

## President's Message



Happy fall! Starting school is always exciting; I look forward to catching up with colleagues, creating masterful unit plans and meeting new students. The freshmen in my economics and government classes come to me with naive notions. They think the lockers to which they've been assigned actually belong to them, that school administrators cannot search lockers for pot or evidence of bullying. I love that by the end of the year, my students will not only be able to accurately define ownership of lockers, but they will also write about the power of well-defined and enforced property rights to promote economic growth. They will analyze how rules provide incentives to affect choices. And they will learn that locker ownership is not the only right they inaccurately thought they possessed. By March, they'll be able to understand the philosophical, historical, and modern reasons why their rights exist as they do. They will even learn the process of changing policy to affect the rights of themselves and others. I am excited for what lies ahead for my students, and I look forward to seeing dramatic progress throughout the year. Teaching social studies gives me the opportunity to prepare students to be successful in college, career, and most importantly, civic life. I can't think of a better profession!

While this time of year is wonderful, I also find it exhausting. Starting a new school year takes energy and brainpower at a much higher level than requirements of the lazy days of summer. It is at this time that I am glad to tap into CCSS's network of support. Because of budget cuts and being asked to do more with less, there is no better time to get active with the Colorado Council for the Social Studies.

- Communicate your thoughts about the structure and content of upcoming social studies statewide assessments by completing the survey posted at [www.cosocialstudies.org](http://www.cosocialstudies.org). By submitting feedback, you will help the CCSS Board draft a policy statement for the Colorado Department of Education once they create an assessment group to design plans. Express your ideas about which grades, standards, concepts, and skills ought to be assessed as well as the ideal format for the tests by filling out a simple form online.
- Make plans to attend our 25<sup>th</sup> annual conference on April 13, 2012. You will have opportunities to learn about new teaching strategies, visit with vendors while browsing through the latest resources, networking with other social studies professionals from the region, and stay rejuvenated through the spring.
- I also encourage you to submit a presentation proposal for the conference. Lead others in the exploration of big ideas with your favorite unit, lesson, or teaching strategy. You can find a link to the presentation proposal form at [www.cosocialstudies.org](http://www.cosocialstudies.org).
- Finally, "like" CCSS on Facebook! Then, watch your newsfeeds for current issues facing social studies professionals and stakeholders.

I wish you the best of luck this school year!  
Sara Shackett

### GET INVOLVED NOW!

For information on how to become more involved in your state council, contact President, Sara Shackett  
[sshackett@cosocialstudies.org](mailto:sshackett@cosocialstudies.org)

For comments, suggestions or submissions in the newsletter contact editor Joan Hollins:  
[jhollins@cosocialstudies.org](mailto:jhollins@cosocialstudies.org)

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### WEBSITE

[www.cosocialstudies.org](http://www.cosocialstudies.org)  
Keep up with the latest CCSS and NCSS news and the most recent in social studies updates by visiting the CCSS website.

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## **Important! Council Seeks Input on Assessment Policy**

Ready or not, a social studies assessment is on the horizon, scheduled to begin in 2014 (contingent upon funding) -- once at the elementary level, once at the middle level, once in high school. At this point that is all we know! What grades will be impacted? What standards should be assessed? How should they be assessed? CDE has yet to assemble a group to tackle these difficult questions, and when they do, we would like to be prepared with a policy statement crafted by our members and board. This is your opportunity to contribute to the process, to have your voice heard, to participate in the decisions that must be made. A survey has been prepared to tap into your best thinking; please go to CCSS's website at [www.cosocialstudies.org](http://www.cosocialstudies.org) for the survey and complete it ASAP. If you have other ideas that do not fit within the parameters of the survey, please send these to Kent Willmann at [kentwillmann@gmail.com](mailto:kentwillmann@gmail.com) or Peggy Altoff at [paltoff@msn.com](mailto:paltoff@msn.com). Please note that the purpose of the survey is for information gathering only; while the results will be used in an effort to influence policy, there is, by no means, a guarantee that this will happen.

