



Meet Jennifer Carlson!

NESC Executive Director

Lake Region Teacher Center Director

Technology Learning Cooperative Director

***Joined the NESC in 2004**

Background info:

- Master's Degree in Management
- Bachelor's Degree in Business Education

What intrigued you about working for the NESC?

After graduation from college with a BS in Business Education I entered the workforce and spent time subbing in districts that really had no vacancies for teaching positions (in my content area). I knew the best plan I could follow was to expand my knowledge in my teaching content area, and I worked as a marketing director and also an executive assistant in an administration office at a hospital. I loved my experiences in the business world but I always wanted to get back into K-12 education. When the position working for the NESC became available, it excited me to have an opportunity to work with multiple schools, at that time helping with tech integration, distance education and expansion of the NESC. This position let me capitalize on my love of organization and coordinating all sorts of various projects, programs and services and still work with schools, kids and teachers. Education is changing always and the continual improvements that are being made daily motivate me. The NESC is a perfect fit!

What is your focus of work at the NESC?

I am responsible for oversight of the various services that are provided through the NESC which includes forming relationships with our schools' administrators and teachers. I provide administration and coordination of the services and programs that we offer to our schools and ensure that what we do makes a difference to our member schools. I also spend time working proactively at the state level to help to create better efficiencies for education statewide and ensure that we are continually improving and providing needed services to our member schools.

What is a passion project of yours?

I grew up attending a “Class A” school in North Dakota and had some great opportunities in that large school system. When I student-taught, it was at another large Class A school and I really didn’t know any different. When I chose to move to rural North Dakota and had the opportunity to work for the NESC, I knew with this move that my own kids would be attending a small, rural school in a farming community. As I contemplated that move, I wanted to ensure that my kids and all of the smaller schools had the same opportunities they would have had attending a large school district, and that is part of my passion with my position at the NESC. I am intent on ensuring that our small schools have the same opportunities as our larger schools. The NESC does a great job by bringing in national-level professional learning speakers and hiring exceptional staff to facilitate professional learning activities for our schools. We share high-tech equipment through our Technology Learning Cooperative and also ensure we have ITV available for schools to host classes they may not have otherwise been able to offer because of size, distance and staffing limitations. Some of my favorite NESC activities are the various student events that we host including First Lego League Tournaments, Young Writers’ Conferences, Scrubs Camps, and You’re Hired Events.

What about the NESC brings you the greatest pride?

The growth of the NESC over the past 10 years has been amazing. We went from a two-person staff facilitating two annual in-services and some distance ed classes and tech support to schools, to being a staff of 4+, immersed in our member schools’ improvement processes. The NESC member schools realize that working together creates better efficiencies and makes us all better together. One of the biggest sources of pride in my tenure with the NESC is having been awarded the first round of the Succeed 2020 grant through the Hess Oil Company in 2012, which provided \$2 million over five years. With that funding we were able to hire some very talented people and offer some great opportunities to our schools, and this has definitely brought the NESC organization to a new level.