



bulletin



MARCH 2015

Excellence in North Dakota public education through local school board governance ■ VOL XL ISSUE 3

President Obama's 2016 Budget Released

The Obama Administration recently released a fiscal year 2016 budget. The budget request is \$70.7 billion in discretionary appropriations for the Education Department, a 5.4 percent increase over the previous year's funding. The budget also improves new mandatory funding for early childhood education, teacher support, and college opportunity.

"The President's budget reflects this Administration's belief that every single child in this country deserves the opportunity to receive a strong education," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "As demonstrated by the record high school graduation rate and by huge gains in college-going, especially for minority students, states, districts, educators, and students across the country are making real progress. The President's budget would continue and accelerate that progress."

Key education investments in the President's budget:

Increasing equity and opportunity

- An increase of \$2.7 billion for Elementary and Secondary Education Act programs, including \$1 billion for Title I, to ensure that all students - which includes

poor and minority students, students with disabilities, and English learners - graduate from high school prepared for college and careers.

- An increase of \$175 million for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B grants to support the work that states are doing to improve results for children with disabilities and another \$115 million for programs for younger children with disabilities.

Expanding high-quality early learning programs

- \$75 billion over 10 years for the Preschool for All proposal to provide universal high-quality preschool programs for all 4-year-olds from low- and moderate-income families.
- \$750 million for Preschool Development Grants, an increase of \$500 million, to help states lay the foundation for universal public preschool.

Supporting teachers and leaders

- \$5 billion over five years for a new, mandatory Teaching for Tomorrow program to support fundamental changes in how states and school districts

recruit and prepare new teachers and strengthen professional support for teachers throughout their careers.

- \$350 million for Excellent Educators Grants to provide funds for states and school districts committed to implementing new systems that develop, support, reward, and advance teachers and principals.

Improving higher education

- America's College Promise would provide two years of free community college for responsible students through a \$60.3 billion investment in a new federal-state partnership over the next 10 years.
- A \$29.7 billion investment in Pell Grants would maintain the purchasing power of this critical, need-based postsecondary grant assistance after 2017.
- \$200 million for an American Technical Training Fund joint effort with the U.S. Department of Labor to expand job opportunities.

More information on the Department of Education's budget request can be found here: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget16/budget-factsheet.pdf>.



The North Dakota School Business Manager Certification Program is now accepting applications for new students to begin courses this summer. Application forms are available online at: <http://ndsbmcp.org/handbooks-and-forms/> and will be accepted until **May 31**.

Enrollment is limited to the first 40 students. For more information on the program, including cost of tuition, prospective students may download a program brochure at <http://ndsbmcp.org/handbooks-and-forms/>. Please contact alyssa.martin@ndsba.org with any questions regarding the program.



Youth Volunteers Selected for Prudential Spirit of Community Award

Nichole Hanzel, 18, of Killdeer and Lauren Knoll, 13, of Fargo were named North Dakota's top two youth volunteers of 2015 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. Nichole was nominated by Killdeer High School in Killdeer, and Lauren was nominated by Park Christian School in Moorhead. The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, now in its 20th year, is conducted by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

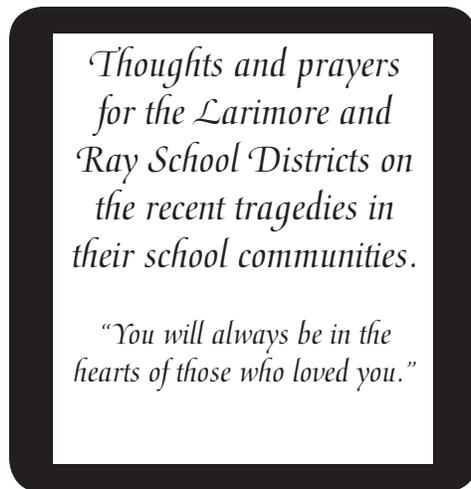
Nichole, a senior at Killdeer High School, created a youth cadet program for a local ambulance service to raise money for emergency medical care in her small but booming town, to assist at the ambulance squad's station house, and to give junior high and high school students a chance to learn about emergency medicine. Nichole's cadets, who now number about a dozen, began by selling first-aid kits and checking blood pressure at a Christmas craft bazaar in exchange for donations. Members also have gone door-to-door soliciting funds to buy supplies for the ambulance squad. In addition, the cadets help out at the ambulance station by washing the vehicles, stocking supplies, and serving meals at board meetings.

Lauren, a seventh-grader at Park Christian School, has been volunteering once a month for the past nine years at a local homeless center, preparing and serving meals, and visiting with the homeless. She also has participated in several community service events sponsored by her church, school, the Salvation Army, and a local animal shelter.

As State Honorees, Nichole and Lauren each will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expense-paid trip in early May to Washington, D.C., where they will join the top two honorees from each of the other states and the District of Columbia for four days of national recognition events. During the trip, 10 students will be named America's top youth volunteers of 2015.

Two other students, Lauryn Hinckley, 15, Bismarck Century High School, and Emily Lothspeich, 17, Wyndmere High School, were recognized as Distinguished Finalists.