## **Teaching about the Middle East? Some Free Resources for Teachers**

The University of Arizona Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) has teaching resources and opportunities for K-12 teachers – and most of it is free! CMES is one of only 19 U.S. Department of Education-funded National Resource Centers on the Middle East, and since there isn't one in Colorado, we would like to offer our services to teachers in your state. Here is what we have to offer:

(1) A listserv especially for out-of-Arizona teachers that informs them of teaching materials, online resources, and professional development programs, both in the U.S. and abroad. The weekly listserv announcements contain everything I can find (as long as it is reputable and free or low-cost) involving Middle Eastern or internationally-themed resources/programs - and sometimes involving other things (such as the Holocaust) that might be of interest to teachers on the listserv. (In other words, the Middle East is the CORE of the listserv but not all of it.) To join, just email Lisa Adeli: [adeli@email.arizona.edu](mailto:adeli@email.arizona.edu), giving your name and email address and specifying that you want to be on the out-of-Arizona teachers' listserv.

(2) An extensive online collection of teacher-created lesson plans, searchable by grade-level, content area, or subject. To access the lessons, go to: <http://cmes.arizona.edu/node/638>

(3) Background information sheets and powerpoints with scripts that teachers can use for their own class preparation or to photocopy and hand out to middle school/high school youth: <http://cmes.arizona.edu/node/771>

(4) Information on upcoming programs, such as our annual lesson plan competition, online courses/seminars for teachers, or CMES summer programs for teachers, held in Arizona or abroad: <http://cmes.arizona.edu/outreach>

For more information, email Lisa Adeli ([adeli@email.arizona.edu](mailto:adeli@email.arizona.edu)) or call [520-621-7904](tel:520-621-7904).



Ever thought of **teaching abroad** for a year? The **October 15th** deadline for the Fulbright Teacher Program is approaching! This is an international professional development opportunity for K-12 educators.

The Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program provides opportunities for teachers to participate in direct exchanges of positions with colleagues from other countries for a semester or a year. By living and working abroad, exchange teachers gain an understanding and appreciation of different educational systems and cultures, and enrich their schools and communities by providing students with new perspectives about the world in which they live.

Our second program is The Distinguished Fulbright Awards in teaching which is designed to recognize and encourage excellence in teaching in the U.S. and abroad. Twenty-four highly talented U.S. and international teachers are selected to receive a grant to study at a university, conduct research, teach classes and workshops, and develop a project pertaining to their field of educational inquiry during their semester overseas.

- See <http://www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org/> for application information.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTENT TEACHERS**

The Colorado Department of Education is encouraging all content area teachers in addition to English Language Specialist to consider registering for the “CLEP Tour” –Colorado English Language Proficiency Standards Tour.

Registration is now available for the 8-city tour of the Colorado English Language Proficiency (CLEP) Standards at the link below. These trainings provide an opportunity for content teachers and English Language Specialists to collaborate on implementing the new Colorado English Language Proficiency standards and tools to improve instruction for all students.

Two tracks have been created—one for administrators/decision-makers and the other for all other participants. Administrators only need to attend half the day, leaving after lunch. All others attend the full-day training. Space is limited to five people per district. The training is from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at all sites.

#### **Tour Locations**

September 21 in Limon

September 28 in Durango

October 5 in Boulder

October 19 in LaJunta

September 22 in Greeley

September 29 in Alamosa

October 6 in Aurora

October 20 in Colorado Springs

COLORADO COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 13, 2012

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON DENVER TECH CENTER

7801 E. Orchard Road, Greenwood Village, CO 80111

From Civil War to Civil Rights to Civil Discourse and Civic Life

When we think of Civil War, we focus on this nation in the 1860s and/or on similar conflicts in other nations; for Civil Rights, we might hone in on the 1960s and the actions of Martin Luther King, Jr. and others. For both, we think of the people involved, as well as events and issues that were important. Civil Discourse spotlights students, pre-k-12, who must be prepared to view, construct, and interpret the events and issues they encounter now and in the future, in order to participate fully in Civic Life. These could include, but are not limited to, recent developments in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and other nations as well as issues of piracy, nationhood, state/national/global debt, terrorism, immigration, and politics. We must also consider Civil Discourse among all educators involved in the implementation of the Academic Standards and preparation for assessment.

