July 2022

LCSC Communicator

Regional News, Views, and Information

LAKES COUNTRY Service Cooperative
Together we achieve

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- LCSC WELCOMES ANGELA DOLL - SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR
- COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TRAINING COHORT
- ULEN-HITTERDAL BOND PAYMENTS, CHILD CARE PROPOSAL AND NEW SUPERINTENDENT
- IDEA TRANSLATIONS PIONEERS IN BILLINGUAL EARLY EDUCATION
- FERGUS FALLS COMMUNITY EDUCATION
- HELPME STOP SCHOOL VIOLENCE GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE
- TINY EYE
- WEST CENTRAL AREA SCHOOLS
- THE 2023 MINNESOTA EDUCATION POLICY FELLOWSHIP COHORT
- EXPRESS ONLINE

CLICK HERE FOR A LISTING OF OUR CURRENT JOB POSTINGS

An equal opportunity employer

EDUCATION-
Electronic Edition
www.lcsc.org

LCSC WELCOMES ANGELA DOLL

SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR



Angela's many years of experience as a Special Education Teacher, Special Ed Program Manager, and Assistant Principal have provided her with the knowledge, skills, and expertise necessary for this role.

"I'm excited to have this new opportunity as the Special Education Director for Lakes Country Academy, a program I know is very needed for our member districts to provide great educational opportunities for kids," said Doll. "As an experienced EBD teacher, I have a soft spot for students who need specialized behavioral programming and enjoy working with staff to make that happen. I'm also thankful to be working in the lakes area because, having grown up in Perham, this area is like home to me!"

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TRAINING COHORT

LAKES COUNTRY Service Cooperative

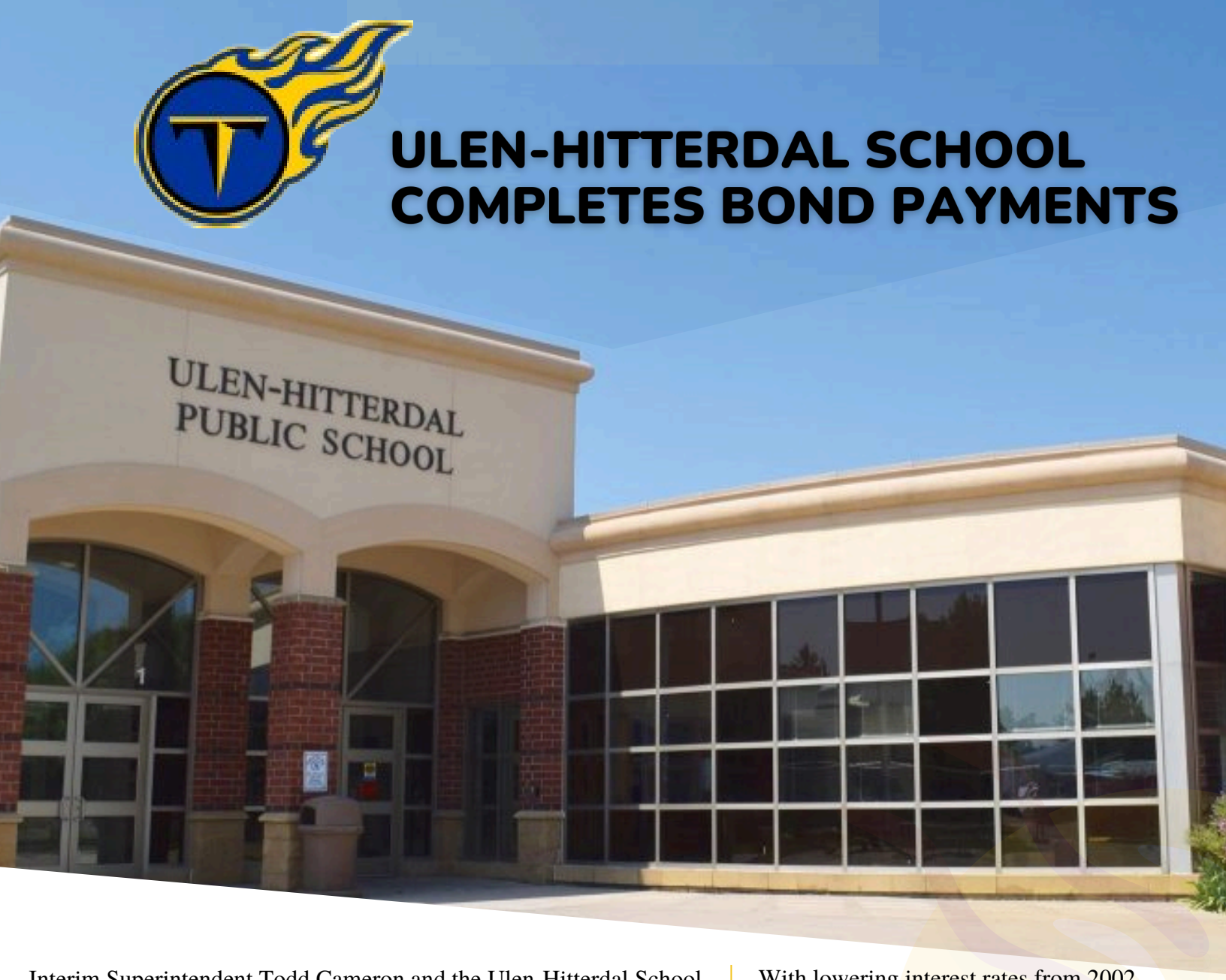
AUGUST 9-11 2022
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Lakes Country Service Cooperative
Monthly virtual communities of practice
June 2023 Follow Up Date TBA
Please visit www.lcsc.org or contact jking@lcsc.org for additional information and registration.