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Mott/Regent School District

Contact: Jon Martinson
(701) 255-4127
jon.martinson@ndsba.org
Application materials: www.ndsba.org
Deadline: March 30, 2015
Position begins: July 1, 2015

Belfield Public School District

Principal Position 7-12
Contact: Alice Berger
(701)575-4275
alice.berger@k12.nd.us
Deadline: Open until filled
Interim Position: 2014-15 school year
Full-Time Position: 2015-16 school year

Napoleon Public School District

Contact: Susan Sorgatz, Business Manager
PO Box 69
Napoleon, ND 58561
susan.sorgatz@napoleon.k12.nd.us
Deadline: Open until filled
Position begins: July 1, 2015

Roosevelt Public School

Assistant Superintendent/Elementary Principal
Contact: Carey Reis, Business Manager
210 2nd Ave West
Carson, ND 58529
(701)622-3263
Carey.L.Reis@sendit.nodak.edu
Deadline: open until filled
Position begins: July 1, 2015



2015 NDSBA Annual Convention
October 29-30, 2015
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

2016 NDSBA Negotiations Seminar
February 11-12, 2016
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

2016 NDSBA Annual Convention
October 27-28, 2016
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck



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Key Bills Moving Through Legislature

As the *Bulletin* goes to print, almost all of the bills on NDSBA's tracking list have had second hearings. The bills will receive committee recommendations and proceed to the floor for vote in the next few weeks.

Following is a brief update on the status of several education-related bills. For complete bill status tracking reports, check online at: <http://ndsba.org/legislation/BillTracking.asp>.

The following bills have passed both chambers:

House Bill 1131 removes the exception to the veterans' preference requirements for teachers and superintendents. The new law will become effective August 1 and any applicant for a teacher or superintendent position must be granted veterans' preference.

House Bill 1174 increases compensation for members of the education fact finding commission. The new compensation rate is the same as the rate set for legislators under section 54-03-20, currently \$167 per day.

House Bill 1337 makes changes to the open record and meeting laws. New language added to the law allows a public entity that receives five or more requests from the same requester within seven days to treat the requests as one request in computing the time it takes to locate and excise the records.

Senate Bill 2145 expands authority for BCI criminal history record checks to special education units, career and technical education units, and regional education units.

Senate Bill 2152 allows a school board to delegate suspension authority to the superintendent or individual responsible for administering the district.

Several other bills have had a second hearing:

House Bill 1251 changes the time-frame that teachers have to return a contract, establishes a deadline to meet after petitions for negotiations have been approved, and creates an exception to open meeting laws to allow for executive session for negotiation caucus meetings.

House Bill 1283 relates to parental directives regarding statutorily mandated assessments. The bill states that if

a parent directs that a test or assessment not be administered to a student, the parent may withhold the student from school during the test or assessment and the student is deemed to be in attendance at school. Prior to administering the test or assessment, the parents must be informed of the test or assessment and their right to request that the test or assessment not be administered to their child.

House Bill 1316 creates a process for nonrenewal of principals employed less than two years, clarifies the superintendent/principal evaluation and nonrenewal process, and changes the first evaluation date for superintendents from December 15 to November 15.

Senate Bill 2013 establishes the budget for the Department of Public Instruction.

Senate Bill 2031 addresses the funding formula for school districts.

Bills that have not had a second hearing include:

House Bill 1195 relating to carrying a concealed firearm in a school.

House Bill 1315 relating to salary increases for unfillable positions.

Senate Bill 2039 and **Senate Concurrent Resolution 4003** both amend uses of the foundation aid stabilization fund. The bill transfers funds to the school construction assistance loan fund and a scholarship fund. The resolution proposes to amend the constitutional provisions related to the foundation aid stabilization fund.

Senate Bill 2181 clarifies that the school district business manager is an



ND United President Nick Archuleta, NDSBA Executive Director Jon Martinson, and NDCEL Executive Director Aimee Copas stand unified in opposition to HB 1195.

employee of the board. The bill also repeals sections 21-06-05 and 21-06-06 and addresses which school district records need to be retained permanently.

NDSBA publishes an online legislative newsletter each Friday at <http://ndsba.org/legislation/Newsletter.asp>. There will not be a legislative update on March 20 due to the NSBA national conference.

March 27 is the deadline for rereferals of all bills in the second house to Appropriations Committees. All bills and resolutions must be reported out of committee in the second house by April 8.



NDSBA Legal Counsel Annette Bendish

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

North Dakota Journalism Students Seek to Legislatively Overturn U.S. Supreme Court School-sponsored Speech Precedent

Courthouse News Service reports that six journalism students from the University of Jamestown authored a preliminary bill, being sponsored by Representative Alex Looyen. House Bill 1471 would grant students many of the protections enjoyed by professional reporters, despite the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*. The proposed legislation would guarantee students their First Amendment rights in broadcast and publication.

The proposed bill states: "A student journalist has the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press in school-sponsored media, regardless of whether the media is supported financially by the institution or by use of facilities of the institution or produced in conjunction with a class in which the student is enrolled."

Restrictions on student journalism have been problematic since the 1988 Supreme Court ruling in *Hazelwood* where a school principal

prohibited several school newspaper articles from being published because he deemed them inappropriate.

The bill does not protect libelous or slanderous comments and contains a provision protecting the right to privacy. The bill requires that each school district have a written freedom of expression policy for students, in accordance with the legislation.