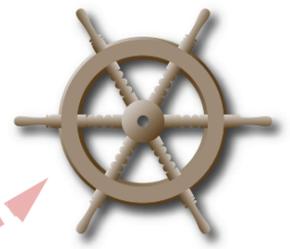




Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



FAPSC – What is It?

By Danny Eddy, Executive Staff Officer, Professional Development & Community College

FAPSC is the acronym for Faculty and Professional Support Conference. This annual professional development conference is held in May or June each year at the Truro Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College with the purpose of providing relative high end professional development for NSTU members who work in the Community College system.

History

Prior to 1994 funding was available for Community College members to attend the Community College Teachers' Association of Nova Scotia conference held in October at the same time that other NSTU Professional Associations were holding their conferences. Each Community College campus took a turn hosting the October Conference.

NSTU members who were employed in 1994 might recall that funding dedicated for October conferences was removed from both the Community College Agreement and the Teachers' Provincial Agreement at this time.

In 1998 the Union went into bargaining with the Nova Scotia Community College looking to restore funding for the conference.

At that round of negotiations discussions resulted in the College agreeing to fund a conference as set out in the agreements.

In essence, the College provides the following for Faculty and Professional Support members:

- meals for participants for the Friday and Saturday of the conference at the Truro Campus;

- appropriate meeting rooms and classrooms at the Truro Campus;
- accommodations in the residence of the Truro Campus for up to ninety (90) participants employed by the College who live more than thirty (30) kilometers from Truro; and
- where the number of participants who live more than thirty (30) kilometers from Truro exceeds ninety (90), the College shall provide an allowance of \$40 to help defray the cost of accommodation to each participant for whom the College is unable to provide accommodation in residence.

Over the last decade the conference has always provided participants with a variety of professional development opportunities specific to the needs of these NSTU members. Faculty and professional support members facilitate sessions as well as guest presenters and NSTU Executive Staff.

On occasion presenters who have expertise in a specific area in the field of education provide plenary or keynote sessions.

FAPSC draws Community College Local members from the 13 campuses and satellite sites for professional development, networking, and social opportunities.

The VP of Professional Development for the Community College Local spearheads the

organization of the conference assisted by the Local's Professional Development Committee and the Local Executive.

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union recognizes the efforts of the Community College Local in this ongoing professional development initiative and encourages all faculty and professional support members to take advantage of this unique learning opportunity.

The dates for FAPSC this year are May 6, 7, and 8, 2010. The theme is: *The Power of Professionalism*. The keynote speaker is author of the best seller *7 Virtues of a Philosopher Queen* Barb Stegemann (www.the7virtues.com). The dance will feature the band Twist of Fate.

Further information and registration details will be sent to members in the upcoming weeks.



Executive staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin provided the opening plenary for the 2009 FAPS conference.



NSCC president Joan McArthur Blair addresses delegates of the FAPS conference last May at NSCC's Truro campus.



Community College members during an interactive workshop at the FAPS conference. Community College Local President Louis Robitaille is shown in yellow.



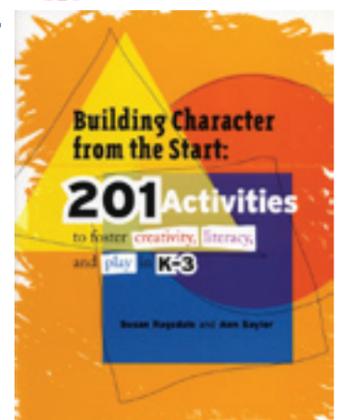
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Email your name, home address and school or campus name with PD in the subject line etc. by April 1, 2010, to be eligible for the draw.

The PD book give away this month is *Building Character from the Start: 201 Activities to foster creativity, literacy and play in K-3* written by Susan Ragsdale and Ann Saylor and published by Search Institute Press.

This book is all about teachable moments. These wonderful activities embrace teachable moments, passing on lessons of life, love, passion and character right from the start.



The winner of the PD book *You Have to go to School—You're the Principal!* is Janet Sollows, Arcadia Consolidated School.

