

NOAA Education Council Meeting

Date/Time: January 15, 2014 / 1:00–4:00 pm
Location: SSMC3, Room 14836
Dial-in: 866.901.0711
Passcode: 8134683
Contact: Lisa Nakamura (202) 482-3139, Sepp Haukebo (202) 482-9183

Adobe Connects Link to Meeting: <http://connectpro46305642.adobeconnect.com/edcouncil/>

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http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/leadership/edcouncil/docs/Audio_AdobeConnects.pdf

AGENDA

- 1:00 Welcome/Opening remarks - Louisa Koch
- 1:10 Strategic Plan Way Forward (*Decisional*) - Christos Michalopoulos (10 min presentation/ 10 min discussion)
- 1:30 WG Way Forward (*Decisional*) - Lisa Nakamura (5 min presentation/ 10 min discussion)
- 1:45 Proposed WG on Diversity and Professional Advancement - Michelle Hawkins and DaNa Carlis/ sponsor Marlene Kaplan (*Decisional*) (15 min presentation/ 15 min discussion)
- 2:15 Updates and announcements
- 2:45 Break (15 min)
- 3:00 NOAA National Education Interpretation award at National Association for Interpretation Conference (*Input Requested*) - Kate Thompson (15 min presentation/ 15 min discussion)
- 3:30 The Ocean Sciences Curriculum Sequence – an ELG Partnership (*Informational*) - Sarah Schoedinger, Craig Strang, and Catherine Halversen (20 min presentation/ 10 min discussion)

Attendance

In person: Louisa Koch (LK), Atziri Ibanez (AI), Bronwen Rice (BR), Chelsea Berg (CB), Christos Michalopoulos (CM), Frank Niepold (FN), Jennifer Hammond (JH), John Baek (JB), John McLaughlin (JMc), Kate Thompson (KT), Kristin Anderson (KA), Lisa Nakamura (LN), Luis Leandro (LL), Marlene Kaplan (MK), Michael Dukes (MDu), Nina Jackson (NJ), Robert Hansen (RH), Rochelle Plutchak (RP), Ron Gird (RG), Sarah Schoedinger (SSch), Sepp Haukebo (SHa)

On the phone/chat: Eric Hackathorn (ErH), Judy Koepsell (JK), Peg Steffan (PS), Paula Keener-Chavis (PKC), Seaberry Nachbar (SN), Shannon Sprague (SS), Stephanie Bennett (SB), Tanja Fransen (TF)

Presenters/guests: Dana Carlis, Michelle Hawkins

Online presenter: Catherine Halversen, Craig Strang

Summary of Action Items and Decisions:

DECISION: The Education Council approves the creation of the proposed Education Council Strategic Plan Advisory Committee.

ACTION: Contact Lisa or Sepp if you are interested in participating in the Education Council Strategic Plan Advisory Committee.

DECISION: The Education Council approves the proposal to vote and comment on the proposed WG activities for FY14 via an online platform.

ACTION: Lisa Nakamura will send out a form to conduct the online vote.

DECISION: The Education Council approves the creation of the proposed WG on Diversity and Professional Advancement.

DECISION: The Education Council endorses the proposal for moving forward with a national NOAA Education/Interpretation Award.

ACTION: Email Kate Thompson if you are interested in working on the NOAA Education/Interpretation Award.

ACTION: Kate Thompson will provide an update to the Education Council tentatively at the March meeting.

Welcome/Opening Remarks (LK)

- LK - As you may have heard, the House and the Senate Appropriations Committees reached an agreement Monday night on an omnibus appropriations bill. NOAA and NOAA Education fared well. We're not yet sure if or how sequestration is a factor.

