September 2022

LCSC Communicator

Regional News, Views, and Information

LAKES COUNTRY Service Cooperative
Together we achieve

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LAKES COUNTRY Service Cooperative

CLICK HERE FOR A LISTING OF OUR CURRENT JOB POSTINGS

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EDUCATION-
Electronic Edition
www.lcsc.org

CONGRATULATIONS

ACTE/ REGION III YOUNG TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

DEREK GRAHN



Grahn also participated as a member of the 2022 Cohort for the Minnesota Education Policy Fellowship.

Grahn was nominated by the Minnesota Marketing, Business, Information Technology Educators (MnBITE) and the overall state Career Technical Education (CTE) organization, MnACTE. Grahn was a Business Education instructor at Breckenridge Public Schools for five years and now works as a Business Development Manager for Golden Path Solutions.

This award recognizes new CTE teachers who have made significant contributions toward innovative and unique career and technical education programs and shown a professional commitment early in their careers.

The award was announced at the ACTE/Region III Conference on June 17, 2022, in Des Moines, Iowa. Derek will now compete against four other regional winners for the national ACTE Young Teacher of the Year Award for 2022 at the ACTE Career Vision Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, held November 30 - December 3, 2022.

Source: Minnesota Association for Career and Technical Education (MnACTE)



Are you looking to ignite your student's passion for learning?

Explore the **2022-2023 Reach for the Stars catalog** with more than 120 high-quality academic enrichment programs, competitions, events, and activities for Minnesota K-12 students!
Download a **FREE** full-color or text-only PDF at www.synergyexchange.org/reach-for-the-stars.



THE WORLD IS NOT TWO-DIMENSIONAL

Jeremy Kovash
LCSC Executive Director

I am a Twitter user and fan. Why: Several years ago, I was trying to follow many pieces of legislation in Minnesota as it moved through the committee process. I found that Twitter provided up to the second news from legislators, lobbyists, and friends following bills advancing through the Minnesota House and Senate.

It became a quick source of trusted (in my mind) news from the Capitol. Also, for fun, I found Twitter gave me an occasional baseball score or news about my favorite teams when I couldn't watch the game! As time has continued, Twitter (and other similar social media outlets) have become more popular.

The book "High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out" by Amanda Ripley has me reflecting on a few related pieces of my life.

> ***"Do I follow and read-only opinions like my own?"***

Do I only talk deeply to those with similar feelings? Do I then judge others based on my perceptions of their feelings? Do I hang onto issues that do not need to have me feeling entrenched? Do I do that with work colleagues, friends, or even family?

The book helped me to remember that the world is not two-dimensional. There are not two simple sides to any issue. Sometimes, this comes into play with Brother vs. Brother, Husband vs. Wife, Democrat vs. Republican, and even the Gophers vs. the Hawkeyes!

Too often, we get too rooted in conflict. What could easily be overcome, becomes more profound and more divided. What should be an open discussion with listening and feeling, becomes a closed relationship. I hope for all of us that there is less conflict, more peace, less bias, and more acceptance, less me and more we.

SUSAN WARD

THANK YOU FOR 16 YEARS OF SERVICE

Susan has been the Academic Challenges Coordinator in the Education Services Department at LCSC for the past 16 years.

Before her role at LCSC, Susan taught English for 33 years at Rothsay Public Schools. After retiring, Susan worked for Adult Basic Ed (ABE) in Fergus Falls in addition to her role at LCSC. Susan worked with individuals in the Otter Tail County Jail and at the ABE office in Fergus Falls to help them receive their GED through the ABE program.

When asked what she enjoyed most about her role as Academic Challenges Coordinator, Susan said, "During my time as Coordinator, the number of teams participating in the Knowledge Bowl doubled, with nearly 1,000 students participating. I was incredibly blessed to have Jolene King and Monica Thompson working with me in the Academic Challenges programs, and I could not have done it without them. I enjoyed working with high school students in the Knowledge Bowl program and appreciated their knowledge and willingness to work collaboratively. I was also very impressed by how hard the students studied to compete in the Spelling Bee program; however, it was hard when students missed spelling their words."

