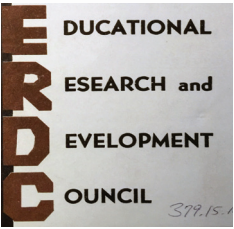




Down Through The Years



1966-67

The Southwest and West Central Educational Research and Development Council (SW and WC ERDC) was formally organized on May 23, 1966, following a series of meetings with interested educators in southwest and west central Minnesota who had expressed interest in cooperative programs among small schools in the area. These meetings began in Morris on June 14, 1965 – with the first annual meeting of the ERDC held on May 23, 1966. No incentive monies were used to form the organization – it was organized by superintendents who were willing to develop a dues structure that would create and support such an organization.

The SW and WC ERDC was a non-profit organization developed under a joint agreement of the schools involved. It was devoted exclusively to the development of education through research and cooperative action of schools and other related agencies.

The organization was founded on two basic principles:

- The governance of the organization must be vested in the member school districts themselves
- The programs and services offered must be responsive to the requests of the members

First Staff and Board of Directors

Dr. Charles Bruning, Acting Executive Secretary

Dr. Bruning was Chairman of the Division of Education at the University of Minnesota Morris.

William Scarborough, Assistant Executive Secretary

Mr. Scarborough received a University of Minnesota faculty appointment and joined the staff on September 1, 1966.

Mrs. Joyce Walters, Secretary

Staff were officed at the University of Minnesota-Morris.

The **Board of Directors** was comprised of superintendents of member schools:

Richard Baker, Canby

Alex Fisher, Fulda

L. A. Graves, Cyrus

B. L. Ailts, Danube

L. G. Blood, Benson

S. L. Held, Worthington

Jerome Webster, Windom

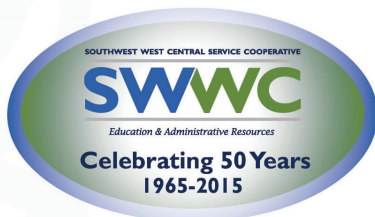
Abner Hegre, Buffalo Lake

R. B. Clay, Dawson

John Kleinsasser, Hoffman

First Members

Membership was open to any public or private school, within limited restrictions to the latter, or any institution of higher learning located in a twenty-some county area of Southwest and West Central Minnesota.



As of May 1966, the **original members** included: Adrian, Appleton, Balaton, Belview, Benson, Brandon, Buffalo Lake, Canby, Chandler, Chokio, Clarkfield, Comfrey, Cottonwood, Cyrus, Danube, Evansville, Fulda, Glenwood, Granite Falls, Herman, Hoffman, Jackson, Jasper, Jeffers, Kerkhoven, Lake Wilson, Lakefield, Lambertson, Luverne, Madison, Magnolia, Marshall, Milroy, Montevideo, Morgan, Morris, Odessa, Okabena, Olivia, Ortonville, Pipestone, Russell, Ruthton, Wabasso, Willmar, Windom and Worthington.

A Look Back ...

Did You Know?

No incentive monies were used to form the SW and WC ERDC. It was organized by superintendents willing to develop a dues structure to support the organization.

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP, April 1, 1967	
Adrian	Jeffers
Appleton	Kerkhoven
Balaton	Lakefield
Benson	Lake Wilson
Brandon	Lamberton
Buffalo Lake	Luverne
Canby	Madison
Chandler	Magnolia
Chokio	Marshall
Clarkfield	Milroy
Clinton	Montevideo
Comfrey	Morgan
Cottonwood	Morris
Cyrus	Mountain Lake
Danube	Odessa
Dawson	Okabena
Edgerton	Olivia
Evansville	Ortonville
Fulda	Pipestone
Glenwood	Russell
Graceville	Ruthton
Granite Falls	Sacred Heart
Hector	Sioux Valley
Herman	Wabasso
Heron Lake	Westbrook
Hoffman	Willmar
Ivanhoe	Windom
Jackson	Worthington

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP	
Diocese of Winona	Willmar Junior College
Southwest State College	Worthington Jr. College
University of Minn., Morris	

Membership expanded a year later. April 1967 members are listed at left.

First Year Activities

Planning and Training

- A planning grant from the federal Office of Health, Welfare and Education in February 1967 addressed further development of the ERDC and how to upgrade education in the ERDC's sphere of influence.
- A data communications workshop was held in Marshall in November 1966. The program and hardware were jointly provided the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company and the Pillsbury Company.
- Ninety-nine principals attended a two-day principal workshop in April 1967 at a Minneapolis motor hotel.
- A Title I Directors Workshop was held in May 1967 to help facilitate the writing of school district proposals.
- A two-day workshop was held for those teaching summer school and covered the areas of Remedial Reading, Remedial Mathematics, Adaptive Physical Education and Language Arts.
- A three-day seminar about current educational problems and philosophies was held for school administrators. The areas of study were: Education and Rural America, Educational Improvement through Reorganization, The School of the Future – Its Form and Function, Educational Improvement – Curriculum Development, Innovation and Reality – The New in Practice, The Financial and Economic Picture of SW and WC Minnesota, and Where Do We Go From Here? Funding was provided by the Upper Midwest Regional Educational Laboratory.
- Some 346 teachers participated in an in-service program about the disadvantaged child. Six sessions were taught by 12 master teachers. Sessions included: The Nature of the Disadvantaged Child, Teaching the Disadvantaged, Communicating with the Disadvantaged, Working with Parents of the Disadvantaged, Curriculum Problems and Trends, and a Summation. Teaching stations were located in Morris, Granite Falls, Lamberton and Chandler.

First Year Financials

Revenue and Expenses for the Year Ended May 1, 1967

Revenues: \$36,437

Expenses: \$26,977

Red River Valley Inter-Institutional Project

The ERDC's first "fiscal host" job.
The fee charged was a minimum of \$1,000.

First Membership Dues

According to the ERDC By-Laws dated March 1, 1966, school district membership dues were \$0.25 per student - with a minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$1,500.

Associate membership dues were offered for individuals and institutions. Individual dues were \$20 and institutions paid \$75.

Institutions of higher education paid a membership fee of \$100.

FOUR ANNUAL REPORTS PREPARED BY THE ERDC



1966-67 Membership Dues
25 cents per student

1967-68

Lines of Service

In-Service Education

Topics included: individualized instruction, science, mathematics, reading, guidance and psychological services and the application of data processing.

Microfilming Services

The ERDC purchased microfilming equipment to provide members with the opportunity to have any or all of their educational documents recorded on microfilm. (See image on page 5)

Supplemental Educational Service Centers

On July 1, 1967, with funds from the US Office of Education, an Educational Service Center was established in Willmar to serve schools in southwest and west central Minnesota. It became operational on August 16, 1967. There were 24 staff in the Willmar office.

Additional centers were opened in Morris on December 18, 1967 (with four staff) and in Windom on January 3, 1968 (with four staff).

Two other centers (Pipestone and Madison) were set to open during the summer of 1968.

Objectives of the Educational Service Centers:

1. To provide for early identification of potential school problems
2. To indicate the availability and utilization of services which were previously non-existent or in short supply in the area
3. To test, identify, analyze and correct reading problems, speech difficulties, hearing and sight difficulties and provide health services
4. To assist in the improvement of techniques of instruction as reflected in increased pupil performance and increased teacher productivity
5. To provide speakers upon request to local communities to discuss issues in education.

Services were provided to all members schools on a regular referral basis and included:

- psychological evaluations
- diagnostic and remedial reading
- curriculum consultation
- research
- social services (visiting teachers)
- speech correction
- counseling and guidance
- in-service workshops

Through April 1, 1968, over 1,200 students were seen for evaluation for psycho-educational services.

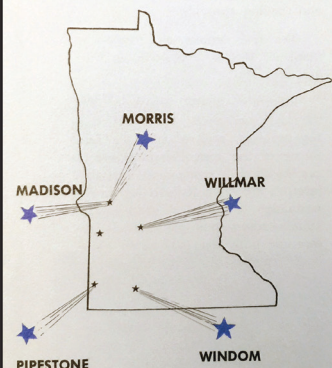
Note: The school nurse program was not well received (other nursing agencies were not happy with the infringement in their area and the larger schools employed their own nurses), so this program was curtailed.

Planning for Data Processing Procedures and Centers

In the Fall of 1967, a Data Processing Commission with personnel from member schools was appointed to study the feasibility of establishing data processing procedures and centers to serve member schools and to plan cooperative programs with members schools, area vocational schools, junior colleges and colleges in data processing and computer applications.

Southwest and West Central Educational Research and Development Council

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTERS



DR. LESTER W. EDENS, Director
BONDE BUILDING - 406 W. LITCHFIELD AVE.
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA 56201 PHONE 235-2064



Did You Know?

In the spring of 1968, the Southwest and West Central Educational Research and Development Center (ERDC) purchased microfilming equipment to provide members with the opportunity to have any or all of their educational documents recorded on microfilm.

The image at right is from an ad for a microfilmer that was popular in the 60s and 70s.



A Look Back ...

Members

- 82 public schools
- 9 associate members
- Service area: 21 counties
(approximately 15,000 square miles)

New Members as of April 1968:

Atwater
Belgrade
Bellingham
Belview
Brewster
Brooten
Cosmos
Eden Valley
Fairfax
Grove City
Hendricks
Maynard

Milan
Morton
Murdock
New London-Spicer
Raymond
Renville
Round Lake
Sanborn
Storden
Tracy
Tyler
Villard
Walnut Grove

Staff and Board Notes

The ERDC Constitution and By-Laws called for co-executive secretary offices to be located at the University of Minnesota-Morris and Southwest Minnesota State College in Marshall.

Dr. Richard Wollin, Co-Executive Secretary in Marshall

**Dr. Wollin was Chairman of the Division of Education at Southwest Minnesota State College.*

Dr. Charles Bruning, Co-Executive Secretary in Morris

Dr. Lester Edens, Director of the Educational Service Centers in Willmar

There were four staff in the Marshall office and four in Morris.

New to Board of Directors:

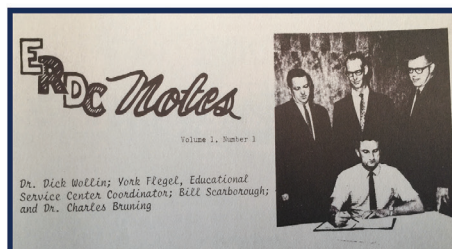
- E. Palmer Rockswold, Superintendent at Madison
- Victor Clark, Superintendent at Brooten
- R. M. Brynelson, Superintendent at Cottonwood



Did You Know?

The original newsletter of the Southwest and West Central Educational Research and Development Council was called **ERDC Notes**.

During the 1967-68 school year, it was published 6 times - and 3 times the following year. Over 5,000 copies were distributed each time!



1968-69

Lines of Service

In-Service Education

Topics included individualized instruction, social studies, flexible scheduling, development of visual perception, learning disabilities, planning for educational change, and data processing and computer services.

*Twenty-five principals attended a 3-day flexible scheduling workshop focused on team teaching, large and small group instruction, small independent study, open laboratories, staff utilization and modular schedules.

Staff and Board Notes

Dr. Charles Hanna, Co-Executive Secretary in Morris
Dave Lammers, Speech Therapist in Pipestone
Lester Martisko, Psychologist in Windom

New to Board of Directors:

- O. J. Miller, Superintendent at Morris
- Russell Lund, Superintendent at Clinton

Educational Service Centers

A multi-discipline approach was used at each of the five Educational Service Centers located in Madison, Morris, Pipestone, Willmar and Windom.

During the 1968-69 school year, the following positions were employed:

- 9 psychologists
- 10 speech correctionists
- 8 social workers
- 3 elementary counselors
- 5 reading consultants
- 3 curriculum personnel
- 2 research assistants
- clerical staff

Selling Services

The larger schools were interested in “breaking the package” to meet their needs. Some already had one or more of the discipline on staff and wished to avoid the promotion of duplication of services.

Staff and administration felt that services rendered in less than ½ day increments were not feasible or practical – so all services were viewed in terms of minimums of one-half day units.

Small schools found the “package” of services best met their needs.

Members

92 schools

New Members

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|----------|
| Echo | Elbow Lake | Franklin |
| Jasper | Lynd | Minneota |
| New Ulm Cathedral | Springfield | Tintah |
| Tyler | Verdi | Wheaton |

Youngsters seen for evaluation during 1968-69 school year: 6,232

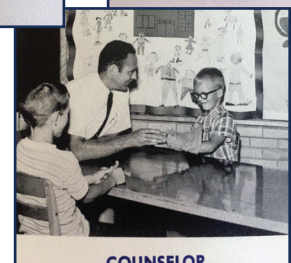
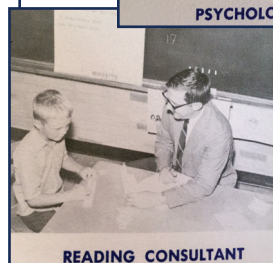
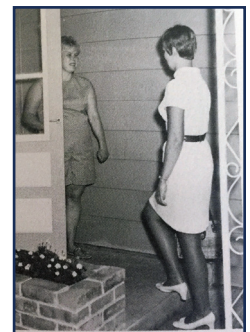
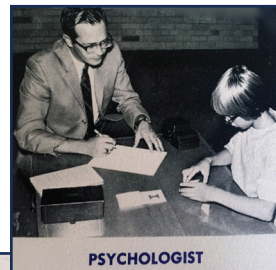
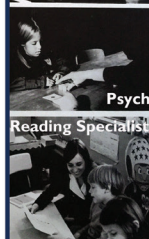
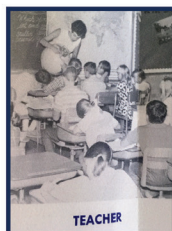
- 2,744 for psychological evaluation
- 1,949 for speech
- 1,473 for reading
- 1,424 for social work services
- 939 for elementary counseling



We have employed a wide variety of positions over the years.

Here are two pictures from agency brochures in the late 60s/early 70s.

Did You Know?



A Look Back ...

1969-70

Lines of Service

In-Service Education

Administrator Workshops
(focused on educational leadership in the 70s)

Teacher Workshops
(focused on individualized instruction)

Social Studies
(summer teacher workshops)

Instructional Materials Center

The Instructional Materials Center was located in Montevideo.

An educational specialist called a Prescriptive Resource Teacher was available at each educational service center to liaison with the Instructional Materials Center.

Other Services

Media Center
(filmstrips, equipment repair, etc.)

Microfilming Service

Crippled Children's Clinics
(ERDC Educational Service Center staff conducted exams that led to referrals to Crippled Children's Clinics in the area)

Educational Service Centers

Seventy-nine public school districts participated in services of the Educational Service Centers. We employed 38 professional personnel – with an annual budget in excess of \$680,000 – to make it one of the largest service projects of its type in rural America.

To sell services, a modified “package” formula was developed where schools were required to buy a minimum package but were allowed flexibility in the choice of those services within the package.

The Educational Service Centers were focused on moving from total federal financing in 1967 to total local financing in 1970.

Staff and Board Notes

Dr. Dean Hinmon, Co-Executive Secretary in Morris

Dave Lammers, Supervisor in Pipestone

Bill Naylor, Psychologist and Supervisor in Willmar

Sue Eischens, Secretary in Marshall *(later Sue Gorecki)*

Dr. Lester Edens resigned as Director of the Educational Service Centers as of 6/30/70.

Dr. Bill Tilley started 7/1/70.

New to Board of Directors:

- F. M. Gislason, Superintendent at Lamberton

Members

93 public schools

New Member: Starbuck

Service Area:
21 counties



Speech Correctionists

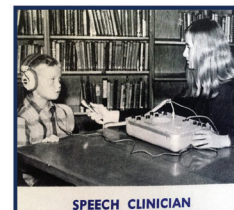
Speech Clinicians

Speech Language Pathologists

The title has changed over the years, but the commitment to helping kids hasn't!

Here are some pictures from our brochures in the 70s.

Did You Know?



A Look Back ...

1970-73

Services during 1970-73

Administrative Services: Data processing, federal proposal development and in-service training

Special Education Services: Educational Service Centers, Special Education Instructional Materials Center (SEIMC) and the Special Education Resource Consultant (SERC). (See images at right)

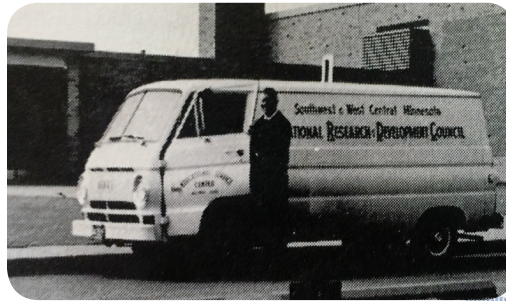
- The SERC identified handicapped children not attending school or attending school but not receiving services.

- The school year 1970-71 was the second year of independent operation of the Educational Service Centers program - with local school districts paying the entire cost of the program in the form of service fees.

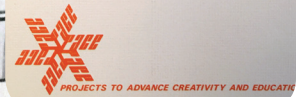
Media Services: Cooperative purchasing, media distribution, electronic equipment repair and printing.

Instructional Services: Fine Arts and Humanities, Human Relations and IGE.

- Human Relations was a recertification requirement.
- The Individually Guided Education (IGE) project, funded with Title III funds, helped districts implement an educational program that was objective-oriented and met the needs of individual children by providing training programs for teachers and administrators.



SW WC ERDC —
"Regional Instructional Materials Center"



Editor's Note: There was very little information on record for the years 1970-1973.



1973-74

Introducing ...

In 1973, legislation passed to establish a pilot educational service area in southwest and west central Minnesota (covering regions 6 and 8). The general purpose, as stated in the special act, was to assist in meeting specific educational needs of children in participating school districts.

The Commissioner of Education, Howard Casmey, invited representatives of all districts to a general meeting held in Montevideo on June 12, 1973. As a result, the **SW and WC Educational Service Agency (ESA)** held its first board of directors meeting on July 18, 1973.

Board members included: Harold Biederman, Renville; Duby Hanson, Granite Falls; D. T. Nelson, Canby; Lloyd Standafer, Worthington; Clifton Blom, Milan; George Caspers, Clara City; William DeBates, Luverne; Harry Haugen, Montevideo; Dennis Blomeke, Belview; Mrs. Pat Nelson, Tracy; Gordon Solomonson, Willmar; and Robert Stearns, Hutchinson.

The position of Regional Director was offered to Dr. Richard Wollin, who was granted a leave of absence from Southwest Minnesota State College in order to accept the position.

The ESA replaced the ERDC structure and assets of the ERDC were transferred to the ESA. In addition, the Special Education Instructional Media Center, which was established at the Montevideo Media Center with Title

VI funds from participating schools and established by the Montevideo School District, was transferred to the ESA effective September 1973. The administration and assets of the Educational Media Center (opened in 1966 as a Title III project with Montevideo Public Schools as the host LEA) were transferred to the ESA effective January 1, 1974.

It was determined that ESAs should provide services to schools – and not engage in enforcement of rules and regulations of the State Department of Education.