Thank you to those who have registered for the Community Resilience Training Cohort.

Registration is now closed, and a waiting list has been created. Those on the waiting list will be contacted to attend if there are cancellations.

If you have questions regarding the training, please contact Jolene King at 218-739-3273.

ULEN-HITTERDAL SCHOOL COMPLETES BOND PAYMENTS



Interim Superintendent Todd Cameron and the Ulen-Hitterdal School Board are pleased to announce that the school has now paid off the building bonds from 1999 that enabled the school to build a new elementary, commons, gymnasium, kitchen, and district office.

In December of 1999, Ulen-Hitterdal resident voters passed a building bond of $7,765,000, with construction beginning in 2000 and completion in the summer of 2002. At that time, bids for the new project came in less than expected. With the remaining construction fund balance and additional handicap and demolition funds, the school could also renovate the auditorium with a sloped floor, theater seats, drapes, expansion of the stage size, and new lights and sound equipment. This allowed for a state-of-the-art theater for student productions, meetings, and school activities. This enabled Top Hat Theatre to begin a performing arts series for the students and community. The school also received $50,820 in donations to support this auditorium renovation project.

With lowering interest rates from 2002 through 2016, the school was able to refinance the bonds four different times to save $816,391 in interest. Superintendent Cameron states, “We are excited to complete the school’s financial obligation and celebrate this important building project!” Thanks to the school board members, administration, and voters back in 1999 for their passion, dedication, and hard work. This work has helped to keep Ulen-Hitterdal Public School up to date, growing, and vibrant. As important as this is to the students and community, the people involved make the school a great place to learn.

UPCOMING CHILD CARE FACILITY VOTE AT ULEN-HITTERDAL

The proposed $1,715,000 child care center will be constructed on Ulen-Hitterdal School property this fall, contingent on a favorable vote at the Primary election on August 9. The proposed building size would be 3300 sq. ft., with a target opening in the fall of 2024. The center would provide approximately 52 slots as a State facility, with room for eight infants and 16 toddlers: the remaining children being 3 and 4 years old and school-age children.

The school recently paid off 2001 building bonds. This allows property taxes to go down this fall on all properties in the district. Therefore, if the new bond is approved on August 9, there will not be a tax increase on this 11-year bond payback.

Then Superintendent Todd Cameron stated, “This is a win/win situation by being able to build a new facility for child care and keep taxes the same as the previous year without an increase.”



DUSTIN FLATEN



New Superintendent at Ulen-Hitterdal School

On July 1, Ulen-Hitterdal welcomed Dustin Flaten as their new superintendent, with Todd Cameron, again retiring after returning to fill-in last year. This is a return to UH for Dustin, as he previously worked as an elementary teacher. With a long history of elementary teaching, starting in 2000 in Lemmon, South Dakota, Ulen-Hitterdal, and then Norman County East, Dustin returned to college to earn a Master in Education Leadership degree from MSUM in 2020 with certification in Community Education, Principal K-12, and District Superintendent. Along with years of teaching, he became Dean of Students at Norman County East, then high school principal in 2020, and on to K-12 principal last school year.

“I look forward to being back in the hallways of the UH School daily to build relationships with staff, students, and all stakeholders. This is just one little piece that will allow us to work together to continue to move the Ulen-Hitterdal School district in the right direction.”

