

Regional Office of Education Report

February 2023

NEXUS wins State Award

Our office was excited to learn that our NEXUS program received an award of meritorious service in the teams category from the Illinois State Board of Education. Since 1970, the Illinois State Board of Education has sponsored the Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year program to honor educators who have made significant contributions to our state's public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools. Awards are presented in seven categories: classroom teachers, early career educators (teachers 1-4 years), school administrators, student support personnel, educational service personnel, community volunteers, and teams. Our Nexus program will receive their award on April 29th at the annual awards banquet.

Professional Learning & Educational Services

Current Programs - Office of Professional Learning & Educational Services
Induction & Mentoring
Community Partnership Grant
Education Pathway Endorsement
Manufacturing & Agriculture Endorsement Programs
Elevating Special Educators
School Improvement & Strategic Planning
School Improvement Cooperative (instructional coaching, training, networking)
Social Emotional Learning/Trauma/Youth Mental Health First Aid/TRS I-A

Early Childhood Professional Learning

Family Education & Engagement

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: School Improvement

In District Work

- Supporting several districts implementing 5 year SIP
- SIP planning year with several districts
- Strategic Plan Development
- Curricular Resource Adoption
- Curriculum Evaluation & Development
- 6 - 12 Reading Strategies
- Standards Based Grading and Reporting

Other Professional Learning

- Networking Sessions
 - Counselor/Social Worker, Librarian, Teacher Tools, PFSS
- Quarterly Meetings
 - Interventionists, Instructional Coaches, CSIP
- Summits

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: College & Career Readiness

Pathway Endorsement Work

- Education
 - Annual Education Symposium will be held Friday, April 21st at Sauk Valley College
- Manufacturing
 - Focus groups are underway with business & industry
 - There is a new IMA Manufacturing grant available for endorsement earners
 - Heather Waninger
- AG
 - Cultivating Connections in Agriculture Education Networking Session was held at Teton's Grain on February 3rd
 - Stacey Dinges
- Health Science
 - Team has met with CGH Medical Center to create a list of potential business partners in health sciences
 - Chanda McDonnell

Middle School: building career exploration supports for each career cluster. Link is on the ROE 47 website.

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Community Partnership

Family & Community Education & Engagement Work

- The CP team is finalizing a year two strategic plan for trauma and social emotional learning support
- Poverty Simulation and Brain Architecture training is available through our trained professionals
- Family engagement kits are in development
- Mindfulness Trails (in partnership with U of I Extension) are near completion. Special events will be held to launch the trails in the spring
- SEL Parent/child engagement activity cards are being printed
- BlockFest has arrived! We will launch in June 2023
- Schools are moving forward with the TRS-IA assessment. Two are in the process of using the data to create 3-5 year action plans.
- **Joseph Green** is back with ROE 47 in early March to work with middle school students with a message of belonging and self awareness.
Monday, March 6: Challand, Sterling
Tuesday, March 7: East Coloma School, Rock Falls & Family and Community Night @ SVCC
Wednesday, March 8: Montmorency School, Rock Falls & Erie Middle School, Erie
Thursday, March 9: Chana & St. Mary's/St. Anne's, at St. Mary's in Sterling
Friday, March 10: SEL SUMMIT @ SVCC all day

Sponsored by



"Building a community of belonging"

FAMILY & COMMUNITY NIGHT

We invite you to hear from Joseph Green as he shares how we can build circles of community.

Community agencies will be in attendance sharing information about services they provide. We invite you to join us as we strive to network and build a stronger community of belonging in our Sauk Valley Area.