Proposed New Services

In addition to previously offered programs and services, the following new services were proposed for 1974-75:

Instructional Services

- Right to Read Program
- Testing and Counseling - *to study ideas/initiate changes for the improvement of testing and counseling programs in schools*
- Gifted Students

Special Education Services

- Alternatives for Emotional Disturbed Adolescents
- Coordination of Mentally Retarded Programs
- Coordination of SLBP (*special learning behavior problems*) Programs (*for schools in the Windom & Pipestone service centers*)
- Developmental Disabilities
- Itinerant Teacher for the Hearing Impaired

Media Services

- Right to Read Resource Center - *reading games, flash cards and other materials*

Administrative Services

- Comprehensive Educational Planning - *leadership assessment, needs assessment, program planning and evaluation*
- Professional Information Center - *library of current research*
- Statewide Facilitator - *to help districts identify needs and find demonstration projects throughout the state/country with validated evaluations - also known as National Diffusion Network (NDN). (See image on page 29)*

105 public school districts from Regions 6, 8, 4 and 7 participated in the new ESA

Smallest District
Barrett - 167 students

Largest District
Willmar - 4,504 students

REGION 6 MEMBERS

Appleton Madison
 Atwater Marietta
 Beardsley Maynard
 Bellingham Milan
 Benson Montevideo
 Bird Island Morton
 Brownton Murdock
 Buffalo Lake New London-Spicer
 Canby Olivia
 Clara City Ortonville
 Clarkfield Raymond
 Clinton Renville
 Cosmos Sacred Heart
 Danube Stewart
 Dawson Willmar
 Echo Wood Lake
 Eden Valley-Watkins
 Fairfax
 Franklin
 Graceville
 Granite Falls
 Grove City
 Hector
 Hutchinson
 Kerkhoven
 Lester Prairie
 Litchfield

REGION 8 MEMBERS

Adrian Round Lake
 Balaton Russell
 Belview Ruthton
 Chandler-Lake Wilson Sanborn
 Cottonwood Sioux Valley (Lake Park)
 Edgerton Slayton
 Ellsworth Storden-Jeffers
 Fulda Tracy
 Hendricks Tyler
 Heron Lake Verdi
 Hills-Beaver Creek Wabasso
 Ivanhoe Westbrook
 Jackson Windom
 Jasper Worthington
 Lake Benton
 Lakefield
 Lambertton
 Luverne
 Lynd
 Magnolia
 Marshall
 Milroy
 Minneota
 Morgan
 Mountain Lake
 Okabena
 Pipestone
 Redwood Falls

REGION 4 MEMBERS

Alexandria
 Ashby
 Barrett
 Brandon
 Chokio-Alberta
 Cyrus
 Elbow Lake
 Evansville
 Hancock
 Herman
 Hoffman
 Morris
 Osakis
 Starbuck
 Villard
 Wheaton

REGION 7 MEMBERS

Belgrade
 Brooten
 Paynesville

1974-75

Lines of Service

Administrative and Instructional Services

Administrative
Data Processing
Federal Proposal Development
In-Service Programs
Comprehensive Educational Planning

Title III-306 State Facilitator
(for Regions 4, 6, 8 & 9)
Professional Information Center
(link between state, colleges, federal government and schools)

Instructional
Gifted Students
Human Relations
IGE
Right to Read

Fine Arts and Humanities
Testing and Counseling
(research/study model programs)

Media Services

Cooperative Purchasing
Media Distribution
Electronic Equipment Repair *(See image at right)*
Printing Services
Resource Center: Right to Read

Special Education Services

Educational Service Centers
Coordination of Mentally Retarded Programs
Coordination of SLBP Programs *(Windom and Pipestone)*
Hearing Impaired Program
SEIMC
SERC

Members

New Members: Albany and Walnut Grove
New Associate Members: Comfrey and Springfield

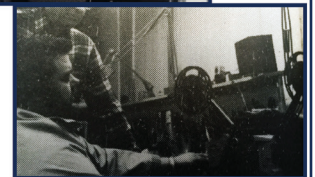
1974-75 Membership Dues
\$100 plus 15 cents per student



Equipment Repair was a service line we offered beginning in the 1970s. We repaired typewriters, overhead projectors, movie projectors and more.

During the 1993-94 school year, the program merged with the West Central ECSU's program and it was housed in the Montevideo office. After the merger, there was little information on equipment repair included in agency annual reports.

Did You Know?



A Look Back ...

Staff and Board Notes

Dr. Richard Wollin, Regional Director
Bill Naylor, Assistant Regional Director/Administrative Services Director
Tom Emery, Special Education Director in Montevideo
Dave Lammers, Special Education Director in Pipestone
Robert Halvorson, Special Education Director in Willmar
Les Martisko, Special Education Director in Windom
John Arneson, Minnesota Educational Computing Consortium (MECC) Coordinator
Russ Jauss, Media Services Director
Mary Weber, SEIMC Coordinator
Edna Eischens, Secretary for IGE *(later Edna Gossen)*
Glen Shaw, IGE Facilitator
Willis Crow, SERC
New to Board of Directors:
• Mrs. Edna Dorr, Storden-Jeffers
• Harold Luthi, Morris
• Casimir Weller, Belgrade

1975-76

Lines of Service

Administrative and Instructional Services

Administrative
General Support
Services

Region IV MECC-MIS
(See image at right)

This was the first year of the **Agriculture Computer Decision Aids Program** which aimed to disseminate the knowledge and use of computer programs available on the MECC system to area farmers.

CQE Arts was a three-year project to improve the arts in southwest Minnesota schools.

Adult Right to Read
Ag Computer Decision
Aids Program

Instructional
Council on Quality
Education (CQE) Arts

Media Services

Cooperative Purchasing sales volume for 1975-76 was \$250,000.

Special Education Services

Early Intervention Project
Child Study Evaluation

Staff and Board Notes

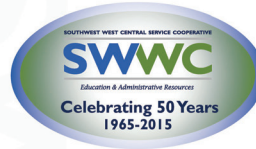
Bill Naylor, Assistant Regional Director

Dick Peterson, Management Information System Coordinator

New to Board of Directors:

- Keith Williams, Okabena
- Earl Bauman, Kerkhoven
- Dwane Bucklin, Buffalo Lake
- Jim Fellows, Worthington
- Paul Skogrand, Milan
- John Hassinger, Hutchinson
- Connie Roemers, Tracy
- Richard Byers, Westbrook

Editor's Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.



The Creation of MECC-MIC Region IV

In 1975-76, the State Department of Education worked in cooperation with the Minnesota Educational Computing Consortium to create 2 metro and 5 out-state regional centers to provide administrative data processing services and equal access to management information services for all elementary, secondary schools and area vocational technical schools (ESV).

Region IV was unique because it was the only regional center established as part of the regional ECSU. The image at right is from our 1984-85 Annual Report.

A Look Back ...

Did You Know?

The ECSU's Management Information Service (MIS) has a dual existence as Elementary-Secondary-Vocational (ESV) Region IV in Minnesota. Using a large computer jointly owned with ESV Region I to our north, ECSU-MIS processed financial data for 86 public school districts, 7 cooperatives, 6 AVTIs, and the Private Industry Council, as well as payroll for 39 districts, 7 of which were new customers this year.



Members

New Members: Brewster and Browns Valley

New Associate Members: Alexandria and Butterfield

105 public school members

22 non-public school members

1975-76 and 1976-77
Membership Dues

\$150 plus 20 cents per student

More Changes Are Coming ...

In February of 1976, the state legislature enacted a bill establishing ten regional units to be called **Educational Cooperative Service Units**.

The role of the regional unit was defined as a "facilitator" or "linking agent" in assessing school needs and seeking out resources to help meet those needs.

1976-77

Introducing ...



SOUTHWEST/WEST CENTRAL
EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE SERVICE UNITS

At the Annual Meeting on May 20, 1976, the ESA was formally changed to the Southwest and West Central Educational Cooperative Service Unit (ECSU).

Dr. Wollin retired on June 30, 1976. Glen Shaw was named Regional Director of SW and WC ECSU.

Lines of Service

Administrative and Instructional Services

Administrative

ECSU General Support
Regional Accounting Coordinator
Educational Planning Service
Educational Dissemination

Instructional

Talents Unlimited

Regional Accounting Coordinator services were funded through the State Department of Education beginning October 1, 1976. The purpose was to write a training program for employing the Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting System (UFARS). The program of instruction included 15 modules of lesson plans, case studies and solutions. Three sites served as central points of instruction - Olivia, Slayton and Benson.

Educational Planning Services was established in July 1976 for the development and refinement of a general school district planning strategy to provide a structure for continuous planning at the district level, to provide planning assistance for declining enrollments, and for the implementation of the 1976 Local Curriculum Planning, Education and Reporting (PER) Legislation. *(See image at right)* This was funded with Title IV Part C funds and called the School-Community Planning Project. This model brought citizens, educators, students and school board members together in a school-community planning group to improve the school.

The **Talents Unlimited** project provided teachers with the skills to identify and nurture the creative potential in students through the development of their strongest talents.

Educational Dissemination was a pilot project to organize a method of reaching local educators. It was funded through a National Institute of Education grant.

Special Education Services

Pre-School Handicapped Program

In 1976-77, the Willmar Special Education Cooperative was renamed the **Little Crow Special Education Cooperative**.

The **Preschool Handicapped Program** was the start of Project Child Find.

The ECSU was the fiscal agent for **Information and Referral Services** (which included a database of services for handicapped children).

Media Services



Staff, Board and Council Notes

Ken Baumann, Media Services Director

Kanwar Habib Khan, Special Education Director in Windom

Bill Naylor, Special Education Director in Willmar

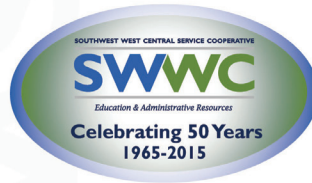
Duby Hanson, Regional Accounting Coordinator

Dan Loritz, Educational Planning Director

Maria Jones, Pre-School Coordinator (*later Maria Balbo*)

New to Board of Directors:

- Art Olson, Marshall (*pictured below*)
- Ron Boyenga, Ellsworth
- Russell Miller, Maynard



From 1967 to 1998, our Marshall office was located on the campus of Southwest Minnesota State University.

Here is a flashback to 1979!

A Look Back ...

Did You Know?



Members

103 public schools

20 non-public schools

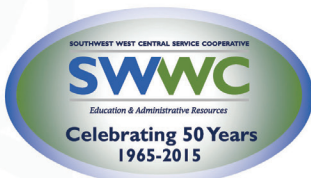
80,000 students

As the ESA changed to the ECSU in 1976-77, schools in Region 4 and Region 7 were listed as Associate Members. It was anticipated that those schools would become regular members of the ECSU in their region. However, they were allowed to continue to contract for services from SW and WC ECSU by paying the associate membership fee and the fee for the service or program.

In 1976-77, members from Region 4 and Region 7 listed as Associate Members included:

Albany	Alexandria
Barrett	Belgrade
Brooten	Chokio-Alberta
Comfrey	Cyrus
Elbow Lake	Hancock
Herman	Hoffman
Morris	Paynesville
Springfield	Starbuck
Wheaton	

Did You Know?



Back in the 70s, legislation called for school districts to have planning, evaluating and reporting (PER) processes set up. Funding was provided to our agency to help districts meet this requirement, and we provided the service into the 90s.

The picture at right shows that some staff loved PER way more than others!



Editor's Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still offered - only new offerings listed.



1977-78

Lines of Service

Administrative and Instructional Services

Administrative

SW & WC Information Network for Educators
(MINE)

Instructional

Preschool Right to Read
CQE Sharing Staff Project
Mainstream Project
Space-Science Involvement
People Helping People
(offering help to unwed teenage mothers)

This was the first of a 3-year project called the **CQE Sharing Staff Project**. Project goals were to provide financial relief to school districts through the establishment of cost-effective programs in low frequency electives and the arts and to maintain or increase educational opportunities for students in small rural school districts through the retention or establishment of course offerings. Nine districts were involved in this 3-year pilot project.

This was the first year of the **Mainstream Project** which provided regular classroom teachers with training on the integration of handicapped children into the general classroom curriculum. *(See image at right)*

The **Space Science Involvement** Project was funded through the CQE. We conducted workshops that encouraged teachers to become involved (and involve their students) in space science. Dennis Brown, Lakefield elementary principal, organized successful workshops in the north and south part of the ECSU region.

Media Services



During 1965, the Montevideo School District submitted a Title III grant to establish an Educational Media Center to distribute audio visual materials, such as 16mm films, filmstrips, records and more.

This would eventually become part of our agency and was located in Montevideo. Services such as equipment repair and cooperative purchasing would eventually be added to the Educational Media Center.

Did You Know?



A Look Back ...

Special Education Services

Services for Non-Attending Handicapped Children

Special education projects funded by PL 94-142 to identify and provide appropriate **Services for Non-Attending Handicapped Children** (under age 4 and high school drop outs) were Preschool Coordinators and Facilitators of Alternative Programs (who helped districts identify and create programs for high school dropouts).



The 1977-78 school year was the first year of the **Mainstream Project** which provided regular classroom teachers with training on the integration of handicapped children into the general classroom curriculum.

Did You Know?



A Look Back ...

Members

104 public schools
18 non-public schools
80,000 students

New Member: Silver Lake

1977-78 through 1980-81
Membership Dues
\$250 plus 20 cents per student

Staff and Board Notes

Glen Shaw, Executive Director (*position renamed*)

Tom Emery, SERC

David Peterson, Special Education Director in Montevideo

Sidney Belt, MIS Regional Director

Sara Robertson, Regional Preschool Consultant

New to Board of Directors:

- Diane Johnson, Appleton
- James Peters, Milroy

Editor's Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.

1978-79

Lines of Service

Administrative and Instructional Services

Administrative

Agriculture Computer Decision Aids (Ended 9/30/79)

Instructional

Mainstream Program moves to Special Education Services

Media Services

Equipment Loan
(projectors, portable PA system, photographic slide duplicator)

Driver Education Equipment

Special Education Services

Hearing Conservation Project
Mainstream Project
Consultants for the Visually Impaired and Hearing Impaired

Staff and Board Notes

- Mark Zabel, Psychologist in Willmar
- Patrick Gunter, Psychologist in Montevideo
- Janet Salhus, Processor, MIS for MECC Region IV
- Carol Purrington, Adult Education Coordinator
- Donna Ford, Director of Educational Planning Services

New to Board of Directors:

- Richard Vroman, Milroy (pictured at left)
- Marlow Nelson, Westbrook
- Karen Johnson, Spicer



Members

94 public schools
18 non-public schools
80,000 students

This was the first year of the **Hearing Conservation Project**. The purpose of this project was to increase school awareness of the number and diversity of students with hearing problems, create a tracking system to assure those students receive service, and develop a screening and referral schedule to serve schools throughout the school year. An audiologist conducted program activities.

1978-79 Cost Per Day

School Psychologist: \$120
Speech Clinician: \$85
Coordinator for Mentally Retarded Programs: \$115
Hearing Consultant: \$100



Editor's Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.

1979-80

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

ESV Region IV was the first in the state to have districts up on the state personnel payroll system and the first region to have districts operational on both the personnel payroll and finance systems. There were also references to the far-reaching changes in the legislation governing the ESV MIS of the MECC.

Instructional Services

Teacher Center
Basic Skills
Tutoring On The Bus
(Ended 6/30/80)

Career Education
Nutrition Education and
Training (NET)
Sharing Staff Project
(Ended 6/30/80)

The **Teacher Center** was in the first of a 3-year federal grant.

Basic Skills was a new venture where specialists employed by the State Department of Education were assigned to each of the ECSUs to provide leadership, training and technical assistance to schools.

This was the first year of the **Career Education Program**, which was funded through the Career Education Incentive Act PL 95-207. The purpose was to facilitate counselor/teacher use of career education materials in existing school programs and increase communication on career education needs among business, industry, government, education, parents and students.

The **Nutrition Education and Training (NET)** was a federally funded project to work with schools and licensed day care providers.

The **1979-80 total organizational budget was approximately \$4,000,000.**

Members

90 public schools
14 non-public schools

Media Services

Reading Resource Center

Special Education Services

Regional Consultant for Vision Impairment Regional Consultant for the Emotionally Disturbed

The **Regional Consultant for Vision Impairment** was a new position in August 1979.

A goal within Special Education Services was to reduce staff turnover and increase staff morale.

Staff, Board and Council Notes

Marge Mann, Parent/School Coordinator
Bill Swope, Teacher Center Director
Penny Cammack, Speech Clinician in Pipestone
Ellen Arnsdorf, NET Coordinator
Linda Kern, Office Assistant
Wanda Ochocki, Adult Education Coordinator
Frank DiChristina, Special Education Director in Windom
Jerry Robicheau, SERC

New to Board of Directors:

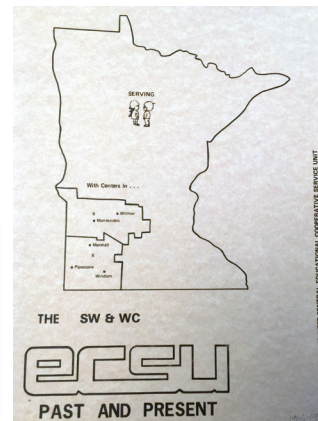
- Orion Frank, Fairfax

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

- Corny Smit, Wood Lake

The first **communications** efforts were put in place to educate ECSU staff members on the ECSU and its various programs and services and to make ECSU staff available to school districts for further communications about the ECSU.

To that end, several items were created: The *SW & WC ECSU Past and Present* booklet, revised ECSU transparencies, ECSU posters and an ECSU slide tape.



1980-81

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

Computer Services
Rural Education Act
Program (REAP)

Educational Planning
Services
Region IV MIS

Media Services

Media Distribution
Cooperative Purchasing
Electronic Equipment
Repair

Driver Education
Equipment
Printing Services
Regional Resource
Center

Instructional Services

Teacher Center
Information Network
for Educators
Career Education
NET

Basic Skills
State Facilitator
MINE

Special Education Services

Educational Service
Centers
Consultants for
Hearing Impairment,
Vision Impairment and
Emotionally Disturbed

Preschool Handicapped
Project
Services for Non-
Attending Students
SEIMC
SERC

Staff and Board Notes

Fran Stassen, Keypunch Operator (*Retired January 2014*)

Erv Marquardt, School Psychologist in Windom

Barb Raske, Data Processor

New to Board of Directors:

- Erling Tofteland, Luverne

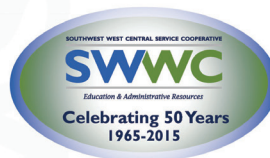
Members

92 public schools

New Member: Mahtomedi

12 non-public schools

63,000 students



Did You Know?

In the late 1970s and through the 1980s, SWWC had two drivers education simulators that were rented out to school districts for their driver education programs.

A 16 seat simulator was purchased with a federal grant in 1978 and a 10 seat simulator was purchased during the 1981-82 school year.



A Look Back ...



Editor's Note: All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.

1981-82

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

The **MIS for ESV Region IV** worked with the NW region to establish the Western Minnesota Multi-Regional Computer Center. This large-scale computer equipment adequately served the needs of both regions.

The first **School Business Conference** was held in 1982.

