

# NIESC *Newsletter*

Northern Indiana  
Educational Services  
Center

April/May 2011

Volume 1, Issue 2

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## NIESC STAFF DEVELOPMENT: A YEAR IN REVIEW:

My year returning to NIESC to help with professional development activities is quickly coming to a close. We have several workshops scheduled for April and May, with a few ideas still being investigated for this summer. I encourage you to check our website [www.niesc.k12.in.us](http://www.niesc.k12.in.us) for the latest updates. Select Event Registration from the menu to view our current offerings. I will also make sure that all building principals are contacted as workshops are finalized and posted for participants.

After being away from the day to day contact with public education for a few years, I have been struck by a few things over this year. One positive is the expanded relationship between the service centers and the IDOE in the area of staff development. I have been pleased with the quality of those at IDOE who I have worked with throughout this year. They have a passion for what they are doing and seem to be willing to work with schools and the ESCs in support of the new initiatives.

In regards to our members, as always, I was struck by not just your professionalism (the teachers, nurses, principals, curriculum directors, superintendents, and many other support staff that I worked with this year) but your desire and passion to personally grow and improve the way you do your job. I can readily see that you are tired and troubled by some of what is going on in education both nationwide and in Indiana, but when it comes to what you do with kids the overwhelming majority of you are working hard to personally improve and share yourselves in positive ways with your students. I encourage you to keep it up and when sharing your experiences with friends and others help them see the positive side of what we do.

As we explore additional workshops and other support for this summer and next year, your input is very important. Please email me, [jdavis@niesc.k12.in.us](mailto:jdavis@niesc.k12.in.us) with any areas of interest, programs, or individual presenters that you would like us to explore as potential professional development sessions. Check out page 2 for next year's exciting update.

## Upcoming Events:

- ◆ April 18, 2011: Transition to Common Core
- ◆ April 28, 2011: Study Council Meeting
- ◆ May 10, 2011: Technology Integration Support

## Media Library: Ordering for next year:



It is that time of year to start thinking about ordering your classroom materials for next year. Before you order though, NIESC must update the media booking system with our 2011-2012 master calendar as well as each of our member's school calendar. Teachers are advised to contact your school Media Specialist or NIESC to find out if your calendar is in the system and if it is ok for you to place your orders for next year.

Things to remember when ordering: NIESC Media Delivery is every two weeks. You must allow a two week lead-time when placing orders throughout the school year. A delivery calendar will be placed on our website under the "Media" tab in mid-May.

Contact Lisa @NIESC if you have questions about ordering for next year.

To register for any of  
our upcoming events,  
visit our event  
registration sight at:

[http://events.niesc.k12.in.us/  
index.cfm](http://events.niesc.k12.in.us/index.cfm)

## NIESC to Partner with Region 8 ESC in 2011-2012 for Professional Development

We are excited to announce our enhanced Professional Development opportunities for 2011-2012. We will be partnering with Region 8 Educational Service Center to provide some of our Professional Development. This decision is a result of Jack Davis, our current Programs Consultant, to remain the administrator for our SES program for next year. Jack was gracious to come out of retirement and has done a wonderful job of coordinating our PD this year while administrating our Supplemental Educational Services (SES) after school tutoring program. His expertise has been invaluable to NIESC and for that I am extremely grateful. However, as he likes to remind me, he is RETIRED and wasn't looking to work full time. So, we have reached a compromise that will be a win-win for him and especially NIESC.

Amy Leeson is the Director of Professional Development at Region 8. She does an outstanding job and has a tremendous reputation. She has an extensive background in delivering quality programming. Most professional development needs from one service center to another are very similar. Amy will work on programming for both ESCs. We will continue to host events at NIESC and our member schools for the vast majority of our training sessions. There may be times when you would be invited to attend a workshop in the Region 8 area. Amy will also be available to work with our individual schools.

This would not work without the partnership NIESC has with Region 8. Just like the schools, the service centers have had to adjust to a new normal and change how we do business operating in a new fiscal world of zero state support. We will continue to forge new partnerships among service centers to provide the services you need to enhance student learning.

Checkout the possibilities for next year below. There is something for everyone in your challenge to enhance student learning!