Visit the Ulen-Hitterdal School website for more information about school news and activities at https://www.ulenhitterdal.k12.mn.us/.



Portland Public Schools (PPS) is a PK-12 urban school district founded in 1851 in Portland, Oregon. It has more than 49,000 students in 81 schools, one of the largest school districts in the Pacific Northwest.

With highly trained teachers and staff, an engaged parent community, and strong partnerships, PPS is at its highest graduation rate in the last 15 years, and it's enjoying its seventh straight year of enrollment growth. Its Dual Language Immersion program focuses on closing the racial and educational achievement gap by improving reading achievement in native and non-native speakers.

One in ten PPS' students is in an immersion program.
PPS came to Idea Translations with a large project in mind; they needed preschool and elementary school educational materials translated for their Spanish Dual Language program. They had over ten guides averaging 350 pages each that required translation within eight weeks, just before the beginning of the school year.

Additionally, they had worksheet assets requiring extensive graphic design and formatting.
Idea Translations' team had to work simultaneously with three translation, editing, and proofreading teams and eight graphic designers, all synchronized.

The outcome? With the help of Idea Translations, PPS was able to start the school year with their student content ready for their bilingual program. Portland is a pioneer in bilingual early development education in the country, reducing the education gap between the US and other European and Asian countries.

We are now getting our engines ready for the next school year as PPS bilingual education program expands to all elementary and middle school grades.

You can learn more about Idea translations at
https://ideatranslations.com/



FERGUS FALLS COMMUNITY EDUCATION

"WE PUT STRUCTURE INTO AN IDEA."

Mary Matteson, Director of Fergus Falls Community Education



Drive by the Fergus Falls Community Education office at either 6:00 am or 6:00 pm, and you will see the vehicle of Community Education Director Mary Matteson parked in front of the building. Inside, Matteson is hard at work developing educational programs for the community members of Fergus Falls and the surrounding area.

Matteson has served as the Fergus Falls Community Education Program Director for over 20 years and holds a Master's in Administration & Educational Leadership. Before taking the full-time position at Community Education, Mary worked as an extension educator with North Dakota State University Extension Service in Fargo, in educational marketing for the National Sunflower Association, and in the field of aging as a County Coordinator. At North Dakota State University, Matteson graduated with degrees in Home Economics Education, Textiles and Clothing, and minors in Food and Nutrition and Family Life Education. In May 2001, Matteson applied and was accepted into Minnesota State University Moorhead's Educational Leadership Program to obtain licensure as a Director of Community Education.

Fergus Falls Community Education reaches more than 10,000 people annually through classes, services, programs, outreach activities, and youth services. Matteson oversees Drivers Education, ECFE, School Readiness, and before and after-school tutoring. The Fergus Falls School District provides Community Education as an efficient and effective way to offer residents of all ages the opportunity for lifelong learning. “Every day, there is an experience where you reach your clients,” said Matteson. “Our vision is to provide opportunities for lifelong learning, responding to community interests and needs, utilizing all available resources to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and wisdom among all members of the community.”

continued on next page

Source: Mary Matteson, Fergus Falls Community Education Director
Author: Mary Phillipe, LCSC Communications Generalist

In 2006, Matteson was honored with a nomination and received the State Top Community Education Director award. “My goal has been to be the best education communicator possible,” said Matteson. Under Matteson’s leadership, the Fergus Falls Community Education’s program offerings have seen impressive growth. “Part of being resilient is adapting to change,” said Matteson. During the pandemic shutdowns, Matteson continued to adapt and find innovative ways to reach the community. Including continued access to the driver’s education program. All but 14 Minnesota Drivers Education Exam Stations were closed during the pandemic.

To ensure students and the public had access to take a permit test, behind-the-wheel exam, and CDL exams, Matteson brought local community and legislative leaders to the table who could make it happen. Together they crafted a letter to their local and state legislators to advocate for this vital education component for youth. Within six months, they were able to reopen the Driver’s Exam Stations. “We’re constantly changing; In January 2021, the Community Education application to administer Web-Based Class D Knowledge tests to driver education students upon course completion was granted. We now can test students who have successfully completed our Driver Education program. I can figure out how to make a program work,” said Matteson.



"Learn everything you anytime you from anyone you CAN, - there will always come a time when you will be grateful you did."

- Sarah Caldwell

The Community Education staff is friendly, fast, and flexible. There are two full-time employees and five part-time Drivers Education Employees. Matteson said, “All the programs could not be achieved without Amy Ceroll, the Community Education office Secretary and the Community Education Advisory Council, which gives support and direction to the programs. ” Matteson also stated she enjoys attending the Community Education classes. “I’m always learning!”