Media Services

We first started offering **Driver Education Simulators** for rent to school districts in 1978, when a 16-place simulation unit was purchased with a federal grant. In 1981-82, a 10-place simulation unit was purchased. (See image on previous page)

Instructional Services



Staff, Board and Council Notes

Lori Grant, Bookkeeping Secretary for ECSU Operations

Deb Moore, Speech Coordinator

Penny Dickhudt, Planning Coordinator and Career Education Coordinator

Judy Zobel, Teacher Center Director

John Ferret, MECC Coordinator

New to Board of Directors:

- Alvin Bruis, Rushmore
- Perry Zenk, Montevideo

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

- Charlie Kyte, Eden Valley-Watkins

Special Education Services

Rehabilitation Therapist

The **Rehabilitation Therapist** position was new in November 1981.

Members

91 public schools members

11 non-public members

61,000 students

3,475 teachers

300 administrators

1981-82 through 1982-83
Membership Dues
\$300 plus 20 cents per student

1982-83

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

Media Services

Instructional Services

Special Education Services

Regional Interagency Preschool Coordinator

The **Regional Interagency Preschool Coordinator** was a 40-day position.

The **SEIMC** inventory was valued at \$140,000.

Direct services offered were psych, speech, social work, learning disabilities, EMH and TMH coordination, vision, hearing and POHI.

Board Notes

New to Board of Directors:

- Gary Thomas, Clarkfield
- Jake Stoel, Lake Willson
- Sharon Radness, Ruthton
- Arliss Becker, Morgan

Members

92 public schools

12 non-public schools

60,000 students

5,011 teachers

312 administrators

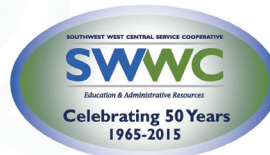
Smallest District: Verdi - 99 students

Largest District: Willmar - 3,764 students

1982-83 and 1983-84

Membership Dues

\$300 plus 20 cents per student



Did You Know?

The **Southwest and West Central Teacher Center** was created in September 1979 with a federal grant.

Bill Swope from Marshall was hired as the Teacher Center Director.

The Teacher Center was renamed in 1990 to the **Center for Educational Development**.

The Teacher Center even had a mobile unit - which was actually a camper (pictured at right)!



A Look Back ...

Editor's Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.

1983-84

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

Planning and Evaluation Services Coordinator of Special Projects

The **Coordinator of Planning and Evaluation** services were provided on a limited basis and focused on technology utilization planning and inter-district planning in conjunction with the Inter-district Cooperation Aid/Levy legislation.

The **Coordinator of Special Projects** focused on telemedia/interactive telecommunications. Clusters of districts were actively pursuing development of a system.

Instructional Services

The **Teacher Center** offerings included:

- “Apple Crate”, which was a mobile classroom (with 10 Apple IIe microcomputers) that visited over 35 schools to provide microcomputer in-service instruction to personnel. (See image on previous page)
- TC² - a technology and microcomputer training conference
- Regional Title I Conference
- Annual Rural Education Association Regional Workshop

Staff and Board Notes

Sally Tobey, Director of Administrative Services
(from 1985-87)

Kent Sovern, Director of Educational Services

New to Board of Directors:

- Paul Krapf, Jasper
- Joe Thorman, Maynard
- Barbara Herschberger, Ivanhoe

Members

91 public schools
11 non-public schools
56,000 students
5,011 teachers
271 administrators

Media Services

Energy Monitoring Service

Energy Monitoring Services provided sensitive electronic equipment to help schools monitor fuel and heating systems in an effort to reduce cost and pollution as well as increase efficiency.

Special Education Services

Interagency Preschool Facilitator Ages Birth - 3

Regional Facilitator for Program Development for Emotionally and Behaviorally Problemmed Students

The **Regional Interagency Preschool Coordinator** was a 30-day position.

The **Regional Facilitator for Program Development for Emotionally and Behaviorally Problemmed Students** was a two-year state funded project that hired two facilitators.

The **Educational Service Centers** employed 50 certified professionals.



1984-85

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

The Planning Office staff worked on the first annual **Minnesota Rural Education Association Conference**.

Media Services

Big changes occurred in **Media Services**: maintenance on the building and the merging of the Fulda and Monte film coops.

Cooperative Purchasing had record sales volume of approx. \$2 million (over \$700,000 of computer equipment).

Educational Services

Social Studies Teacher Improvement Project

Instructional Effectiveness Project Discovery

Educational Services' major goal was to assist elementary and secondary schools with **curriculum improvement and professional development**.

The first Federal **Carl Perkins Act** was passed by Congress in 1984.

Project Discovery, a transition disabled program providing career exploration and assessments for special population high school students, began.

Special Education Services

Vocational Transition Specialist

Low Incidence Consultants
(visually impaired, hearing impaired, emotionally disturbed, physically handicapped and severe/profound/multiply handicapped)

1984-85 and 1985-86
Membership Dues
\$600 plus 40 cents per student

Members

86 public schools
7 associate members
11 non-public schools
50,280 students
5,011 teachers
271 administrators

Smallest District: Verdi - 94 students
Largest District: Willmar - 3,725 students

Staff, Board and Council Notes

Rachel Quenemoen, Planning & Evaluation Coordinator

Kathy Rupp, Occupational Therapist

New to the Board of Directors:

- George Elliot, Ortonville
- John O'Neill, Olivia
- Robert Rieke, Fairfax
- Delwayne Hahn, New London-Spicer
- Jack Wysong, Hills-Beaver Creek

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

- Brad Madsen, Milan

Editor's Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.

1985-86

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

Energy Management
Services

Energy Monitoring
Equipment Rental
(for boilers and steam traps)

Energy Management Services was the link between schools and CES (Community Energy Systems), which provided building energy saving services to schools.

Planning and Educational Services

Regional Technology
Coordinator

Tele-Media

Technology: We won the right to administer instructional computing in regions 6 & 8, which involved district site visits, day long meetings for district technology-computer coordinators, professional development workshops, a major technology conference and a computer programming contest with 29 student teams participating. This was the first year we employed a Regional Technology Coordinator.

Tele-Media: We offered planning assistance for educational and engineering feasibility studies for 7 clusters of 72 districts, as well as planning assistance to the MN Tele-Media Board of Directors. A national Tele-Media Conference was co-hosted in cooperation with MN Valley Tele-Network and American Association of Educational Service Agencies. This was the start of the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (Southwest Minnesota Telecommunications).

This was the first year of SW & WC ECSU's **Day of Excellence**. Nearly 400 people attended and heard keynote speaker, Patti Smith, US Deputy Assistant Secretary from the Office of SPED & Rehab Services.

Media Services

Cooperative Purchasing topped previous year volume with over \$2.3 million in sales.

Special Education Services

Special Education Services were split into two areas: Coop Special Education Services and Regional Special Education Services.

- **Coop** included the educational service centers, SEIMC, and services for non-attending handicapped children.
- **Regional** included low incidence consultants, the microcomputer project and the regional comprehensive system of personnel development project (R-CSPD).

Staff and Council Notes

Ann Clapper, Teacher Center & NDN Facilitator

John Arneson, Regional Technology Coordinator

Lorraine Bockorny, Director of Regional Special Education Services

Dick Branting, Consultant for PHD and VI *(Retired June 2009)*

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

- Harold Remme, Tracy

Members

86 public schools

7 associate members

11 non-public schools

1986-87

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

Insurance Pool

The **School Insurance Pool** formed in 1986 and had over \$2 million in premiums its first year.

ECSU-MIS was in the forefront of Minnesota MIS regions in adopting new technology to meet member needs and in supporting the adoption of technology by member districts themselves.

Planning and Educational Services

Assurance of Mastery Educational Effectiveness

Staff were the Liaison with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) relative to PER, Assurance of Mastery and other legislation. The goal was to pass information along to districts in a timely manner.

There were 16 schools involved in MEEP - Minnesota **Educational Effectiveness** Program.

Assurance of Mastery legislation required districts to identify students not making sufficient progress in math and communications. This was a new program for our agency - it was added to the PER legislation/law in 1985 and was enacted in 1989.

Instructional Technology (the regional technology coordinator) made 101 school site visits and conducted 12 meetings of school tech coordinators. Thirty-two mobile tech bus visitations were made which involved hands-on use of the most popular courseware applications. The Spring Technology Conference had 79 sessions and the keynote by an astronaut. Over 500 people attended.

Staff, Board and Council Notes

Mary Jo Henkel, MIS

Jackie Bockelman, Administrative Assistant (*retired March 2010*)

Bob Braun, Audiologist

New to Board of Directors:

- Bob Fenske, Marshall

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

- Leroy Domagala, Balaton
- Marvin Niedan, Cedar Mountain

Media Services

Cooperative Purchasing again topped previous year sales with over \$2.4 million.

Special Education Services

Maternal Child Health
(MCH) Project

Project TAAP

The **Maternal Child Health Project** was a special four-county project with Lincoln, Lyon, Murray Pipestone Public Health.

Project TAAP (Team Approach to Assessment and Programming) was a new focus on the team approach to functional community-based assessment and programming of severely handicapped learners. It was a model demonstration project to find the least restrictive environment for the severely handicapped and deaf/blind.

Members

87 public schools

6 associate members

9 non-public schools

1986-87 Membership Dues
\$650 plus 40 cents per student

Editor's Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.

1987-88

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

Planning and Educational Services

Drug Education

The **Drug Education Coordinator** was a new position this year.

Staff and Board Notes

Sally Tobey, Director of Media Services

Deb Hanson, School Psychologist

Carolyn Olson, Director of Planning and Educational Services

Marv Niedan, Director of Administrative Services
(from 1988 -1995)

New to Board of Directors:

- Norbert Bruegmann, Jackson
- Rose Wold, Dawson-Boyd

1987-88 Membership Dues
\$680 plus 40 cents per student

Members

- 87 public schools
- 6 associate members
- 9 non-public schools

Smallest District: Verdi - 81 students

Largest District: Willmar - 3,905 students

Media Services

Asbestos Management Services

Asbestos Management Services coordinated the services of 10 asbestos inspectors/planners for 92 schools and 51 non-public educational agencies.

Special Education Services

Tracking System Project

Support Services
Facilitator Project

Teacher Assistance Team
(TAT) Project

Low Incidence
Development and
Improvement Specialist

A new project called the **Tracking System Project** employed a Project Coordinator who worked with interagency committees to design and implement a region-wide computer system to track high risk infants from birth to age 7. This project provided an integrated system and a common database of health and social services.

The **Support Services Facilitator Project** assisted high schools in meeting the prevocational and vocational needs of high school-aged handicapped students (vocational planning, assessment and transition planning).

The **Teacher Assistance Team (TAT) Project** assisted districts in developing a building-level system to provide assistance to teachers in meeting the needs of all students in their classrooms.

The **Low Incidence Development and Improvement Specialist** developed the parent advisory component to ECSU and the implementation of a Developmental Learning Clinic in coordination with Services for Children with Handicaps.

1987-88 Cost Per Day
School Psychologist: \$215
Coordinator: \$210
Teacher: \$185

1988-89

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

A new program within **ECSU-MIS** was an Integrated Data Base. A new staff member was hired for implementation, which was required by MN Statute.

Media Services

Asbestos Management Services became the **Health and Safety Coordinator (HSC) Service** in the spring of 1989.

Cooperative Purchasing had \$3.6 million in sales.

Planning and Educational Services

MIDEBANK Interactive Television

AIDS Prevention and
Risk Reduction

MIDEBANK was MDE's Test Itembank. It was a computerized collection of test items, designed to aid educators in the development of criterion referenced test instruments.

AIDS Prevention and Risk Reduction was a cooperative effort of MDE and ECSU to assist districts in preparing to meet the requirements of the K-12 AIDS education established by statute.

Interactive Television included 37 districts and two tech institutes that were involved in various stages of network planning assisted by ECSU staff in network development. These districts comprised four additional future networks within the region.

Special Education Services

Members

87 public schools
7 associate members
11 non-public schools

Staff and Board Notes

Sandra Adams, Regional Special Education Services Director

Betty Aune, Associate Director for Personnel (*position renamed*)

Marilyn Johnson, Associate Director for Business Affairs (*position renamed*)

Barb Baker, Office Assistant (*Retired May 2010*)

New to Board of Directors:

- Elmo Volstad, Granite Falls
- Patricia Throlson, New London-Spicer

Editor's Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.

1989-90

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

1989-90 was the first year ECSU-MIS Region IV supported the **ESV Student System**.

Media Services

Cooperative Purchasing also provided in-service training for custodial and food service staff. Asbestos-related custodial supplies was a new growing product line.

Science PACS (Project for Activity Centered Science) were elementary hands-on science kits and were piloted during 1989-90. (See image below)

Planning and Educational Services

The **Instructional Technology** program provided in-services/workshops, 19 mobile tech bus visits, two academic competitions for students (computer programming and computer applications) and coordinated the spring tech conference.

Special Education Services

Members

- 89 public schools
- 7 associate members
- 11 non-public schools

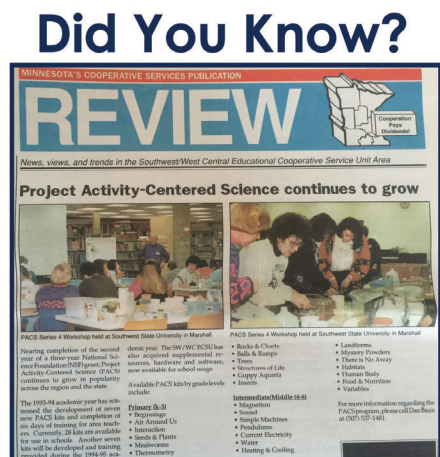
1989-90 Membership Dues
\$750 plus 40 cents per student



The first year we offered elementary hands-on **Science PACS** through our Media Center was 1989-90. The article at right was in the March 1994 issue of the Review.

- P - Project
- A - Activity
- C - Centered
- S - Science

A Look Back ...



Staff and Board Notes

- Bob Foley, Director of Planning and Educational Services
- Nina Conway, Associate Director for Program Development
- Deb Horne, COTA
- Annette Jorgenson, Accountant (later Annette Miller)
- Ty Westlie, School Psychologist (Retired June 2015)
- Lowell Smith, School Psychologist (Retired December 2011)
- New to Board of Directors:
 - Dan Zimansky, Tracy and Jeff Kruse, Marshall

1990-91

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

1990-91 was the first full year of the **ESV Student System**.

There were 59 districts in the **Insurance Pool** with premiums of \$10.5 million. Districts also bought life insurance (22) and property/liability (47).

Appletree Institute, a non-profit, charitable corporation, was organized in 1990 to provide programs and services for governmental units resulting in reduced costs, increased efficiency and effectiveness. Appletree provided insurance programs to schools, cities, counties and other governmental agencies.

Planning and Educational Services

HIV/AIDS Prevention and Risk Reduction

Educator Training Project for Prevention

Distance Learning

Center for Educational Development

Mentorship Program for New Teachers

Homework Helpline
(see image at right)

The **HIV/AIDS Prevention and Risk Reduction** Program employed a 3/4 time position focused on establishing eight hub sites for AIDS education, providing technical assistance to alternative education programs, concentrating on education for risk reduction, and providing consultation to all districts to help them comply with the state mandate.

The **Drug Abuse Prevention** Project was in its fourth year and state allocations sky-rocketed due to the integration of Chapter One formula and drug education funds. Because of that, we offered mini-grants to pooling schools.

The **Educator Training Project for Prevention** was a 2-year grant from the US Department of Education to provide school personnel with training to foster the development of comprehensive programs for prevention of youth alcohol and other drug use.

Interactive Television was renamed **Distance Learning**. We continued to provide administrative and planning support to the region's six interactive television networks that served over 50 districts.

The Teacher Center was renamed the **Center for Educational Development**.

Special Education Services

Media Services

Members

90 public schools

6 associate members

12 non-public schools

1990-91 and 1991-92
Membership Dues

\$780 plus 41 cents per student

Staff, Board and Council Notes

Bobbie Netzke, Secretary (*later Bobbie Carmody*)

Kim Johnson, Occupational Therapist

Deb Wallert, Teacher of Deaf/Hard of Hearing

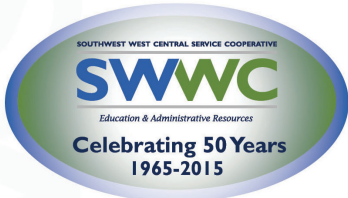
New to Board of Directors:

• Karen Novak, Montevideo

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

• Jerald Huber, Marshall

Editor's Note: Unless otherwise noted, previous year programs/services were still being offered - only new offerings listed.



Did You Know?

The Homework Helpline began in September 1990. It was a project sponsored by Southwest/West Central ECSU and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota.

The article at right is from the September 1991 issue of the Review.

The Homework Helpline shut down on February 28, 1997.

A Look Back ...

10,000th Homework Helpline caller hails from Chandler-Lake Wilson

Suzanne Hart, a 6th grade student from Chandler-Lake Wilson Elementary School in Lake Wilson was the 10,000th caller in the Homework Helpline sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota and Southwest/West Central ECSU. Suzanne, the daughter of David and Ginger Hart, called the Helpline for assistance on a language arts question.



Teacher Chuck Hayes, student Suzanne Hart, principal Mary M...

Homework Helpline yields 1,699 successes in Southwest/West Central Minnesota

From September 30, 1990, through July 20, 1997, almost 1,700 calls from students in Southwest West Central Minnesota were answered for the Homework Helpline. Most of those during the last three months of the year. Calls, by originating district, are given below:

# calls	School District	# calls	School District	# calls	School District
31	Appleton	76	Lake Our Falls Valley	13	Wabeno
12	Asheer	50	Lake Benson	9	Walton Grove
5	Balaton	7	Lakefield	9	Westbrook
8	Boonville	12	LeRoy Prairie	221	Willmar
6	Bethlehem	4	Litchfield	31	Woodson
69	Benson	58	Layman	5	Windar
31	Blue Island	4	Lynch	1	Wood Lake
14	Brewster	14	Madison	21	Worthington
7	Brownson	7	Mapleton	1699	TOTAL CALLS
8	Buffalo Lake	81	Marshall		
1	Canby	4	Maynard		
1	Chandler-Lake Wilson	4	Minon		
7	Clear City	26	Monticello		
1	Clarkfield	11	Montross		
8	Chasco-Graceville	1	Monroe		
146	Croftley	3	Mosinee Lake		
1	Country	1	Morris		
1	Coonon	2	New London-Spicer		
3	Danville	5	Orita		
23	Dawson	2	Oroville		
8	Elba	41	Franklin		
14	Eden Valley	28	Raymond		
1	Edgemoor	1	Robson Falls		
11	Elmwood	1	Rossville		
3	Farfa	1	Russell		
6	Franklin	3	Sacred Heart		
3	Falls	1	Silver Lake		
27	Glenwood	37	Sixes Valley		
17	Groene Falls	5	Slayton		
27	Greene City	2	Stewart		
3	Hector	1	Stewart		
31	Heron Lake-Okabea	1	Stewart		
5	Hills-River Creek	78	Stewart		
1	Hutchinson	14	Stewart		



Homework Helpline
1-800-657-6787

Did You Know?