Strategic Plan Way Forward (Decisional) - Christos Michalopoulos (10 min presentation/ 10 min discussion)

See presentation

- CM - Questions on the timeline?
- JMc - 3 months (for preparing the final document for publication) may not be too long considering the selection of photos and everything we had to do last time.
- RH - DOC is going through their strategic plan right now, is there any plan for integration?
 - CM - The DOC strategic plan was extremely fast track. The timeline and extent of change was unexpected for NOAA and now NOAA is considering whether to have a major revamp of the agency strategic plan, whereas we had decided on minimal changes for the update previously.
 - LK - A new goal was added to the DOC plan at Kathy Sullivan's request and the focus is environment. It's clearly laid out the focus on Weather Ready Nation, Fisheries, and Coastal Resiliency. NOAA's goals are well represented in the DOC plan.
 - CM - That plan is at OMB already and I don't think we can or need to change what we are doing with our strategic plan.
 - FN - Second to the DOC plan, the NOAA decision could influence how we approach our plan. One of our strategies is to make sure that the NOAA plan and the NOAA education plan are very well connected. We could tap that process to get input when we need.
 - CM - We consciously made the decision not to connect with the NOAA strategic plan because

- our plan is structured to endure the changes of the NOAA plan. In our education plan we tied ourselves to our mandates and I don't see the overall goal areas of the NOAA strategic plan changing that drastically to where we need to adjust our plan. The core elements are still there.
- FN - The other opportunity is that our strategic plan will influence the NOAA plan.
 - CM - This is one of the hopes of the advisory group I am currently proposing. Do we want to have a PPI representative sit in our meetings and bring that information back to PPI?
 - CM - The reason we did are not asking for representatives for Goal 5 is that the Office of Education should cover that with everything we do. However, if you are interested in representing that goal please let me know. There is also the option to co-represent a goal with anyone else. I would like these decisions as soon as possible, as we will meet next week.
 - SSp - I would like to participate in support of Goal 5 to represent our regional policy work.
 - CM - We also have commitment from Kate and Atziri to co-represent the Stewardship goal.
 - FN - I'm interested in carrying the torch for Goal 1 (Science informed society) or Safety and Preparedness. I like your approach and think this is a good initiative.
 - CM - Initial reaction, it would be great if you could help with Goal 1 and we also need someone from Weather Service on Safety and Preparedness.
 - RG - I will touch bases with Tanja and Chris on this.
 - CM - Any questions or concerns?
 - SN - Bronwen and I could bring this up at our next meeting.
 - CM - That would be great but I don't see a group of 20 to participate. 4-6 participants is our optimal number.
 - SB - While the time zone issue makes it difficult to participate, I would like to still be updated on the plan, specifically the Safety and Preparedness goal.
 - CM - I'm glad you mention that and if anyone is interested in an area and they don't have the time to commit, please send an email to Sepp or Lisa so that we have a backup group.
 - SB - Are we limiting the participation in this advisory group beyond the council?
 - CM - Good question. We would like to include only people that have already been part of the strategic plan conversation.
 - PKC - Wouldn't the appropriate time for external comments be during that external vetting time?
 - CM - Yes
 - FN - You also alluded to other rounds of community involvement.
 - CM - We still need to brainstorm when and how that will take place.
 - BR - The intention of this group is to guide the process of the development of the plan. The plan itself will be vetted through the appropriate channels.
 - CM - We will still come back to the council, CoComm, and the broader NOAA education community throughout the process.
 - JB - The focus of this group is process focused, not content.
 - CM - I could see the focus as both with an emphasis on the process.
 - LK - Let's take this to a vote then.

DECISION: The Education Council approves the creation of the proposed Education Council Strategic Plan Advisory Committee.

ACTION: Contact Lisa or Sepp if you are interested in participating in the Education Council Strategic Plan Advisory Committee.

WG Way Forward (Decisional) - Lisa Nakamura (5 min presentation/ 10 min discussion)

See presentation

- LN - Questions?
- JK - Do we need to add the two working groups that were added today? Also, is there any way to send out two versions of the form, one for just the voting members and one for just the non-voting members, to prevent any confusion?
 - LN - As for the different forms, I can do that. As for adding the two working groups, this feedback is focused primarily on the proposed work of the WGs from last year.
- LK - Does everyone agree that this decision can take place via an online, virtual vote?

