



Committee Report

PROJECT NAME: Digital Learning, Distance Learning, and Remote Learning

PROJECT DIRECTOR: Andrew Easton

REPORT PERIOD: October 2022

COMMITTEE REPORT: DIGITAL LEARNING COORDINATOR

Blended Learning/Personalized Professional Development Support

- Conversations are underway regarding future iterations of the Social Studies Special Project.
 - It is anticipated that NDE will provide funding to support this work in the summer of 2023.

- **The Blended Learning Workgroup** has made several significant revisions to its purpose statements and collective efforts for 2022-2023
 - The 4 Purpose Statements for the Blended Learning Workgroup
 - (1) Collaborate and communicate to align initiatives and learning between the PDO affiliates.
 - (2) Identify projects that group members can support with agreed-upon goals.
 - (3) Support teachers in best practices of lesson design with a focus on content, pedagogy, and technology.
 - (4) Extend the professional learning and network reach of group members.
 - **To Address Purpose Statements 1 & 2 (Rule 89)**
 - The Blended Learning Workgroup will discuss and reference the [22-23 SDA Needs Assessment](#) when considering trainings, special projects, etc.
 - SDA has offered the Blended Learning Work Group the chance to host the SDA Connect Session on **October 25th, 2022** (Mark your calendars! 🥳❤️)
 - SDA invited Blended Learning Leadership to the October 25th SDA Strategists Meeting to look for additional opportunities to work together (and the 2023-2024 Needs Assessment results)
 - **To Address Purpose Statements 3 & 4**
 - The What's N.E.X.T. with Blended Learning live show began on September 27th, 2022 with Jody Bauer (ESU 11), Craig Hicks (ESU 13), and Peg Coover (ESU 10)



- [Here's the link to the first episode.](#)
 - The first episode focused on the history of blended learning efforts in the state.
 - The group agreed to highlight distance learning *next* :)
- **The Digital Citizenship Symposium** leadership has had several meetings as that group looks to retool and once again engage learners across the state in this conversation. Heather Callihan at ESU 18 created a video that I will be revising and adding graphics to enhance that resource in support.
 - Conversations with Brooke Kavan and Kristen Slechta are ongoing regarding **#SocialPD Stories** and revamping how those are shared.

Collaborations

- Conversations regarding the **Future Ready Nebraska 2023 Conference** are quiet for the moment, though Dorann Avey, Nick Ziegler, and I have been in preliminary discussions about it.
- Connected **the NDE SEED Team** with [our recent podcast guest, Allyson Apsey](#)
- Met with Diane Wolfe to learn more about the various grant-funded initiatives taking place at ESU 2.
- **Scheduled a series of live shows to bring awareness around the 2023 legislative session.**
- Recorded content for ESU 7's "Welcome to ESU 7" video for new hires.
- Met with leadership from the **Buffet Early Childhood Foundation**. We are planning on recording a podcast about their Pre-K to K transition tools.
- Met with Deb Paulman and Jim Short of the Carnegie Corporation of New York to discuss how to support HQIM implementation
- Met with [Iowa's AEA Learning Online](#) team to learn more about the work they are doing with online course content and to look for opportunities for Nebraska/Iowa collaborations.
 - I have a follow-up scheduled to continue this dialogue.

Distance Learning, NVIS, and VFT

- The Number of Districts Participating in Distance Learning...
 - 2019-2020: 88 Districts & ESUs
 - 2020-2021: 95 Districts & ESUs
 - 2021-2022: 104 Districts & ESUs
- Progress on the NVIS update continues through Scott Isaacson and our programming team

- Distance Learning conversations have been at the forefront of the present efforts.
- DL Conclusions (at the Moment)
 - (1) Additional communication efforts need to be made
 - **Scheduled time to share with ESU 2 school leaders**
 - (2) Synchronous (Live) Connections with a teacher/instructor are preferred
 - (A) Distance Learning Centers (or Hubs) are working
 - (B) Broadly there is not an interest in creating new hubs
 - (C) School-to-School agreements prevent normalizing how DL is funded
 - (3) Asynchronous (and Synchronous-Lite) options are abundant. Do we want to partner with a tech company to provide these learning opportunities? (Keeping in mind the Rule 10 limitations)
 - (4) Teacher shortages and LB 1112 will drive interest in these alternatives and there are entities looking to step in and fill that space
- Created a [DL one-pager that communicates the primary talking points of DL](#) at the moment.
- Visited Senator Walz office to meet with her legislative researcher and discuss DL (with Kraig Lofquist)
- Met with a representative from Stride to discuss the asynchronous online learning options they provide.

