

February 2019



# SHESC Tidbits

## SMOKY HILL ADVENTURE PROGRAM

When Commissioner Randy Watson asked “What are the skills, attributes and characteristics of a successful 24 year old Kansan?” at the community conversations in 2015, overwhelmingly participants answered non-academic skills. Those non-academic skills included effective communication, teamwork, strong work-ethic, perseverance, self-discipline, and critical thinking. These skills identified as so essential that schools will now be responsible for measuring Social-Emotional Growth locally. Because of this it is imperative that we give students as many opportunities as possible to get hands-on experience developing, struggling with, and reflecting upon these skills.

The Smoky Hill Adventure Program provides a perfect opportunity for individuals to practice and grow these skills through experiential learning. Experiential learning is a philosophy and methodology in which educators purposefully engage with learners in direct experience and focused reflection in order to increase knowledge, develop skills, and clarify values.

The program allows participants to be physically involved in a series of individual and group intellectual and physical challenges that support and enhance Social, Emotional, and Character Development skills as well as the Habits of the Mind. The challenges require a combination of teamwork skills, individual commitment, problem solving, goal setting, and emotional risk-taking. The program is designed around the Experiential Learning Cycle: Experience, Reflection, Generalization, and Application, as well as the following character traits: Responsibility, Respect, Trust & Commitment, Caring, and Encouragement.

Our program has a high and low ropes course located on the Fort Hays State University campus as well as portable adventure equipment that can be brought to a location. The high and low ropes course is available for 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, as well as staffs, sports teams, youth groups, community groups, and corporate groups. The portable equipment program can be designed for all age levels and groups. Both the ropes course and the portable program have accessible elements for individuals with disabilities.

This is an excellent opportunity for you and your group to experience something engaging, encouraging, constructive, and extremely educational. For more information on the Smoky Hill Adventure Program contact Noalee McDonald-Augustine at (785) 621-4414 or [nmcdonald@smokyhill.org](mailto:nmcdonald@smokyhill.org).



## **Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities!**

***Feb. 6 & 7—Responsibility Centered Discipline (Salina)***

***Feb. 8—Essential Conversations for IPS Success: Integrating Social-Emotional and Career Advising for Student Success (Salina)***

***Feb. 11—LETRS Module 2: Speech Sounds English: Phonics Phonology & Phoneme Awareness (Salina)***

***Feb. 12—LETRS Module 2: Speech Sounds English: Phonics Phonology & Phoneme Awareness (Hays)***

***Feb. 14—Outside Visitation Team Training (Hays)***

***Feb. 14—AAA Driver Improvement (Hays)***

***Feb. 19—Cultivating a Trauma-Sensitive Classroom at the Elementary (Salina)***

***Feb. 20—Cultivating a Trauma-Sensitive Classroom at the Elementary (Hays)***

***Feb. 21—Medic First Aid (Salina)***

***Feb. 22—Medic First Aid (Hays)***

***Feb. 26—Cultivating a Trauma-Sensitive Classroom at the MS/HS (Hays)***

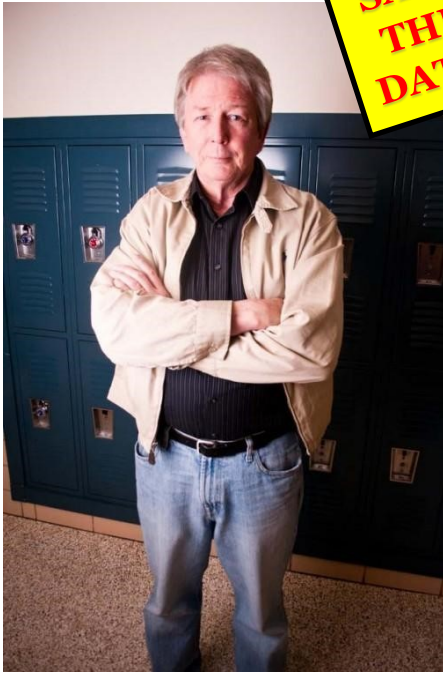
***Feb. 26—Painting the Post: Creating a Culture of Improvement (Salina)***

***Feb. 27—Technology Cadre (Hays & Salina, facilitators at both locations)***

***Feb. 27—AAA Driver Improvement (Salina)***

**Like us on Facebook! Smoky Hill Education Service Center**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**



## **DARRELL SCOTT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT OCTOBER 14, 2019**

Darrell Scott will be presenting to educators, mental health professionals, law enforcement officials, and community members on October 14th in Salina. Don't miss out on this opportunity to hear his moving message. Make plans to join us!

A few weeks after the Columbine tragedy, Darrell Scott, Rachel's father, spoke to a Congressional House Judiciary Committee regarding issues of school violence. His speech has become one of the most widely read documents on the internet. Shortly afterwards, he founded "Rachel's Challenge", a bullying and violence abatement program. More than two million students annually experience Rachel's Challenge and have the opportunity to accept the challenges, modeled after Rachel's life and writings.

**October 14, 2019  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Salina, KS**

Contact Diane at [dmann@smokyhill.org](mailto:dmann@smokyhill.org)  
or (785) 825-9185 for more information.

---

***"If you have to choose between being kind and being right,  
choose being kind and you'll always be right."***

---

### **Smoky Hill Volume Purchasing NEWS!**

Is your district needing to purchase science related items to stock your labs and science classrooms? Now is the time!

**SHESC has negotiated a 33% discount for all Frey Scientific products! The School Specialty and Frey Scientific products will now be combined into one "punch-out catalog" in the Volume Purchasing ESM system.**

**Watch for more details to come on this exciting venture!**



### **Essential Conversations for IPS Success: Integrating Social-Emotional and Career Advising for Student Success**

**February 8 - 8:30am—3:30 pm  
Smoky Hill Education Service Center, Salina**

Empowering an Individual Plan for Student learning is so much more than an online career interest survey starting in 8th grade. Individual learning plans begin with the earliest informal learning experiences of our children. Recognizing system capacity to support family, community and school capacity for individual student success is critical to planning!

Evaluating system capacity is critical to identify strengths and strengths to be!! It's important to connect information directed toward counselors and social workers so that integration of Social Emotional Learning is embedded within student experiences universally. With so much work to be done, we suggest bringing a team to share the load!

This one-day conference will host 4 essential conversations through workshops to support the success of the IPS in your schools. We will unearth connections between the individual plan of study (IPS) and social emotional learning (SEL) initiatives to expose opportunities to combine efforts when working with students, families and colleagues.

We encourage school districts to bring key leaders of the IPS and SEL initiatives. To register, email [register@smokyhill.org](mailto:register@smokyhill.org) or (785) 825-9185.