a teacher vision for American education. Maddie's session will highlight some of the key learning from the Commission (whose report will be

released nationally in November) and how it is already impacting her work as a 4th grade teacher at Miller Park Elementary.

Kent Mann—2000 Distinguished Service Award from the Nebraska State Association of Secondary School Principals-- mannkb@unlnotes.unl.edu

Kent Mann, an Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will share ways to work with students and parents from different cultures. Drawing from his experience as an administrator, Mann will present strategic plan initiatives and practices that establish good communication networks with families.

Mann began his career as a teacher and coach for Wilber-Clatonia Schools in Wilber, Nebraska. He taught in Columbus and Wymore before accepting a position as an Elementary School principal for Hutchinson Public Schools in Hutchinson, Kansas. In 1985, Mann became a middle school principal for Hutchinson Public Schools. From 1987-1989, Mann worked in the Wahoo district, first as a high school principal and then as the superintendent. Then, in 1989, Mann became a high school principal for Lexington Public Schools. Beginning in 1992, Mann worked in Grand Island Public Schools as a high school principal.

In 2000, Mann received a Distinguished Service Award from the Nebraska State Association of Secondary School Principals. He has served on the board of directors for The National Association of Secondary School Principals since 2009. Mann has been a PDK member since 1980.