2015-2016 Newsletter

Due to the Fact That…

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* To view the 2015-2016 Calendar and Fees, go to www.fpsp.org and click on the "What's New" Tab

What is ALoU?
See Page 4

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What Makes A Leader?
(By Kevin Kruse and Dr. Travis Bradberry)

- Leadership has nothing to do with seniority or one’s position in the hierarchy of a company.
  - Leadership has nothing to do with titles.
  - Leadership has nothing to do with personal attributes.
  - Leadership isn’t management.

So, again, what makes a leader?
Peter Drucker: “The only definition of a leader is someone who has followers.”
Warren Bennis: “Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.”
Bill Gates: “As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others.”

So what is leadership?
DEFINITION:
"Leadership is a process of social influence which maximizes the efforts of others toward the achievement of a greater good."
Leadership is a mindset in action.

So don’t wait for the title. Leadership isn’t something that anyone can give you—you have to earn it and claim it for yourself.

How to Become A Leader?
Learn the FPS Creative Problem Solving Process!
Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) is based on the Creative Problem Solving (CPS) process, a powerful process that can be applied to many complex situations in education, business, community, and personal settings.

1. Identify Challenges (16/team: 8/individual)
   - Generate issues, concerns, and problems, applying background knowledge to the Future Scene.
   - Consider major issues and categories of problems in order to think of more challenges.
   - Select the sixteen best challenges and write them clearly and concisely, showing cause and effect.

2. Select an Underlying Problem (UP)
   - Consider the major issues in the sixteen challenges.
   - Select an issue, one that will have a major impact on the Future Scene, for the focus of the Underlying Problem. (Continued on Page 3)
(Continued from Page 2 - Select and Underlying Problem)

- Be forward-looking and proactive, not regressive and reactive, in developing the Underlying Problem.
- Write the Underlying Problem in correct format, beginning with the Future Scene conditions that are the basis or rationale for the idea.
- Indicate a desired action to be taken, a purpose for the desired action, and parameters tying the problem to the Future Scene.

3. Produce Solution Ideas  (16/team; 8/individual)

- Generate multiple solutions to the Underlying Problem.
- Think futuristically and consider the use of technological advances.
- Focus in on the sixteen best solution ideas, checking that each solution addresses the Underlying Problem.
- Write the sixteen solutions clearly.
- Elaborate by telling who will implement the solution, what action will be taken, and how or why the action will be taken.

4. Generate & Select Criteria

- Considering the UP and the Future Scene, generate possible criteria that could be used to evaluate the solutions.
- Select five important criteria.
- Write criteria in question format using the superlative form, one dimension, and the desired direction.

5. Apply Criteria

- Select the eight most promising solutions and write in the grid.
- Rank each solution based on each of the criteria.
- Identify the best solution (highest number of total points).
- New in 2015-2016: For the Senior Division for ALoU in place of the grid. (Advantages, Limitations, ways to overcome, and Unique possibilities)

6. Develop an Action Plan

- Plan how the best solution can be implemented.
- Describe the actions and steps of the plan.
- Clearly state how the plan will address the Underlying Problem and impact the Future Scene.

© Future Problem Solving Program International 2015-16
So What Is ALoU All About
© Future Problem Solving Program International 2015-16

Advantages, Limitations (to overcome), Unique opportunities (ALoU)
For Step 5 in the Senior Division

The purpose of Step 5 is for teams to apply the criteria written in Step Four in order to compare their solutions. Ultimately, at Step Four and Five teams should demonstrate how they chose their best solution. Being able to evaluate a number of proposed solutions and outline persuasively why one solution is the best option are crucial steps in problem solving and therefore teams should be conveying this thought process in FPS. Utilizing the ALoU tool will require an additional 15 minutes provided to the teams/individual to complete the booklet.

ALoU is a detailed and sensible comparison of the team’s top three solution ideas. A large number of unjustified, arbitrary assertions in each column (e.g. “cheapest”, “most cost-effective”, “will be the longest-lasting”, “safest to implement”, “causes least disruption”, “most publicly acceptable” etc.) is not the goal.

The recommendation is to aim for two ideas indicating the substance and quality in each column (Advantages, Limitations, Unique outcomes) for each of the three solutions being compared (i.e. each of the three ALOU tables). Therefore a strong booklet will have 1 – 2 thoughtful and justified ideas in each of the columns, rather than lots and lots of short, simple ideas.

High quality comments should be sensible, insightful and should be justified in some way.

For more information, Senior Division Coaches should plan to participate in the Advanced Coach Training on Saturday, October 3. Registration Deadline is: Wednesday, September 23. Also be sure to access the New 2015-16 Program Materials from our secure website after your District has registered.

Two and three generations participated at the International Conference in June at Ames, Iowa.

