

Going the Distance:

Monthly News & Updates

September 2022

News Briefs

Dual Credit Agreement with Mayville State Renewed

NDCDE is excited to announce the renewal of its dual credit agreement with Mayville State University. This allows the continuation of online dual credit courses in college algebra, anatomy and physiology, and college composition, to name only a few. The courses are taught by NDCDE teachers who meet Higher Learning Commission standards on faculty qualifications. NDCDE is exploring the possibility of expanding its dual credit partnerships and courses. Please contact [Dr. Tonya Greywind](#) with input or to discuss partnership opportunities. Click below to see all NDCDE dual credit courses currently offered.

[Dual Credit Courses](#)

Credit Recovery Courses Update

With the exception of 9-12 language arts, NDCDE has phased out credit recovery courses. Students seeking these services should enroll in the equivalent high school course listed in our online store.

[Read More](#)



Funds Available to Help Students Build Resilience Skills

Whether you are looking for a curriculum to complement your counseling services or support restorative approaches to school discipline, EmpowerU equips students with the skills to build persistence, resilience, and support systems by pairing interactive daily lessons with 1:1 support from dedicated online instructors.

NDCDE has partnered with EmpowerU and DPI to deliver this content to your students. DPI has dedicated \$100k to this program and over \$84k remains for the 2022-23 school year. DPI will reimburse half the \$390 cost of each enrollment through the Web Grants Portal once NDCDE reports enrollments to DPI.

Studies on the return on investment of programs like EmpowerU show an \$11 return on every \$1 spent. EmpowerU offers information on [student outcomes](#) on its website. To enroll your students or learn more about the program, click below.

[Read More](#)

In the Spotlight: Educators, Students, & CDE Staff



NDCDE Adjunct Nominated for North Dakota Teacher of the Year

NDCDE is pleased to announce that one of our very own has been nominated for North Dakota Teacher of the Year. Megan Wald has taught business education courses to grades 7-12 at Linton Public School for the past fifteen years. She joined the team at NDCDE in 2019 as an adjunct business instructor.

Wald received a B.S. in business education from Valley City State University and an A.A.S. in business management from Bismarck State College.

Drop Fee Reinstated

To help school districts navigate the challenges of the pandemic, NDCDE temporarily suspended its \$20 per enrollment drop fee. We absorbed all operational costs associated with removing students from courses during this time. With demand for virtual courses now stabilized, NDCDE has reinstated the \$20 per enrollment drop fee. This fee is assessed after one business day of enrollment, affording an opportunity to correct any enrollment errors. Our business office aims to work with schools to help avoid unnecessary fees. Please contact [Laurie Tuma](#) with any questions.



Data Corner

NDCDE Releases SmartLabs Dashboard

In addition to virtual education, NDCDE spearheads the SmartLabs program throughout the state. This program is a turn-key approach to bringing learning opportunities to students that focus on the development of problem solving skills, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and design principles. To help promote these labs and encourage collaboration among districts that currently have them, NDCDE has made public its [SmartLabs dashboard](#). This dashboard shows where current SmartLabs are located and provides contact information for lab facilitators. We encourage you to use this resource if you are thinking of adding a SmartLab or already have one.

Teacher of the Year, cont.

She received the Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher in Business and Office Technology from the North Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education in 2012.

Wald's classroom environment promotes hands-on learning and allows students to acquire real-world skills that will prepare them for their future careers. In addition to her classroom duties, she is the advisor for the Future Business Leaders of America chapter and the yearbook staff at Linton High School.

Wald resides outside Linton, ND, with her husband, Mike, and four children. Her hobbies include traveling with her family, reading, and spending time outside with her kids.

[Click here](#) for more on the 2023 ND Teacher of the Year finalist.

Innovators in Action: Ryan Moran



Ryan Moran is a SmartLab computer and network specialist at NDCDE. He is an NDSU graduate and has been with NDCDE for over two years. Ryan and Dr. Tonya Greywind created a SmartLab dashboard through PowerBi to help manage and track their work on this project across the state.

This dashboard shows data on the number of students benefitting from these labs, contains a map with current lab locations, and helps manage lab operations, including computers needing maintenance and tickets submitted. Ryan is continuing to build dashboards to help NDCDE measure its effectiveness and reach. He loves his work at NDCDE because of its impact on kids, which he notes was especially needed during the pandemic.

NDCDE is proud to have technology experts like Ryan on staff. Watch for more news on Ryan's and other CDE staff's work in the months to come!

From the Director



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I'm very excited to introduce myself as the new director of NDCDE. Those of you who have been in K-12 education for many years may remember me in my past role as the director of Policy Services for the North Dakota School Boards Association through 2016. From there, I accepted a position with the University of Mary, serving as the assistant vice president for Academic Affairs for six years. In this role, I discovered three new passions: online education, faculty development, and assessment. I'm optimistic that the combination of my background and skills will help take NDCDE to the next level of service for school districts and, ultimately, North Dakota's students.

Call for Student Stories

Are you an NDCDE student or a parent of one of our students who has significantly benefitted from our courses? We'd like to hear your story. Please complete our online form to tell us more. You/your child may be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

[Online Form](#)

From the Director, cont.

As you know, NDCDE has an amazing team of professionals dedicated to innovation and continuous improvement. I feel very fortunate to be working with and learning from them. I have been amazed by the interworkings of NDCDE and the vast infrastructure supporting the quality education NDCDE delivers to students daily. If you have not had a chance to view the [NDCDE ecosystem](#), showing the gears running behind the curtain every time a student logs into one of our courses, I encourage you to do so!

While NDCDE is undoubtedly delivering a high-quality, value-added service to our students, I have committed to the following goals in the same spirit of continuous improvement that drive our day-to-day operations:

- Evaluate our services in relation to our mission and vision and our statutory responsibilities under NDCC to ensure that NDCDE's role in North Dakota's vast network of educational services, programs, and supports is evident and genuinely bolsters public school districts. I've begun this process by meeting with each full-time NDCDE employee, with a goal to understand their perspectives and insights during my first 30 days. NDCDE will be surveying stakeholders in the months ahead to further assist in this process.
- Strengthen our partnership with our parent organization, the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education, ensuring continuity rather than duplication of the services the two organizations offer.
- Ensure that NDCDE clearly tells its story. This has already begun through strengthening internal staff communications and through this newsletter.
- Establish a formalized process for regular assessment and evaluation of all we do at NDCDE to guide planning, improvements, and the exploration of new services.

Ultimately, my sincerest hope is that NDCDE continues to offer the highest quality distance education services to address the needs of our North Dakota students and school districts, keeping pace with the ever-evolving world of online education and serving as educational leaders in the virtual world. I hope to connect or reconnect with all of you in the near future. I have included my contact information under my profile picture and encourage you to reach out. I'm excited to collaborate with you as NDCDE enters its next chapter in a history dating back to 1935. ■

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