Susan enjoyed her time at LCSC as she felt the environment was so inviting. "Each department at LCSC is willing to help our programs," said Ward.

Now that Susan is wrapping up her time at LCSC, she is looking forward to spending time with her ten grandchildren, spending more time riding horses with her husband Pat, and traveling.

Monica Thompson will now oversee the Academic Challenges programs as the Coordinator as we begin to prepare for the 2022/23 program season.



"Mrs. Ward" has been a source of inspiration for me since I was a young girl. She commanded excellence in her classroom and modeled compassion through her craft. To this day, I revel in how she speaks with such poise and dignity. Her passion for scholarly comradery, her lived example, and her mentorship has proven pivotal in my life and career. Knowing Susan is knowing a kind of "community" that few in this profession can provide. Congratulations, Susan, on your remarkable career and everlasting impact."

Kristie Sullivan
Superintendent,
Breckenridge Public Schools

OTTER TAIL COUNTY - MINNESOTA

WORKFORCE SUMMIT

OCTOBER 26, 2022 | THUMPER POND RESORT

Opportunities, Training & Connections in Otter Tail County



Schools and Education Partners

Employers

Local Government Officials

Workforce Partner Agencies

Anyone Impacted By the Workforce Challenge

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

REGISTER

Otter Tail County invites you to learn about the intentional efforts of the OTC Works workforce strategy and how we can continue working together. Attendees of the Workforce Summit will LEARN about the current workforce environment, ENGAGE with presenters and attendees, and be ACTIVATED for where we are going together on workforce development.

Speakers will discuss:

- **Current workforce environment and resources**
- **How to take your recruiting to the next level**
- **How to tap into untapped talent pools**

OTTER TAIL COUNTY · MINNESOTA

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Minnesota Humanities Center

WE ARE WATER MN



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR TEACHERS

Otter Tail County is holding an immersive traveling exhibit called We Are Water MN. It is run by the Minnesota Humanities Center and will be showcased at the Fergus Falls Public Library, 205 E Hampden Ave, Fergus Falls, from August 18- October 10, 2022. The Exhibit is **FREE** and open to everyone.

YOUR STUDENTS WILL LEARN ABOUT ALL THINGS WATER

- We Are Water MN Educator Handbook with prepared curriculum activities. ottertailcountymn.us/project/we-are-water-mn/
- Limited scholarships of up to $300 per district for transportation funding.
- Trained volunteers scheduled at the site to engage with students as they interact in the exhibit.

What is in the exhibit?

The exhibit features statewide and local information about Minnesota's position as the headwaters of three major basins; the sacredness of waters to Minnesota's first peoples, the Dakota and Ojibwe; land changes over time; the current stresses on water; steps needed to make progress; and stories about meaning and use of water by local people.

Next Steps?

If your school is interested in participating, RSVP to Shannon Terry at sterry@co.ottertail.mn.us or call 218-671-3445 with the date and times your classes would like to join the exhibit. Funding for bussing is first come, first serve, so sign up today!

WELCOME BACK TO LAKES COUNTRY ACADEMY!







The 2022-2023 school year is here, and the Lakes Country Academy (LCA) in Fergus Falls and Alexandria has been preparing all summer to welcome students back on September 6!

LCA staff have been hard at work getting classrooms, hallways, and common areas ready for students and participating in training like STAR, LETRS, UKERU, and professional crisis management to be prepared to give students the best education possible.

The LCA welcomed 11 new staff, including a new Director of Special Education, a new Site Administrator for the Fergus Falls site, a new Speech Language Pathology Assistant, a new Social Worker, three new paras for the Alexandria site, four new paras for the Fergus Falls site, and a new Special Ed Office Assistant who helps hold everything together from the LCSC office.

Each site had its annual Parent Night on August 30th from 5 pm to 6:30 pm. Teachers, paras, and other leaders welcomed students and their families back to school and enjoyed hotdogs, chips, and cookies. This annual event helps ease those "back to school jitters" that students -and their parents- often experience. The school staff was so excited to see everyone who came!