If you want to learn more about Fergus Falls Community Education, visit their website at https://ce.fergusotters.org/ or contact Mary Matteson at 218-998-0544 ext. 9200. You can also stop by their office at the Roosevelt Education Center, 340 Friberg Avenue, Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

New in 2022, archery training was available to area students. Archery equipment and certified trainers were made possible by School District 544, a grant from the Minnesota DNR, and matching aid from the Fergus Falls Fish and Game Club.



HELPme
Powered by STOPit Solutions

STOP

School Violence

GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE

With the alarming and devasting news of the Uvalde, TX tragedy, we would like to remind you Lakes Country Service Cooperative (LCSC) has funding from its multi-year STOP School Violence Grant award to deliver a "**HELPme**" focused School Safety & Wellness Program to MN school districts at NO COST for the next two school years. For the grant, LCSC conducted a solicitation and partnered with STOPit Solutions, a national leader in school safety solutions, to deliver their "STOPit" and "HELPme" programs.
The "STOPit" application's anonymous reporting and the social-emotional library have been expanded with the addition of **HELPme** resources.

HELPme provides support and resources to students, parents, and staff through a healing-centered interface and allows anonymous communication between individuals and school-selected responders. Individuals use **HELPme** to find:

- Customized school and local resources
- Pre-loaded state and federal resources and helplines
- Anonymous communication with school leaders for individual help or help for someone else
- Basic life essentials such as where to find food, transportation, and housing
- Crisis Text Line and other mental health counseling services

These programs provide direct assistance from school leadership to struggling members of the school community with dignity and privacy.

We invite you to join districts around the state to take advantage of this expanded student support program at no direct cost to the district.
To learn more about **HELPme**, contact Nick Zema by email at **nzema@stopitsolutions.com** or phone at 908.748.4552 for a personalized demonstration with your District Safety Team. Should you move forward, the STOPit Solutions representative will walk you through the next steps and provide you with an account team to ensure you have a seamless program onboarding. For general questions about the grant, contact Jane Eastes by email at **jeastes@lcsc.org** or phone at 218-737-6531.

Source: HelpMe Powered by STOPit Solutions
Author: Jane Eastes, LCSC Deputy Executive Director

A Cooperative Purchasing Partner

COOPERATIVE *Purchasing* CONNECTION

TinyEYE Therapy Services

TINYEYE IS THE LEADING PROVIDER OF VIRTUAL SPEECH THERAPY, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO K-12 STUDENTS WORLDWIDE.

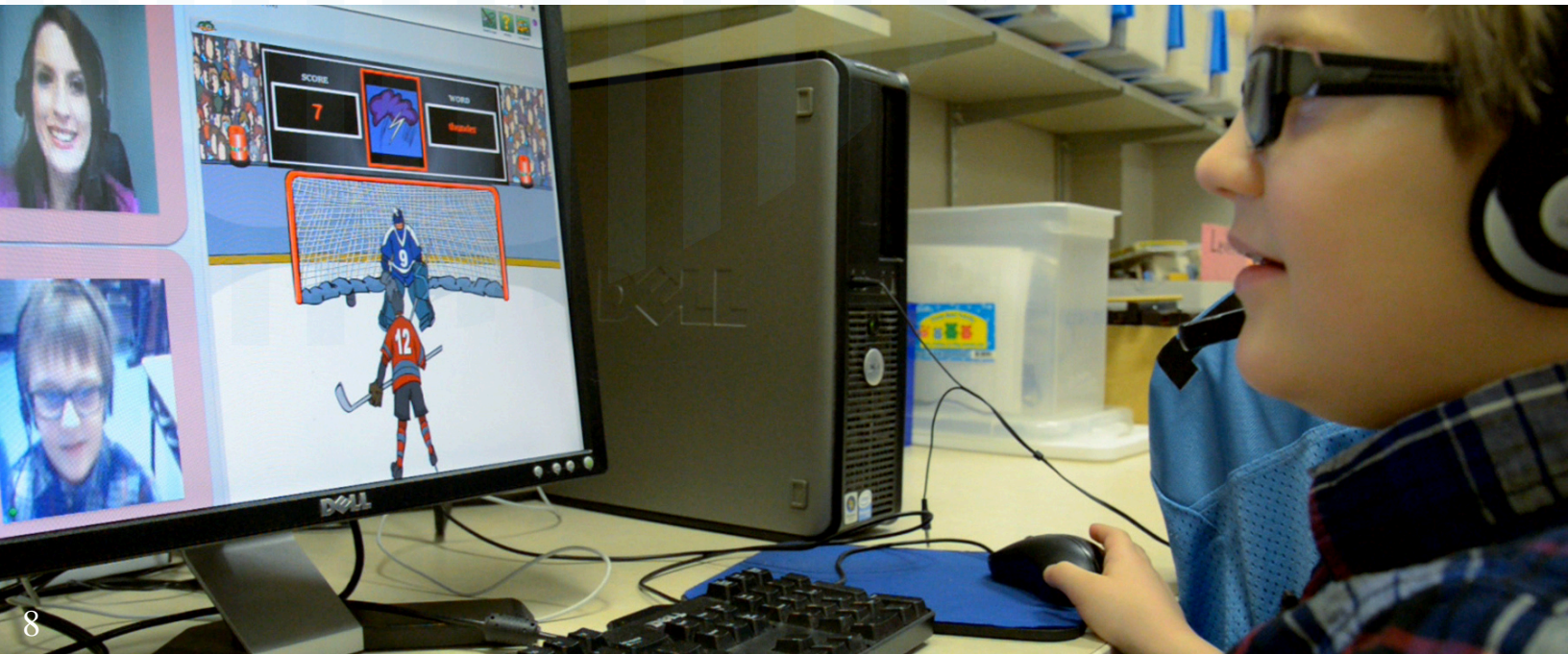
We solve the primary problems schools face: children going without clinical services & onsite clinicians burning out from massive caseloads. Available anywhere, our teletherapy services create incredible learning experiences for students to achieve their goals and thrive in their lives. Depending on the services your school district needs, we can either be the sole solution OR partner with current on-site offerings – you choose what you want!