Have you ever heard of the National Diffusion Network? It was a program offered through our agency during the 70s, 80s and 90s.

A Look Back ...

What Is NDN?

Alternative Schools/Programs/Bilingual/Migrant

Basic Skills: Language Arts/Writing

Basic Skills: Mathematics

Basic Skills: Multi-Disciplinary

Basic Skills: Reading

Early Childhood/Parent Involvement

Gifted and Talented/Technology/Special Interests

Health/Physical Education

Pre-service/Inservice Training

Science/Social Studies

Special Education/Learning Disabilities

For more information and assistance with developing related inservice opportunities contact Dan Baun, Regional NDN Facilitator, SW/WC ECSU, P.O.



Did You Know?

The very first issue of *The Review* was published in May 1990. For several years, it was laid out and looked just like a regular newspaper. It was a statewide publication that included pages relevant to the entire state as well as pages dedicated to our regional events and programs. The front cover of the first issue displayed a congratulatory letter from Governor Perpich.



The first statewide issue of *The Review* was published in 2010. (See image at left)

A Look Back ...



1991-92

Lines of Service

Editor's Note: Lines of service were reorganized during 1991-92. All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.

Administrative Services

Insurance Pool

Sixty-two groups purchased **health insurance** through the school insurance pool. In addition, 55 districts purchased property/liability insurance.

Management Information Services

ECSU-MIS

In 1992, MIS (Management Information Services) was renamed to **RMIC (Regional Management Information Center)**. The RMIC provides finance, human resource, payroll, and student administrative support services to districts and educational cooperatives.

Prevention Services

Rural Partners in Prevention

Student Support Services

Rural Partners in Prevention was a 5-year federal grant to establish coalitions or enhance established alcohol and drug prevention coalitions in 10 project sites.

The **Learner at Risk/Drug Abuse Prevention** program created peer helper programs, prevention programs, etc.

Student Support Services was a one-year project funded by the US Department of Education (which was renewed for 92-93) that provided training to school psychs, social workers, nurses and counselors to help identify and provide services for students who were at risk for ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs) use or had ATOD use problems or family ATOD problems.

Educator Training Project Learner at Risk/Drug Abuse Prevention

Educational Media Services

Media Service

Electronic Equipment Repair & Printing

Cooperative Purchasing

Health and Safety Management Services

Health and Safety Management Services

offered ASHAA (Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Act) Loan/Grant Application Writing, Handicapped Accessibility Inventories and Asbestos Project Design and Management.

Printing Services used an offset press and platemaker and printed things such as newsletters, carbonless forms, brochures, report cards, etc.

Regional Special Education Services

Regional Low Incidence Project

Regional Early Childhood Project

Low Incidence Development and Improvement Specialist

R-CSPD

Staff, Board and Council Notes

Bob Braun, Regional Special Education Services Director

Marilyn Johnson, Director of Administrative Services and Business Affairs (*position renamed*)

Bob Newman, Acting Director of Prevention Services

Betty Aune, Director for Human Resources (*position renamed*)

Mary Anderson, Administrative Assistant (*Retired July 2014*)

New to Board of Directors:

- Sally Vogt, Canby
- Henry Huhnerkoch, Redwood Falls
- Robert O'Fallon, New London-Spicer
- Joan Hunter, Windom

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

- Steve Kjorness, Westbrook
- Dick Orcutt, Heron Lake/Okabena/Lakefield
- Brad Madsen, Dawson/Boyd

Planning and Educational Services

NDN

Regional Technology Program

PER

MIDEBANK

MEEP

Assurance of Mastery

Distance Learning

Center for

Educational Development
(Student Enrichment Activities)

In the Fall of 1991, staff started cleaning road ditches through the **Adopt-A-Highway** program with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

(See image below)

Special Education Services

Educational Service Centers

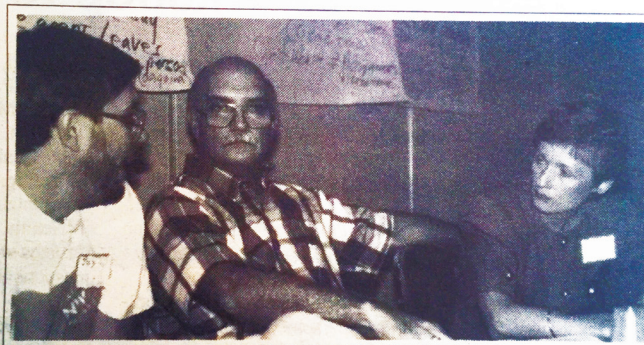
SEIMC

Services for Non-Attending Handicapped Children

ODDM comes to SW/WC Minnesota

Sixty Minnesota ECSU, education district, and local district staff, (fifteen from SW/WCECSU) are participating in twenty days of intensive training in the OUTCOMES DRIVEN DEVELOPMENTAL MODEL for Outcome-Based Education which was

developed in the Johnson City, New York school system. These people, when they have completed their training, will be "certified trainers" in the ODDM model, and will work with interested school districts throughout the state.



Jay Haugen, Curriculum Coordinator for the Redwood River Education District, Jerald Goehring, Curriculum Coordinator for the Des Moines River Valley Education District, and Kathy Leedom, Curriculum Coordinator for the Marshall School District, at the September ODDM training session

1991

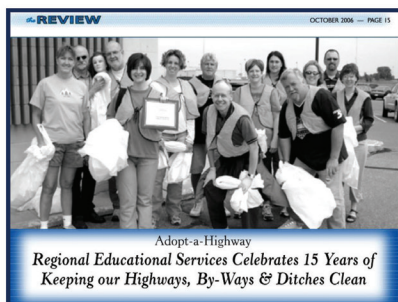


Did You Know?

The first year SWWC took part in the Adopt-A-Highway program was 1991.

The picture at right is from the October 2006 issue of the Review. The group is celebrating 15 years of cleaning ditches!

Do you recognize anyone in the image? Several are still with SWWC today!



Adopt-a-Highway
Regional Educational Services Celebrates 15 Years of Keeping our Highways, By-Ways & Ditches Clean

A Look Back ...

Student Enrichment Notes

This was the first year of the **Student Inventors Congress** event.

The **Citizen Bee** was offered in 1991-92 and 1992-93.

Math Masters was offered during 1991-92 and 1992-93.

1991-92 was the first year of the **Spelling Bee**.

Members

89 public schools

7 associate members

9 non-public schools

1992-93

Lines of Service

Planning and Educational Services

Student Support Services
Educator Training Project for Prevention

Violence Prevention & Education in Schools
Quality Schools Program

The major focus of **Distance Learning** was the development of a multiple agency partnership (higher ed, health and human services, criminal justice, libraries, hospitals and K-12) to secure funding and develop a comprehensive regional telecommunications network in the 18 county area.

The **Educator Training Project for Prevention** was funded in October 1992 to provide training and consultation to schools to increase the capacity to create environments that support health growth and development of youth – particularly to reduce the demand for an use of alcohol and other drugs. There were 10 training sites in the region.

The **Quality Schools Program** provided training in Outcomes-Driven Developmental Model (ODDM). Thirty-five schools participated in 1992-93. (See image on page 31)

The **Violence Prevention and Education in Schools** was a one-year grant from MDE to develop and deliver programs that help students learn how to resolve conflicts in non-violent ways.

Administrative Services

Sixty-four groups purchased **health insurance** through the school insurance pool with premiums equaling \$16 million.

In addition, 57 districts purchased property/liability insurance and 30 purchased life insurance.

During the 1992 legislative session, legislation passed that enabled ECSUs to serve **cities, counties and other governmental units (CCOGAs)**.

(See Review article from November 1992 at right)

Educational Media Services

Media services included Science PACs, mobile planetarium, anatomically correct dolls, CPR training units, loon and wolf curriculum kits and much more.

(See Science PAC image on page 27 and Curriculum Kits image on page 35)

SW/WC ECSU - making a difference in health care

All subscribers of health/hospitalization insurance desire the best health care available at the least cost possible. Some subscribers continue to hold the belief that health insurance premiums should decrease or, at the very least, not increase.

Members of the SW/WCECSU Group Insurance Pool Executive Committee have as their goal the continued quest of providing levels of insurance coverage as desired by the membership while continuing to find ways of trimming costs. Through pooling \$16 million dollars of health/hospitalization insurance premiums, the 4,800 contract holders employed in school districts in the SW/WC ECSU regions do experience significant savings. However, due to a combination of factors such as increased utilization by subscribers and their families, additional dollars charged for new technology, and rising health care costs in general, the savings achieved through pooling of health care coverages become clouded with annual premium increases.

A cost and utilization analysis completed by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota identifies that during a recent 12-month period of time members of the SW/WC ECSU Group Insurance Pool saved \$504 annually on each single contract and \$1,386 annually on each family contract. The savings were achieved

through a combination of efforts including managed care, such as fee schedules for professional services and case management; and administrative savings, such as monitoring for claim duplication, and review of patient ineligibility. In addition, school districts which were members of the ECSU Pool were able to control the roller-coaster rise in premiums, which individual districts often experience, by a sharing of rate reductions actually due and large premium increases owing to districts' catastrophic experiences. A unique feature of the pool allows for identification of premiums charged which are in excess of premiums needed; and further, allows for those credits to be used to offset rate increases.

A second goal of the Group Insurance Pool Executive Committee is to respond to requests from the membership for the development of common plans. An announcement will be made in the late fall which will identify common plans which will be available to subscribers in the 1993 calendar year.

For more information on insurances offered through the insurance pool, contact Dick LeSavage, Insurance Consultant at (612) 432-8622, or Marilyn Johnson, Director of Administrative Services and Business Affairs at (507) 537-1481.

Special Education Services

The **Special Education Service Centers** provided special education administration, child study coordinators, school psychs, OT and speech.

Regional Management Information Center

Rural Partners in Prevention

Regional Special Education Services

RISC

Low incidence services included hearing, audiology, vision, POHI, early childhood education and autism.


Regional Interagency Systems Change Project (RISC) promoted change and improvement through community transition interagency committees for kids with disabilities.

Student Enrichment Notes


Junior High Knowledge Bowl was organized during the 1992-93 year and was operational for the 1993-94 school year.

The first annual **Young Authors Conference** was held in March 1993 for grades 3-6. (See image at right)

A **History Day** event was offered during the 1992-93 and 1993-94 school years.



Did You Know?



The First Annual Young Authors Conference was held in March 1993 for grades 3-6.
The following year, the Young Authors Conference expanded to two strands - one for grades 3-5 and one for grades 6-8.
The Conference for Young Authors was held in two locations during the 1994-95 and 1995-96 school years - Marshall and Willmar.
The Conference for Young Authors was renamed as the Conference for Young Writers for its 10th annual event.

A Look Back ...

1992-93 Membership Dues
\$810 plus 42 cents per student

Staff, Board and Council Notes

Bob Newman, Rural Partners in Prevention Director

Lee Warne, Deputy Executive Director

New to Board of Directors:

- Jim Schmidt, Westbrook

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

- Palmer Anderson, Lakeview

Members

88 public schools

7 associate members

8 non-public schools

Smallest District: Marietta/Nassau - 46 students

Largest District: Willmar - 4,442 students

Editor's Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.

1993-94

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

Sixty-six school districts, 11 South Dakota schools and seven units of government participated in the **group insurance pool**. Property/liability insurance was purchased by 52 districts as well.

The five city members were Adrian, Jackson, Ortonville, Montevideo and Glencoe. County members included Kandiyohi, Meeker and Rock. CCOGA members were Heartland Community Action and Willmar Regional Treatment Center.

CCOGA members could take part in insurance, health and safety services and cooperative purchasing services. Participation in the insurance pool represented 863 contracts and \$2.8 million in premiums.

Regional Management Information Center/Technology

Educational Media Services

The **Equipment Repair/Maintenance** program combined with WC ECSU's program and was housed in the Montevideo office.

Health and Safety Services began a **Management Assistance Program** on behalf of MDE that provided every school district with assistance and planning in the area of health and safety.

Special Education Service Centers

TSES, the **Total Special Education System**, was implemented in the Montevideo and Red Rock Ridge Education Service Centers.

Planning and Educational Services

A new activity for the **Violence Prevention and Education in Schools Program** was the play TOUCH, a sexual abuse prevention play for elementary students. The play was performed in 27 schools. (See image below)

There were eight schools involved in phase one of the **Quality Schools Program** efforts with the Outcomes Driven Developmental Model (ODDM) and 30 schools were in phase two. (See image at right)

The Climb Theater was the keynote at the **Day of Excellence**.

The first annual **Education Banquet** was held.



As part of our Violence Prevention Program back in the early 1990s, a troupe performed the TOUCH play at schools throughout the region.

Did You Know?

Violence prevention program performs TOUCH play for children

The Violence Prevention Program of SW/WC ECSU began performing the TOUCH Play for schools in March.

TOUCH is a theatrical presentation for children that explains the continuum of touches — from good to confusing to bad — and teaches children personal body safety, protection, and prevention skills.

Moderators for the play are June Nichols, Violence Prevention Coordinator, and Paula Pater of the Tri-County Children's Network, a non-



TOUCH Troupe: Deb Miller, Jay Kieft, Tom Nichols, Vicki Phillips, Vicki Imm, Kyra Sutton, Greg Lang, and Paula Pater

A Look Back ...

Regional Special Needs Projects

Adaptive Learning Technology Project

Parent Information Helpline

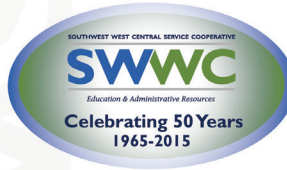
Regional Technology Lending Library

Parent Support Project
Carl Perkins

(assistive tech)

Used Equipment Referral Service

Editor's Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.



The Media Center had many curriculum kits for teachers to use in their classrooms. Topics included Loons, Minnesota Deer Hunting, Elk, Bats, Immigration, US Government, Exploration, the Holocaust, Forensics and more.

Did You Know?

<p>LOON-ON-LOAN KIT</p> <p>Loon-on-Loon kit integrates environmental concepts into biology, career awareness, social studies, natural history and other curricula areas. The kit contains a real loon (mounted and encased in glass), along with video and audiocassette teaching tapes.</p>	<p>MINNESOTA DEER HUNTING KIT</p> <p>The Deer Hunting Kit is provided by Hunting Habitat Educational Learning Resources. Complete lesson plans are included along with descriptive booklets and videos describing the art of hunting, field dressing, and hunting rules and regulations. Deer samples, animal calls, and cooking wild game recipes are also included.</p>
<p>ELK TRUNK</p> <p>The Elk Kit is produced and provided by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Taxidermed items for elk, deer, and the mountain lion give students an opportunity to study comparative anatomy. Complete lesson plans and videos are included in this popular kit.</p>	<p>BAT KIT</p> <p>The Bat Kit contains multi-media material to help students study all aspects of the mammal's life. Included are a biologist's field kit, "Biofact" sheets and books. Of special interest is the bat puppet and see-through bat model.</p>

Everything You Need To Teach About Immigration

This award winning kit is filled with historical information, primary source materials, and activities that will give your students a thorough understanding of the major groups that immigrated to our country. This kit contains a video, *The Golden Door: Our Nation of Immigrants*, a 156 page resource book titled, "One Nation, Many Peoples," and an eight poster set of America: A Nation of Immigrants. Grades 5 and up. Rental fee \$25 per week.

Everything You Need To Teach About Exploration

Comprehensive teaching kit offers a rich array of resources to help you teach a unit on exploration and the great explorers. Launch your unit with the in-depth video program that offers thorough background information. Then reinforce learning with substantive teachers and extensive activities. This kit contains a video—*The Golden Age of Exploration*, 8 poster sets of great explorers, a comprehensive 136 page resource book titled, "Into the Unknown", Grades 3 and up. Rental fee of \$25 per week.

Central Lakes Education District Teachers complete Quality Schools Training



Teachers from Willmar, Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg, Atwater-Grove City-Cosmos, Belgrade-Brooten-Eloosa, New London-Spicer, and Maynard-Clara City Raymond complete 15th day of training in Quality Schools Program.

Staff and Board Notes

David Freiborg, Career/Tech Ed Coordinator
 Corinne Baker, Secretary (Retired May 2006)
 New to Board of Directors:
 • Dan Benson, KMS

Student Enrichment Notes

The **Young Authors Conference** expanded to two strands - one for grades 3-5 and one for grades 6-8.
Junior High Knowledge Bowl was organized during the 1992-93 year and was operational for the 1993-94 school year. There were 46 teams the first year.

Rural Partners in Prevention

- Ten sites were involved with **Rural Partners in Prevention**:
1. Beardsley-Brown Valley, Clinton, and Graceville
 2. Belview, Danube, Renville and Sacred Heart
 3. Granite Falls, Clarkfield, Cottonwood, Echo, Wood Lake, Hanley Falls and Hazel Run.
 4. Jackson County
 5. Litchfield
 6. Marshall
 7. Montevideo
 8. Pipestone County
 9. Tracy
 10. Willmar

Members

- 85 public schools
- 7 associate members
- 9 non-public schools
- 5 cities
- 3 counties
- 2 OGAs

**1993-94 Membership Dues
 \$835 plus 43 cents per student**



1994-95

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

There were 71 schools in the school insurance pool with premiums equaling \$18 million. In addition, 37 bought life insurance and 52 bought prop/liability insurance.

Regional Management Information Center/ Technology

The **Technology Services Department** was created in Spring of 1994. Distance Learning and the Regional Technology Project moved from Planning and Educational Services to this department.

Services included:

- Distance Learning - seven networks serving 60 school districts and post-secondary units.
- INTERNET Connectivity: By partnering with Communication for America (CFA) and Minnesota Equal Access Network Services, Inc (MEANS), we offered INTERNET connectivities and training at a reasonable price.
- Regional Technology Project

Educational Media Services

Baby Think It Over Dolls were purchased for the Media Center in February 1995. (See image page 39)

Special Education Service Centers

There were statewide efforts to address **Third Party Billing** in March 1995.

Staff and Board Notes

Mark Manning, Director of Administrative Services
Carol Svingen, Coordinator of Educational Programs
(Retired June 2010)

New to Board of Directors:

- Robert Krcil, Glencoe
- Shirley Buschena, Fulda
- Alvin Gruis, Worthington

Planning and Educational Services

Rural Partners in Prevention

Regional Special Needs Projects

ESL Short-Term Training Gillette Outreach Clinics Project

Student Enrichment Notes

The first **Conference for Young Artists** was held in November 1994 for grades 3-8. (See image page 41)

The first annual "**Exploring Science Conference**" for K-3rd graders was held in February 1995.

The **Conference for Young Authors** was held in two locations during the 1994-95 school year - Marshall and Willmar.

An **Honors Banquet** was held from 1986-87 through 1994-95.

1994-95 through 2011-12
Membership Dues

\$1,172 plus 45 cents per student

1995-96

Introducing ...

The 1995 Legislature changed the "educational cooperative service units" to "service cooperatives". Our updated logo is shown at right.