*Ted*

### Professional Development Focus for 2011-2012

Look for dates and locations to be announced

- \*Common Core Standards and Transition to Assessments
- \*Developing Leadership Skills at the building and district levels
- \*How to conduct effective instructional audits and recognize appropriate use of instructional strategies
- \*Understanding Indiana's new RtI model and how it relates to your current RtI model
- \*Implementing the Indiana K-6 reading Framework
- \*How to help turn around low performing schools
- \*Aligning your current teacher/principal evaluation with the Indiana Teacher/Principal Effectiveness Plan
- \*Cyber bullying
- \*Embedding the Language Proficiency Standards in all content areas
- \*Technology use to enhance learning
- \*Acuity Roundtables-focus on how schools are using Acuity to drive instruction
- \*Diversity Plan Implementation into current PL221 plans
- \* Helping Students with anxiety and depression / Helping adolescent girls develop positive skills and prevent aggression



# NORTHERN INDIANA ESC

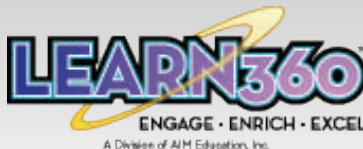
MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE ..... EVERY DAY



## NIESC PREFERRED VENDORS

NIESC has been working with several vendors in various areas of services and products to provide our members with special discounts and preferred pricing. In light of these new agreements, we have added a new section on the front page of our website. When you visit our website: <http://www.niesc.k12.in.us> you will notice a new section on the left-hand side of the page that is labeled: PREFERRED VENDORS. You will notice as you are on the front page, the vendors that we have preferred pricing and discounts with will have a logo that scrolls across the screen as you view the page. There is a link below the vendor logos that says "View All". When you select this link, you will be taken to a page that lists each vendor along with their contact information and in some instances, a flyer with a list of their pricing and/or discounts that are exclusive to NIESC Members. For more information, contact NIESC at 800-326-5642.

Look for these vendor's logos and links to their websites:



**Celebrate National Library Week, April 10-16, 2011: Take this opportunity to thank your school librarian and recognize their commitment to our children's education! This year's theme is:**



There is also an opportunity for teens age 13-18 to enter a video contest that runs through April 18th titled: "Why I Need My Library". You could win **\$3000** for your library! For details, visit <http://www.ilovelibraries.org>



## BRITANNICA ONLINE: NIESC PREFERRED PRICING

NIESC has a new preferred vendor for providing our school corporations with online encyclopedia content. We have secured a one-year agreement with Britannica Online to offer their PreK-12 Online Edition to all Indiana ESC Members at a discounted rate.

**The Britannica coverage includes:**

- Encyclopedia Britannica
- Compton's by Britannica
- Britannica Elementary Encyclopedia
- Britannica Learning Zone
- Britannica Internet Guide
- Merriam-Webster's Student Dictionary & Thesaurus
- World Atlas
- Learning Materials



- Timelines
- Resources for Teachers
- Google Translations into Multiple Languages
- Free Training Included
- Integrates with Moodle!

**View over 67,000 graphics plus 2,800 animations, audio clips and videos!**

**Here's the good stuff!**

NIESC special pricing is just .50 cents per student with a \$295 minimum. (Compared to public pricing @ .67cents per student with a \$495 minimum.)

To receive a free preview of Britannica Online or to sign up your school, contact Lisa Abell at NIESC: [labell@niesc.k12.in.us](mailto:labell@niesc.k12.in.us)

## Cooperative Purchasing News: Save time and money with the power of K-12Indiana!

NIESC has access to a brand new online Purchasing system. We introduced this system in January with a session at NIESC. We had 20 school corporations in attendance for a demonstration of the new K-12Indiana Online Procurement system.



The K-12Indiana system is a partnership between Indiana ESC's, the Central Indiana Educational Service Center and the Indiana Department of Administration. The K-12Indiana sight gives every K-12 public school the purchasing advantage of state-wide negotiated contracts, organized into convenient online catalogs, all on one easy-to-use website. K-12 is easy, efficient and best of all....it's FREE!!

**With K-12Indiana you can:**

- Search multiple vendors and supplies easily and efficiently
- Access multiple catalogs to search for the best price
- Manage and control purchases
- Automate and streamline approvals and accounting
- Improve purchase order accuracy with the correct net pricing (continued below)

**Learn360 Users:** Want to know how to utilize Learn360 more efficiently? Check out the weekly webinar: Learn360 101: The Basics. Every Tuesday at 7PM EST. To register, login to your Learn360 account, go to the Webinars Schedule, select "Register Now"

- Make all of your purchases online in one simple transaction

**If you are ready for a change and want to be able to use a system that is user friendly and easy to navigate, then it's time for you to sign your school up for an account on K-12Indiana!**

For more information or to get a demonstration of this system, contact Lisa Abell at NIESC.