DECISION: The Education Council approves the proposal to vote and comment on the proposed WG activities for FY14 via an online platform.

ACTION: Lisa Nakamura will send out a form to conduct the online vote.

Proposed WG on Diversity and Professional Advancement - Michelle Hawkins and DaNa Carlis/ sponsor Marlene Kaplan (Decisional) (15 min presentation/ 15 min discussion)

See presentation

- Michelle - Any questions or comments?
- FN - One question we ask in this goal is the difference between the NOAA workforce and the wider workforce. I would be interested in knowing if the students do not end up here, do they still end up in the STEM field.
 - MK - We plan to engage in these studies starting with the Hollings program. Eventually I'd like to find out where all the alumni of higher ed programs end up.
 - FN - Do you see those types of studies informing your working group?
 - Michelle - We want to be realistic on what we work on but we would definitely be interested in that.
 - LK - The goals of EPP are to increase the diversity of the STEM workforce in both NOAA and the nation. So I agree that we need to look at that.
 - KT - Sea Grant must have some good statistics on this, with so many Knauss alum.
 - CB - You would be surprised, we don't have that much data.
 - MK - That is one reason though that we would like to have Knauss on the group.
 - SB - Will you be looking at employees across the board? Contractors, scientists, administrators? Undergrad or above?
 - Michelle - We would look more broadly across NOAA, including contractors and feds, focused on undergrad and above.
- AI - I am in favor of this but also want to know why workforce doesn't work on this?
 - Michelle - We would serve as a bridge to fill the gap between education and workforce. I think both parties need to be involved in the conversation and that is why I reached out to workforce already to make sure they are on board.
 - DaNa - I agree, it is important for us to work across NOAA, not just in workforce.
 - MK - Workforce management has been working on diversity issues for a long time and we want to take a different approach.
 - Michelle - I also think this approach is more proactive, to understand what more we can be doing earlier on.
 - LK - I have briefed workforce management on this several times that even though we have these programs that focus on underrepresented communities, the diversity in NOAA have stagnated.
 - KT - Recruitment has been our largest problem. We have had issues reaching out to diverse audiences because we don't know how to. I would like to tap into the consortium that EPP works with. In short, I would like to see a toolkit on how to best recruit more diverse participants in the scholarship and fellowship programs.

- CB - I am still struggling with the scope of this group. Is it just for people that we have trained through fellowships and scholarships? One of the desired qualities of working with NOAA is an advanced degree and it would be difficult to trace our undergrad education efforts to working positions within NOAA.
 - MK - Very true, Hollings is an undergraduate scholarship program and we have to let those students go out into the world before they come back to NOAA. On the other hand, EPP is graduating the full spectrum of students from undergrad to PhDs. We want to find out how to build a strong network like the one the Knauss alums have.
 - JK - We are talking about increasing our WG number from 6 to 7, correct?
 - LK - Yes.
- SB - I would like to participate in the group if possible.
- LK - We'll take it to a vote then. All those in favor of creating a new WG focused on Diversity and Professional Advancement? (vote ensues) Great, thumbs up across the board.

DECISION: The Education Council approves the creation of the proposed WG on Diversity and Professional Advancement.

NOAA National Education Interpretation award at National Association for Interpretation Conference (Input Requested) - Kate Thompson (15 min presentation/ 15 min discussion)