EARLY REGISTRATION BY MARCH 12TH

\_\_\_ \$75.00 for current CCSS member (email [djohnsontucker09@gmail.com](mailto:djohnsontucker09@gmail.com) if unsure)

\_\_\_ \$85 for non-CCSS members, includes a one year membership

\_\_\_ \$25 for college/university full-time pre-service/licensure students with a one year membership to CCSS

Signature of University instructor Required \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's Institution \_\_\_\_\_

AFTER MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup> THE COST WILL BE \$85.00 FOR CCSS MEMBERS AND \$95.00 FOR NON-MEMBERS, WHETHER ONLINE, OR BY MAIL

REGISTRATION FORM (\* REQUIRED FIELDS)

PARTICIPANT'S E-MAIL (PRINT)\* \_\_\_\_\_

NAME\* \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION\* \_\_\_\_\_ NAME OF SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION\* \_\_\_\_\_

HOME MAILING ADDRESS\* \_\_\_\_\_

CITY\* \_\_\_\_\_ STATE\* \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE\* \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU DO NOT INDICATE A MEAL REQUEST, YOU WILL BE SERVED THE SELECTED MENU.

I NEED A VEGETARIAN MEAL \_\_\_\_\_

I NEED A GLUTEN FREE MEAL \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTIONS CONTACT: [djohnsontucker09@gmail.com](mailto:djohnsontucker09@gmail.com) OR CALL (303) 949-8794

CCSS ANNUAL CONFERENCE: April 13, 2012  
THEME: From Civil War to Civil Rights to Civil Discourse and Civic Life  
**WHAT HAS CHANGED AND WHAT HAS NOT?**

**What has changed?**

- Biggest change is **LOCATION**. It will be held at **the DoubleTree by Hilton Denver Tech Center** located at 7801 East Orchard Road, Greenwood Village, directly off I-25 South. If you want to stay overnight, you will find the rates significantly reduced to \$89.00 per night.
- There will be a limited number of registrants, so log onto [www.cosocialstudies.org](http://www.cosocialstudies.org) soon to complete early registration.
- Continental breakfast will be provided in 3 different locations at the hotel – look for signs.
- The presenter conference registration fee has been reduced by half.
- *Hosted by the Wyoming Geographic Alliance in collaboration with the Colorado Geographic Alliance, there will be a giant Map of North America (35 X 25 feet) on display in the atrium. Stop by to find out how you might be able to have the map visit your school/district.*
- Free and extensive parking on the west side of the hotel
- More opportunity for wireless internet connectivity

**What hasn't changed?**

- Registration fees are the same as 2010! No inflation.
- Lunch is included
- Features keynote speaker, presentation of awards honoring teachers and programs, time to spend in the exhibit area and network with colleagues
- Strong content and skills based presentations with ideas you can use immediately upon returning to your classroom
- Certificate of participation or college credit will be available
- Book bag and other goodies will be distributed at registration when you check in as usual.

**Colorado Council for the Social Studies  
25th Annual Social Studies Conference  
2012 Presentation Proposal Form**

The 2011 Colorado Council for the Social Studies conference will be held April 13, 2012 at the

Doubletree Hotel Denver Tech Center  
7801 East Orchard Rd  
Greenwood Village, Colorado, 80111

We invite proposals for sessions that address this year's conference theme.

**From Civil War to Civil Rights to Civil Discourse and Civic Life**

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We encourage you to be a session presenter and submit a proposal for the CCSS April Conference.

Please consider the following when completing the proposal form:

- Please keep the theme in mind as you prepare your proposal
- The council is seeking sessions which provide connections to the new academic standards for history, geography, civics, economics, and personal financial literacy including Colorado's 21st Century Skills and Readiness Competencies. Behavioral science proposals are welcome as well and should be easily linked to the skills and readiness competencies.

Presentation Proposals are due by **December 15, 2011**. Additional Proposal forms can be found on the CCSS website: [www.cosocialstudies.org](http://www.cosocialstudies.org) All presenters must register for the conference. Please complete proposals electronically and email to [celnicki@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:celnicki@cherrycreekschools.org) or mail your presentation proposal forms to:

Chris Elnicki  
5416 South Riviera Way  
Centennial, CO 80112

You are encouraged to reproduce and circulate this form and the accompanying pages to friends and colleagues who may be interested in presenting. For additional information contact:  
Chris Elnicki – [celnicki@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:celnicki@cherrycreekschools.org) OR Dorsee Johnson-Tucker – [djohnsontucker09@gmail.com](mailto:djohnsontucker09@gmail.com)

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**Describe your presentation briefly by providing the following information.**

Title of Session:

Primary Presenter:

Co-Presenter(s):

Title/Position and Affiliation:

Co- Presenters Title/Position and Affiliation:

School or Organization/School District/City:

School or Organization Address:

