

Greetings from the Classic City!

It is not often the GCSS President is a proud citizen of Athens, GA but after eighteen years in this fine city, I could not envision a better place to convene Georgia's social studies educators!

Each October, we have our own version of the Fall Classic, as we come together for the GCSS annual conference, on October 11 and 12, at the Classic Center, here in Athens. Our theme this year, *1918 -> 1968 -> 2018, A Century of Conflict and Change*, is designed to address the century of change and conflict we have encountered from the end of the first world war in 1918 to the explosive year that was 1968, to our present year of continued change, 2018.

As I have traveled around the United States and collaborated with not only the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), but also the other state councils, it is apparent our conference has become the benchmark for success. Last year, over 700 attendees from around the state participated in one of the best conferences we have ever had! This year, we will offer almost 120 different sessions geared to meet the needs of social studies educators from pre-school to elementary, from middle to high, and even at the university level!

We have the great fortune of being joined by keynote speaker, Mr. David Palmer, who is a social studies teacher in Cherry Creek, Colorado and will be speaking about *Thinking Through the Lens of Social Studies*. He is a nationally recognized teacher, writer, and speaker. In addition, the Mary Hepburn Lecturer is Dr. Sarah McGrew, Co-Director of the Civic Online Reasoning Project of the Stanford Education Group. Two great keynotes in one great conference!

If you enjoy celebrating the success of your colleagues, we host an Awards luncheon each year, nominated by the social studies field. We meet to not only honor present educators but the pioneers who blazed the trail before us as our Educator of the Year and Teacher of Promise Awards are named for Gwen Hutcheson and June Bryant, two long-time GCSS stalwarts who are an important part of our history.

As we continue into our second year of the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE), we also present the opportunity to interact and attend sessions with the authors of the GSE standards, as well as members of the Georgia Department of Education. These sessions have been a pleasant addition to our conference for the previous two years and we are pleased to offer them again.

Finally, we have an outstanding Exhibition Hall, where many different vendors come to share their expertise and products with us. Last year, we moved to the beautiful atrium and this proved to be a rousing success.

Please consider attending for the information you can gain, the camaraderie amongst colleagues of the social studies field, and the chance to be a part of one of the best conferences in the state of Georgia!

Hope to see you there!

David T. Kendrick
President
Georgia Council for the Social Studies