The C3 Framework for Social Studies Standards was released on September 17th. This document has been “in the works” since 2010. Guided by Kathy Swan from the University of Kentucky, various stakeholder groups were involved in the creation of the document including the Iowa Department of Education. In addition, 22 other state departments, teachers, higher education personnel and over 15 professional social studies organizations were involved in the creation of the document.

The Framework is just that—a framework. The intent behind it was not to create a set of social studies content standards. The writers wanted to leave that up to individual states.

So, the C3 Framework is organized in a conceptual manner. It is centered on the idea of an inquiry arc and within the arc are four dimensions.

- Dimension 1: Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries
- Dimension 2: Applying Disciplinary Concepts and Tools
- Dimension 3: Evaluating Sources and Using Evidence
- Dimension 4: Communicating Conclusions and Taking Informed Action

Even though the C3 Framework has been realized, it does not yet have immediate application to Iowa. This year, the Statewide Leadership Team will examine the Framework and decide how to proceed. In the meantime, keep in mind that the Iowa Core in Social Studies and the ELA Literacy in History/Social Studies Standards are still mandated as part of the Iowa Code.

To view the entire C3 document go to www.socialstudies.org/c3. For a quick one page overview of the C3 go to https://www.dropbox.com/s/e9jwab6v2nzorvb/C3%20One%20Page%20Explanation.docx.

Agora: The Place Where Educators Gather

Have you ever wanted to find a place where you have access to share resources and talk with other educators across Iowa? Agora can do that! Agora is a new online community that has been launched by AEA PD Online.

The Agora social studies site allows you to see events happening across the country, post questions and resources and see the resources we have posted. To sign up, go to www.agora.aeapdonline.org, click on social studies, and if you are not already registered for Moodle, create an account.
Social Studies News

Iowa Holocaust Memorial

Did you know that Iowa has a Holocaust Memorial? We do and it’s located near the corner of East Grand Ave. and East 7th Street in Des Moines. The memorial was put in place in the summer of 2013 and will be officially “dedicated” on Wednesday, October 23, 2013. “The memorial was erected in memory of the millions of victims of the Holocaust, in gratitude to the Iowans who, as members of the Armed Forces, liberated the concentration camps, and in honor of the survivors who made lives for themselves and their families in Iowa.” Check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/iowahistoricalmemorial

Anne Frank’s Iowa Connection

Few people know that Anne Frank had a pen pal in Danville, Iowa named Juanita Wagner. Anne sent a letter and a postcard to Juanita before she went into hiding. This story has inspired Danville students to launch a postcard campaign. Their goal is to collect 1.5 million postcards in remembrance of the 1.5 million Jewish children who died during the Holocaust. Send postcards to: Danville Schools 419 Main Street Danville, IA 52623. For more information contact Janet Hesler at 319-392-4221. Read the book, Oceans Apart, for more on the Anne Frank connection. For more information check out https://www.dropbox.com/s/babrltckad85qis/Anne%20Frank%20Flyer%20FALL%202013.pdf

Professional Development Opportunities

Global Education Institute for Teachers

The 2013 Global Education Institute for Teachers will be held on the University of Iowa campus on December 7-8, 2013. The Institute is sponsored by the Stanley Foundation and University of Iowa International Programs. This year’s participants will earn one license renewal credit. Forty teachers will be selected to attend the Institute. The application deadline is October 28, 2013. For more information or to apply check out http://international.uiowa.edu/community-programs/teacher-institute

50 Core Documents Webinars

The Ashbrook Center is offering a series of monthly webinars on the 50 Core Documents that Tell America’s Story during the 2013-2014 school year. Webinars are Saturday mornings, beginning at 9 AM and ending at 11 AM. For more information or to register check out http://tinyurl.com/nkyg2bf.

C-SPAN 2014 Summer Teacher Fellowship

The C-SPAN Teacher Fellowship program invites three teachers from across the country to work in the C-SPAN offices for four weeks over the summer. Each Fellow receives an award totaling $7,000 which includes housing and travel expenses. Check out http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/ for more information.

Street Law Supreme Court Institute

Interested in spending a week in Washington DC? Street Law and the Supreme Court Historical Society will host two sessions this summer. The Institute is open to secondary social studies teachers. The seminars are being held June 19-24 and June 26-July 1, 2014. To apply, visit www.streetlaw.org/scsi_apply.
Social Studies Resources

Teaching the Chronology of WWII
Check out this lesson plan from the WWII Museum about teaching the chronology of WWII using images. Jhttp://tinyurl.com/qzs2u7

Online Study Tour of China
Check out www.webpathtours.com for an annotated portal to high quality resources on China. Gregg Jackson, professor at The George Washington University is curator of the website.

Civil Rights Mythbusters Quiz
Teaching about the Civil Rights Movement? Help clear up misconceptions about the Movement by taking the mythbusters quiz. Check out the quiz at http://civilrightsteaching.org/march-on-washington-mythbusters-quiz/.

World of 7 Billion Video Contest
Challenge your students to create a short (60 seconds or less) video illustrating the connection between world population and climate change, global poverty, or water sustainability. Check out www.worldof7billion.org for more information.

YLI Mock Election
Get your students to participate in the Youth Leadership Initiative’s Mock Election and Constitutional Convention. For more information check out http://www.youthleadership.net/makeelection/demo_voting

Making Democracy Work Essay Contest
Sponsored by the US Capitol Historical Society, this essay contest is open to students in grades 6-8 and 9-12. The 2013 theme is the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. For more information check out www.uschs.org.

Account of 7 Billion Video Contest
Challenge your students to create a short (60 seconds or less) video illustrating the connection between world population and climate change, global poverty, or water sustainability. Check out www.worldof7billion.org for more information.

FREE Online Class: The Kennedy Half Century
The University of Virginia Center for Politics and the Youth Leadership Initiative are offering a four week course completely FREE of charge. Professor Larry J. Sabato is teaching the course.

Middle school students to adults are encouraged to apply, but the course is considered a college level course.

The course content is based off of Professor Sabato’s research from his latest book, The Kennedy Half Century.

Participants can earn a certificate of completion by completing at least 70% of course content.

Go to www.coursera.org/course/kennedy to read the syllabus and other instructions for participation.

Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it.

-Edmund Burke