JOSEPH GREEN

CEO & Founder of LMS Voice Storyteller & Spoken Word Artist

MARCH 7TH 6:30 PM

Sauk Valley Community College - 1K4
Enter Through West Doors

Agencies will be available for 30 minutes before and after presentation

5TH ANNUAL SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING SUMMIT

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF BELONGING



JOSEPH GREEN
SPEAKER



MARCH 10, 2023

8:30AM - 3:00PM

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER:
WWW.ROE47.ORG

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Early Childhood

Early Childhood 0-5 Work

- A Strategic Plan has been developed with the following goals
 - Promote and connect families to ECEC programs and services.
 - Increase collaboration amongst providers to ensure seamless delivery system, appropriate placement and access to services, and reduction of redundancies in services.
 - Grow ECEC workforce in Region 47 to address identified barriers to enrollment due to lack of qualified workforce.
 - Increase the number of available 0-3 & 3 - 5 slots
 - Improved school readiness and success.
 - Increase the programs and services provided to children and families by the ROE
- The team is working to apply to offer Gateways credit for Early Childhood
- Available to help with grant writing, setting up new classrooms, monitoring, and in any other area needed.
- Representative are serving on the Birth to Five Illinois Action Council
- Family focus groups and community play dates scheduled for spring (*see below*)
- Community baby showers with a parent education component will be offered starting this summer
- Onesies and coordinated intake information will be provided to area hospitals to send home with new parents

- Coordinated intake and early childhood buckslips (marketing materials) have been created and printed

Hey Parents!

Are you a parent with a child under the age of 6

Please join us for an opportunity to strengthen the early childhood system in Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside county. Make your voice heard to ensure your family has access to the programs and support you need to give your child a strong start.

Participants will have a chance to win one of ten \$50 gift cards.

**March 20
1:00 PM
Zoom**

**March 27
6:00 PM
Zoom**

We want to hear about your family's experience in early childhood programs while providing a safe and fun experience for your child(ren).

**COMMUNITY PLAY DATE
& PARENT FOCUS GROUP**

April 10 from 4-5:30 PM

Socks are required for all attendees. Grip socks are required for children. Socks are available for \$2.

MY PLAY VILLAGE
1347 N. Galena Ave, Dixon, Illinois

**SIGN UP AT [BIT.LY/ROE47PLAYDATE](https://bit.ly/ROE47PLAYDATE)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE**

Sponsored by:

Coordinated Intake

- The total number of community referrals is 1219.
- Total number of families 695.
- The total number of Community Partners is 83.

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Social Media

The department's social media presence continues to grow. Like our page on Facebook (Regional Office of Education #47) and download our ROE47 App for weekly teacher talks, instructional tips, news, giveaways, updates & more! Follow us on Twitter @RegionalOffice47

Want to hear from educators & students in the classroom? Check out our Teacher Talks on YouTube!

In the News



Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning Events

Check out ALL of our spring opportunities [HERE](#)

February Participants – 184

Wednesday, February 1

Preschool Family Support Specialist Networking & Collaboration @ 1:00 pm

Thursday, February 2

Special Educators Transition Plans @ SVCC

Monday, February 6

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7

Targeted Improvement to Meet the Need of Diverse Learners @ SVCC

Librarians Networking Session @ 2:30 pm

Wednesday, February 8

Instructional Coaches Teaching & Learning Networking Session @ SVCC

Special Educators Community Cohort @ 3:30 pm

Tuesday, February 14

High School Ed Pathways Cohort @ 3:15 p.m.

Wednesday, February 15

School Counselors & Social Workers Networking Session @ 1:00 pm

Deanery School Improvement Networking @ Newman High School

Tuesday, February 21

Middle School Ed Pathways Cohort @ 3:15 p.m.

Friday, February 24

Virtual Pathways for College & Career Readiness Summit @ 8:30 am

February in Photos



NEXUS



Sauk Valley Media- “Merdian and Elmendorf joined the Amboy administrators in the afternoon to share the news about the ISBE recognition. Merdian said it is a genuine validation of a program that keeps busy. While driving over to Amboy, she fielded additional referrals. “The whole school year, so far, we’re at 3,650 contacts,” she said. “So we’re very, very busy. There’s only three of us.” She said the addition of Sterling Public Schools, which is Whiteside County’s largest school district, to the program this semester may require additional hiring.

But it is programs like Amboy, a rural school district with 721 students, which can be helped by Nexus and similar efforts. The student body is 43.6% low income and 12% on individual education programs. The district’s mobility rate – moving in and out of the district – is at 9.4%, which is above the state average.”

