



NSSEO Governing Board Brief

May 1, 2019

NSSEO May Shining Star: Rayshawn Harris, Miner School student from RTD26

Rayshawn recently received the Infnitec Achievement Award at the Infnitec Banquet, which recognizes students for their outstanding communication growth and use of assistive technology to enhance their world. At the beginning of the year, Rayshawn required access to an array of communication modalities, along with significant adult support to communicate his wants and needs. Today, he is able to independently communicate using spoken words. Rayshawn's communication success began at home with his family and friends and then expanded to his school environment. He is actively engaged in conversations with peers and educators in a variety of settings. Rayshawn follows his schedule with increased independence and demonstrates expected behavior throughout his day.



Rayshawn's success was made possible by his determination and the steadfast support of his educational team at Miner. Rayshawn's team members at Miner who have contributed to Rayshawn's amazing growth include Maura Kramer, Speech and Language Pathologist, Amy Disch, Special Education Teacher and Christi Gilbertson, Assistive Technology Facilitator. Rayshawn's success was recognized as the May Shining Star by the NSSEO Governing Board and as his picture captures his appreciation. We know he will continue to grow and succeed as a determined student with big goals for his future.

Continuous Improvement Plan, Goal 4: Collaborative Partnerships

The Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) goal highlighted in May at the NSSEO Governing Board meeting and aligned to a customized dashboard indicators is Goal 4, Collaborative Partnerships. This goal emphasizes the focus on further advancing our partnerships to deepen efforts and influence change that contributes to greater student growth and success in adulthood. Ms. Molly Dunne, Coordinator of Satellite Program and Services, Ms. Christine Pasquesi, Assistant Principal at Kirk School, Ms. Nancy Milne, Assistant Principal at Timber Ridge and Ms. Krista Paul, Assistant Director of Career and Technical Education at District 214, shared a growing collaborative partnership between D214 and NSSEO. This evolving collaboration is an extension of the Community High School District 214 Educator Prep Program that provides courses, experiences and opportunities for high school students to learn and experience opportunities that develop greater awareness and future growth in the educational field. This D214/NSSEO collaboration has great potential to attract young adults into the profession of special education, supported by research, college students gravitate towards professions where they have had positive experiences in their lives. The next chapter of the work involves expanded education of District 214 high school students

regarding the various roles in special education. These future educators will be exposed to the full continuum of job placement options through various opportunities within NSSEO schools and programs. The student speaker at the recent D214 Educator Prep program celebration in its fourth year was a young lady who highlighted her recent experiences at Kirk School and her future interest in pursuing the profession of speech and language pathology. While these future educators will gain invaluable experiences as they pursue their future careers, there are reciprocal benefits for all involved. The benefits of this partnership is multi-faceted; District 214 high school students are provided the opportunity of credited experiences in their identified field of interest, students in NSSEO classrooms receive the advantage of building relationships with high school role models, all while building a deeper pool of future educators at a critical time in public education. NSSEO and District 214 are excited to expand this positive partnership with the mutual goal to attract and recruit future educators into an incredibly rewarding and impactful career.

Recognition of Outstanding NSSEO Partners:



NSSEO is fortunate to partner with dedicated and supportive stakeholders. NSSEO member district leaders of special services and NSSEO Governing Board Members are engaged and supportive in advancing the growth and evolution of NSSEO, providing input and sharing ideas that foster continued growth. The commitment and passion our district leaders and Governing Board Members share leaves a lasting imprint on NSSEO. At the May Board Meeting, Superintendent Judy Hackett expressed gratitude to two dedicated partners for the important roles they played in NSSEO's continued success. Dr. Miriam Cutler, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services in River Trails School District 26, is retiring this June after a dedicated career spanning over 13 years. Miriam's compassion for students, her

collaboration and appreciation of the relationships and supports across NSSEO and member districts, coupled with her sense of humor and student-centered focus will be greatly missed. Dr. Hackett surprised Miriam with a special recognition, and D26 Board President Frank Fiarito and fellow Board member Robert Rogstad joined in the celebration. Miriam was presented with a student-created picture and well wishes.



Mrs. Alva Kreutzer, D214 Board member and also serving on NSSEO's Board was recognized for her wonderful contributions to NSSEO. Alva has been an active member of the NSSEO Governing Board for the past two years and was recognized by Dr. Hackett for her enthusiasm, compassion and engagement in the Board role that supports students, families and staff. Hershey High School students from the NSSEO Deaf/Hard of Hearing program designed a very special piece of artwork for Alva that symbolizes in sign language gratitude for her contributions. Alva assisted in the onboarding and induction of the newly seated District 214 Board member, Mrs. Millie Palmer, who will begin her term on the NSSEO Governing Board next month.

Hersey High School Deaf Academic Bowl Winners!



The Hersey High School Deaf Team took first place in the National Deaf Academic Bowl this year! Hersey High School NSSEO Deaf/Hard of Hearing

team were champions, over 20 teams across the country that competed at Gallaudet University. The Hersey D/HH team was the only three person team to win the National Championship in the history of the event. The winning team is an amazing trio that included Sergio Cortes, Winter Ly and Yael Lengua. They demonstrated skill, courage and focus under immense pressure and won despite the odds. The students shared their trophies and also their heartfelt appreciation of a truly life-changing experience. They thanked the NSSEO Foundation, represented by NSSEO Foundation President, Ms. Sandy Neumann and Vice President, Ms. Cindy Marcinkowski. The Foundation has continued to fund the trip for the team for the past several years, supporting their goal to win the championship. The pride and sense of accomplishment and growth was shared by all who contributed to this amazing success. Congratulations to Sergio, Winter and Yael and for what determination, courageous and tenacity looks like in action.



NSSEO FY 20 Budget:

Ms. Julie Jilek, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services led the NSSEO Governing Board through a review of the amended 2018-2019 NSSEO Budget and the details and process of the proposed 2019-2020 Budget. A Public Hearing was held, after which the Board voted unanimously to transmit the Amended 2018-2019 NSSEO Budget and the proposed 2019-2020 NSSEO Budget to member districts for their review and action. A directed vote on both the amended Budget and the proposed 2019-2020 Budget will take place at the upcoming June 26th NSSEO Governing Board Meeting.

Upcoming NSSEO Events:

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| 5/19 - 1:00 pm | Walk & Wheel-A-Thon @ Kirk |
| 5/20 TBD | PBIS Student Celebration @ Kirk |
| 5/28 - 7:00 pm | Timber Ridge Graduation |
| 5/29 - 7:00 pm | Kirk High School & Transition Graduation |
| 5/30 - 1:00 pm | Kirk Jr High Graduation |
| 5/30 - 7:00 pm | Miner Graduation |
| 6/8 - 9:30 am | Timber Ridge Golf Outing |

Making a Difference:

NSSEO is actively engaging in efforts to expand partnerships with parents, district and community leaders and legislators to join together as a community committed to deepening understanding and positive impact for NSSEO students and families. To learn more about how to you make a difference visit us at <http://www.nsseo.org/MAKEADIFFERENCE/> as well as on our social media platforms:

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