## PD360°: Recently Upgraded!

PD360° has undergone a new upgrade! The new look has a very “social” feel and is easy to navigate and much more user-friendly. PD360° has a record of improving student achievement scores when their research-based strategies are implemented correctly in the classroom. PD360° is the leading tool for online, on-demand, professional development. They have 1400 plus award-winning videos with classroom examples that show educators how to put theory into practice. To find out if your corporation has an account, contact Lisa Abell at NIESC. School licenses expire in June, so be sure to call and benefit from your NIESC sponsored license today!

PD360 also has an entire suite of professional development products that would benefit any administrator. One example is Observation 360. This allows leaders to perform effective classroom observations and walkthroughs using iPad, iPhone or iTouch. For more information on any of these products, visit <http://www.schoolimprovement.com>

## NIESC Spring Governing Board

### Meeting:

Date: May 18, 2011

Location: Plymouth Country Club

Time: 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

RSVP: Email Ted Chittum:

[tchittum@niesc.k12.in.us](mailto:tchittum@niesc.k12.in.us)

The NIESC 2011-2012 Programs and Budgets will be approved at this meeting as well as awarding the food bids and the waste removal/recycling bids.

## Technology News: NIESC announces DataVault Offsite Backup Service.

NIESC is now offering a safe and secure method for backing up your critical electronic data. Our DataVault software automatically encrypts your data, sends it to our redundant servers on a regular basis for safekeeping, and sends you an email to let you know your data is saved. In the event of a local loss of data, you may quickly and easily restore your files from our servers. The service works with Windows, Mac, Novell, and Linux servers and workstations.

For more information or to setup a demo account, contact Les or Graham at NIESC (866-254-5322)



## Views On Learning News:

These are exciting times for education! More of our member schools are beginning to engage students and enrich the curriculum by offering Interactive Video Conferencing programming. The Tippecanoe Valley Sports Marketing and Entertain class, taught by Ben Rodgers, conducted a 40 minute interview with Gabe Newell, founder of Valve and creator of computer and video games. The class recorded and posted the interview on YouTube and it created an overnight sensation with currently over 100,000 hits on the video. Go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOMI0BxB0yA> to view the movie.

Zoo Atlanta is a new VOL partner! Beginning this fall, our schools will have a unique opportunity to interact with one of the leading zoos in the country. The zoo currently is the home to the only Giant Panda Bear cubs born in captivity. With over 200 species, the zoo offers students an opportunity to apply real-world context to the lessons learned in school. Keep watching for more information this fall regarding this opportunity.



## Northern Indiana Educational Services Center

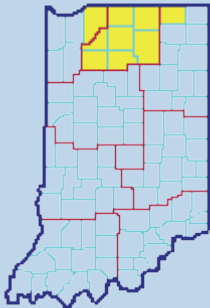
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We're on the web:  
[www.niesc.k12.in.us](http://www.niesc.k12.in.us)

## 2010-2011 NIESC Members:

Argos Community Schools  
Baugo Community Schools  
Bethel College  
Bremen Public Schools  
Cass Township School  
Caston School Corporation  
Concord Community Schools  
Covenant Christian School  
Crossroads Academy  
Culver Community Schools  
Dewey Township School  
Eastern Pulaski Community Schools  
Fairfield Community Schools  
Goshen Community Schools  
J.E.S.S.E.  
John Glenn Community Schools  
Knox Community Schools  
Lakeland School Corporation  
Michigan City Area Schools  
Middlebury Community Schools

MSD Of New Durham Schools  
New Prairie United School Corp.  
North Judson-San Pierre School Corp.  
Oregon Davis School Corporation  
Plymouth Community Schools  
Prairie Heights Community Schools  
Prairie Township Schools  
Rochester Community Schools  
Sacred Heart School  
South Central Community Schools  
Tippecanoe Valley Schools  
Triton School Corporation  
Union-North United Schools  
Veritas Academy  
Wa-Nee Community Schools  
Wawasee Community Schools  
West Central School Corporation  
Westview Community Schools  
Whitko Community Schools

## NIESC 2010-2011 Executive Board:

Dr. Rodger Smith, Plymouth Community Schools  
Mr. George Dyer, Concord Community Schools  
Dr. Bruce Stahly, Goshen Community Schools  
Mr. Richard Reese, John Glenn School Corporation  
Dr. Randy Zimmerly, Westview School Corporation  
Mr. Jim Conner, Middlebury Community Schools  
Dr. Steve Disney, Oregon-Davis School Corporation  
Dr. Debra Howe, Rochester Community School Corporation  
Mr. Jim Dubois, Baugo Community Schools  
Mr. Charles Mellon, West Central School Corporation  
Dr. Terry Barker, Union-North United School Corporation  
Mr. Tom Tumej, Fairfield Community Schools  
Dr. Robert Klitzman, Eastern Pulaski Community School Corp.

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