Lines of Service

Administrative Services

Regional Management Information Center/ Technology

Educational Media Services

Special Education Service Centers

Rural Partners in Prevention

Planning and Educational Services

The 1996 **Day of Excellence Conference** was the largest in the history of the conference - over 500 people attended.

Regional Special Needs Projects

Family Support Project

First Call for Help

Student Enrichment Notes

The **Conference for Young Authors** was held in two locations during the 1995-96 school year - Marshall and Willmar.

A pilot program called "**Arts on Tour**" was held on March 14, 1996. MACCRAY was the pilot site.

We held a **Summer Kid Fest** in June of 1996 for grades 3-8 focused on writing, art and science.

Two hundred students attended the first annual **Conference for Young Musicians** was held in May 1996. It ended up being the first annual and **ONLY** year it was held. (See image at left)

Staff and Board Notes

Lee Warne, Interim Director of RMIC/Technology

Ed VanDerHeiden, Audiologist (Retired August 2013)

Marianne Brenckman, Occupational Therapist (Retired June 2016)

New to Board of Directors:

- Kathi Thymian, Ortonville



We held the first **Annual Conference for Young Musicians** in May of 1996.

It ended up being the first and **ONLY** Conference for Young Musicians held through our agency. We now try to incorporate music-related sessions into our other conferences.

A Look Back ...

Did You Know?

Young musicians gather for conference in Marshall



Dr. M. Michael Suzuki directing the choir

The 1st Annual Conference for Young Musicians was held on May 21, 1996 in Marshall.

This conference was a new opportunity provided by the SW/WCC Service Cooperatives' Center for Educational Development, in conjunction with Southwest State

University's Department of Art, Music, Speech, Communication and Theatre. Students in grades 6-8 learned about jazz and generally celebrated music.

Approximately 215 students and adults attended the conference. A keynote presentation entitled "Growing Up Complete" was given by Bruce Hanson, composer, author and internationally recognized music educator from Elk River.

Students chose to participate in either vocal or instrumental ensembles. In these in-depth sessions, students prepared selections for the afternoon performance. In addition, students selected exploratory sessions on several different topics, such as choreography, introduction to jazz, performance techniques, computer accompaniment program among others. The afternoon performance included selections from the vocal instrumental ensembles, along with piano solo by Roderick Kettlwell and opera selections sung by Naomi Karstad and Thomas Conley and accompanied by Roderick Kettlwell.

Editor's Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.



1996-97

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

Through the HR/Personnel Department, training was offered on **Total Quality Management (TQM)** and other personnel management topics to schools and CCOGAs.

Educational Media Services

RMIC/Technology Services

1997 was the **SMART Software** roll-out with Benson as the pilot school district.

E-Rate started in 1996 to help ensure schools and libraries could obtain high-speed Internet access and telecommunications at affordable rates.

The **Technology Department** provided Local Area Network and Wide Area Network evaluation, design, installation and support for members.

Special Education Service Centers

Regional Special Needs

Planning and Educational Services

Elementary Prevention Program

Safe Orderly Schools Program

The **Elementary Prevention Program**, built on the Developmental Assets identified by Search Institute, was an intensive program to seek out "incipiently at-risk" students and connect them with community assets.

The **Safe Orderly Schools Program** worked to enhance the capacity and power of schools and community to prevent children from engaging in unhealthy, violent behavior.

Student Enrichment Notes

The 3rd Annual Conference on **Exploring Our World ... Science and Nature** expanded from only serving K-3rd grade to adding a strand for 4th – 6th graders.

The **Homework Helpline** shut down on February 28, 1997.

A **CyberKnowledge Competition** was held.

Staff and Council Notes

David Peterson. Special Education Director in both Montevideo and Windom

Bob Newman, Director of Resource Development

Lee Warne, Executive Director & Director of RMIC/Technology

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

- Fred Nolan, EVW
- Corny Smit, MCC
- John Widvey, Worthington

Editor's Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.

1997-98


Lines of Service

Administrative Services

A Pilot Project for **CCOGA** Staff Development included:

- An Intro to TQM
- An Intro to Leadership Styles for Government Managers
- An Intro to Participatory Decision Making
- An Intro to Compression Planning


Educational Media Services



Did You Know?

The Media Center first purchased **Baby Think It Over** dolls during the 1994-95 school year.

The dolls were available for school check-out and described as a way to "enhance a school's parenting curriculum".



Baby, think it over... Virtual reality parenting experience a "screaming success"

A Look Back ...

Special Education Services

Regional Special Needs

Planning and Educational Services

Deadre Stanton was the keynote at the 1998 Day of Excellence.

Southwest Telecommunications Cooperative

The **Southwest Telecommunications Cooperative (SWTC)** was a collaborative organization of 44 public schools, Redwood County Tele-Network, Southern Exposure Tele-Network, Des Moines River Valley Tele-Media, and Southwest/West Central Service Cooperatives. The focus was on distance learning which was provided through interactive television and wide area data networking. SWTC covered 12 counties in southwest Minnesota, with offices/network operations center located in Windom. We provided regional, statewide, national and international videoconferencing capabilities through a network of fiber optic, microwave and leased digital circuits.

Member schools received many services relating to distance learning. SWTC provided maintenance of ITV connections, studios, and switching centers, and provided ITV class scheduling and distribution of teaching materials such as textbooks and workbooks to member districts. Each member district was connected to a vast wide area network which provided several types of data access such as inter-district, regional record keeping, finance, payroll, and Internet.

Staff and Council Notes

Bruce Haug, Director of RMIC/Technology (*Bruce served as the leader of Business Services/Technology/Administrative Services from 1997 - 2005*).

Rod Wrege, Director of SWTC

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

- Luther Heller, Springfield

1998-99

Lines of Service



The agency logo was updated this year and is shown above.

Business Affairs

Accounting Technology Services
Region IV RMIC

Administrative Services

CED Operations
Prevention Programs CCOGA
Grants CP
Special Projects Delivery
Web Site Development Media
Health & Safety
Special Projects
Human Resources

Southwest Telecommunications Cooperative

Video/Data Network Program Support

This was the first year we offered **American Sign Language** classes through Interactive Television (ITV).

Regional Special Needs

Low Incidence Carl Perkins
Low Incidence School to Work
Resource Library Assistive Technology

Risk Management

School Insurance Pool CCOGA Insurance Pool

Special Education Cooperatives

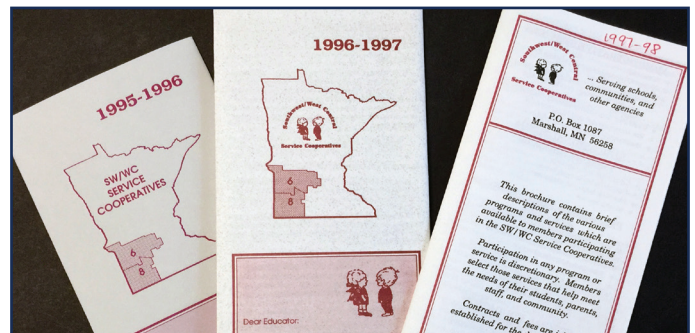
Educational Service Centers Services for Non-Attending Handicapped Children
SEIMC

Board Notes

New to Board of Directors:

- Kathy Reiber, Marshall
- Wayne Friedrich, Spicer

Ex-Officio CCOGA Representative to the Board of Directors: Mark Jorgenson, Lyon County



Editor's Note: All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.

1999-2000

Lines of Service

Administrative Services

Long Distance/Cellular

Southwest Telecommunications Cooperative

Video/Data Network

Program Support

Risk Management

School Insurance Pool

CCOGA Insurance Pool

Information Technology Services

Region IV RMIC

Technology Services

Regional Special Needs

Low Incidence

Carl Perkins

R-CSPD

School-to-Work

Assistive Technology

Special Education Cooperatives

Educational Service Centers

SEIMC

Services for Non-Attending Handicapped Children


The **SEIMC** put their library online.

Staff Notes

Cliff Carmody, Director of Administrative Services

Teresa Ostlie, Special Education Director in Montevideo

Mike Sullivan, Special Education Director in Windom




SWWC
Education & Administrative Resources
Celebrating 50 Years
1965-2015

Did You Know?

The very first
Conference for Young Artists
was held on November 29, 1994.

Over 800 students, parents and
teachers were in attendance!

800 students, parents, and teachers attend Young Artists Conference



Suggestions from participants were also given for future centers— topics concerning topics as well as topics concerning topics. A number of students mentioned activities in photography and music. Another idea was to provide an arts center area for high school students.

The Conference for Young Artists was a new opportunity provided by the SWWC SEICs for students in grades 5 through 8. "The idea for the conference came from discussion of the Advisory Committee Meeting held last summer for the Young Artists Conference," said Jane Nichols, Student Activities Coordinator. "We noticed a great interest in the art-making sessions and discussed the need for a conference that would focus on the arts. We began organizing the event soon after that."

The advisory committee will meet again in the summer to discuss plans and direction for next year.

James Dahl, presenter — *Working Dots*
Over 400 students, parents, and teachers participated in the Conference for Young Artists held November 29, 1994 in Marshall.

Topics included sculpture, drawing, printmaking, coloring, fine arts, dance, organic storytelling, and others.

"I found it fun."

"Everything I want to see great happens will have this again."

"It was very interesting and helpful."

"I thought it was a lot of fun. I'd like to do more next year."

"It was fun, thank you."

Student evaluations of the day seemed very positive.

"I found it fun."

"Everything I want to see great happens will have this again."

"It was very interesting and helpful."

"I thought it was a lot of fun. I'd like to do more next year."

"It was fun, thank you."

Twenty-four presenters provided sessions on a variety of topics in the areas of the visual and performing arts. Students attended sessions on three different topics in the morning and then attended an in-depth session in the afternoon.

We added presenters and topics to accommodate the number of students attending the event," said Sue Gervais, Coordinator of the Center for Educational Development.

A Look Back ...

SOUTHWEST WEST CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE

SWWC

Education & Administrative Resources

2000-01

Lines of Service

Educational Services

Health & Safety
Prevention
Media
Cooperative Purchasing
Student Activities

Website Development
Grants
Long Distance/Cellular
On-Line Learning

Regional Special Needs

Low Incidence
Carl Perkins
R-CSPD

School-to-Work
Assistive Technology

Southwest Telecommunications Cooperative

Video/Data Network
Program Support

Information Technology Services

Region IV RMIC
Technology Services

Special Education Cooperatives

Montevideo
Pipestone

Willmar
Windom

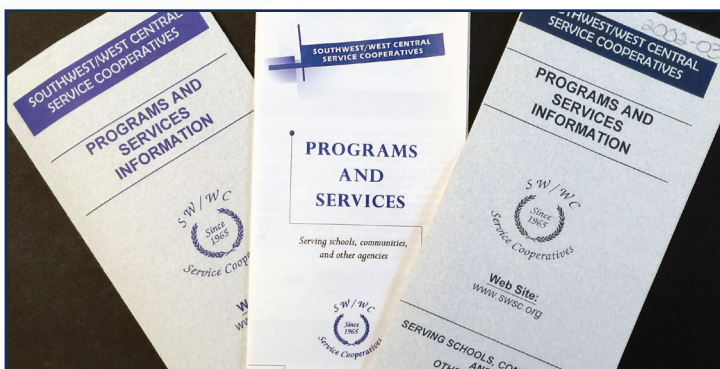
Risk Management

School Insurance Pool
CCOGA Insurance Pool

Staff Notes

Cliff Carmody, Director of Educational Services
Mary Palmer, Special Education Director in Willmar

Going online! The February 2001 issue of The Review was the last printed version that was distributed to members. Providing the newsletter online continued through November 2003, when it was again printed and mailed to members.



Editor's Note: All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.

2001-02

Lines of Service

Educational Services

Regional Special Needs

The Day of Excellence keynote speaker was Teacher of the Year Guy Doud.

Student Enrichment Notes

The Conference for Young Authors was renamed **Conference for Young Writers** for its 10th annual event.

A **Future City Competition (FCC)** was offered through Student Activities from 2001-02 though the 2005-06 school year for 7-8 graders.

2001-02 was the first year of the **Children's Author and Illustrator Program**. It was previously coordinated by Southwest Minnesota Arts and Humanities Council and Southwest State University.

Southwest Telecommunications Cooperative

Information Technology Services

Special Education Cooperatives

Risk Management

2002 was a year of firsts. We held our first annual **Office Assistants Seminar** (see image below) and the first annual **Summer Superintendents Conference**.



We first started holding annual Office Assistant Seminars in 2002.

We took a few years off since 2002, but we are back at it again!

In fact, we are holding the 2016 Administrative Assistants Workshop on Administrative Professionals Day, which is April 27.

Did You Know?

2nd Annual Office Assistant Seminar

"ATTITUDES ARE CONTAGIOUS"
BY ANN DOLENCE

June 16, 2003
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.



An "Attitudes Are Contagious" workshop has been scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2003 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. Ann Dolence with The Leisure Connection will be presenting this workshop for secretaries, administrative assistants and office personnel at the Southwest/West Central Service Cooperatives office in Marshall.

A Look Back ...

Members

- 56 public schools
- 7 associate members
- 6 non-public schools
- 53 cities
- 13 counties
- 25 OGAs

Editor's Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.

2002-03

Lines of Service

Educational Services

Cooperative Purchasing	Curriculum & Instruction
Grants/Resource Development	Prevention/Child Guide
Distance Learning	Media
Tech Integration Training	Prevention
Training & Development	Student Activities
	Website Development

Risk Management

School Insurance Pool CCOGA Insurance Pool

Information Technology Services

Business Affairs	Technology
RMIC	Health and Safety

Health & Safety Services moved to Information Technology Services.

Southwest Telecommunications Cooperative

Wide Area Network Services	Video Network Services
Local Area Network Services	Voice Network Services
	E-rate Submission

Fiscal Host

We were the fiscal host for two integration collaboratives beginning July 1, 2002:

- Cottonwood River Integration Collaborative (through 6/30/15)
- West Central Integration Collaborative (through 6/30/14)

Board and Council Notes

New to Board of Directors:

- Mike Zins, Fulda
- Don Brugman, Windom

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

- Ted Suss, Lincoln HI
- Dave Baukol, Montevideo
- Gery Arndt, Jackson County Central
- Kathy Leedom, Willmar

Members

56 public school members
7 associate members
7 non-public schools
53 cities
13 counties
33 OGAs

Special Education

Montevideo
Pipestone
Willmar

Windom
SEIMC

Regional Special Needs

Developmental
Cognitive Disability
Training and Network
Project

Educational Pathways
Project

Used Equipment Referral
Project

ESL Quality Initiative
Project

Autism Training Project

Interpreter Training and
Mentoring Project
Assistive Technology
Capacity Building Project

Teacher of Color
Program

Carl Perkins/Tech Prep
Regional Low Incidence
Projects

School-to-Work
Initiative

The **Autism Training Project** was a new program to address the dramatic increase in the number of Autism Spectrum Disorder students in Regions 6 and 8. The project was designed around customized training for teams at the local district level. Our goal was to establish teams in each district with the expertise in the area of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

REVIEW FEBRUARY 2006 — PAGE 15

Southwest Minnesota Technical Skills Challenge Held at Pipestone


Over 80 persons attended the fourth annual Southwest Minnesota Technical Skills Challenge that was held on April 5, 2006 at the Minnesota West Community & Technical College campus in Pipestone. Students in grades 9-12 from ten different schools throughout SW MN participated in the following technical competition areas:

- Accounting
- Carpentry
- Computer Troubleshooting
- Cosmetology
- Digital Photography
- Graphic Design
- Web Page Development

Students competed as individuals and teams, depending on the competition. Instructors from post secondary training programs at Minnesota West and industry professionals developed the challenges for each competition, and post secondary students, teachers and industry representatives were involved in the judging process. Competition activities included such things as:

- Doing a 90-minute makeover to prepare an individual for a professional job interview
- constructing a utility stool from design specifications
- creating and displaying a suite of digital photos on a required topic
- troubleshooting a computer hardware and software problem and fixing it within a required time limit
- utilizing a variety of graphic design tools to create marketing materials for a business


Award medals were given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers within each competition area. This event was organized by the SW MN Carl Perkins/Tech Prep Consortium at the SWWVC Service Cooperatives in Marshall.




Digital Photography Award Winners and Todd Finis (competition designer) of Prairie Lights Photography in Tyler.

SW MN Technical Skills Challenge April 5, 2006 — Competition Results

Accounting	1st Place . . . Jessica Silk Canby HS
	2nd Place . . . Corey Lanson Tracy Area HS
	3rd Place . . . Rachel Gervais Tracy Area HS
Carpentry	1st Place . . . Adam Schulte Jackson County Central HS
	2nd Place . . . Andrew Bricks Jackson County Central HS
	3rd Place . . . Aaron Oldenburg Jackson County Central HS
Computer Troubleshooting	(team event, teams chose to compete by themselves)
	1st Place . . . Todd Stogdill Murray County Central HS
	2nd Place . . . Vincent Henningsgaard Canby HS
	3rd Place . . . Colby Citrowale Pipestone Area HS
	Michael Liesenfeld Pipestone Area HS
Cosmetology (2-person team event)	
	1st Place . . . Amber Schreier Murray County Central HS
	Ashley Schreier Murray County Central HS
	2nd Place . . . Jackie Brus Tracy Area HS
	3rd Place . . . Elizabeth Raymond Murray County Central HS
	Erin Saurte Murray County Central HS
	Annette Magnus Murray County Central HS
Digital Photography	
	1st Place . . . Kyle Liesenfeld Canby HS
	2nd Place . . . Cynthia Acevedo Edgerton HS
	3rd Place . . . Marcus Lihonen Edgerton HS
Graphic Design (2-3 person team event)	
	1st Place . . . Kim Skoppliam Luverne HS
	Rajnee Phommaraclaa Luverne HS
	Souddy Phommaraclaa Luverne HS
	2nd Place . . . Ian Anderson Murray County Central HS
	Mile Garcia Murray County Central HS
	3rd Place . . . Nick Westschek Murray County Central HS
	Sara Christensen Murray County Central HS
	Michelle Elleton Murray County Central HS
Web Page Development — Demonstration Project	
	Recognition for Participation John Davis Canby HS



Luverne HS Graphic Design Team earned 1st Place Honors



MN West Carpentry Students Judged the Carpentry Competition Projects

"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to an human soul." Joseph Addison

Student Enrichment Notes

The first annual **Student Activities Celebration Luncheon** was held. This event was held annually through the 2008-09 school year.

The first annual **Technical Skills Challenge** was held. (See image at left)

Beginning in 2002-03, **Career Exploration Days** were held for high school sophomores and juniors. It was a partnership between our agency and the five MN West campuses and SMSU.

2003-04

Lines of Service

General Operations

Human Resources
Facilities Management
Marketing

Accountability
Accounting

Business Affairs Service Center

RMIC
Internal Tech Support
Health and Safety

Cooperative Purchasing
Resource Development
CCOGA

The first district the RMIC provided **Business Management Services** to was Murray County Central in 2004. *(In 2015, 14 districts were receiving some form of Business Management Services).*

Regional Educational Services Center

Regional Low Incidence
Carl Perkins/Tech Prep
Assistive Technology
Outreach Clinics
Curriculum, Assessment
& Instruction

Prevention Programs
Student Activities
Teacher Resource
Center
*(online learning/resource
libraries)*

Telecommunications Service Center

SW Telecommunications
Cooperative
Video/Data Network

External Tech Services
Emerging Technologies

Risk Management

The **Care Support Program** and **Worksite Wellness Program** were new offerings.