Today's children were born in the electronic era - technology is their comfort zone. Unsurprisingly, students and therapists can transcend distance and time zones to develop personal connections. THIS is the magic of online therapy! Every component of **TinyEYE's** program is carefully researched, tested, and reviewed to ensure that your students receive the best therapy possible. In addition, we regularly reach out to our therapy team and school clients for feedback, which we then use to improve our programming.

As with traditional onsite therapy, teletherapy enables students to visit a therapy room and meet with the same therapist weekly. Through virtual sessions, **TinyEYE** therapists deliver learning experiences that are highly engaging and proven to drive student success. We create a unique and modern learning environment using online tools that are both exciting and different from the regular day-to-day activities of most students.

When you partner with **TinyEYE** for online therapy, you have an entire company advocating for your and your students' experiences. We lead with our hearts, and our purpose is to Grow Smiles, Mend Spirits, and Engage Children in their Lives. We promise to deliver exceptional value consistently, and we hold ourselves accountable for results.

Want to know more?



WEST CENTRAL
AREA SCHOOLS

TEACHER OF THE YEAR
MELISSA ANDERSON

Melissa Anderson was selected as West Central's 2021/22 Teach of the Year. Colleagues had the following to say regarding their nominated coworker.

- Melissa is an exceptional educator!
- She overcomes any classroom challenge and provides her students with the highest quality of education.
- She goes above and beyond the curriculum by providing experiences such as Camp Anderson that promote higher thinking and create memories for her students that will continue for a lifetime.
- Her long hours at school and dedication to education do not go unnoticed, and she deserves to be WCA Teacher of the Year!



From left: Toni Fuoss & Melissa Anderson



Administrator of the Year
Susan Knutson

The MINNESOTA Association of secretaries to the Principals (MASP) Administrator of the Year Award was developed to honor an administrator from a member school who exemplifies the dedicated and innovative leadership of administrators of the state of Minnesota. The Minnesota Association of Secretaries gives the award to Principals. Staff recommendations must show evidence of an administrator's openness to new ideas; willingness to collaborate with staff and students; and demonstration of interest in concerns from staff, students, and the community. Principal Knutson received recommendations from three different staff members and two students to achieve this award. Susan Knutson will be presented with this important award on July 27, 2022.

SUPPORT STAFF EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
TONI FUOSS

Toni Fuoss was selected as West Central's 2021/22 Support Staff Employee of the Year. Colleagues had the following to say.

- Toni is a jack of all trades and a master of all things.
- She must be in seven places at once around the building and she does so many things.
- She always does it with a smile, a pleasant greeting, and a can-do attitude.
- She cares about kids and adults alike, and shows this every day!
- She is a joy to have in our school!

