CAN Rural Committee Meeting

February 6th, 2014

Co-Chairs: Susan Mashmeier and Amy Worley

**Agenda**

* Announcement
* Best Practices Speaker
* Virtual Conference Work Group
* Hot Topic

**Announcement**

* After 2 years of work, have come to a final definition of rural to be inclusive of all areas that have traditionally been identified as rural
  + Definition: “School as a National Center for education Statistics code 31-43 and/or area has population less than 50,000 with density less than 1,000 per square mile.”
  + Proposed dissemination strategies of publication of definition
    - CAN List Serve
    - CDE
    - Conference in Region 2
    - Conference in Region 1 (March 1)
    - Regional leads and legislators

**Best Practices Speaker – Moving Beyond the Bell ASES Program by Amy Worley**

* A collaboration of Sierra Sands Unified School District and high Desert Leapin’ Lizards, Inc.
  + Afterschool Education and Safety Program (ASES) Changemakers Awards
    - High Desert Leapin’ Lizards was awarded the Jhumki Basu Foundation Special Focus Award for the partnering for Excellence: Innovations in Science, Technology, Engineering and math Education competition
    - In partnership, the school district was able to provide quality education
      * Engineer volunteers paid to come to each program site and help students become excited about Lego robotics
        + Six-week course that taught about engineering and renewable energy
      * Money invested into a STEM coordinator who would plan STEM lessons
        + STEM Academy developed based off of NY small school models which brings all subjects under the umbrella of one overarching subjects

Schedule developed for a yearly STEM course covering a variety of topics, standard-based connected to Common Core

Hands-on, projects-based lessons aligned to NGSS

Ex: Scientific Method Unit

Established the format and expectations of the STEM Academy and provided basic information to begin the study of science topics

Begin process of utilizing science notebooks

Ex: Forensics Unit

Four week unit – evidence, prints, impressions, blood/DNA

Concentrated on math standard of pattern recognition and science standard of variation of individuals and inherited characteristics and investigation

Ex: Business Unit

Three week unit – develop a plan, understanding marketing, and supply and demand

Unit addressed math standards and technology

Culminated in LOA event

Ex: Astronomy Unit

Three week unit – concentration of human explorations, focusing on moon, Mars, Stars, and Constellations

Unit addressed science standards for astronomy

Utilized NASA-developed curriculum and lessons

Ex: Junk Box Wars

Two week unit – design and redesign, engineering basics, simple machines, and forces and motion

Unit addressed science standard of simple machines and forces and motion

Participated in pilot “Go Green Racer” program from Museum of Science

* + - * Collaboration
        + Collaborate with Naval Sir Weapons Station, Weapons Division to provide Robotics and Chemistry
        + Collaborate with hungry River Theater Group, Maturango Museum, Kern County Waste Management **“**Clean Sweep” and the China lake Astronomical Society to provide programs during afterschool
        + STEM Coordinator is a member of the California Afterschool Network’s STEM Committee, Co-Chair of the Promising Practices Dissemination Workgroup, and serves on the Quality, English learners, and Rural Committees
        + Elicit support from Burroughs High School programs, staff, and students related to curriculum topics
      * Participate in community involvement
      * Professional Development
        + STEM Unit Trainings

Planned and provided by STEM Coordinator and the STEM Committee

Held one per unit and scheduled before the school year begins

Present staff with unit background knowledge, hands on experience with lessons to be presented

Allow staff members to participate in a Professional Learning Community with their afterschool peers

Provide staff with unit pacing guides and themes and vocabulary

* + - * STEM Academy
        + As a result of the 2011-2012 program evaluation/reflection, the STEM Academy was developed to better meet the needs of the students, program staff, and address goals of program funding

Focus of curriculum is STEM; year-long curriculum schedule has been developed and aligns with NGSS and Common Core

**Virtual Conference Work Group**

* First meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13th from 9:30AM-10:30AM
  + Will be needing help from all active members
  + Several topics will need to be discussed
    - The purpose and structure of the virtual conference
      * To allow those in rural areas to get information, give information, and become united in the digital age
    - The rules of work group members
    - Advancing the work between meetings via Google Docs
    - How to ensure active engagement

**Hot Topics**

* Sustainability
  + Will be the topic of next meeting overall (next meeting: April 3, 2014 9:30-10:30 AM)
* How to tap into CCSS and the LCFF plan?