The LCA program looks forward to the rest of the school year and meeting the needs of Lakes Country Service Cooperative member school districts' unique learners.



Angela Doll

LCSC Director of Special Education

Lakes Country Academy Setting Four Schools, works on behalf of the 26 School Districts in the LCSC's Region.

Source/Author: Angela Doll, LCSC Director of Special Education

FIT CHOICES GYM Reimbursement

***THIS PROGRAM IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO CURRENT INSURANCE POOL MEMBERS.**

With Fit Choices by Medica, you can save up to $20 a month on gym membership fees just by attending a participating fitness club 8 times a month.

1. Locate and join a participating health club.
2. Present your Medica ID card at your gym.
3. Meet your monthly visit requirement and receive up to $20 toward your membership fees.

QUESTIONS ABOUT FIT CHOICES OR INSURANCE POOL BENEFITS?

Contact

Reese Ellison
Insurance and Wellness Specialist
Lakes Country Service Cooperative
218-737-6515 (office)

Welcome Kristine Urbowicz

to the Cooperative Purchasing Team!

"The CPC team has been great. It is an enjoyable group to work with. Each member brings a different strength to the table, contributing to the collective mission."
- Kristine Urbowicz



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COOPERATIVE *Purchasing* CONNECTION

NEW IN EXPRESS - ARE YOU LOOKING FOR EQUIPMENT TO HELP STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS?

Medicalshop offers medical equipment and supplies. Customers who have ordered from Medicalshop through Express report that communication was immediate, and their shipment arrived in just a few days. Learn more about CPC's contract with Medicalshop at Purchasingconnection.org

Medicalshops offerings include

- **Assistive Technology**
- **Wheelchairs, strollers, and pushchairs**
- **Toilette and bathe safety aids**
- **Changing and treatment tables**
- **Special therapy needs**
- **Gait trainer and walking aids**
- **Patient lifts, slings, manual transfer aids, special needs beds, seating, and standers**
- **School educational furniture**

NONPROFIT TRAINING



Lakes Country Service Cooperative

1001 E Mount Faith
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

- **Finance - Thursday, October 20, 2022**
- **Governance - Thursday, November 17, 2022**

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Participants may REGISTER to attend virtually or in person.

Cost: $80 Per Session
LCSC members may use the promo code and receive a 10% discount.
PROMO CODE: FUNDAMENTALS

FUNDAMENTALS OF NONPROFITS

After attending this series, nonprofit professionals will understand how mission and money work together and the critical relationships between planning, strategy, and sustainability.

Your organization will not only be prepared for what's ahead, but will be proactive in making changes to meet your mission.

2022 **SPELLING BEE** ENROLLMENT BEGINS THIS FALL!



LCSC enrollment forms will be emailed and mailed to schools in the next few weeks.

Schools can begin enrolling with Scripps on August 22, 2022, at **spellingbee.com**.
The Scripps enrollment fee is $175 per school.
Schools must be enrolled with LCSC and Scripps to participate.
The Spelling Bee is geared toward students in grades five through eight, and each school district may send one student for every 1-1,000 K-12 student population.
The fee for each Region IV Spelling Bee participant is $110.
Five Region IV Spelling Bee students will advance to the Multi-Region State Spelling Bee.
BOTH BEES WILL BE HELD IN FEBRUARY AT LCSC.

Schools that enroll with Scripps in the 2023 Bee program receive the following benefits:

- Exclusive online access to the teachers-only section of spellingbee.com.
- Official pronouncer guides for use in conducting classroom and school spelling bees.
- The Great Words, Great Works reading list with all source books, organized by reading level.
- Supplemental vocabulary materials for classroom and school levels.
- Customizable certificates for your participants and school champion
- Britannica Online for Kids: A one-year subscription to Britannica Online for Kids to award to a participant in your school's spelling bee program. If your school enrolls on or before September 30, your school receives TWO one-year subscriptions to Britannica Online for Kids.
- Study Materials: The 4,000-word, Words of the Champions study guide for school champions includes the 450-word School Spelling Bee Study List.

