

in the

Southwestern Union Conference

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Office of Education

The Way It Is

by William Stafford

There's a thread you follow. It goes among
things that change. But it doesn't change.
People wonder about what you are pursuing.
You have to explain about the thread.
But it is hard for others to see.
While you hold it you can't get lost.
Tragedies happen; people get hurt
or die; and you suffer and get old.
Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.
You don't ever let go of the thread.

I came across this poem several years ago and immediately applied it to my life's work. As Adventist educators, we hold onto a thread that is unchanging—our **purpose** or mission. We continue to focus on educating the whole person—spiritual, physical, intellectual, and social-emotional—with the aim of preparing learners to serve God and humanity. This mission serves to guide us on the journey to excellence as we adapt our **plans, practice, and product** to an ever-changing cultural context.

My journey began in the Southwestern Union, and it is great to be returning to the Union office to collaborate with colleagues across the territory to develop a roadmap for *Continuous School Improvement*. We will be guided by the purpose of Adventist education as we define plans, practice, and product that are relevant to 21st century teaching and learning.

SWUC Education Matters, our bi-annual newsletter, is designed to help facilitate these goals, with four sections dedicated to purpose, plan, practice, and product. The section on purpose will focus on mission-related topics. Curriculum, instruction, and assessment issues will be featured in the plan section. The practice section will concentrate on leadership, professional learning, school environment, and communication/collaboration themes. And, finally, the measurement of school improvement programs and processes will be highlighted in the product section.

Please join me in following the thread to create a new vision for Adventist education in the Southwestern Union!

— Carol Campbell

Welcome to—

Tim Kripps

Oklahoma Conference
Superintendent

Welcome
and
Good-bye

Farewell to—

Carol Bradley

Texas Conference Assoc. Supt.

Marcella Bayless

SWUC Certification Registrar

Newsletter Content

PURPOSE

1. NAD Convention—The third issue of the newsletter for this school year will be dedicated to convention information. Please note in advance of this issue, though, that breakout proposals may be submitted as of January 1, 2018 on the NAD website.
2. Journal of Adventist Education—JAE is now digital. It is available online at <https://jae.adventist.org>.
3. Ministry Magazine June 2017—Special issue on the role of the pastor in Adventist education. <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2017/06/>

PLAN

1. Elementary Encounter Kits—Please plan ahead to purchase the Elementary Encounter Resource Kits from Advent Source. Schools will need to purchase all three kits: Grades 1-4--\$795, Grades 5-8--\$815, Grades 1-8--\$495.

NAD Microsites

1. Technology.adventisteducation.org
2. PE.adventisteducation.org
3. SS.adventisteducation.org
4. reach.adventisteducation.org
5. <http://ecec.nadeducation.org/>
6. <http://nadeducation.org/pathways/>
7. <http://nadeducation.org/steppingstones/>
8. <http://adventisteducationbydesign.com/>
9. <http://nadeducation.org/math/>

PRACTICE

1. Elementary Encounter Training—Elementary teachers will be trained during March 2018 for the 2018-19 implementation of the Encounter program. Please see your conference calendar for specific date and place.
2. ALC—Check out the new learning modules on the Adventist Learning Community for CEU credits. <https://www.adventistlearningcommunity.com/>
3. Webinars—Register on the NAD website.
 - September 12—Spelling City
 - October 10—Adventist Worldview
 - November 14—CogAT
 - February 13—NAD Website Resources
 - March 13—LLU Virtual Science Labs
 - April 10—Learning A-Z
4. Certification Manual—Updated Manual on NAD website is effective July 1, 2017.

Adventist Learning Community

1. Simple K-12 Professional Development
2. Courses of interest to schools
 - a. <http://tdec.nadeducation.org/professional-development/alc/>

Teacher Certification (non-academic credit)

- [Adventist History](#) (0.5 CEU)
- [Bible Doctrines](#) (0.5 CEU)
- [Light for Living](#) (0.5 CEU)
- [Philosophy of Adventist Education](#) (2.0 CEU)
- [Spirit of Prophecy](#) (0.5 CEU)

Teacher Support Available for Re-certification Credit

- [Adventist K-12 School Board Legal and Financial Issues](#) (0.1 CEU)
- [Adventist K-12 School Board Leadership](#) (0.1 CEU)
- [Copyright for Teachers and Pastors](#) (0.5 CEU)
- [Creating a Positive Digital Footprint](#) (0.1 CEU)

Classroom Support (No CEU credit)

- [ByDesign Interactive Textbook Resources](#)
- [Educational Technology Knowledge Exchange](#)
- [Origins Curriculum Resources](#)
- [NearPod](#)
- [Internet Safety in the Classroom](#)
- [RAIN 9th Grade Art Curriculum](#)

PRODUCT

1. Annual Survey—A SWUC Annual Survey will be sent out each October to gather data that will inform Continuous School Improvement Planning.
2. Report Cards—There will no longer be a final grade on the elementary report card or cumulative folder.

Data Rollup

Please review all school opening reports prior to Nov. 15. Any edits need to be sent on an annotated School Opening Report to Martha Ban.

1. Troubleshooting helps
 - a. [Conference User Guide](#)
 - i. [Support for schools](#)
 - b. [School User Guide](#)
2. Integrations of data
 - a. [IOWA bar code labels](#)
 - b. [ByDesign Labs](#)
 - c. [Accreditrac](#)
3. Updated report card (See pdf)
 - a. No more final grade column at end of year for grades 1-8
 - b. Change in skill codes
4. [Updated transcript](#) (Coming soon)
5. [Useful Reports](#)