Source: Kari Kreft, Instructional Coach, and Public Engagement, West Central Area Schools
Author: Mary Phillipe, LCSC Communications Generalist



Pen Pals

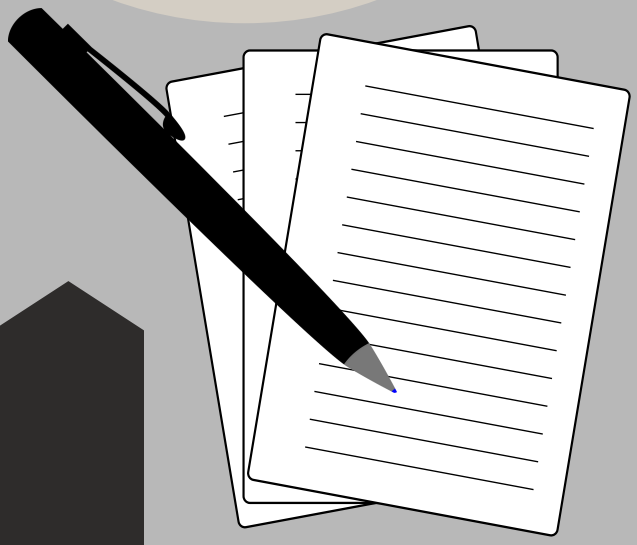
West Central seventh-graders traveled to Maplewood Manor and the Barrett Care Facility and visited some of their pen pal partners.

The students felt it was a joy to meet and greet the faces of those they had been writing to throughout the year. Stories were shared, games were played, and smiles were plentiful.

After the visit, students had some reflections to share. “Some things I learned about myself while writing letters and meeting the people at Maplewood Manor is it’s very easy to make someone happy without trying very hard, and making someone else's day will improve your day. I also learned that elderly people aren’t mean or cranky as people say, and they enjoy the company. Also that they like talking to us about how our lives are different.”

“I think we should do that at least once every couple of months. I made so many memories just talking to someone; it was fun! But the one memory I have was meeting my actual pen pal - the first one, and it turns out she knows my grandma and parents! Which was cool.”

“I learned it is important to learn about and make friends with people you wouldn’t usually talk to. I also learned that writing letters can be entertaining.” “They were so sweet, and all their smiles were so cute!” “I heard a lady say, “Writing to these kids was so worth it! That made me feel happy.”







Bike Safety

West Central Area South 4th graders recently practiced bike safety with their DARE officer.

Students brought bikes and learned the importance of being safe!

Students participated in a classroom lesson and an obstacle course, and earned a safety certificate. Later, they practiced the skills they had learned, enjoyed a bike ride around town, and finished with ice cream.

-Provided by Amy Swenson

2023

CENTER FOR POLICY DESIGN

The Minnesota Education Policy Fellowship Cohort



Twelve area Fellows have been selected to participate in the Rural Cohort of the Education Policy Fellowship (EPF). Participants have been carefully chosen throughout LCSC's nine-county region in West Central Minnesota. The Minnesota EPF is a joint partnership between The Center for Policy Design and LCSC. Newly selected Fellowship members include:

Shawn Anderson – Dean of Students, Minnesota State Community & Technical College
Craig Bahr – Elementary Principal, Lake Park Audubon Public Schools
Kristin Dehmer – Executive Director of Human Resources & Operations, Moorhead Area Public Schools
Eleora Demuth – Agriculture / CTE Teacher, Ashby Public Schools
Shonna Gnahn – Early Childhood Coordinator, LCSC
Anna Gross – School Advocate, Western Lakes Regional Center of Excellence
Mark Jenson – Superintendent, Detroit Lakes Public Schools
Jenna Leadbetter – School Advocate, Northern Sky Regional Center of Excellence
Rick Sansted – Superintendent, Alexandria Public Schools
Jake Seuntjens – Education Services Coordinator, Northwest Service Cooperative
Amanda Tegels – School Advocate, Central Lakes Regional Center of Excellence
Melissa Walvatne – Deputy Director of Finance & Risk Management, LCSC