Professional Development

- Attended NCSA's Educator Advocacy Academy

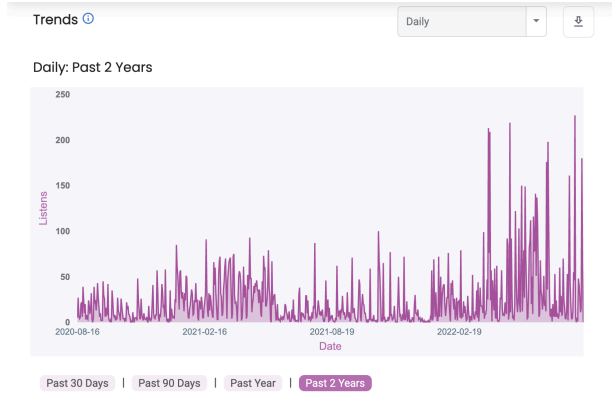
Professional Development Presentations

- None this month

Promotional Work

- Created 2 episodes of [The Good Life EDU](#) podcast
 - Shows:
 - **Episode 98:** ["Leading the Whole Teacher"](#), Allyson Apsey
 - **Episode 97:** [Supporting Nebraska's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Their Families](#), Darsha Pelland and Nebraska's Six Regional Program Coordinators for Special Education
 - Podcast Data
 - Averaging over 72 downloads per new episode (first 7 days) places you in the top 25% of all podcasts ([Source](#))
 - **The Good Life EDU Averages around 81 Downloads**
 - The average length of a download listen is 65% ([Source](#))
 - **The Good Life EDU Averages around 75%-82 Listen Rate**

Downloads of The Good Life EDU Podcast over the past 2 years



***Just broke 19,000 total downloads since the show began**

- Created a [September ESU Review Post](#)
 - [August ESU Review Post](#)

- Invested in Twitter promotional efforts.
 - Twitter Followers

▪ September 1357 (+14)	Reach: 9K
▪ August 1343 (+19)	Reach: 8K
▪ July 1325 (+9)	Reach: 8.6K
▪ June 1316 (+13)	Reach: 10.7K
▪ May 1303 (+8)	Reach: 17.6K
▪ April 1295 (+1)	Reach: 8.9K
▪ March 1294 (+10)	Reach: 17.9K
▪ February 1284 (+12)	Reach: 23.4K
▪ January 1272 (+14)	Reach: 31.2K
2022	
▪ December: 1258 (+8)	Reach: 6,737
▪ November: 1250 (+14)	
▪ October: 1236 (+41)	
▪ September: 1195 (+71)	
▪ August: 1124 (+17)	
▪ July: 1107 (+34)	
▪ June: 1083 (+12)	
▪ May: 1071 (+70)	
▪ April: 1001 (+64) *Broke 1000 followers	
▪ March: 937 (+82)	
▪ February: 855 (+82)	
▪ January: 773 (+83)	
2021	
▪ December: 690 (+67)	

- Invested in Facebook promotional efforts.

- o Page Likes/Followers
 - September 546 (+6)
 - August 540 (+12)
 - July 528 (+10)
 - June 518 (+1)
 - May 517 (+5)
 - April 512 (+6)
 - March 506 (+3)
 - February 503 (+10)
 - January 493 (+4)
 - 2022**
 - December: 489 (+36)
 - November: 453 (+43)
 - October: 410 (+15)
 - September: 395 (+4)
 - August: 391 (+13)
 - July: 378 (+18)
 - June: 360 (+3)
 - May: 357 (+8)
 - April: 349 (+33)
 - March: 316 (+52)
 - February: 264 (+30)
 - January: 234 (+40)
 - 2021**
 - December: 194 (+7)