City/State/Zip:

E-mail Address:

Co-Presenters E-mail Address:

Daytime Phone: Evening Phone:

Level: (Select all that apply)

Elementary      Middle School      High School      General

Subject Area and/or Content Strand:

Description of the Session (limit of 60 words):

Each session is 55 minutes (double sessions are limited and available by request only)

Audio-visual/media requests:

All Rooms will have an Overhead Projector and Screen

DVD Player and Monitor

LCD Projector

Internet Connection – The Double Tree does require a fee per computer and/or per session for WIFI access. This fee is paid for by the presenter or the presenter’s organization. Presenters requesting an internet connection will receive more detail upon acceptance.

Other Requests

**Important Additional Information:**

The Registration fee for each approved presenter is a reduced rate of \$25.00 **(NEW LOW RATE)**

To receive the reduced rate, payment must be received by March 1, 2012.

After March 1, presenters will be charged a \$50.00 rate.

All presenters and co-presenters must be registered for the conference in order to participate.

Those submitting proposals will be notified in late December concerning the acceptance of their proposal.

## NCSS Conference Invitation: In Washington DC!



There is nothing more invigorating professionally than collegial conversation between like-minded professionals. Once a year NCSS provides its members with an unparalleled opportunity for interactive exchanges with some of the top names in social studies today - and the emerging leaders of tomorrow. Urban education, teaching about Asia, gender politics in Afghanistan, the direction of education reforms - and that's just the tip of the iceberg. Join me in Washington DC this December 2-4th to explore the Dimensions of Diversity in social studies today. I'll be waiting for you! And thanks again for all you did to make the 2010 conference in Denver such a huge success!

Sue Blanchette  
NCSS President

NOTE: Sue will be attending and presenting at the April 13, 2011 CCSS conference.



SPEAKER



**Diane Ravitch**  
Research Professor of Education, New York University, and author of *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*

WASHINGTON DC



DECEMBER 2-4, 2011

SPEAKER



**Rex Ellis**  
Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution

Who We Teach  
What We Teach  
How We Teach

Join us in Washington, DC to examine the *Dimensions of Diversity* in these issues

SPEAKER



**Geoffrey Canada**  
President & CEO, Harlem Children's Zone

SPEAKER



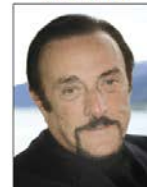
**Teta V. Banks**  
Former Consul General, Republic of Liberia

SPEAKER



**Lawrence A. Husick**  
Co-Director, Foreign Policy Research Institute, Wachsman Center Program on Teaching Innovation

SPEAKER



**Philip G. Zimbardo**  
Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Stanford University

ISSUES

URBAN EDUCATION  
Closing the Achievement Gap

ISSUES

Teaching East Asia

Registration opens in June at [www.socialstudies.org/conference](http://www.socialstudies.org/conference)



## Why Social Studies and Geography Matter to Each Other

Joseph Kerski, 2011 President, National Council for Geographic Education

To some readers, the title of this article will seem like a no-brainer: "Geography is a part of the social studies, so of course they care about each other!" Yet I wish to make the case that social studies and geography are not as well connected as they should be, why these ties need to be strengthened, and how we can accomplish that.

Perhaps part of the disconnection is due to the fact that geography is both a social science and a natural science. Geography instructors are equally comfortable investigating population change on a global scale and measuring pH in local streams and lakes. But I think that another part of the disconnection is that much of society still does not really understand what geography education is.

### Scales Large and Small

People have always been fascinated with investigating their home, the Earth. For centuries, maps and travel logs have inspired explorations of the unknown. Today, geography is more relevant than ever. Consider the issues of climate change, cultural diversity, economic globalization, urban sprawl, loss of biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, water quality and quantity, crime, energy, tourism, politics, and natural hazards. To grapple with these issues requires a populace that has a firm foundation in geography, one that can see the "big picture" but that understands how different patterns and trends are related from a global scale down to the local community.

Rather than memorizing place names, landforms, and exports, geography is a triangulation of a rich body of content, a way of looking at the world, and a set of skills. Geography offers meaningful field experiences in school and out of school, through inquiry-driven, project-based investigations. Geography is a high-tech discipline, particularly with the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), remote sensing, web mapping, and probeware.

