



## NSSEO Governing Board Brief

### Welcome Reception for Dr. Meg Schnoor



The welcome reception for Dr. Meg Schnoor was a wonderful gathering of board members, leaders and parents. Anna Klimkowicz, NSSEO Board President, introduced Meg to the community officially, and Dr. Brad Carter, Assistant Superintendent, presented her with an NSSEO welcome basket filled with program spirit wear and gifts reflecting NSSEO pride. Dr. Schnoor will officially begin as NSSEO superintendent on July 1, 2023 and is currently working with NSSEO leadership to learn more about the organization, visit programs and transition over the next several months.



## Remembering a Very Special Kirk Student



Evelyn Flores was a very engaging, sweet and spirited 10th-grade Kirk student from D214 with an incredible flair for fashion, fun and positivity in Lexi's classroom at Kirk School. She loved music, was determined and happily engaged in learning activities. Evelyn will be greatly missed by her classroom team and the entire Kirk and NSSEO community. Her infectious positive impact continues on in the special impact she had on the hearts and lives of all who knew her.

## April Shining Stars

The NSSEO STEP program focuses on providing students with pre-employment skills training and work training experiences to help them develop competitive work skills and plan for post-high school. This month's Shining Star students have grown immensely over the years in the program through a series of pre-vocational and work training experiences. Their resilience, determination and positive motivation have contributed to their tremendous growth, along with the critical life skills of self-advocacy that will serve them well in their career efforts.

## Harry Zaluski - District 214



Everyone who knows Harry remembers him for life, and Harry has been such a special student in several of the NSSEO programs and continues to exude his positive influence on others as he attends the D214 life skills program and also works in the community. Harry enthusiastically shared his incredible growth over the years and the extra efforts it took to address his own goals. He was so proud of being awarded this special recognition twice over the past eight years that he brought his class over to see his name on the marquee. All of his team members and supporters

are so proud of his growth journey and the very special adult he has become. We know he will be a shining star for life.



### **Tyler Connelly - District 211**



It was with great pride and collaboration that Nancy D'Andrea highlighted the amazing growth and accomplishments of Tyler who shared his strengths, interests and goals with the NSSEO Governing Board at the April meeting. He has continued to develop such important skills in the areas of vocational efforts, follow through, collaboration and confidence - and it showed as he thanked the Board, the team and Mrs. D'Andrea for the collective team effort that he credits for his success. His proud family was in

attendance, and the school team cheered for his impressive growth and amazing future ahead.

### **Nichole Visconti - The Newest Member of the NSSEO Leadership Team**

Congratulations to Nichole Visconti, hired as the newest member of our NSSEO leadership team, replacing Nancy D'Andrea, as the NSSEO STEP/DRS specialist for D211. Nichole has been a great member of the NSSEO STEP team, learning and growing under the mentorship of Nancy over the last few years. She brings a wealth of experience and insight into the role, coupled with a wonderfully positive attitude and enthusiasm for continued professional growth. We are fortunate to have another multi-talented member on our team.



### NSSEO Annual Legislative Roundtable - Next Steps

Productive and emotional engagement of legislators, board members, leaders and parents captured the top shared priorities for our community with a significant focus on mental health and transition options for students aging out of our programs at age 22.



Our parent speakers were incredible as they shared their emotional journeys navigating complex student challenges in our educational systems. The roundtable participants worked collaboratively to determine what the important next steps our NSSEO community needs to take to advance these efforts laser-focused on the vision of our organization and the life planning goals of our students.

The summary sent out to all participants includes the following critical next steps:

- ❖ Create greater opportunities to engage in system-wide discussions
- ❖ Propose legislation that provides some flexibility in providing medications in adult day programs
- ❖ Connect/partner with other public entities to share realities about the intensity of student needs and bridge to adult programs
- ❖ Develop greater awareness of significant mental health needs to state leaders

### **NSSEO Continuous Improvement Plan Report - April 2023**

Assistant Superintendent Christy Crabtree led the facilitation of an extensive and comprehensive update of the [NSSEO Continuous Improvement Plan for 22-23](#) with program leaders providing highlights and vignettes that reflected meaningful stories of growth from an individual and growth perspective. The report summarized objectives met and in progress, reflecting considerable in several areas across the past year. The continuous nature of the plan, goal leaders identified from programs, monthly reviews at the program, leadership and Board meetings reflect ongoing attention to an evolving plan that guides practice, reflection and revisions aligned to goals and objectives. Asst. Supt. Crabtree also highlighted the next steps for the leadership team in the next few months to refine objectives and measures identified as important focus areas. Program leaders highlighted goal success in professional development opportunities, parent training sessions, providing professional learning and coaching for staff in SEL, positive behavioral interventions and trauma-informed practices, development of a districtwide equity plan to be incorporated into the CIP work and expanded partnerships with community members, legislators and potential employers.

A significant increase in district teams engaged in team building and leading student experiential learning is depicted in the following picture taken at Sunrise Lake Education Center. This NSSEO site embodies the growing positive impact of partnerships across several goal areas.



## NSSEO Budget Approval and District Next Steps

Working closely through the support of the NSSEO Finance Advisory Committee represented by several district Board members, all district business managers, special education leaders and NSSEO leaders, the NSSEO Governing Board conducted a public hearing. Following the hearing, they approved the transmittal of the proposed 2023-2024 NSSEO Budget to NSSEO member districts for their review and approval. Ms. Julie Jilek and Mr. Gavin McGinn facilitated the intense efforts to complete this process and included facility updates and a coop-wide facilities needs assessment to begin in May 2023.

## Continued Focus on Recruitment and Hiring

NSSEO has continued the recruiting and hiring efforts this spring as NSSEO continues to participate in multiple university/college fairs, online job fairs searching for “one like our next best” and extensive advertising and responsive interview schedules. Available positions for the upcoming year are posted for the upcoming 2023-24 school year.

[Click this link to check out any job vacancies.](#)

### Upcoming NSSEO Events:

### Date/Time

Infinitec Dinner and Recognition	Thursday, April 20 @ 5:15 pm
Kirk Spring Dance	Friday, April 21 at Kirk 7:00 pm
Celebrating Administrative Professionals	Wed., April 26
NSSEO PM Institute Day	Friday, April 28
NSSEO Beeping Egg Hunt	Sat., April 22 @ TR 12:00 pm
NSSEO Staff Appreciation Week	Monday, May 1 - Friday, May 5
NSSEO Policy Committee Meeting	Monday, May 1 - 5:00 pm
NSSEO Retirement Celebration	Wed., May 3 @ TR 5:30 pm
May NSSEO Governing Board Meeting	Wed., May 3 @TR 7:00 pm
Kirk Prom at Chandler’s ChopHouse	Thursday, May 11 @ 6:00 pm
Miner Safety Fair	Friday, May 12 @10:00 am

## Making a Difference

NSSEO is continually looking for ways to expand partnerships with parents, districts, community leaders, and legislators to join together as a community committed to deepening understanding and positively impacting NSSEO students and families. To learn more about how to make a difference visit us at [Make A Difference](#) as well as on our social media platforms:

Twitter

[@NSSEO\\_org](#)

Facebook

[@NSSEO](#)

Instagram

[NSSEO\\_org](#)