See presentation

- KT - Ideas on whether we want to do this? Specifically, is this something that the Ed Council wants to adopt? If it is, then we need to determine who is interested in assisting with this effort?
- BH - I could see example in the reserves as well as the Weather Forecast offices around the country.
- KT - I agree and it isn't just up for interpretation it also includes education.
- CM - I think it's a great idea; we need a way to officially recognize the work that our educators do every day. I could see it separated into two awards for both interp. and education.
- KT - I would also like to bring up the point that NOAA is not visible at the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). I'm not sure yet if we need an NAI certification but that wouldn't be a problem.
- BH - We have been a major sponsor of NAI for the past few years and this year NOAA was one of the largest sponsors with great visibility.
- AI - Thank you for this and I am in full support. This would work great within the NERRS system
- CB - I would 3rd that and I would like to be part of the conversation.
- FN - Although I don't have a network, I fully support this idea. If there is a role for myself and the networks I work with, I would love to help.
- KT - One of the ways to run it is to have nominations across the 4 networks with a single awardee named at the ceremony. Another option would be to have the nomination run across the regions.
- SB - What is the timeline for formalizing how this would be done?
 - KT - We need to submit info to NAI in October. The NOAA piece would then need to be out to the community 2 months before that. If the competition is run in our networks as well, I need another 2 months before that deadline. The good thing is that the rubric needs minor tweaks to work for the other networks.
- CM - We can scale this up if we need to. If we can't go all in, then we have another guinea pig year with a few networks added.
- KT - Some agencies have a couple awards. We could have a single, a group, and even a partners award. There's no limitation; that is up to the agency. We could name it anything we want. We could keep it general or we could name it after a key education figure in the NOAA world or even name it after a congressman/woman that was a key champion for NOAA education.
- LK - Are you proposing that any networks that join will have a different cycle than the Sanctuaries cycle?
 - KT - We would have to have each network run their review and decide, then submit them to a national NOAA review. Sanctuaries paid for the winner to attend the ceremony; that is something

- that each network would have to run by their directors. We extended the nominations to volunteers, civil servants, and contractors.
- LK - That is something to decide later on. Who is interested in participating?
 - CB - I want to be involved in the discussion.
 - AI - I want to participate and will coordinate with Stephanie.
 - CM - Office of Education will go in with Bob and Jeannine.
 - RG - I will talk with Tanja on this.
 - LK - Kate can you run a meeting with the interested parties?
 - KT - Yes, anyone feel free to email me if you're interested. Please check and see if you're directors are interested first.
 - LK - Let's have a vote on whether we want to expand this effort. (vote ensues) Thumbs up all across the board. You can all go back to your directors and tell them that this effort is fully endorsed by the Education Council and that you have my support as well.

DECISION: The Education Council endorses the proposal for moving forward with a national NOAA Education/Interpretation Award.

ACTION: Email Kate Thompson if you are interested in working on the NOAA Education/Interpretation Award.

ACTION: Kate Thompson will provide an update to the Education Council tentatively at the March meeting.

The Ocean Sciences Curriculum Sequence – an ELG Partnership (Informational) - Sarah Schoedinger, Craig Strang, and Catherine Halversen (20 min presentation/ 10 min discussion)

See presentation

- Craig - We now want to open up the floor for discussion with any ideas on how NOAA may be able to use these materials.
- LK - Thank you for the presentation and creating such a great set of materials. I have an off topic question. For the states that have already adopted NGSS is that a good selling point for these materials and for those states that say they will never adopt NGSS, are you able to get around that talking point with them?
 - Craig - At this moment I only know of two states that are refusing to adopt. Other than that, all of the other states have said they will eventually adopt. This is a good selling point in those states. Carolina is promoting Ocean Sciences Sequence (OSS) to administrators as the only NGSS material they have. For the laggards states, I think they will still be teaching science even if they don't adopt NGSS and therefore these are still relevant materials. There is also the issue of Common Core. There are much more states that are farther along in the Common Core adoption and we can use that as a selling point too. Our evidence and evaluations suggests that this material will do a better job with the language arts implementation. Not only can we help those schools do better with your Common Core but conversely, you cannot do an adequate job of implementing common core English/Language Arts without having a science program like this. The two are designed together.
- FN - Thank you for this. Some perspective I would like to provide is that in our discussions with Virginia they are moving forward with the framework first instead of the NGSS. This has nothing to do with resistance, only timing. The language of the framework is more engaging than the NGSS. My question is that for the progression going into high school. This is a key time for students to make the transition to the earth sciences. I was curious what is planned for the 9-12 curriculum.
 - Craig - We are eagerly awaiting our 3rd ELG grant to develop those. We are working with 8 districts in the Bay area that are actively implementing NGSS. They're starting at elementary and middle and they're quickly recognizing that if they align those younger grades to NGSS their high school sequence will quickly become antiquated and irrelevant. We are at a stage where the

