

October 2020

www.smokyhill.org

SHESC Messenger

Voting Especially Important for Educators

School funding levels, retirement accounts, student loans, and educational priorities are all influenced by your vote. Educators in particular have a personal stake in who represents them, from the White House to local school boards, especially when school health, safety, and security are critical issues under debate. In 2020, it is also critical to plan ahead, especially for those voting by mail. Use the checklist guide below to make sure your voice is heard on important issues!

2020 Voting Checklist

- ❑ **Registered?** Check at myvoteinfo.voteks.org to confirm correct address, party association, and polling location. If you are not listed, visit go.smokyhill.org/voter-registration, complete the form, and *mail* it (postmarked) by **October 13** to your county election officer, or register online at www.kdor.ks.gov/Apps/VoterReg by **October 13**.
- ❑ **Voting by mail?** Apply for an advance ballot with the form at go.smokyhill.org/advance-ballot. Send the application to your county to be *received* by **October 27**. Remember to sign it and include your Kansas driver's license or ID number, or a copy of another valid ID. Then, complete the ballot that will come to you in the mail and return it to the county to be *received* by **12 p.m. on November 2**.
- ❑ **Voting in person?** Check your polling location and hours in advance and ensure you have a current, valid ID. Allow extra time to vote on **November 3** and be prepared for poor weather, as social distancing requirements and long lines may mean waiting outside. Wear a face mask over your mouth and nose and practice good hand hygiene.

Professional Development Supports Health Science Pathway

According to the most recent employment projections from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Healthcare occupations and those associated with healthcare (including mental health) account for 13 of the 30 fastest growing occupations from 2019 to 2029."

In addition, all Kansas Workforce regions show a high demand in the healthcare field. With these facts in mind, the Smoky Hill ESC Perkins Consortium has set a goal to increase the number of districts in the consortium offering the Health Science Pathway from 15, currently, to all 44 SHESC consortium districts during the 2020-2024 grant period. To support this goal, the service center will be offering several opportunities to assist all districts in successfully implementing a new Health Science Pathway or improving their existing Pathway.

- October 20: Adding the Health Science Pathway (virtual workshop)

- November 10: Using Vernier Sensors to Improve Learning in Anatomy and Physiology
- January 15: End-of-Pathway Assessments, Credentials and Certifications (virtual workshop)
- Spring 2021 (Date TBD): Hands-On Anatomy
- Spring 2021 (Date TBD): Developing a Work-Based Learning Model

Fifteen consortium districts will also receive a total of \$40,922 from the Perkins grant for supplies to be used for required courses in the Health Science Pathway. All 44 consortium districts will have access to virtual reality equipment with software to provide VR learning opportunities in Health Science courses.

Contact Pam Kraus, CTE Coordinator, at pkraus@smokyhill.org, for more information about how Smoky Hill ESC can support your district in creating opportunities for your students in the high-demand healthcare occupations.



Professional Learning Opportunities!

September 28 - October 1 (Zoom)
Project-Based Learning

October 1 (Zoom)
CHAMPS

October 5 (Zoom)
Book Study: Scarcity

October 6 (Zoom)
SECD Support Cadre

October 7, 21, and 28 (Zoom)
Book Study: Visible Learning

October 8 (Zoom)
Chronic Absenteeism: Defining, Tracking, and Intervening

October 12 (Zoom)
Principal Council Meeting

October 15 (Zoom)
Engaging Every Family

October 15 (Zoom)
Introduction to the Mathematics Teaching Practices

October 19 (Zoom)
Navigating Text Complexity: Eliminating the Knowledge Gap

October 19 (Zoom)
Understanding Dyslexia

October 20 (Zoom)
Adding the Health Science Pathway

October 20 (Zoom)
Introduction to the Mathematical Shifts (Focus, Coherence, and Rigor) of the Mathematics Standards

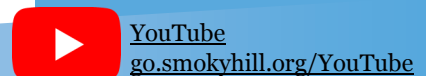
October 20 (Zoom)
Book Study: Emotional Poverty in All Demographics

October 22 (Zoom)
Book Study: The Trauma-Sensitive Classroom

October 22 (Zoom)
Project-Based Learning

October 28 (Zoom)
Tech Cadre

VISIT: go.smokyhill.org/register
for more information and to register for these events.



Beat High Lumber Prices With Volume Purchasing

The National Association of Home Builders recently reported an increase in lumber prices of more than 170% since mid-April.

With this dramatic increase, shop teachers and leaders on school construction projects are looking at the prospect of a huge strain on their budgets. That is, of course, unless they participate in the volume purchasing program at Smoky Hill ESC.

Shortages and increased costs on lumber have resulted from an increased demand nationwide for new housing, negative COVID-19 effects on supply lines, and widespread forest fires on the west coast. However, those who shop the SHESC volume purchasing lumber catalog - featuring products from Liberty Hardwoods - benefit from substantial discounts off retail cost at locked-in prices.

The great news is that you can still join the program at any time, even if your organization isn't using it currently. Any educational, governmental, and



non-profit organization can order through SHESC volume purchasing, regardless of membership status.

Learn more about the program at go.smokyhill.org/vp and contact Adam Pracht, Volume Purchasing Coordinator, at vp@smokyhill.org to sign up for the program today!



YWCA Honors Principals

Congratulations to Meg Wilson, Assistant Principal at Lawrence Gardner High School in Topeka, named a Selected Honoree for the 32nd Annual YWCA Women of Excellence Awards!



Meg Wilson

Mary McDonald, LGHS Principal was also an Honoree for the awards!



Mary McDonald

Smoky Hill Education Service Center provides education programming and operates LGHS.

Watch the full ceremony at go.smokyhill.org/ywcawoe.

Buildings Reopening

Both the Salina and Hays office buildings have reopened with COVID-19 precautions by appointment and for events pre-scheduled with SHESC.

Guests must wear a face mask, take their temperatures at the door, practice physical distancing of six feet or more, and use good hand hygiene.

"Education does not change the world. Education changes people. People change the world."

-Paulo Freire, Brazilian educator and philosopher

Thank You!

All of you have inspired us as Smoky Hill Education Service Center staff in 2020, which has been a difficult and challenging year for everyone.

We just want to take a moment to say THANK YOU! for everything that you are doing to safely reopen your schools successfully this fall. We are filled with pride to see you rise to the challenges and prove that Kansas educators are amazing.

Whether you are teaching, working in a support position, or leading the way as an administrator, your work is essential and valuable as you transform students' lives every day.

Please reach out and let us know how we can help. Call 785-825-9185 or email info@smokyhill.org to connect with the best person for your need.

Anti-Bullying Awareness Week Starts October 5

The Kansas State Board of Education has named the week of October 5 "Anti-Bullying Awareness Week" and encourages schools and districts to mark the week with opportunities to educate students and staff.

Schools are encouraged to move the week, however, to best fit local schedules, as well as planning follow-up events throughout the school year.

KSDE has assembled a large number of useful resources accessible from go.smokyhill.org/anti-bullying-week to start the conversation and inspire special events.

SHESC can also support anti-bullying efforts for districts with discounts through our partner STOPit Solutions. This premier safety and bullying reporting solutions is geared for school reporting through a mobile app,

website and hotline. Learn more and get a free demo at go.smokyhill.org/stopit. Noalee McDonald Augustine, Education Consultant, is also able to provide customized anti-bullying services. Learn more at go.smokyhill.org/anti-bullying.

