



From the President

Pam Knauer

Hitting the Ground Running This Year

Welcome back! I hope you have had a great start to the school year. If the start of my year is any indication, I am sure everything is moving at lightning speed in your world. There are many changes facing Georgia educators this year. Between CCRPI, RTI, and CCGPS, it is difficult to keep the acronyms straight! As far as social studies is concerned, we have a stake in all three of these initiatives.

The CCRPI (College and Career Ready Performance Index) will be the new way Georgia school systems will be evaluated and schools will be rated. This index will replace AYP. In our social studies world, CRCT scores in grades 3-8 and EOCT scores in Economics and US History will be calculated as part of the CCRPI.

Response to Intervention (RTI) expects our Tier 1 classrooms to be standards-based. Social studies classrooms are the perfect place to implement standards-based strategies to meet the needs of our students.

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VOTING: Practicing What We Preach

Every day we educate our students to become politically informed and active citizens. We take pains to bring current events and constitutional issues into our classrooms, and illuminate the relevance of larger events in the community, state, nation, and world for our students. This past year, we have watched with hope and horror as young citizens in countries long lacking in the right to express their political beliefs and vote for their leaders made some cautious steps forward at great personal cost. In our history classes we explore painful chapters of our country's past marked by the struggle of different groups of people to gain the precious right to vote.

So you would think that social studies teachers, above all, would "practice what we preach" by making our voices heard in the voting booth each and every time we have the opportunity. You can be the ultimate role model of active citizenship for your students by voting. This year, as GCSS members, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to vote for GCSS board member and president elect positions.

- GCSS board candidates are **Jennifer Dawson** and **Ed Flowers**
- GCSS President elect candidates are **Debbie Daniell** and **Debbie Kelly**

Find out more about these fine nominees in their candidate statements at www.gcss.net. Members will receive an e-mail soon from Executive Director Eddie Bennett with online voting instructions.

On the topic of voting, did you know you can still register to vote in the November 6 general election? The deadline is October 8, 2012. See details at the Georgia Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sos.ga.gov/elections/default.htm>



(From the President, from pg. 1)

Common Core Georgia Performance Standards in Literacy for History/Social Studies will be implemented in 6-12 social studies classrooms across the state. In grades K-5, literacy standards are embedded in the ELA/Reading CCGPS standards. **SOCIAL STUDIES CONTENT STANDARDS HAVE NOT CHANGED; we're still teaching the GPS.** The literacy standards will provide more opportunities for our students to read and write like historians, which should be the ultimate goal for our students.

The Georgia Council for the Social Studies Conference to be held in Athens on October 25 and 26 will provide a wealth of resources to assist social studies educators as we implement these initiatives. The conference brochure can be accessed through the GCSS website at <http://www.gcss.net/annualconference.htm>. Take a look and see what the conference can offer you. There will be a wide range of sessions offered for teachers at every grade level, pre-service teachers, and university personnel. The keynote speakers will speak on important topics affecting social studies educators. I hope to see you in Athens!

As social studies educators, we now have the opportunity to make social studies instruction important in our schools. Social studies does matter! We have always known it has mattered, but now everyone will know. I am excited and proud to be a social studies educator in Georgia and I hope you are, too!



Dr. Diana Hess,
Friday's GCSS Conference
Keynote Speaker



The keynote topic on Friday, Oct. 26, could not be more timely. Coming to us from the Spencer Foundation, Dr. Diana Hess will talk about "The Political Classroom: Exploring the Power and Challenges of Teaching Young People about Political Engagement."

Dr. Hess has researched civic education and strategies for engaging students in discussions on controversial political and constitutional issues to promote deep learning. Her book, *Controversy in the Classroom: the Democratic Power of Discussion*, was awarded the National Council for Social Studies Exemplary Research Award in 2009.

Dr. Hess appears at the GCSS conference thanks to the sponsorship of the Mary Hepburn Lectureship Series at the University of Georgia. You won't want to miss this very special address on Friday morning in the Athena Ballroom at 9:10 AM.

The 2012 GCSS Conference
"Invest in Civic Energy -
It's Renewable": News for
Members

Make your plans now to be in Athens, October 25-26, for an invigorating and exciting conference.

As you may recall from the previous issue of *News & Notes*, the conference theme, "Invest in Civic Energy - It's Renewable," comes to us from Sarah Guy. The phrase captures perfectly the message of this year's conference.

GCSS members should have received their copy of the Annual State Conference Program by mail, and it is also available on the website at www.gcss.net. Note that you can now pay your conference registration online. While you are on the site, download and complete the registration form to mail in.

Members should already have received the 2012 Election CD by mail. The CD, edited by Glen Blankenship, features a wealth of lessons for all grade levels on teaching about the election. A form for ordering additional copies of the CD may be found online at the GCSS site.



TEACHER NEWS

RESOURCES YOU MAY FIND USEFUL:

☀ At www.gcss.net find a link to the Georgia Studies Images website, a resource that 8th grade teachers will not want to miss. Over 200 images related to Prehistoric Indians and European Exploration have been added recently. Check them out!

☀ The Funk Heritage Center located at Reinhardt College in Ringgold, Georgia, has several learning opportunities for teachers and students this Fall. Find out more at <http://www.reinhardt.edu/funkheritage/>

☀ The Program for Teaching East Asia at the University of Colorado/Boulder offers online courses on teaching about China and Japan to teachers nationwide. You can find details at <http://www.colorado.edu/cas/tea>

☀ Scenes from GCSS Conference 2011



NOMINATE A GWEN HUTCHESON

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR

REMEMBER OUR RECENT AWARD WINNERS?

2009: MELISA JEFFERS,
BETSEY KENNEDY & CATHY POWELL



2010: MINDY LEWIS & JANET NORMAN



2011: NINA KENDALL



2012: ???

WHOSE PICTURE WILL BE HERE FOR 2012?

Nominate an outstanding educator before Sept. 16, 2012! Award Guidelines may be found at www.gcss.net under the "Awards" link.

Mark Your Calendar

🌐 **GCSS Conference** – this year’s theme is *Invest in Civic Energy - It’s Renewable* and the conference is **October 25-26**, at the Classic Center in Athens, GA. More details at www.gcass.net

🌐 **NCSS Conference, November 16-18, 2012** - this year’s theme is *Opening Windows to the World* in Seattle, WA. More details at www.ncss.org

🌐 **Nominate an outstanding educator or an excellent social studies program for a GCSS Award** - Each year GCSS recognizes individual educators as Gwen Hutcheson Outstanding Educators as well as honoring Programs of Excellence from throughout the state. For nomination forms, go to: www.gcass.net/awards.htm Deadline for nominations is September 16, 2012.

Teacher opportunities:

🌐 For more information from the Georgia DOE on the NCLB waiver or the College and Career Ready Index, go to: <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Pages/NCLB-Waiver.aspx>

🌐 *Georgia Social Studies Journal* - The current issue can be found at www.coe.uga.edu/gssj/current-issue/

🌐 Become more active this year:

- 🌐 Participate in this year’s Social Studies Fair.
- 🌐 Attend the GCSS conference.
- 🌐 Become a more active GCSS member and recruit new members.
- 🌐 Send in news or ideas for *News & Notes*.

Need to contact GCSS? Please notify Eddie Bennett of changes in contact information at gcass1964@gmail.com or send notice to P.O. Box 675, Avondale Estates, GA 30002



News & Notes is published three times a year. Announcements and information should be sent to JoAnn Wood, Editor, Cobb County Schools, 514 Glover St., Marietta, GA 30060, or e-mail: joann.wood@cobbk12.org