We worked in partnership with Appletree Institute for our two health insurance pools. The school pool included 60 groups and the CCOGA pool consisted of 128 groups.

In 2003, the research and development of **VEBA** products was completed, with availability of the VEBA plan for schools in July 2003 and CCOGAs in January 2004. A VEBA is a health reimbursement arrangement that allows an employer to contribute money to a trust on behalf of their employees. The funds in this account can be used to help pay for eligible medical expenses. The VEBA plan gives employees more control over if, and when, they spend health care dollars.

Staff and Board Notes

Cliff Carmody, Deputy Executive Director
Ann Wendorff, Principal at Red Rock Ridge ALC

New to Board of Directors:

- Paul Henriksen, Russell
- Maydra Maas, Westbrook-Walnut Grove
- Loren Mathews, New London-Spicer

Members

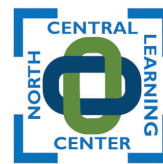
56 public schools
7 associate members
7 non-public schools
53 cities
33 OGAs
13 counties



Did You Know?

Here are the years our Alternative Learning Programs opened!

- Belview Learning Center - 2003
- Blue Mound Learning Center - 2009
- Cosmos Learning Center - 2009
- North Central Learning Center - 2013
- Project SEARCH - 2013
- Red Rock Ridge Learning Center - 2003



A Look Back ...

Special Education Service Centers

Educational Service Centers

Red Rock Ridge ALC
Belview Learning Center

The annual **paraprofessional conference** was held in two sites for the first time - one site in the northern part of our region and one in the southern part.

The Southwest ALC became the **Red Rock Ridge ALC** in the fall of 2003. The first class graduated from the RRR ALC in the spring of 2004.

The **Belview Learning Center** opened its doors on September 15, 2003, as a Setting IV Day Treatment program. The program was established under the umbrella of the Redwood County Collaborative and SWWC served as the fiscal host. The Collaborative provided startup funds and oversight for the program through June 30, 2011. At that time, SWWC assumed full oversight and operations of the program.

2004-05

Lines of Service

Business Affairs Service Center

Business Services
Health and Safety
Cooperative Purchasing

RMIC
Resource Development
CCOGA

Educational Programs Service Center

Educational Services
Student Activities
Carl Perkins
Low Incidence

Assistive Technology
ESL
School to Work

Special Education Service Centers

Montevideo
(See article on Monte
office at right)

Pipestone
Willmar
Windom

The **Belview Learning Center** received the Association of Minnesota Counties 2004 County Achievement Award!

The Media Services/Distribution library and the SEIMC library collection merged into one **Resource Library** in January 2005.

General Operations Service Center

Human Resources Accounting

Telecommunications

Internal Technology Support

Student Enrichment Notes

The Exploring Our World Conference officially changed to "**Science and Nature Conference**" in 2005. (See image at right)

The first **Culinary Skills Challenge** was held April 2005.

The **Student Inventors Congress** program was canceled in 2005 due to low registrations.

The **Creative Writing Contest** started in the Spring of 2005.

Members

56 public schools
8 associate members
10 non-public schools
59 cities
45 OGAs
15 counties
54,999 students



Did You Know?

2004 Newspaper Article!

What a great article from the Montevideo newspaper about our Montevideo office!

Thursday, April 22, 2004 Montevideo American-News

Education cooperative at home in new location on First Street

By John Givan
SFWF writes

Singly headquartered with in the cozy confines of a recently remodeled building at 306 North First Street is an organization that has been a significant part of Montevideo for nearly three decades. The Montevideo Special Education Cooperative provides a wide variety of educational resources and services to school districts and other entities in Montevideo and seven surrounding counties. The cooperative serves 10 member school districts located in west central Minnesota, as well as the Belview Day Treatment Center and the Heartland Girls' Ranch in Benson.

These schools have a total enrollment of approximately 7,000 students. Of these, 1,300 have been identified as having special needs requiring the provision of special education services.

The cooperative is responsible for providing support to the area districts and their staffs via administrative services, occupational therapy services, coordination of educational services, school psychology services, third party billing services, and a special education instructional material center (SEIMC).

The local office has approximately 15 employees, some of whom work out of the downtown location, and others who are located at various schools.

Teresa Ostle is director of special education at the Montevideo office. Her assistant is Patty Molden. Other support staff includes Martha Ritter and Becky Olson. Mary Weber is the coordinator of the SEIMC, which is located upstairs.

The cooperative's Montevideo office is one of four satellite offices connected to the Southwest West Central Service Cooperative, which has its main office in Marshall.

The cooperative moved across the street into its new quarters in mid-August 2003 after being housed for almost 30 years in the former Northern States Power building at 301 North First Street.

Formerly home to Lott's Cafe, the Montevideo Special Education Cooperative's new location is owned by local businessmen Keith and Kevin Hein. The father and son duo, working as the Chippewa Preservation Partnership, has done extensive work to renovate the structure.

Educational resources are not the only services provided by the cooperative. The Community Transition Inter-Agency Cooperative (CTIC) involves not only schools, but counties, community organizations and service providers and the Montevideo cooperative to assist young adults with a disability to make a successful, meaningful transition from school to adult life.

In addition, the cooperative along with Chippewa, Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Swift and Yellow Medicine counties supports the Family Support Network. The FSN provides families of special needs children with education in the form of materials and training opportunities to learn more about disabilities and abilities. The support network also provides networking opportunities for families through activities that link them with others in the same situations, as well as with other agencies as requested.

The Southwest West Central Service Cooperative is a public agency established by the state Legislature. The general services available to all children are the purpose of the SWWC in Minnesota. SC is to make general and



MSECC's new quarters in a century-old building, formerly home to Lott's Cafe, have been completely remodeled by owners Keith and Kevin Hein. (Photo by John Givan)

The building the Montevideo Special Education Cooperative occupied for three decades is for sale. (Photo by John Givan)

A Look Back ...

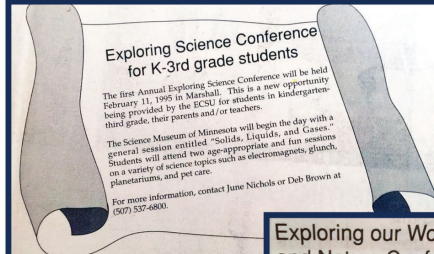


Did You Know?

A student conference for kids grades K-3 began in February 1995. It was called the Exploring Science Conference.

In its third year, the conference became the Exploring Our World ... Science and Nature Conference. It expanded from only serving grades K-3 to an additional strand for grades 4-6.

The name of the conference was officially changed starting with the 2004-05 school year to the Science and Nature Conference.

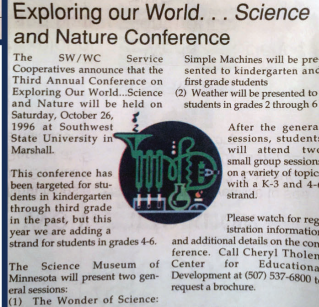


Exploring Science Conference for K-3rd grade students

The first Annual Exploring Science Conference will be held February 11, 1995 in Marshall. This is a new opportunity being provided by the ECSU for students in kindergarten-third grade, their parents and/or teachers.

The Science Museum of Minnesota will begin the day with a general session entitled "Solids, Liquids, and Gases." Students will attend two age-appropriate state and fun sessions on a variety of science topics such as electromagnets, glunch, planetariums, and pet care.

For more information, contact June Nichols or Deb Brown at (507) 537-6800.



Exploring our World... Science and Nature Conference

The SW/WC Service Cooperatives announce that the Third Annual Conference on Exploring Our World... Science and Nature will be held on Saturday, October 26, 1996 at Southwest State University in Marshall.

This conference has been targeted for students in kindergarten through third grade in the past, but this year we are adding a strand for students in grades 4-6.

The Science Museum of Minnesota will present two general sessions:

- (1) The Wonder of Science:

Simple Machines will be presented to kindergarten and first grade students.

- (2) Weather will be presented to students in grades 2 through 6.

After the general sessions, students will attend two small group sessions on a variety of topics with a K-3 and 4-6 strand.

Please watch for registration information and additional details on the conference. Call Cheryl Tholen, Center for Educational Development at (507) 537-6800 to request a brochure.



A Look Back ...

2005-06

Lines of Service

Business Affairs Service Center

Business Services
Health and Safety
Cooperative Purchasing

RMIC
Resource Development
CCOGAs

Special Education Service Centers

Montevideo
Pipestone

Willmar
Windom

General Operations

Human Resources
Accounting

Teaching/Learning Center

Regional Low Incidence
Regional Staff
Development
ESL
Assistive Technology
School to Work

Carl Perkins
Student Activities
Learning Resources
Prevention Programs
Online Learning

Telecommunications Service Center

SW Telecom
Cooperative
Video/Data Network
Internal Tech Support

External Tech Support
Emerging Technologies

Members

60 public schools
7 associate members
10 non-public schools
67 cities 15 counties 45 OGAs
52,434 students 7,647 teachers

Staff, Board and Council Notes

Cliff Carmody was in charge of RMIC/CP and H&S from 2005-07.

Erv Marquardt, Special Education Director in Windom

New to Board of Directors:

- Michael O'Brien, New London-Spicer
- Stephanie Cordes, RTR

New to Superintendents Advisory Council:

- Dave Deragisch, Hills-Beaver Creek
- Dave Marlette, Tracy
- Larry Peterson, Eden Valley-Watkins
- Dwayne Strand, Yellow Medicine East

Editor's Note: All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.



Day of Excellence Facts

- The first Day of Excellence was held in 1986.
- The largest Day of Excellence was in 1996 when over 500 people attended.
- The only time the Day of Excellence was cancelled was in 2006 when we received 7.5 inches of snow!
- The final year we held the Day of Excellence was in 2011. Kevin Honeycutt was the keynote speaker.

A Look Back ...

Did You Know?

24TH ANNUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY OF EXCELLENCE



Monday, March 10, 2008
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Southwest Minnesota State University

Welcome again to what is now our 24th Annual Day of Excellence where our focus is "Achieving Educational Excellence" and its impact on Special Education. Sessions will be conducted for Special Education Teachers, General Education Teachers, Administrators, Paraprofessionals, Parents, Agency Personnel and many others. CEU's will be available.

Student Enrichment Notes

August 2005 was the first **BIG Teaching and Learning Conference**. Guy Doud was the keynote.

On April 20, 2006, we held the first annual **Public Service Announcement Challenge** at SWWC. Twenty high school students from Canby competed. (See image at right)

The first annual technology integration conference was held in March. This conference would later be named **This is IT²**.

The **Day of Excellence** conference was canceled due to 7.5" of snow in the region. This was the first and only time in 27 years the conference was canceled.

REVIEW

FEBRUARY 2006 — PAGE 10

Canby High Students Create Public Service Announcements

Twenty students in grades 9-12 from the Canby High School participated in the first annual Public Service Announcement Challenge held on April 20, 2006 at the Southwest West Central Service Cooperatives Office in Marshall.

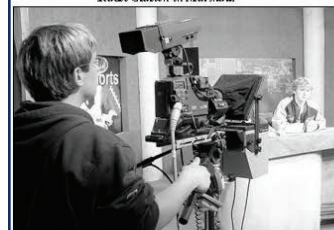
A theatre atmosphere was created in the conference rooms at the SWWC Service Cooperatives, and eight teams presented their 60-second public service announcement video on the topic "Attentive Driving". The videos were judged by five Southwest Minnesota State University Communications Students who are majoring in Television and/or Radio Broadcasting, Marketing and Communications. A "Judge's Choice Award" was given to the team who



Canby High School's students and instructor Sara Hemish at SMSU's Television Studio.



Learning about the equipment at the KKCK Radio Station in Marshall.



Students go to experience being on BOTH sides of the television camera at the SMSU studio.

in the opinion of the judges, best accomplished the purpose and intent of the public service announcement. In addition to showing their videos, students also had to go before the group and do a brief introduction of their video and responded to questions afterwards.

Also as a part of the day, the Canby High School students and their instructor, Sara Hemish, toured the KKCK Radio Station in Marshall and the Southwest Minnesota State University Radio and Television Broadcasting and Communications program.

Students who attended the event were for the most part, novice video producers. The activity gave them the opportunity to learn more about video production and all the components that comprise creating a 60-second public service announcement. In some cases students indicated they may continue to create videos and may even explore this area as a possible career for themselves.



Winners of the Judge's Choice Award - Albe Kraus, Sydney Hiner & Nicole Nordquist, along with the SMSU student judges.

SOUTHWEST WEST CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE

SWWC

Education & Administrative Resources

2006-07

Centers of Excellence

Editor's Note: Lines of service were reorganized during 2006-07. All current and new programs/services listed under each heading.

Center for Teaching and Learning Services

Student Activities
Carl Perkins: Career and Technical Education

School Improvement and Professional Development

This was the first year SWWC received funding for **school improvement** specialists.

We became a licensed **Immersion Presents** site in 2006. Students came to our office in Marshall to watch as renowned ocean explorer Dr. Robert Ballard and an interdisciplinary team of scientists explored the fascinating undersea landscape of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS).

Center for Special Education Services

Special Education Service Centers

Educational Pathways Project

Interpreter Training & Mentoring Project

Developmental Cognitive Disability (DCD) Training and Network Project

Autism Training Project

Regional Assistive Technology Project

Outreach Clinics

Southwest MN Assistive Technology Capacity Building Project

Used Equipment Referral Project

Transitions Outcome Project

When the **Belview Learning Center** started in 2003, we served only middle school and high school students. The program expanded in 2006 to include an elementary program - making BLC a K-12 facility.

Student Enrichment Notes

Conferences

Conference for Young Artists (grades K-8)

Conference for Young Writers (grades 3-8)

Science and Nature Conference (grades K-8)

Competitions

Creative Writing Contest (grades 3-12)

Culinary Skills Challenge (grades 9-12)

Junior High Knowledge Bowl (grades 7-9)

Senior High Knowledge Bowl (grades 7-12)

Spelling Bee (grades 5-8)

Technical Skills Challenge (grades 9-12)

Collaborative Programs

CORE - Center of Rural Entrepreneurship (grades K-12)

Junior Achievement (K-12)

Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest (grades K-3)



Center for Administrative Services

Technology
Health and Safety

Cooperative Purchasing
RMIC

In February 2007, we announced that construction of the new high-speed Wide Area Network for 31 school districts in southwest Minnesota was complete. The network was designed, constructed and tested by Trillion Partners, verified by our IT staff and deemed completely implemented. (See *image at right*)

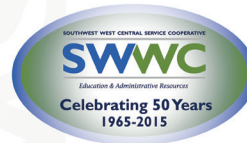
Center for Risk Management Services

There were 60 school districts and 128 cities/counties/other governmental agencies in the two insurance pools.

On June 30, 2007, SWWC relieved Appletree Institute of its role in managing the health insurance pools.

Members

59 public schools
7 associate members
10 non-public schools
64 cities
14 counties
47 OGAs
54,732 students
7,647 teachers



Did You Know?

On September 25, 2006, the last of the towers for the **Wide Area Network** were put up. The network was operational by January 2007. During the entire process, the longest down-time experienced was 10 minutes. Over the years, schools went from T1 lines to 1.5 MB up to 100 MB.

The left image shows the new WAN tower in front of the old WAN tower (built in the early 1980s) at the Lamberton school.



A Look Back ...

Staff and Council Notes

Lee Warne retired December 31, 2006.

Cliff Carmody named Executive Director effective January 1, 2007.

Shelly Maes, Manager of Development and Communications

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:
• John Brennan, Springfield

In the Fall of 2006, we added a Development and Communications Office.

2007-08



Divisions of Excellence

Division of Teaching and Learning Services

School Improvement and Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction

Educational Pathways Project

The Educational Pathways Project was a collaborative program partnering SW/WC Service Cooperative, School-to-Work, MN West, MN Paraprofessional Consortium and MDE. The project was designed to develop career opportunities in education and provide training for paraprofessionals.

Student Enrichment Notes

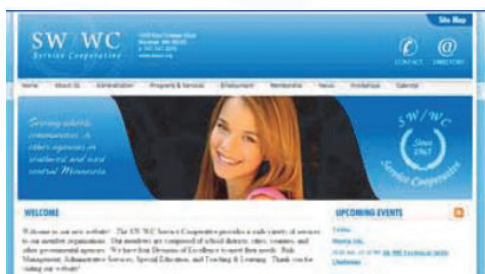
The 1st Annual **Southwest Minnesota Career Expo** was held in October in two sites - Marshall and Worthington.

The NASA Exhibit was part of the **Science and Nature Conference** held in January 2008. The NASA Traveling Exhibit came from the NASA Glenn Research Center in Ohio and featured a 1/6 scale inflatable space shuttle, an Apollo panel exhibit, a Hubble telescope panel exhibit, a Mars rover table top model, a Space shuttle table top model, an Apollo trainer space suit, an Interactive glove box, Space food packages and even some lunar samples.

In February 2008, the first annual **Chess Tournament** was held. It was offered through the 2010-11 school year. (See image at right)

The **Culinary Skills Challenge**, held in March 2008, also served as the second annual MN ProStart Student Invitational.

On June 2, 2008, we launched our new **website!**



Division of Special Education Services

In October 2007, the SEIMC and Media Services Library were combined and renamed the **Educational Resource Library**.

A student-run business, **InStitches**, started as part of the Heartland Ranch School.

In 2007-08, we entered into a **Speech-Language Telepractice** pilot project with Bismark State College.

Beginning in the Fall of 2007, four new schools were added to the Willmar Special Education Cooperative bringing the total to 13 schools. The new schools were BLH, GSL, LP and McLeod West - known as the Crow River Schools.

The Setting IV Program, formerly operated by the Glencoe-Silver Lake School District, became part our agency. It was housed in the Lincoln building in Glencoe. (This program would eventually become the **Cosmos Learning Center**.)

The 1st **Annual Special Education Opener** was held in Lamberton.

After five years of operation, the **Red Rock Ridge ALC** graduated 112 students. (See image at right)

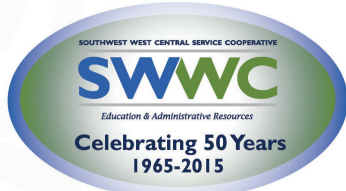
Division of Administrative Services

Two new services were added in the Technology Department: **Technology Integration Services** and **TSIS** (TIES Student Information System).

A new training lab was operational in October 2007. It was complete with 16 student workstations, one teacher workstation, a SMARTBoard and ITV.

Division of Risk Management Services

There were 62 groups in the school pool and 124 in the CCOGA pool.



Did You Know?

SWWC sponsored a Regional Chess Tournament for students for 4 years, from 2008 - 2011.