Parents as Teachers First Years

We completed our program monitoring in February with the Illinois State Board of Education. As part of that process, they asked us to identify the towns that each of our children live in. Here's the list for this year so far:

Dixon: 16
Rock Falls (District 13): 13
Rock Falls (Montmorency): 2
Sterling: 12
Rochelle: 7
Forreston: 1
Morrison: 7
Tampico: 1
Lyndon: 1
Fenton: 1
Erie: 8
Albany: 3
Fulton: 1
Mt. Morris: 2
Oregon: 3
Davis Junction: 2

That's 80 infants and toddlers!

30% of our children are also dealing with a significant transition in their young lives:

- 8 children are homeless
- 12 children involved with Intact Family Services (open DCFS case)
- 5 children are in foster care.

Lights Camera ACTION!

The ROE and our Sauk Valley STARS Local Early Childhood Coalition had the honor of filming the highlights of our work last year on Community Based Early Childhood Expansion with Illinois Action for Children. We highlighted our community partners from the Sauk Valley Chamber of Commerce, Tri-County Early Headstart, and Dixon School District Preschool for All.



Education Outreach Program

We are in the process of applying to NCI Works/BEST, Inc. for a grant to continue our program for next year. We have been a grant recipient since 2003 and during that time over 770 students have received GED instruction, employment services, and many other supportive services through the Education Outreach Program.

The Education Outreach Program is continuing to enroll new students and we have seen an increase in applications this past month.

Our graduate for the month of February is Madison from Ogle County. Congratulations Madison!

Regional Center for Change

Teamwork makes the dream work here at C4C! We are happy to inform you that our student, Madison Nolen, is one of the five finalists for the Outstanding Student Award at the ICEARY conference! ICEARY had great nominations, making it a very difficult decision for our judges and scoring. Madison came out as one of the top 5! In Madison's essay for the Outstanding Student Award she states, "with all that on my plate and the feeling of giving up, I still go to school and get what I need done. Center For Change has given me a second chance to finish high school. It has given me so many opportunities. There is a saying at my school, "We are the Center For Change, not the Center For Staying The Same." As corny as that may sound it carries a lot of meaning. I'm not the same person I was before I came to Center For Change. Before C4C, I

would say, "I'm not going to college or even make it past high school," but once I got to Center For Change, that changed".



We are excited to announce that our very own Principal Mark Morris won the Excellence in Education Award at the ICEARY conference on March 2nd! Mark was one of only 4 Winners of the award from around the entire state! Mark has created an environment that allows students to transform and succeed to go on and do amazing things. Mark doesn't hide from the dark and scary things that happen in this world. He has experienced many things in his young life that some much older than him haven't had to encounter. He isn't afraid, to be honest, and vulnerable with his students. The students see that vulnerability isn't a sign of weakness or defeat but of personal growth.



Diana
Merdian
ROE #47

Regional Office
of Education #47

Mark

ICEARY
Region 2
March 2, 2023

Mark Morris

Thank you for your exemplary
service to At-Risk Youth and
the ICEARY mission.

"The mission of ICEARY is to advocate
for students, train educators,
educate communities and unify
programming to provide
opportunities for at-risk youth
and community partners."

Truant Alternative Program

Our busiest time of the year is upon us. We currently have 500 students that we are actively working with or attempting to provide services to. February and March are when we receive the most truancy referrals as students are meeting the schools attendance policy and have exceeded their allowed 'call off' limit. We anticipate having approximately 550 total referrals for this school year. In addition to monitoring daily attendance, connecting with families, and providing linkage to community referrals, our team is always seeking out networking opportunities. Two of our team members participated in a McKinney Vento Homeless Simulation in the month of February which provided an excellent opportunity for school staff to experience living a "month" in the shoes of our families in transition. Our at-risk team will also be attending ICEARY in March and we are looking forward to this conference's variety of learning experiences. We welcomed our newest team member, Emily Heitman, and she has started off the second semester like a champion!

McKinney Vento Homeless Program

The ICEARY Conference in Bloomington is a Statewide Conference that highlights the McKinney-Vento program and resources available and needs that each area is facing. It is held annually and always is a great opportunity to share and enlighten our knowledge of the program. There has also been the completion of the Poverty Simulation Exercise. It is a wonderful means of exposing people to the difficulties and challenges that our families face on a day to day basis. It is always very well received by the audience.