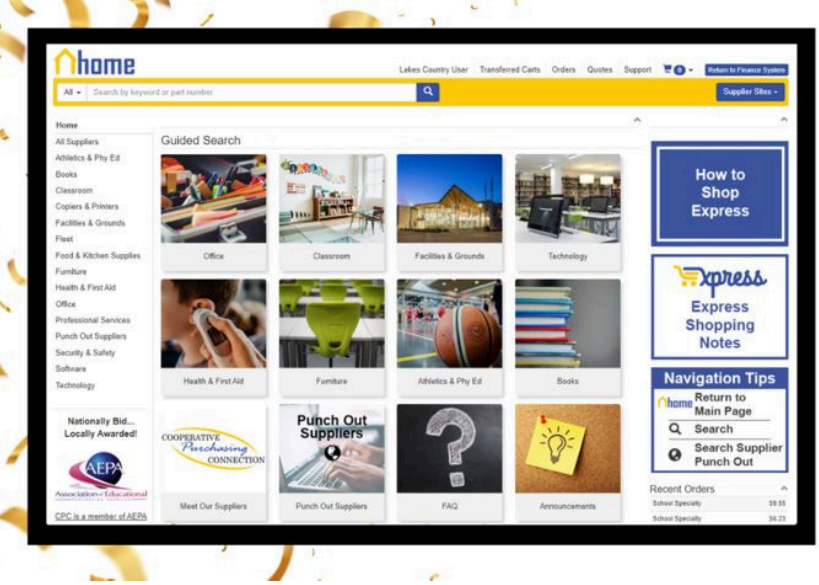
The Fellowship primarily focuses on state and federal public policy development and the leadership necessary to influence public policy development. It is designed to expand and update participants working knowledge of state and federal public policy, analysis, design, and implementation. The Fellowship's learning process is experiential. It is based on the belief that knowledge and skills are the "Residue left when the experience wears off."

Troy Haugen, Coordinator of the Rural Fellowship Cohort and LCSC Director of Career & College Readiness, said, "Our goal for the policy fellowship is multi-faceted; to increase capacity in our school leaders in understanding the education policy landscape state and nationwide, to see stronger intersections outside the immediate school ecosystems, and to functionally shift systems not serving our students in the best way for their future."

Cohort members will participate in a 16-session program focused on state and federal public policy development and the leadership necessary to influence public policy development.

The Fellowship program runs from August through May.

Source: Troy Haugen, LCSC Director of Career and College Readiness
Author: Mary Phillipe, LCSC Communications Generalist



Save time and money! Try the Express Online Marketplace!

purchasingconnection.org

Express offers Guided Buying for our popular categories and items and an integration option for finance systems.

CONNECT WITH PROGRAMS & SERVICES AT LCSC!

- FINANCE
- INSURANCE & WELLNESS
- COMMUNICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- COMMUNITY WELLNESS
- TECHNOLOGY
- LAKES COUNTRY ACADEMY
- HEALTH & SAFETY
- EDUCATION
- SPECIAL EDUCATION
- COOPERATIVE PURCHASING

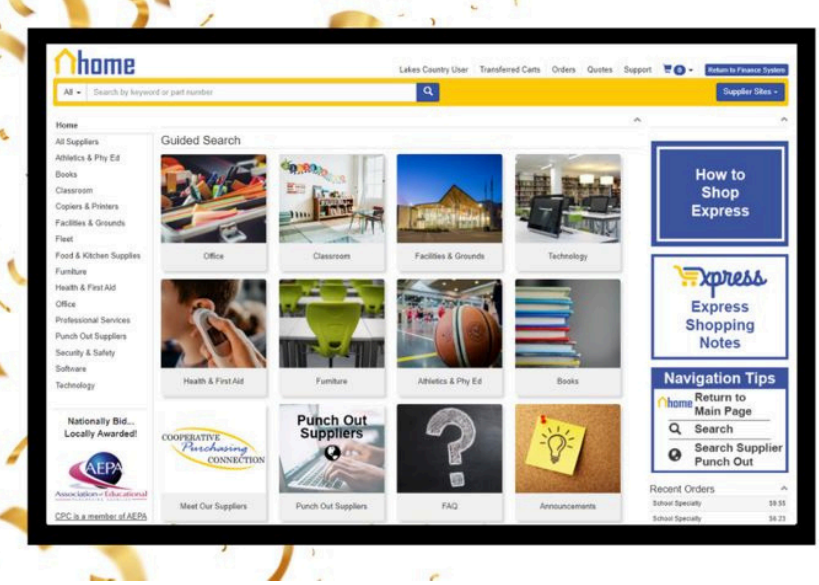
CONTACT US
Phone: (218) 739-3273
(800)739-3273 (toll free)
Fax: (218) 739-2459
Email: communicator@lcsc.org
Executive Director: Jeremy Kovash

COMMUNICATOR STAFF
Editors: Jane Eastes: jeastes@lcsc.org
Mary Phillipe: mphillipe@lcsc.org
Address:
Lakes Country Service Cooperative
1001 E. Mount Faith
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
An equal opportunity employer

The LCSC Communicator is a publication of Lakes Country Service Cooperative.