FIRST REGIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT HELD
SUBMITTED BY SUE GORECKI, STUDENT ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

SWWC Service Cooperative sponsored its first-ever Regional Chess Tournament on February 2 in Marshall. The competition was open to students in grades K-12. The tournament allowed elementary and middle school divisions to finish five rounds and the high school division to complete four Game/30 rounds. Tiebreakers were determined by Five-Minute (Blitz) rounds at the end of the competition. Special thanks to Steve Harder of Mountain Lake for serving as the Tournament Director.

A listing of winners for the various sections is on our website: www.swwc.org. Also check out the photographs in the Photo Gallery.

Another Successful Chess Tourney
By Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator

On Wednesday, February 9th, 59 young competitors participated in the 4th Annual Regional Chess Tournament held at the YMCA in Marshall. Dedicated chess players rose as early as 6:00 am and drove from as far away as Hutchinson, Worthington, Bird Island, and other towns to square off again at each other across the chess board. In the elementary category, top honors went to Maxwell Clutch (Monticello, first place), Wyatt Thomas (Hutchinson, second place), and Regan Jacoby (Verna, third place). Middle school winners were Michael Gutman (Marshall, first place), Vuong Van (Westbrook Walnut Grove, second place), and Tommy Kounibout (Worthington, third place). High school winners were Rocky Yang (Westbrook Walnut Grove, first place), Eddie Kodl (Redwood Falls, second place), and Caleb Dusek (Westbrook Walnut Grove, third place). Besides the towns already mentioned, other participants came from Canby, Olivia and Roselle.

A frequent topic in the tournament was the dangerous Bird Line Attack against the Two Knights Defense. The tournament was sponsored by the SWWC SC and represented schools in the eighteen counties of southwest and west central Minnesota. There were 12 players from grades 9-12, and 17 from grades 3-8. The tournament Director was Steve Harder of Mountain Lake.

A Look Back ...



2003-04 was the first year that the Southwest ALC became the **Red Rock Ridge ALC**, located in Windom.

In the spring of 2008, the RRR ALC graduated its fifth class. Through the first five years, 112 students graduated!

The picture at right is the staff back in the fall of 2009. Do you recognize anyone?



A Look Back ...

Did You Know?

Staff, Board and Council Notes

Doug Deragisch, Director of Risk Management Services

Bob Braun, Director of Teaching and Learning Services

Dr. Luther Heller, Director of Administrative Services

New to Board of Directors

- Lynn Suter, KMS
- Bonnie Barnhardt, Avera (CCOGA rep)
- Janice Fransen, Jackson County (CCOGA rep)

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

- Kathy Leedom, Willmar
- John Kraker, Minneota
- Gary Fisher, Luverne

Editor's Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.

Members

59 public schools

21 charter/nonpublic schools

68 cities

16 counties

46 OGAs

51,109 students



2008-09

Divisions of Excellence

Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Math and Science Teacher Academy

The **Math and Science Teacher Academy** was a partnership with the Minnesota River Valley Education District (MRVED) and Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU). Nineteen districts (91 teachers) participated in the project's first year.

In 2008, Tech Prep and Carl Perkins programs merged in Minnesota and we formed a Carl Perkins Consortium that included schools from the SW/WC Service Cooperative, Minnesota River Valley Education District and the Southern Plains Carl Perkins Consortium. We became the fiscal host of the new **Minnesota West Carl Perkins Consortium** of 39 high schools from southwest and south central Minnesota.

Division of Administrative Services

In 2008-09, there were 20 courses offered through the Distance Education Program.

In the Fall of 2008, the first annual **SMARTBoard User Conference** was held with over 140 people attending. The conference was also held the following year. After that, a SMARTBoard User Group was formed and additional training sessions were integrated into the This is IT² Conference.

Staff, Board and Council Notes

- Deb Moore, Speech Language Pathologist for Telepractice
Kari Bailey, Health Cost Management Coordinator
New to Board of Directors
- Kathryn Kelly, Renville County SWCD (CCOGA rep)
- New to Superintendents' Advisory Council
- Allen Stoeckman, Yellow Medicine East
 - Ted Suss, Wabasso

Division of Special Education Services

Alternative Learning Programs

Speech-Language Telepractice

In August 2008, the first annual **Back to School Workshop** was held in Marshall.

Division of Risk Management Services

Health Cost Management Program (HCMP)

There were 60 groups in the school pool and 122 groups in the CCOGA pool.

The intent of the **Health Cost Management Program** was to assist school groups in developing and implementing an employee health cost management program. The overall goals of the program were to have; 1) healthier individuals with improved self-esteem, 2) employees that perform optimally at work and home and 3) lower health plan utilization.

The first **Annual Health Conference** was held in the Fall of 2008.

The first **Flexible Learning Year (FLY)** Consortium application was submitted to MDE, but was denied.

The tagline **Partnership. Innovation Leadership. Service.** was created.

Members

- 59 public schools
- 24 charter/nonpublic schools
- 64 cities
- 16 counties
- 46 OGAs
- 51,348 students

Editor's Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.

2009-10

Divisions of Excellence

Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Shared Services

Six districts were part of the **Shared Services** Project.

The **audiology test booth** and **Project Discovery** moved to Balaton School Building.



Division of Special Education Services

The **Cosmos Learning Center** opened in 2009. It had previously been housed in the Lincoln building in Glencoe.

The **Blue Mound Learning Center** opened in 2009 in Luverne.

Division of Administrative Services

The second application from the **FLY Consortium** was submitted to MDE and was approved. This would lead to a six-year partnership between SW/WC and the consortium of 20+ school districts in southwest Minnesota.

Division of Risk Management Services

The Affordable Care Act passed in March 2010 and would have continued implications on our health insurance pools.

There were 60 groups in the school pool and 123 groups in the CCOGA pool.

Members

56 public schools

22 charter/nonpublic schools

61 cities

16 counties

44 OGAs

Staff, Board and Council Notes

Dave Lammers, Director of Special Education, retired June 30, 2010. He began with the agency during the 1968-69 school year as a Speech Therapist. He also worked as the Supervisor of the Pipestone Service Center from July 1969 to June 1973. From July 1973 until he retired, Dave was the Director of Special Education in the Pipestone Office.

Darin Jensen, Director of Administrative Services

New to Board of Directors

- Carol Morgan, Luverne

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council:

- Loren Hacker, Canby

2010-11

Divisions of Excellence

Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Response to Intervention (Rtl)

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

The Southern Regional **PBIS** grant (funded through the Minnesota Department of Education) began and served the southern tier of Minnesota. We were the lead agency in this partnership with South Central Service Cooperative and Southeast Service Cooperative.

This was the final year of the **Day of Excellence** conference. It was held on March 7, 2011, and Kevin Honeycutt was the keynote speaker.

This was the last year of the **Chess Tourney**.

Project Discovery relocated from Balaton back to the Marshall office.

Division of Special Education Services

The Division of Special Education went through a restructuring process during the 2010-11 year. Dr. Mary Palmer became the Senior Director of Special Education Services.

The **Pipestone Education Service Center** moved to the Pipestone Middle School/High School in the Fall of 2010.

In February 2011, the **Belview Learning Center** added a behavior program to serve students experiencing educational and behavioral issues.

We were awarded a Minnesota Rural Education Association Profiles of Excellence Award of Distinction for our **Speech Language Telepractice** Program.

Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Training was revamped to offer a comprehensive system of delivery to better ensure those who are trained meet certain levels of competence before using restraint with a student.

Division of Administrative Services

The **ESS/SmartHR** website was redesigned.

Type III Bus Driver Certification went online with over 250 participants.

The Minnesota Service Cooperatives' **Cooperative Purchasing Connection** launched new website.

Division of Risk Management Services

There were 56 groups in the school pool and 120 groups in the CCOGA pool.

A lot of planning resulted in the creation of a critical incident stress management (CISM) team to support school districts during a time of crisis. Over 30 school psychologists, counselors, social workers and other school personnel from throughout the region were trained for a **School Crisis Response Team** in January 2011.

Staff Notes

Mary Weber, SEIMC Coordinator, retired in August 2011. She began with the agency in August 1970.

Diane McCarron, Director of Special Education in Willmar

Tammy Stahl, Director of Special Education in Pipestone

Erv Marquardt retired after working at the agency since August of 1980.

Members

55 public schools

22 charter and non-public schools

60 cities

16 counties

44 OGAs

Editor's Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.

2011-12

Divisions of Excellence

Division of Teaching and Learning Services

We started promoting SumDog during the 2011-12 school year.

In the Fall of 2011, a transition “apartment” was constructed in the Marshall office.

Division of Administrative Services

Cooperative Purchasing sales topped \$3.6 million.

This was the first year that school districts contracted for regular **technology integration** facilitation services.

On July 1, 2011, the **Wide Area Network** transitioned internet services to SDN Communications. Trillion's infrastructure was updated by June 2012.

During 2011-12, we launched the **Member Services Database** which allowed members to search services purchased and find contact information for our staff who were assigned to their school.

We officially entered the **social media** world with an agency Facebook page and Twitter account.



Board and Council Notes

New to Board of Directors

- Maggie Kluver, Montevideo
- Steve Schneider, Worthington
- Tom Walsh, KMS

New to Superintendents' Advisory Council

- Ann Wendorff, Heron Lake-Okabena
- Jerry Kjergaard, Willmar

Division of Special Education Services

Behavior Analytic Services

The **Educational Resource Library**, known to many as SEIMC, was redesigned during this school year.

Behavior Analytic Services was new and we employed a 0.5 FTE Behavior Analyst. We provided services to eight school districts plus the Belview Learning Center, the Blue Mound Learning Center, the Cosmos Learning Center and the Red Rock Ridge Learning Center. Throughout the year, an additional 20 school districts added services and committed to purchasing behavior analytic services the following year

In Stitches, located at the Heartland Ranch School, won Honorable Mention in the Minnesota Rural Education Association Profiles of Excellence Awards.

Division of Risk Management Services

Wellness Institute

All members of the school insurance pool received a premium decrease this year.

Members

55 public schools

18 charter and non-public schools

58 cities

16 counties

45 OGAs

2012-13

Divisions of Excellence

Division of Teaching and Learning Services

North Collaborative

This was Year I for the **North Collaborative** pilot which included the districts of ACGC, BBE, BOLD, BLHS, KMS, Lester Prairie and MACCRAY. This was a 3+ year pilot to collaborate professional development and resources based on data and common needs.



Division of Special Education Services

Education Resource Library

The **Education Resource Library (ERL)** was redesigned to better meet member needs.

The **Blue Mound Learning Center** moved from Luverne to Pipestone.

Staffing for **behavior analyst services** increased to 1.5FTE to meet the growing demand for services. Approximately 30 districts received services and we also started promoting services in South Dakota. Contract days at our alternative learning programs also increased. This was the first year Functional Behavioral Assessment/Behavior Intervention workshops were offered.

Division of Administrative Services

In the Fall of 2012, a **Public Utilities Commission (PUC) grant** provided funding to put new ITV systems in each elementary school in the WAN (36 total).

Division of Risk Management Services

There were 56 groups in the school pool and 119 groups in the CCOGA pool.

Staff Notes

Cliff Carmody was President of the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs).

Tish Rops, Administrator of Alternative Programs

2012-13 through 2014-15
Membership Dues

\$150 for schools under 1,000 students
\$250 for schools over 1,000 students

FEES WAIVED

Members

56 public schools

21 charter/non-public schools

50 cities

12 counties

45 OGAs

Editor's Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.

2013-14

Divisions of Excellence

Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Southwest Prairie Regional Center of Excellence

We were selected as one of three new sites for the expansion of the **Regional Centers of Excellence (RCE)** initiative through the Minnesota Department of Education. The RCE in Marshall was named the Southwest Prairie RCE.

In July 2013, we held the first annual **Summer Principal Summit** with St Marys University in Winona.

The **Conference for Young Writers** was canceled due to the weather.

Division of Administrative Services

We bought into **Minnesota Partnership for Collaborative Curriculum (MPCC)** on behalf of our members in the spring of 2014

The **Cooperative Purchasing Connection Express** (online ordering site) was launched.



Division of Risk Management Services

There were 55 groups in the school pool and 109 groups in the CCOGA pool.

Staff and Board Notes

Melany Wellnitz, Director of the Southwest Prairie Regional Center of Excellence

Bob Braun retired June 30, 2014, after working at the agency since October 1986.

Sue Gorecki retired May 30, 2014, after working at SWWC for 36 years.

Mary Anderson retired after 23 years at SWWC.

New to Board of Directors

- David Kilpatrick, New London-Spicer
- Jody Bauer, Tracy

Division of Special Education Services

North Central Learning Center

Project SEARCH

During 2013-2014, we employed 3.0 FTE of **Behavior Analysts**. This increase in staffing was due to increased contract days at our learning centers (Belview, Blue Mound, Cosmos, North Central and Red Rock Ridge). We also started expanding services into South Dakota.

The first annual **Meeting the Challenge Behavior** Conference was held.

The first **Low Vision Clinic** was held in our Marshall office with 10 students attending.

2013-14 was the first year ever that all 46 of the districts subscribing to special education services were on the same monitoring schedule by MDE. Janet Dirksen was reassigned to head the **special education monitoring** efforts for the agency.

Avera Marshall served as the host business partner for **Project SEARCH**, a transition high school for students with disabilities, and provided a variety of 8-10 week internship rotations to help students develop necessary interpersonal and job skills to gain meaningful employment.

The **North Central Learning Center** opened in Willmar to serve special education students with behavioral and mental health needs.

This school year proved to be the most tragic since the creation of the **School Crisis Response Team** - with countless hours of support provided to districts by team members.

This was the first year of our employee recognition program - **GROW**.
Giving Recognition for Outstanding Work!



Members

57 public schools

23 charter/non-public schools

51 cities 12 counties

45 OGAs

2014-15

Divisions of Excellence

Division of Teaching and Learning Services

The first annual **Regional Math Conference** was held.

Division of Administrative Services

SMART Systems worked hard to create tools from within the software to provide districts with the tools needed for ACA reporting and requirements. Three days of training by our staff was needed to get districts prepared to use the new module.

Division of Risk Management Services

There were 51 groups in the school pool and 105 groups in the CCOGA pool.

Division of Special Education Services

Education Resource Library

(Program ended 6/30/15)

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Assets of the **Education Resource Library (ERL)** were distributed to member districts.

Paige Thompson, School Social Worker, received training on **Youth Mental Health First Aid** and provided training to SWWC staff and member districts.



YOUTH
MENTAL
HEALTH
FIRST AID®

Behavior Analyst services expanded to include 4.0 FTE serving 32 districts (including one FTE sold to one district). Services were continued at the alternative learning centers. South Dakota schools also purchased contracts for services, and a South Dakota date/location was added for the 2nd Annual Meeting the Challenge Behavior Conference.

Staff Notes

Lisa Gregoire, Director of Teaching and Learning Services

Penny Cammack, who started with the agency in August of 1979 as a speech clinician, retired. She also served as an Autism Consultant from 1999 - 2015.

Tish Kalla, Director of Alternative Programs (*position renamed*)

Members

55 public schools

12 charter/non-public schools

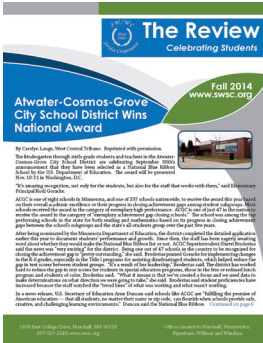
Over 150 cities, counties and OGAs that subscribe to risk management services.

Editor's Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.

Communications Notes

The Review changed its focus in the Fall of 2014 to "Celebrating Students".

A new publication, the Professional Development Catalog, was created starting in the fall of 2014. There are three issues per year highlighting upcoming professional development opportunities.





Have you ever been confused about our agency name?

It's not hard to imagine why after looking at all the different names and logos we've had over the past fifty years!

A Look Back ...

Did You Know?





SOUTHWEST AND WEST CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AREA



SOUTHWEST/WEST CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE SERVICE UNITS







2015-16

Divisions of Excellence

Division of Teaching and Learning Services

We were one of the regional hosts for the planning and development of the **2015 Regional Workforce Summit** focused on

strengthening industry and education partnerships. The conference was held at Southwest Minnesota State University in October 2015.



The **Minnesota West Carl Perkins Consortium** includes 38 high schools and Minnesota West Community and Technical college as the post-secondary partner. The number of schools has decreased over the years due to high schools consolidating/closing and some shifting between consortia.

Division of Administrative Services

Division of Risk Management Services

2015-16 Membership Dues

\$150 for schools under 1,000 students
\$250 for schools over 1,000 students

Division of Special Education Services

We held the first annual two-day **Special Education Law Conference** in Sioux Falls, SD.

Behavior analyst services continued to grow and we had 4.0 FTE of Behavior Analysts on staff. We continued providing services to our alternative learning programs, as well as 40 schools in Minnesota and nine in South Dakota. In addition to holding the third annual Meeting the Challenge Behavior Conference in two locations, we provided Behavior Tools workshops.

We were awarded Honorable Mention in the Minnesota Rural Education Association Profiles of Excellence Award of Distinction for **Project SEARCH**. (See image on following page)

Student Entrepreneurs

Belview Learning Center high school students created a heat-press business called **Bel-Youth Press**.



Setting IV high school students at the Red Rock Ridge Learning Center started a business called **Glassy Treasures**.

Members

55 public schools

12 charter/non-public schools

Over 150 cities, counties and other governmental agencies that subscribe to risk management services

Editor's Note: All previous year programs/services still being offered unless otherwise noted.

In the fall of 2014, we started a “One Agency Branding” initiative to create an organization with a recognizable brand, logo and service promise. The new logo was just one part of our effort to create “one agency”.

As seen in this booklet, we have had a myriad of names used for some or all of the programs under the Southwest West Central Service Cooperative umbrella, such as ECSU, Little Crow Special Education Cooperative, Regional Management Information Center, Crow River Special Education Cooperative and Southwest Telecommunications Cooperative. It was definitely time to build a strong brand for SWWC.

The alternative learning centers also received a new look this year. Maintaining school pride and identity during our “One Agency Branding” initiative was very important to us. In the end, the existing learning centers logos were either refreshed or redesigned. All of their materials, such as webpages, clothing, brochures, forms and handbooks, were co-branded to include the learning center logo as well as the SWWC logo.

As part of the celebration of our history, this 50th anniversary book was created. Many hours of reading through old annual reports, brochures, files, newsletters and conversations with staff resulted in over 70 pages showcasing our history. A series of “Did You Know? A Look Back ... ” graphics were created and shared on our social media sites to give a glimpse into our past. Those graphics are included throughout this booklet.



Staff and Board Notes

Edna Gossen retired on December 31, 2015, after working at the agency since August of 1973.

Tammy Stahl, Director of Human Resources

In March of 2016, we topped 300 employees.

New to Board of Directors

- Matt Coleman, Marshall
- Darin Balken, Prairie Lakes Youth Programs



Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest has partnered with the SW/WC Service Cooperatives, Southwest Minnesota Foundation, and corporate and individual partners involved in the Connecting Youth & Business Partnership to reach more students with JA's economic and business education programs. Locally, within the 18-county region, JA serves over 2,300 students in southeast and west central Minnesota. "Junior Achievement makes learning about business and economics fun for students," said Tom Hoff, Career and Technical Program Coordinator for SW/WC Service Cooperatives. "JA programs not only bring something new and exciting to the classroom, but they are also necessary."