Left to right: Karen's Mom (Sorry, we lost track of her name), Karen, Cheryl Whitesitt (MN FPSP Affiliate Director, Ashleigh Campbell (Cheryl's Granddaughter), and Leigh Campbell (Cheryl's Daughter and FPS Alumna)

Ashleigh competed with Karen in the Team Scenario Writing.

Leigh, for the first time in 18 years was once again a competitor as on an adult MAGIC Team! Their team took 2nd Place!
A Word from the Evaluation Director

By Adam Schoh

2014-2015 turned out to be another great year for our evaluation team. We currently have 33 active evaluators and have already recruited 4 new evaluators to our team for next year. This number includes a few of our evaluators that are out of state that work through our ROCS online evaluating system.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining our team please let me (adam.schoh@gmail.com) or Cheryl (cheryl@mnfpsp.org) know. We're always looking for new members to join our team. You do not have to have any Future Problem Solving experience and we provide you ongoing training. Our first training of the year is on October 17th from 8:45 to noon.

I also continue to look for someone to train in to fill my position. My wife and I have 3 children at home (Makenna, 5, Elliot, 2, and Julia, 1) and I feel someone who can devote a little more time to this position would help our group as a whole. I would be more than happy to stay on for a few years as a “co-evaluation director” while this person learns the position.

I’m very excited about this upcoming year. The new evaluators will be a tremendous asset to our team and with us continuing to increase in total evaluators we can provide even better evaluation to our teams. We really enjoy seeing the growth of our teams throughout the year and also the success that Minnesota has at the International Competition.

2014-2015 Accomplishments

1. Increased GIPS teams from 275 to 294.
2. Served 2,632 students, up from 2,378 the previous year.
3. Added two new districts to the Global Issues Team Competition.
4. Moved to Quick Books to streamline our invoicing system.
5. Began the LEGACY Students Grants Initiative and gave out first Grants to IC participants. (Learn more about LEGACY on page 9.)
Workshop Information

Coach Training Survey Results

Back in May, we put out a survey to see how we might better serve you. We learned that 90% of you prefer to attend workshops that are held on Saturdays so that you do not need to be out of your classrooms on school days. You spoke, we listened! Hence, please note that the second day of the Two Day Beginner Training is on a Saturday, as are the Advanced Coach, CmPS Coach, and Scenario Coach Workshops.

Many thanks to all who participated in the survey!

NOTE FOR ALL WORKSHOPS: Training materials and a Jimmy John's Sandwich are included in the registration fee. Additional materials will be available for purchase. (Credit Hours Available)

Workshops will be held at the Richfield Church of Christ in Richfield. See our website for details.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Workshops begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m.

Register at: https://mnfpsp.wufoo.com/forms/2015-workshop-registration/ Registration Deadline: Sept. 23

Beginner Coach Training
Facilitated by Cheryl Whitesitt

Due to the fact that 100% of our coaches who have participated in the Two Day New Coach Training have a successful first year AND return the second year, we have phased out the One Day New Coach Training.

This session for Beginning Coaches will be held on Friday/Saturday, October 2-3, and includes:

I. Hands-on introduction to the FPS Creative Problem Solving Six-Step Process
II. Instruction on coaching techniques
III. Tips on team development and teamwork
IV. Information on the FPSP components
   - Team and Individual Global Issues Problem Solving
   - Team and Individual Community Problem Solving
   - Scenario Writing
V. Registration info & Intro to ROCS

Advanced Coach Training
Facilitated by Sue Karp and Kathleen Ketola
Saturday, October 3: This session is for anyone with one or more years of coaching experience. We have coaches that are beginning their second year of coaching (highly recommended) as well as coaches that have been involved for many years. In this session, Generating and Focusing Tools will be imbedded into the FPS Process. The highlight of this day will be ALoU, a Focusing Tool that will be used by the Senior Division to support them in determining their best solution idea and in the development of their Action Plan. Be prepared for hands-on activities.

Sue and Kathy coached students to state and international competitions for 30 years. They have been state evaluators since 1980 and are also International Evaluators. Don’t miss this opportunity as they share their “tricks of the trade.”

CmPS – Community Problem Solving Coach Training
Facilitated by: International Winning Coaches Karlyn Doyle, Tom Warnemunde, and Lisa Sauer
Saturday, October 3: Due to an increase in interest in the Community Problem Solving Component and its relationship to STEM and the 21st Century Skills, we are again offering this opportunity to learn how to start a team, how to start a project, and how to carry out the action plan. Included in the coach fee is the coaching manual. Generating and Focusing Tools will be applied to CmPS.

Prerequisites: You must have been trained in the FPS process and have coached Global Issues Problem Solving for at least one year.

Due to the nature of this component, student and parent involvement is very important. Hence, while it is not required, we are encouraging both to participate in this training module. The cost is: $125.00 per coach, $25.00 per student attending with a coach (up to two students per coach), and $15.00 per parent attending with a certified coach.