- problem is becoming more evident and the solution is not. The University of California is changing its entrance exams to align better with the NGSS and Common Core. At all layers of the system we are seeing these ripple effects. We still need the tools at the high school level though.
- FN - I would recommend engaging with the MADE CLEAR folks, they have several in roads to Maryland and their adoption of NGSS. That may serve as a pilot that can allow for your material to proliferate throughout Maryland much faster. I'm more than happy to make that connection.
 - LK - When you go into Boston, do you incorporate teacher PD? I want to know how NOAA educators can become educated about these materials.
 - Catherine - In Boston we did 2 summers of 3 day workshops. The first year was a pilot and the second year was more widespread across the district. We have also helped the Carolina folks to better understand the material. For the NOAA educators we would be more than happy for any interested parties, whether that is online or face-to-face we are very interested in working with NOAA educators. We have an opportunity coming up this summer where we are doing a week long workshop here at the Lawrence Hall in August with the focus ranging from elementary to middle school. We will have 3 workshops at NSTA in Boston and a few more at NMEA in the summer.
 - Craig - Louisa, your question is a good one and we would be happy to continue to think of other ideas on how to train NOAA educators.
 - LK - We have different flavors of educators ranging from Teacher at Sea to Sea Grant Extension educators. These people are not K-12 classroom teachers and they may only engage with students at certain times. We too will have to think about our audience but I really like the idea of cross marketing NOAA products like this sequence.
 - FN - Given that this is a for profit product, do we need to have a canned speech to provide when we discuss this in the public, usually we don't promote a commercial product. I want to be able to promote it but would like some guidance as to how.
 - SSch - One way we're doing that soft promotion is what Craig mentioned earlier, the free access to certain curriculum pieces online. That way people can get a sense of the tools and determine if they're interested in purchasing it. We're working on putting those on NOAA.Education.gov
 - Craig - The fact that these are available as kits full of materials is what requires the materials be sold and not given away for free.
 - SSch - I think this is something that we need to work our way through. In thinking about the different audiences within NOAA and with the partners we want to educate on this tool, we can work with Lawrence Hall to educate the broader community. Ultimately, the choice is up to the educator or scientist on whether they want to purchase the materials.
 - Catherine - Right now there is a session for the middle school curriculum from MARE on slide 12. That website also has presentation slides in the resources. All the simulations are also available for free on that MARE website online.
 - Craig - In regards to the for-profit nature of these materials. The point of sale is typically not individual teachers; it is to school systems that have state and federal funds explicitly designed for schools to purchase adoptable district-wide or statewide materials. It's our belief that when an entire school district offers these to their students, it is more equitable than if we offered these materials for free to teachers that choose to self-select and download them for use in their own classroom. Every kid in Boston is now required to receive 6 weeks of instruction about the ocean now.
 - SN - I'm curious how this process between the school systems and Carolina has taken place. I could see this happening with several districts I work with right now in my programs.
 - SSch - I'm happy to talk with you more about this in detail and even set up a meeting with Craig and Catherine if you're interested.
 - SN - Yes please.
 - Craig - That relates to our last bullet on the slide, is NOAA in a position to provide support and technical assistance to school systems as they are making these decisions.
 - LK - Craig, I think Seaberry and the B-WET team are a great starting point. If there are other areas where you think NOAA can be helpful, please let us know. Thank you so much for producing an outstanding product at just the right time.

- Craig - Over the last ten years, NOAA and in this case ELG, has really made a difference. You all have helped to really move the dial and we appreciate that beyond the scope of this particular project.

Updates and announcements

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