Views and ideas expressed in the LCSC Communicator by its contributors or advertisers do not necessarily reflect views or policies of Lakes Country Service Cooperative and should not be considered an endorsement thereof.

Lakes Country Service Cooperative retains the right to accept, reject or edit any submitted material and requires all submissions to be signed and dated.



Save time and money! Try the Express Online Marketplace!

purchasingconnection.org

Express offers Guided Buying for our popular categories and items and an integration option for finance systems.

CONNECT WITH PROGRAMS & SERVICES AT LCSC!

- FINANCE
- INSURANCE & WELLNESS
- COMMUNICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- COMMUNITY WELLNESS
- TECHNOLOGY
- LAKES COUNTRY ACADEMY
- HEALTH & SAFETY
- EDUCATION
- SPECIAL EDUCATION
- COOPERATIVE PURCHASING

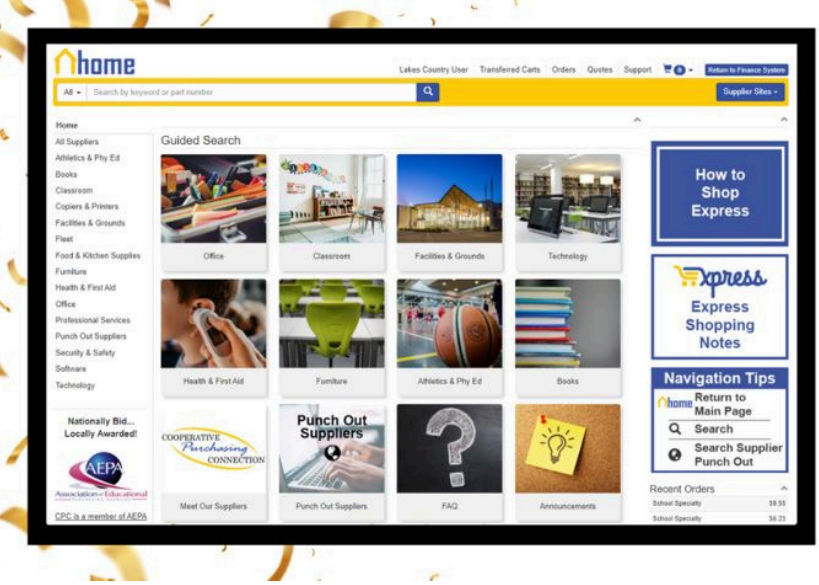
CONTACT US
Phone: (218) 739-3273
(800)739-3273 (toll free)
Fax: (218) 739-2459
Email: communicator@lcsc.org
Executive Director: Jeremy Kovash

COMMUNICATOR STAFF
Editors: Jane Eastes: jeastes@lcsc.org
Mary Phillipe: mphillipe@lcsc.org
Address:
Lakes Country Service Cooperative
1001 E. Mount Faith
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
An equal opportunity employer

The LCSC Communicator is a publication of Lakes Country Service Cooperative.

Views and ideas expressed in the LCSC Communicator by its contributors or advertisers do not necessarily reflect views or policies of Lakes Country Service Cooperative and should not be considered an endorsement thereof.

Lakes Country Service Cooperative retains the right to accept, reject or edit any submitted material and requires all submissions to be signed and dated.



Save time and money! Try the Express Online Marketplace!

purchasingconnection.org

Express offers Guided Buying for our popular categories and items and an integration option for finance systems.

CONNECT WITH PROGRAMS & SERVICES AT LCSC!

- FINANCE
- INSURANCE & WELLNESS
- COMMUNICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- COMMUNITY WELLNESS
- TECHNOLOGY
- LAKES COUNTRY ACADEMY
- HEALTH & SAFETY
- EDUCATION
- SPECIAL EDUCATION
- COOPERATIVE PURCHASING

CONTACT US
Phone: (218) 739-3273
(800)739-3273 (toll free)
Fax: (218) 739-2459
Email: communicator@lcsc.org
Executive Director: Jeremy Kovash

COMMUNICATOR STAFF
Editors: Jane Eastes: jeastes@lcsc.org
Mary Phillipe: mphillipe@lcsc.org
Address:
Lakes Country Service Cooperative
1001 E. Mount Faith
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
An equal opportunity employer

The LCSC Communicator is a publication of Lakes Country Service Cooperative.

Views and ideas expressed in the LCSC Communicator by its contributors or advertisers do not necessarily reflect views or policies of Lakes Country Service Cooperative and should not be considered an endorsement thereof.

Lakes Country Service Cooperative retains the right to accept, reject or edit any submitted material and requires all submissions to be signed and dated.