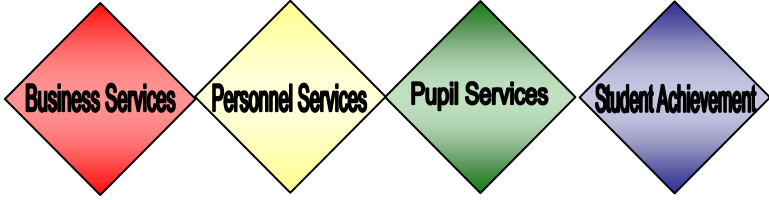




# School District of New London



## MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: August, 2011

### Grant for Advanced Placement (AP):

Although reduced, the state still had dollars appropriated for the expansion of Advanced Placement offerings to serve as an incentive for districts to offer new or additional AP classes. Even though we have previously offered a class titled AP Chemistry, the duration of this course never exceeded one semester. This past year we were thankful that we were able to offer AP Chemistry for the full year. Due to the increase in time and commitment to AP testing we were allowed to apply for a grant, and we were recently awarded a check in the amount of \$714.15 to acknowledge this increase. We are thankful for any award that provides additional funds for programming.

### Fellowship Experience:

High school bilingual teacher, Lori Menning, recently returned from New York after being selected to participate for a fellowship in the Holocaust Education Seminar along with 24 other secondary teachers throughout the country. Her ten-day stay at Columbia University allowed exposure to strategies that engage students with difficult topics such as prejudice and how writing, dialogue, and inquiry can help to move us toward action. While the focus was on the Holocaust, attention was also given to more recent genocides.

We are working to pilot three-week integration projects with Lori and several other teachers in the upcoming school year. The content and strategies that Ms. Menning will be able to share enhances our efforts to provide relevant learning experiences for our students.

### ESEA Allocations:

Federal allocations were recently assigned which allow us to start working on the district's Consolidated Plan. This funds the majority of our Title I program, mentor coordinators, coaching, and other professional development opportunities directly linked to our needs assessment and district's strategic plan. The Plan and budgets will be submitted by August 30.

### Mark Your Calendars:

Project Lead the Way's (PLTW) summer Gateway Academy Camp will take place the week of Monday, August 8 at the middle school. The School District of New London, in partnership with the Outagamie County Extension, presents this opportunity to 24 middle school students. This project-based experience is designed to help middle school students learn the fundamentals of advanced math, science, and technology, but they don't realize that...they just have a lot of fun participating in sessions such as LEGO Robotics, Windmills, Rockets, Operation Smile (design a toy), and Suspension Bridges.

Campers offer an Open House to families and the community on Thursday, August 11 from 1:00-3:00. Students provide presentations at 2:00. We welcome anyone interested in learning more about PLTW to join the group at this time.



### Data Retreats:

District Data Retreats are taking on a new look this year. Retreats are specific to each building. Building goals are reviewed and data are analyzed to identify strengths and concerns in the work that is being carried out. Specific needs are prioritized for the purpose of maintaining focus to building and district-wide goals. Several schools have already conducted their retreats and are working to ensure staff, schedules, space and resources are available to meet the needs that have been identified as we update School Improvement Plans for the 2011-12 school year.