"The need is real and the statistics are alarming," explained Shirley Anderson-Perich, University of Minnesota Extension Services Regional Educator for JA Regional Board Member. "Last month I was in a classroom of thirty juniors and seniors from this region. Of those thirty students, only two had a savings account, yet more than a dozen of those students had cell phones, and only a handful had a part-time job." The 2002 National Financial Literacy Survey of U.S. high school seniors concludes that 60% of teens cannot explain the difference between cash, check, and credit cards. Nationally, the average undergraduate carries a credit card balance of nearly \$2,000!

Junior Achievement of SW/WC Minnesota provides programs for students in grades K through 12. Through age-appropriate curriculum, JA programs begin at the elementary school level, teaching children how they can impact the world around them as individuals, workers and consumers. JA programs continue through the middle and high school grades, preparing students for additional key economic and workforce issues they will face in the future. Today JA reaches more than four million students through 150 offices nationwide and another two million students in more than 100 countries worldwide and is the largest non-profit organization dedicated to teaching students free-entrepreneur education. The need is real. The need to teach students about personal finance, the need to communicate role models, and the need to be involved in our schools. Teaching our youth about free enterprise is a critical component to our much broader economic development plan for our region.

Inside this issue:

- SW/WC Service Cooperatives Upcoming Events & News 2-8
- SEMIC News and Notes 11
- Junior Achievement (article continued from pg. 1) 12
- Junior Achievement—Exchange City 13
- Knowledge Bowl Update 14-15
- Events & Happenings from Area Schools 16-17
- Get Computer Updates 18-19

Points of Interest:

- SW/WC Service Cooperatives Welcomes New Board Members
- Day of Excellence—March 8, 2004
- Computer Classes scheduled for the Marshall Office
- Young Writers—May 11, 2004
- The Next Review Deadline—April 13, 2004
- Assistive Technology Clinic
- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Upcoming Trainings

THANK YOU
To everyone who contributed articles to this issue of the Review!

2004

2008



Fall Means Busy Times For SW/WC Service Cooperative

By Shelly Mass, Manager of Member Services
Fall was a busy time at the SW/WC Service Cooperative. Several large conferences were held, along with numerous workshops and trainings. We are committed to meeting the training needs of our members, whether that is in the area of special education, math, reading, technology, or anything else. We strive to provide you with high quality professional development opportunities that will help you in your day to day work with our region's children. We hope this short summary of our first quarter professional development activities will show our commitment to working with you to meet the needs of our region.

We held two regional professional conferences in August. The Pipeline Professional Conference welcomed 210 people while the Willmar Professional Conference had 200 people attend. Several Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Trainings conducted by our staff were held throughout the region for over 265 people. The Teaching and Learning in SW Minnesota Conference was held the last week of August for 1,200 teachers, administrators and staff. Planning for the 2009 conference has already started. A new venue this fall, the First Annual SMARTBoard User Conference had over 140 participants.

Overall, from July through September (including the conferences mentioned above), the SW/WC Service Cooperative held over 55 workshops and trainings, for over 3,000 people, representing 68 school districts. Some topics of our workshops included data review, IACIS instructor training, SDE Instruction Model Enhancement, lesson study training, AHBRA training, a tax key workshop, and much, much more. Wow!

There are still many conferences yet to come this school year:
School District Conference—February 20-27, 2009
Technology Conference—February 25, 2009
Day of Excellence—February

Finally, all of these numbers don't include the many student conferences we hold during the year—Science & Nature, Young Writers, Technical Skills, Career Expo, and many more. The first student conference of the school year, the Conference for Young Artists, had 677 students and adults from 26 school districts.

We are proud to work with you to bring these professional development opportunities to southeast and west central Minnesota!

- SW/WC Service Cooperative**
Cliff Carmody, Executive Director
1420 East College Drive
Marshall, MN 56228
507-537-2240
Fax 507-537-7327
- Monteville Service Center**
Teresa Oulie, Special Ed Director
306 North First Street
Monteville, MN 56265
320-269-0243
Fax 320-269-7132
- Pipetstone Service Center**
Dave Lamson, Special Ed Director
PO Box 69, 713 6th St. SE
Pipetstone, MN 56164
507-825-8858
Fax 507-825-8035
- Willmar Service Center**
Mary Palmer, Special Ed Director
611 Southeast 5th Street
Willmar, MN 56201
507-221-5184
Fax 507-221-5302
- Windom Service Center**
Erin Marquardt, Special Ed Director
N. Highway 71, PO Box 265
Windom, MN 56101-0265
507-831-2956
Fax 507-831-2958

Bellevue Learning Center Provides Day Treatment Services to Area Students

The Bellevue Learning Center (BLC) is a school day treatment facility located in the small community of Bellevue. The program serves students who are receiving special education services and experiencing mental health problems. BLC merges both the day treatment services and the academic components for students with these services taking place within a school environment. Ultimately the goal is for the student to obtain the social, behavioral, and academic skills necessary to return to their home (resident) school district. The education staff and mental health professionals work side-by-side to assist each student in being successful. Upon its inception in 2000 the program has seen remarkable growth.



Bellevue Learning Center staff (left to right) Shoshana Peterson, Loraine Eilers, Victoria Douglas, Gretchen Reppert, Janet Hubertson, Brooke Stroh, Leann Land, Amy Wood, Kristin Smith, Pam Finkbein, Nick Trifiro, Jillian Johnson and Brian Adams.

Kinder Plus at Cedar Mountain

Older Moore in School District is offering a program called Kinder Plus for the second time this year. Regular kindergarten meets all day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday the first half of the year. The second half of the year kindergarten is all time Kinder Plus is a two-based program offered for kindergarten on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the first half of the year. Parents have the choice of enrolling their children on these two days. Transportation and school lunch are also available for these children. The program is based on rote review, the internet and math in kindergarten the week. We do many reading activities, and games to review skills. Making books, projects, papers, reading stories, working on computers, playing in Play Doh and more.



Kinder Plus Hand Craft



Kinder Plus Parachute

2006

2004

2008

2013



Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City School District Wins National Award

By Carolyn Lange, West Central Tribune. Reprinted with permission.
The kindergarten through sixth-grade students and teachers in the Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City School District are celebrating September 30th's announcement that they have been selected as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. The award will be presented Nov. 10-11 in Washington, D.C.

"It's a amazing recognition, not only for the students, but also for the staff that works with them," said Elementary Principal Kelli Goracke.

ACGC is one of eight schools in Minnesota, and one of 377 schools nationwide, to receive the award this year based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Most schools received the award in the category of exemplary high performance. ACGC is one of just 47 in the nation to receive the award in the category of "exemplary achievement gap closing schools." The school was among the top performing schools in the state for both reading and mathematics based on its progress in closing achievement gaps between the school's subgroups and the state's all-students group over the past five years.

After being nominated by the Minnesota Department of Education, the district completed the detailed application earlier this year to document students' performance and growth. Since then, the staff has been eagerly awaiting word about whether they would make the National Blue Ribbon list or not. ACGC Superintendent Sherry Broderius said the news was "very exciting" for the district. Being one out of 47 schools in the country to be recognized for closing the achievement gaps is "pretty outstanding," she said. Broderius praised Goracke for implementing changes in the K-6 grades, especially in the Title I programs for assisting disadvantaged students, which helped reduce the gap in test scores between students. "It's a result of her leadership," Broderius said. The district has worked hard to reduce the gap in test scores for students in special education programs, those in the free or reduced lunch program and students of color, Broderius said. "What it means is that we've created a focus and we used data to make determinations on what direction we were going to take," she said. Broderius said student proficiencies have increased because the staff watched the "trend lines" of what was working and what wasn't working.

In a news release, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said schools like ACGC are "fulfilling the promise of American education—that all students, no matter their name or zip code, can flourish when schools provide safe, creative, and challenging learning environments." Duncan said the National Blue Ribbon

1420 East College Drive, Marshall, MN 56228
507-537-2240, www.swsc.org
Offices located in Marshall, Monteville, Pipetstone, Willmar and Windom

SW/WC SERVICE COOPERATIVE OPENS TRAINING LAB

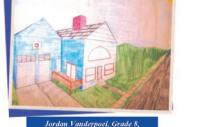
After many years of planning, the vision of a state-of-the-art technology training lab has come to fruition at the SW/WC Service Cooperative (SW/WC SC) in Marshall. For years, temporary training lab environments were set up on an as-needed basis in the SW/WC SC conference rooms to meet member training needs.

The training lab has 16 student workstations and one trainer workstation. The lab is complete with a high speed internet connection, Microsoft Windows XP and Vista, as well as Microsoft Office 2003 and 2007.

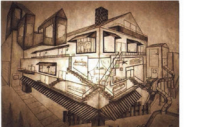
The lab has a SMART Board as well as Interactive Television capabilities. Users of the facility will have the ability to use this interactive setting in conferences with MDE and other organizations throughout the world that utilize ITV. In general, the creation of the lab allows the SW/WC SC to provide a higher level and a wider range of training opportunities for both its members and its employees, all with the goal of increasing the abilities and effectiveness of everyone.

The SW/WC SC Training Lab will be home to a wide array of trainings. The Regional Management Information Center within the SW/WC SC will conduct training in both finance and human resource related areas. The Information Technology Department will utilize the training lab to provide training on the TMS student information system and the Cognos data warehouse product, as well as many general trainings on computer usage and various software applications. Training in data warehousing will be a big part of services offered through the Information Technology Department and the School Improvement and Curriculum/Assessment/Instruction Departments. In addition, the Regional Educational Services Department will hold specific training opportunities focused on special education.

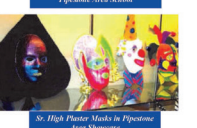
For more information on the Training Lab, contact Josh Sampson at josh.sampson@swsc.org or 507-537-2265.



Jordan Vanderpool, Grade 6 Pioneer Area School



In Johnson, N. High Pioneer Area School



St. High Pioneer Area School

2007

2008

2015



Fall 2015 NORTH COLLABORATIVE SCHOOLS TECHNOLOGY EXTRAVAGANZA

By Teresa Hunt, School Improvement Specialist, t.hunt@swsc.org
The North Collaborative Schools of ACGC, BBE, BMS, BOLD, Cedar Grove, CWS, Cedar Rapids, and WACASA came together on October 3, 2015 for a "Common Technology Extravaganza Day." The event was co-chaired by the Principals of the NCS, and Teresa Hunt, SW/WC SC's Technology Specialist. The day was held at the home of a new student of the collaboration, and it was a great day for providing over 60 technology resources to eleven district systems out of the NCS, come back to help and for the work environment. Our own district, staff members Mary Oulie and Tamara Strick also presented. Some of the sessions speakers of the NCS used those from included: Creating your student's own Blog, Engaging active learners, Project Based Learning, Clear work, Google Apps, Interactive Notebooks with Google Classroom, Kahoot, Managing through communication, Annotated Page Numbers, Smartboard, iPads, QR Codes and Google Forms, Answer Keys and Assessment using One Note, SMART APP, APPS, Technology, Time saving in the classroom, Technology, From a student's perspective, Using I-Pad for Student Instruction, and the Use of iPads to create a blog.

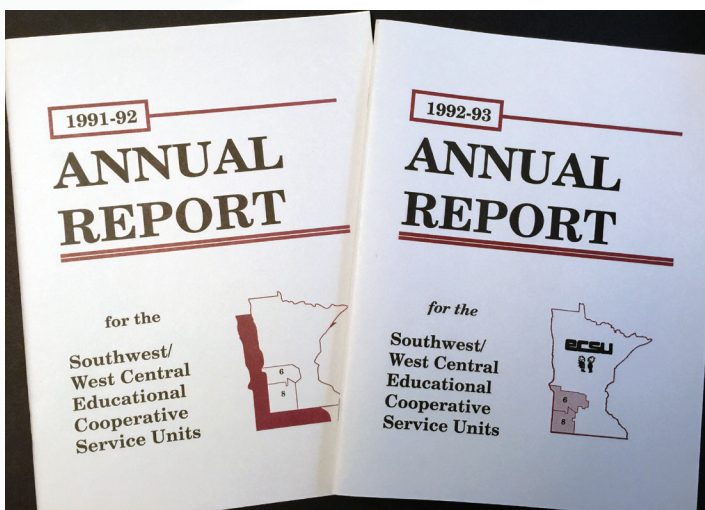
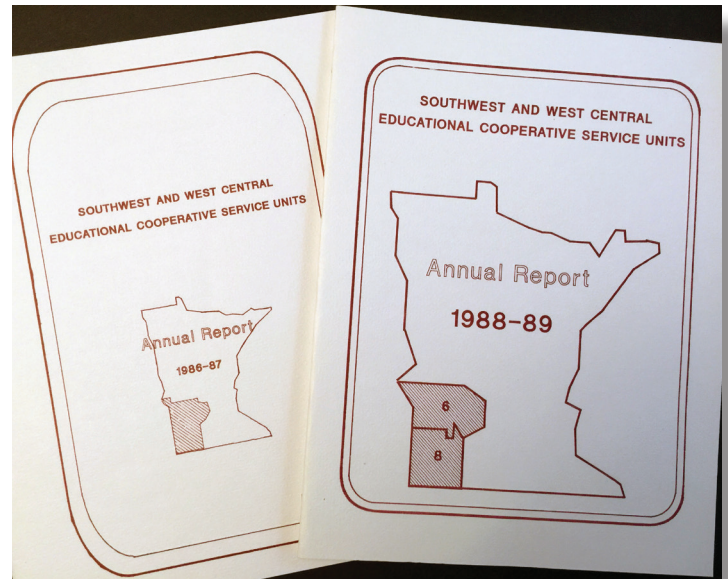
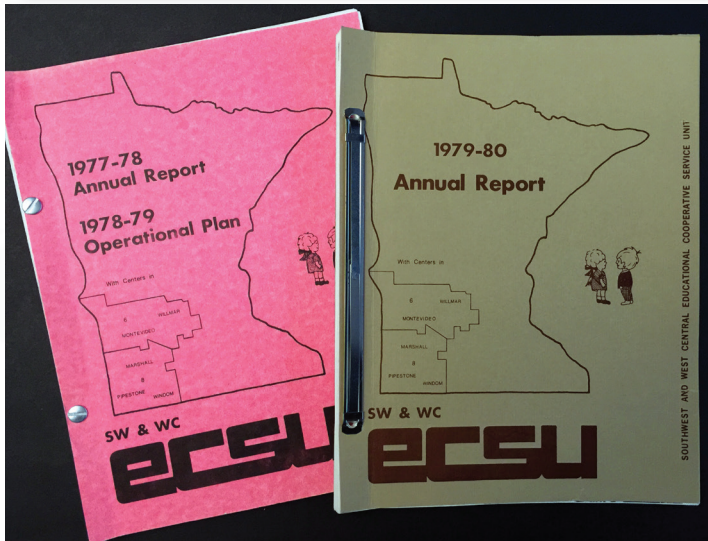
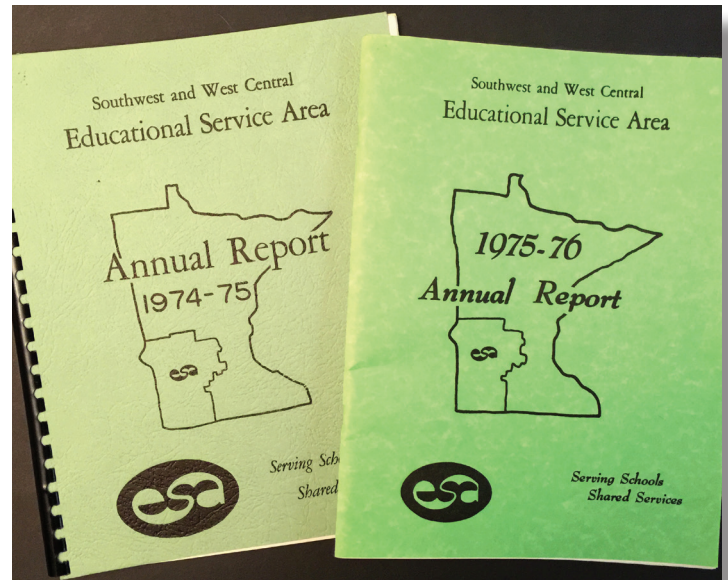
The Extravaganza was truly a gathering of professionals who gather to learn and share. It was a great day for all involved. Presenters at the event included: Mary Oulie, ACGC; Tamara Strick, BBE; and Teresa Hunt, SW/WC SC. The event was held at the home of a new student of the collaboration, and it was a great day for providing over 60 technology resources to eleven district systems out of the NCS, come back to help and for the work environment. Our own district, staff members Mary Oulie and Tamara Strick also presented. Some of the sessions speakers of the NCS used those from included: Creating your student's own Blog, Engaging active learners, Project Based Learning, Clear work, Google Apps, Interactive Notebooks with Google Classroom, Kahoot, Managing through communication, Annotated Page Numbers, Smartboard, iPads, QR Codes and Google Forms, Answer Keys and Assessment using One Note, SMART APP, APPS, Technology, Time saving in the classroom, Technology, From a student's perspective, Using I-Pad for Student Instruction, and the Use of iPads to create a blog.

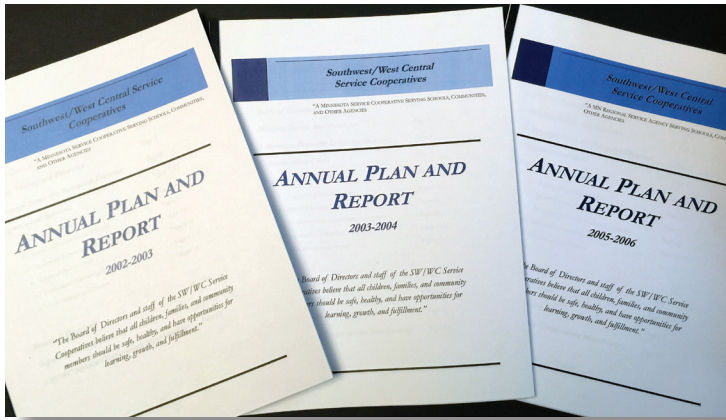
SOUTHWEST WEST CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE



Education & Administrative Resources

Annual Plans and Reports





SOUTHWEST WEST CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE

SWWC

Education & Administrative Resources

**Celebrating 50 Years
1965-2015**



Down Through The Years

June 2016

Editor Notes

Information for this booklet was obtained from annual reports, agency brochures, issues of The Review, HR documentation and staff recollections. Please excuse any errors or omissions.

Board Members: All board members are listed the year they were elected to the board.

Superintendents' Advisory Council: Superintendents who have retired in the last ten years were listed in this booklet.

Not all staff and positions could be listed in this booklet. Therefore, the following criteria was used to determine which staff and which positions were included:

- All staff employed at SWWC as of 6/30/16 and hired prior to 1990.
- Staff who retired between 2005 and 2016 - and employed at SWWC over 10 years.
- All administrator positions.