### Good Questions

According to the firm Market Data Retrieval, 249,976 educators identified themselves as teaching social studies, but of these, only 19,851 teachers (7.9%) identified themselves as teaching geography. How can this be? Geography has been so neglected over the past century in much of American primary and secondary education that most people do not understand what geography is.

What is the relationship between birth rate and life expectancy? How does acid mine drainage in a mountain range affect water quality downstream? How will climate change affect global food production? Just think of the major issues of geographic nature that the planet has already experienced in 2011—political unrest, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, and more. What could be more relevant than studying these issues?

### Seeing Connections

Geography and social studies are both concerned with change over time, with temporal and spatial patterns, with current events. To teach history, civics, and economics with the geographic perspective fosters a deeper understanding of everything from trade balances to historic battles. Geography as a standalone subject

respects and celebrates diversity, culture, and landscapes. The geographic way of looking at the world embraces concepts of change, scale, patterns, and sustainability. Geographic skills incorporate the inquiry process of asking a geographic question, gathering geographic data, visualizing and critically analyzing that data, and then making a decision to act on that geographic knowledge. This process usually sparks additional questions and investigations.

The geographer is innately curious about a good many things. He or she is excited about seeing the connections between the cultural and physical worlds, on scales large and small.

The geographic perspective informs other disciplines. When epidemiologists study the spread of diseases, scientists study climate change, or businesspersons determine where to locate a new retail establishment, they use spatial thinking and analysis. In each case, geography provides critical tools for studying these issues and for solving very real problems on a daily basis.

### The Whys of Where

Geographic questions begin with the "whys of where"—why is an object (like a city) or an event (like an earthquake) located where it is? How is it affected proximal and distant forces and networks? Geographic investigations are often value-laden and involve critical thinking skills. For example, after examining a map of cotton production in the USA, geographers investigate the relationship between altitude, latitude, climate, and cotton production. After discovering that much cotton is grown in dry regions that must be irrigated, they can ask, "Should cotton be grown in these areas? Is this the best use of water and other natural resources?" Hence, geographers understand that the Earth is changing, think scientifically and analytically about why it is changing, and dig deeper: Should the Earth be changing in these ways? Is there anything that I should be doing or could be doing about it?

### Partners

The National Council for Geographic Education ([www.ncge.org](http://www.ncge.org)) was established in 1915 to support geography education at all levels. I serve as the NCGE 2011 president. I have served in federal agencies such as the US Census Bureau and the USGS, as instructor in higher education and K-12, and am currently in the private sector, at Esri. I see partnering with other organizations as key to growth for any professional association. I've attended several NCSS conferences as an exhibitor and a presenter, value the connection that NCGE and NCSS has, and wish to see it strengthened.

The number of students taking the AP Human Geography (APHG) exam has risen from 3,272 in 2001 to an estimated 80,000 in 2011. To do well on this exam, students need a firm grounding not only in geography but all of social studies. Perhaps developing curricular materials for these APHG educators and students is one area where NCSS and NCGE could collaborate. We will participate in each others' national conferences in 2011 (in Portland in August and Washington DC in December, respectively), and I look forward to future collaboration between our two organizations and its members! 📍

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**Colorado Council for the Social Studies Membership Form**

DUES: We are encouraging you to make a commitment for one, two or three years, if possible, and receive a break. New dues structure is:

\_\_\_One Yr: \$25                      \_\_\_Two Yrs: \$40                      \_\_\_Three Yrs: \$60

Retired teachers and pre-service students are: \$20 a year\_\_\_

NEW\_\_\_\_\_                      RENEWAL\_\_\_\_\_

\*NAME

---

\*Home Mailing address

---

\*City

State

Zip Code

---

\*SCHOOL

---

\*SUBJECTS AND GRADE LEVEL TAUGHT

---

\*\*PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS(absolutely necessary and please print)

---

COMPLETE THIS FORM and mail to Dorsee Johnson-Tucker 1789 S. DeFrame Street, Lakewood, CO 80228.

You may pay online at [www.cosocialstudies.org](http://www.cosocialstudies.org) or mail a check with the form made out to CCSS

**NEVER BEEN A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES??**

You can join NCSS and the Colorado Council for the Social Studies together!! Complete this registration form , pay CCSS \$79 for comprehensive NCSS membership, OR \$66 for a regular NCSS membership and get your first year of CCSS membership included. You can pay online at [www.cosocialstudies.org](http://www.cosocialstudies.org) or mail check as stated above.