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NYSCAP News :

NYSCAP is happy to announce that **Heather Fredenburg** has been hired as the new NYSCAP Coordinator. Heather is uniquely qualified to help the Board in implementing the strategic plan and move NYSCAP forward. Welcome Heather!

Advocacy Committee: In the wake of the recent election, advocacy for comprehensive sexuality education is now even more important. NYSCAP expects to reach out to government and state wide agencies. Stay tuned for next steps. If you are interested in education and advocacy please contact us at nyscap@gmail.com

Membership Committee: If you are aware of a person, or organization, interested in joining NYSCAP, we are making the application available online and open to anyone who supports our vision and mission. Membership is free! [Link to Membership application](#)

Conference Planning: **Save the Date.....**Genese Valley BOCES and NYSCAP will be co-sponsoring the annual conference on **March 21, 2016** at the **Desmond Hotel**, Albany, NY

Come together: Schools and Communities Working Together to Support Comprehensive Sexuality education

Key Note Address: **Nora Gelperin**, Advocates for Youth,
Janis Whitlock, PhD, Cornell University
Jutta Dotterweich, ACT for Youth, Cornell University
Jane Powers, ACT for Youth, Cornell University
Speaker from Office for Prevention of Domestic Violence

Youth Engagement: The youth engagement committee is a new group for NYSCAP. This committee will develop strategies for statewide and local engagement of youth in sexuality education, prevention efforts, and advocacy work.

Interested in bringing your expertise and ideas to one of these committees? Join by contacting the chairperson listed on the left for more information.

2016 NYSCAP Annual Board Meeting

The NYSCAP Annual Meeting was held in Albany NY on September 22-23, 2015. Members elected to leadership positions include: **Cynthia Amato** (Long Island), President, 2 years; **Assunta Ventresca** (Buffalo), Vice President, 2 years; **Alicia Beekman** (Binghamton) Treasurer, 2 years; **Desiree Voorhies** (LeRoy) Secretary, 1 year; At-Large Members, **Mary Lou McCloud** (Rochester), and **Audrey Korokeyi** (Rochester), 2 years.

Additionally, NYSCAP's strategic plan includes:

- ◆ expanding and enhancing NYSCAP membership with more individuals and organizations who support the NYSCAP vision and mission
- ◆ hiring a part time position to support NYSCAP's strategic plan
- ◆ crafting two White Papers: one related to Health Education, the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and student success and one on Best Practices that support Comprehensive Sexuality Education in NYS schools
- ◆ providing 3 more CSE Best Practices professional development for school communities across NYS: Verona (NYSAPERD Conference) November 2016; Mid West (LeRoy) January 2017 and one more yet to be determined
- ◆ visiting leaders in NYS government agencies, such as Department of Health and Education, to educate them about the need for comprehensive sexuality education as part of health education in schools

The New York State Council on Adolescent Pregnancy, Inc. is a non-profit organization providing leadership in teen pregnancy prevention and supporting healthy adolescent development and well-being across New York State.

Our mission is to promote healthy adolescent development and well-being, reduce the incidence of adolescent pregnancy and increase the capacity of pregnant and/or parenting youth to become productive members of society.

Our Vision All student (prek -12) receive quality comprehensive sexuality education in order to make safe and healthy decisions about their lives, bodies, relationships and well-being.

Contact us at:

nyscap@gmail.com

We're on the web!

www.NYSCAP.org

Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/NYSCAP>

We welcome your suggestions and recommendations so let us know if you hear about things worth sharing!

Focus on



Elmira City School District -

Elmira City School District (ECSD) is located in New York's Southern Tier Region. Building on their success

enhancing their District Wellness Policy (focusing on enhancing physical activity and healthy foods) and its implementation, the District is reviewing its comprehensive health and sexuality education program. Using a Coordinated School Health, or Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child approach, the Wellness Advisory Council is expanding its focus and stakeholder base to look at comprehensive health and sexuality education for students K-12. And ECSD is serious about its work. In the spring, a curriculum review team including teachers and administrators from health education, physical education, elementary education, community health and parents, participated in a two-day Curriculum Review process. In the summer, members of the Advisory Council attended professional development to better understand Best Practices in School Health and Sexuality Education. As a result, ECSD is piloting a comprehensive health and sexuality education curriculum at the middle school this year. The high school curriculum pilot is scheduled for the fall.



Building Support for Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) : How You Can Help! :

Advocacy is the key, and we must continue to work to build relationships with key decision-makers and allies. Here are ways you can engage at a grassroots level to enlist greater support of CSE:

- ◇ Talk about CSE with parents, teachers, neighbors, students, youth groups, community and faith-based leaders, health educators, statewide and regional organizations.
- ◇ Understand the structure and policies of your local school system, as well as the sexuality education it currently offers to students. Reach out to PTA's, Education District Administrators, School Boards and Advisory Councils to discuss, raise awareness of CSE, and listen to any concerns.
- ◇ Reach out to government and agency officials to educate them about how CSE can help protect and prepare our youth for positive futures.
- ◇ Support CSE through ensuring accurate media coverage: Write a Letter to the Editor of your local newspaper or call in to a radio program addressing CSE in your community.