“What is not started today is never finished tomorrow.”
- Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe
**Scenario Writing Coach Training**  
Facilitated by Cynthia Allen  
Saturday, October 3  
What is Scenario Writing?  
Who can participate in Scenario Writing?

The FPS Scenario Writing component has been rapidly growing in popularity both at State level and Internationally. Scenario Writing is an individual competition in which students develop short stories related to one of five FPS topics for the year. Students combine their topic research to invent their futuristic story (1500 words or less) with an imagined, but logical, outcome of actions or events taking place in the world today.

Any student may participate in Scenario Writing at Junior, Middle, or Senior level!

This training will offer tips from an evaluator’s perspective on how to get started with Scenario Writing and then take your students’ writing to a higher level by incorporating the categories/concepts found in the evaluation rubric. You will learn how to apply the revision strategies based on the evaluator’s feedback, and then how to submit for competition the final product.

For students who participate in the Global Issues Problem Solving component of FPS, Scenario Writing may complement their work on any of the topics. Scenario Writing is also an excellent choice for students who do not participate in other components of FPS, but enjoy writing stories and would rise to the challenge offered through FPS with evaluator feedback.

Scenario Writing may also be used as a stand-alone activity by an FPS coach, an English teacher, a home school parent, or any instructor with students who are interested in creative writing.

Cindy is a veteran teacher, and is an International Scenario Writing evaluator. She also evaluates GIPS at both State and International levels.

Included in the workshop fee is the FPS Scenario Writing Handbook: A Guide to Writing Futuristic Short Stories.

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**Evaluator Training and Retreat**  
Facilitated by Adam Schoh  
Saturday, October 17, 8:45 a.m. to Noon.

The focus of this day is to dig into each step of the evaluation process and to review the process while working on ROCS, our online evaluation system. Additionally, ALL coaches will be trained in the use of ALoU and how to evaluate this en lieu of the grid. Your mentor will work with you on one or two booklets during the month of November, evaluating practice packets. Your mentor will continue to work with you during the Qualifying Problem, “Disappearing Languages” in Early December. In fact, your mentor will be there for you as long as you need. There is no charge to anyone who commits to being an evaluator for the 2015-2016 year. Please bring your laptop!

Coaches wanting to extend their knowledge of the FPS process and “see the process through the eyes of the evaluator” may register and will be charged $95.00.

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**News from the Executive Director - Cheryl Whitesitt**

Welcome back coaches, students and parents of the MN FPSP! Welcome aboard to Sleepy Eye Public Schools. For those of you who have not yet brought the FPSP to your students, please join us as we help students to become learners, leaders, and catalysts for positive change. To learn more about what we have to offer, either email me at Cheryl@mnfpsp.org or check out our website at http://www.mnfpsp.org

“Our old with the old, in with the new:”

1. We’d like to invite our Senior year Senior Division students to join our evaluation team. Please contact Adam Schoh for more information: adam.schoh@gmail.com
2. The MN FPSP Board of Directors is inviting up to four non-voting Student Board Representatives, Go to www.mnfpsp.org to find the Student Application Form.
3. ALoU for the Senior Division - see page 4
“Some things never change…”

1. As during our pilot years, you will continue to have three options for submitting your students work: a) Your students may write their work in the paper booklet and coaches can then scan the work and upload it onto ROCS, or b) Your students may type their work into a Word doc booklet, save it, and then coaches may upload the work onto ROCS, or c) students may again try to do their work directly on ROCS, saving coaches time scanning and uploading. Remember that these first two problems are still practice and are not timed. They must be done by the dates on the calendar but can be done over the course of several coaching sessions.

2. We are especially encouraging our Senior Division Teams and Individuals to practice on ROCS as we are again aiming at having all Senior Teams competing on ROCS for State - IF the ROCS re-write is done before that time.

Scenario Performance

The MN FPSP is offering Scenario Performance this year. Developed by FPSP Australia, Inc., in 2010, according to the program’s 2010 Scenario Performance Handbook:

“Scenario Performance is a relatively new Future Problem Solving option that is, at present, unique to Australia, although it has been trialed in other affiliates. Essentially, it is Scenario Writing in a verbal form; the program asks students to tell a story that meets all the parameters of Scenario Writing, except that the story is told orally, rather than in the written word.

“Consequently, Scenario Performance is an oral storytelling activity for individual students, offering them the opportunity to enlarge, enrich and make more accurate their images of the future. Students are challenged to create a story of between 4 - 5 minute duration, set at least 20 years in the future, and that arises from any one of the topics set for the year.

Submission will take the form of a DVD of the student delivering an oral telling of their story, undertaken in one take without the use of any props or aids, beyond the use of their voice.”