FENWORKS
LEAD THE PACK WITH ESPORTS

A PARTNER OF LCSC



HOW TO START AN ESPORTS LEAGUE IN YOUR HOMETOWN

Esports has been continuously growing in popularity. And for a good reason! It's fun, and it's accessible. Setting up a league allows you to communicate and develop friendships with others who enjoy gaming.

How do you get started? First and foremost, you will need to decide on the goal of your esports league. Is it competitive or casual? What game or games will you be playing? How many players are you looking for? Let's answer that first question. You can have your esports league be a casual, fun experience where everyone is welcome, and players play with or against each other for fun. On the other hand, your esports league could focus on the more competitive aspect of esports, where you would form teams and have those teams practice and compete against one another. This competitive route could lead to competition with other teams outside of your league.

Okay, you've decided on what kind of league you are running, next is picking what game or games you'll want to be playing. The simplest way to decide this is to engage interested people in your community and see what games are popular. This not only will make your decision on what games to run but give you an idea of how many players you might end up getting.

Good work! You've got what kind of league you have, what games you are playing, and a general idea of how many people might want to join. Now, how do you get those interested in signing up?

Some ideas you can try are social media posts, flyers, or even a small newspaper article.

These are great ways to get people in, but hosting a meeting is the most important. This meeting aims to introduce interested people to the league you've created and then get them to sign up. Set up a time and place for this meeting so people can show up and learn more. Help them take the next steps at this meeting.

You have players and the format for your league, all that's left is to set up playtime. If you have an option for players to meet and play in person, that can amplify the experience, but esports can easily be done remotely from everyone's home. You'll need a way to communicate with everyone, a good option would be to make a Discord server to have everyone in your league have one place to communicate at any time. Once times have been established for when players meet and play, everything should move along nicely with whatever format you have decided on.

With everyone playing and communicating you've successfully set up and begun running your very own esports league. As things progress you can begin gathering more interest, adding more games, and reaching out for competition with other leagues nearby.

Lakes Country Service Cooperative is a partner of Fenworks esports. If you want more information about how to get started, contact **Josh Nelson, LCSC Deputy Director of Educational Programs by email at jnelson@lcsc.org or phone at 218-737-6531.**

Source/Author: Fenworks esports



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.

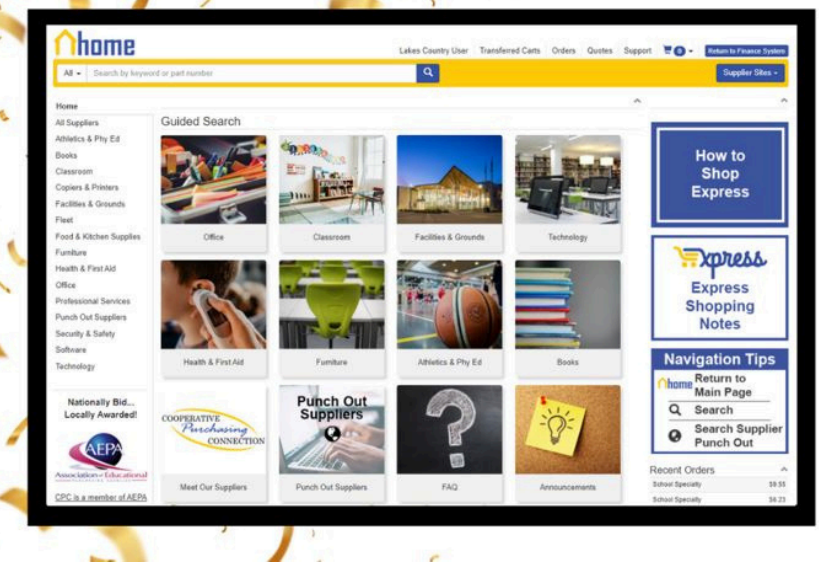
HELPme provides support and resources to students, parents, and staff through a healing-centered interface and allows anonymous communication between individuals and school-selected responders. Individuals use **HELPme** to find:

- 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, LCSC Deputy Executive Director 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



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purchasingconnection.org

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

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