



NSSEO Governing Board Brief December 5, 2018

NSSEO Shining Stars: Two D214 Students from Miner School Recognized for Increased Independent Skills



The NSSEO Governing Board recognized two District 214 students attending Miner School, Jaheim Tantiah, high school student, and Dennis Bak, Connection Center student, for their increased independence in life skills across their school day. The Board heard from their teachers and the students shared how they have increased their abilities to complete complex tasks without adult support.

As an important life skill, NSSEO's goals reflect a focus on targeted growth and increased independence across academic, social-emotional and life areas. NSSEO staff utilize a range of customized instructional strategies to promote greater engagement and person-centered levels of independence across educational environments. This year at Miner School, there is a school-wide initiative focused on increasing levels of independence for all students across functional tasks. A systemic, prompt-hierarchy has been implemented across levels and classrooms which provides important growth measures and revisions to advance independent progress.

Prompting is defined as an antecedent that induces a person to perform a behavior that otherwise does not occur. There are multiple levels of prompting to support students

that vary in level of intensiveness. Some students may require hand-over-hand support to complete a task, while other students may need a verbal statement or gesture to complete a task. With increased independence as an indicator, Miner School and other programs support students with the least to the most intensive approach, based on individual needs. Aligned to a person-centered philosophy, students approach learning with as much autonomy and independence as appropriate to positively influence their progress.

Jaheim and Dennis showed their hard work and commitment to learning new tasks and completing them independently. They spoke about the supports in place and how they learn best. Both young men showed photos and videos of their success and also shared data that showed their progress toward their goals of independence.

Continuous Improvement Plan, Goal 1: Foster Development, Ongoing Growth and Positive Outcomes for All Students

At each NSSEO Governing Board meeting, one of the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) goals is emphasized and updated with a specific growth area. The NSSEO CIP for the 2018-2019 school year includes dashboard indicators aligned to each objective. The dashboard indicators are intended to provide measures of growth in a range of areas matched to organizational goals. This month's focus was CIP Goal 1: Foster development, ongoing growth and positive outcomes for all students. Mr. Erik Brekke, Program Administrator at Miner School, along with Ms. Alison Dauernheim, Assistant Principal, reported on progress toward the dashboard indicator of Student Independence.

Many of the students served at Miner School display deficits in areas of executive functioning, defined by the ability to initiate a task, remain attentive to a task and/or to process and organize information. As a result, many students demonstrate a learned dependency on external adult prompting and support to complete a task, which inhibits skill generalization and overall independence. Through the adoption of a standardized approach to prompting, Miner has put both student independence and staff professional learning at the forefront of programming. This commitment has resulted in an evidence-based approach to supporting student behavior and engagement across the school day, reinforced by data collection and analysis. Professional Learning for staff throughout the Fall has focused on development of the prompt hierarchy, an expectation of range of supports for students, reducing the overall number of prompts that students receive, ongoing review of supports, and a consistency of approach throughout the school.



Mr. Brekke and Ms. Dauernheim outlined their plan for the remainder of 2018-2019 to intensify the focus on the effective use of the prompt hierarchy and enhance independence to guide positive life plans for students.

NSSEO Foundation Raises over 37k for Programs and Services at the 50th Bash!



NSSEO Foundation President, Ms. Sandy Neumann and Mr. Jim Platt, Foundation Director, shared the 50th Bash Fundraising event grand total of just over **\$37,000**. The funds will be used to support the four identified projects at NSSEO. First, the purchase of an accessible lift van for transportation to employment opportunities as well as to community based instruction activities that will allow students the opportunity to generalize the skills they learn in school to real-life applications within the community. Sensory rooms will be updated to provide an exceptional sensory array of supports to teach and support the proactive sensory needs of students within Kirk, Miner and Timber Ridge Schools. A greenhouse will be built to provide opportunities to teach job development and vocational opportunities in the area of horticulture. The greenhouse will also allow students to explore horticulture recreationally as well as realizing the therapeutic benefits of gardening. PERC will use the additional funds earmarked to host additional speakers and presenters who focus their parent forums on the major life domains of post-secondary education, independent living skills, and employment.

Click [here](#) to watch a recap of the 50th Bash. A sincere thank you again to each and every Board Member, Community member, staff and family member that made the 50th Bash such an incredible success. Here's to another 50 years!

Spirit of Giving

It's the Holiday season and in the spirit of giving, Central Office is sponsoring three NSSEO families this year; a family from River Trails Middle School, Kirk and Miner Schools. If you are interested in donating, please [click here to donate](#). We ask you bring the gift to the NSSEO Central Office by the end of the day on Monday, December 17th. We will wrap the gifts on Tuesday and deliver to the families on Wednesday. Your generosity and caring will truly be making a difference in the lives of these families this holiday season!

Upcoming NSSEO Events:

Winter Break

NSSEO Governing Board Meeting

Winter Wonderland

December 22-January 7

January 9

February 2 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Please click [here](#) to show your support to NSSEO