To view two examples of Australia’s National Competition winners go to: http://s1100.photobucket.com/albums/g407/FPSOfficeM gr/?action=view&current=khoo.mp4

If you are interested in learning more about this new component, please contact cheryl@mnfpsp.org

Goals for 2015-2016

1. Increase GIPS team numbers to 300.
2. Increase student participation to 2,700.
3. Continue to grow the Scenario Writing and Community Problem Solving Components.
4. Continue to increase teaching creative and critical thinking in the classroom.
5. Continue supporting all coaches.
6. Increase contact and following up with districts interested in developing an FPS program.
7. Continue to increase ROCS use, in preparation for ROCS 2.0 coming the Fall of 2016!.
8. Training coaches, evaluators, and senior division students using ALoU.
9. Continue to grow the LEGACY Students Grants Initiative. Goal to give our CmPS Project Grants.

“I dream, therefore I become.”
– Cheryl Renee Grossman

Ignite Generosity    Grow Giving

Mark your calendars for:
Thursday, November 12, 2015
To Give To The MAX!
https://givemn.org/
How to Participate in the MN FPSP

Participation begins with a school-approved coach or an interested Home School Parent. Coaches may be teachers, retired teachers, parents or volunteers from the community. Coaches receive training by attending an MN FPSP sponsored workshop. Workshops are conducted by Certified FPSP trainers. A workshop fee is charged. Another way to participate is to become a state certified evaluator. Training is provided at no charge for evaluators.

Volunteers are also needed for regional, state and international competitions. Email Cheryl@mnfpsp.org for more information about these and more opportunities.

2014–2015 General Program Donors

**Action Plan Donors ($1000 or more)**
- $10,000 -- Anonymous
- $1,000.00 Wells Fargo

**Solution Donors ($500-$999)**

**Underlying Problem Donors ($100-$499)**
- Vernae Hasbargen
- Blandin Foundation in Honor of Vernae Hasbargen
- Allen and Connie Meiners
- Adam Schoh
- Joseph Lefto
- Maura Stoltz-Hasan (In-kind donations)

**Challenge Donors (up to $99)**
- Don and Marilyn Wilke
- Wilma Schoh
- Sophia Miller
- Sue Karp (In-kind donations),
- Kathy Ketola (In-kind donations)

And many anonymous donations that were given in last year’s GiveMN, Give to the Max.

The MN FPSP students, parents, staff, coaches, and board thank you for your support!

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LEGACY Student Grant Initiative Update!  
By TC Meng

Many thanks to all of you who have participated in the 2014-2015 MNFPSP Legacy Power of 100 Initiative! As of August, a total of $3,385.00 was raised (cash donations, in-kind donations and sweatshirts sales) from 20 donors. A total of $1500 in grants were awarded to 10 students from North Junior High School, Centennial Middle School, Richfield Public Schools, Roseville Area High School, and Apollo High School in support of registration and travel to the 2015 International Competition in Ames, Iowa, this past June. Grants to support Community Problem Solving projects will be awarded this Fall-Winter. Application information will be sent to coaches later this Fall.

We still hope to meet the goal of 100 donors contributing at least $100 to support the MNFPSP Legacy campaign! Please go to the MNFPSP website: (http://www.mnfsp.org/index.php/legacypr/125-lproj) for information on the Legacy program. All donations are tax-deductible. We are also looking for parent volunteers who have experience in fund raising and/or social media to assist with the LEGACY Campaign.

Please contact: legacy@mnfpsp.org or cheryl@mnfpsp.org

For a complete Donor list to date, go to: http://www.mnfsp.org/index.php/legacypr/project-donors

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Evaluators Needed!
By Cheryl Whitesitt

As the MN FPSP grows, our need for quality evaluators grows. Each year we add a few new people and we also have one or two that retire or move away – however, moving away is affecting us less and less with ROCS!

Our students work hard and deserve quality feedback. The more evaluators we have the less work there is for each of us. The best part is that we are able to give more quality feedback to help students improve their problem solving skills.

We need your help! The MN FPSP board is asking that all coaches and, yes, even parents, consider learning how to be an evaluator. We are especially asking that if your district has more than five teams, that you provide at least one evaluator per ten teams. We will be contacting you so please get in touch with us so we don’t have to call you first. Keep in mind that some states require at least one coach per five teams in a school district. Texas requires ALL of their coaches to be evaluators. We’d really rather have you volunteer.

What does it mean to be an evaluator? We will train you onsite and via ROCS. It is best if you have already been trained in the FPS process and have coaching experience but we’ve had great evaluators come on board without prior FPS coaching experience. If you need training in the FPS process, please check our coach training information on page 6 of this newsletter. There is no charge for the coach training if you commit to joining our evaluation team. If you are an experienced coach or FPS alumna, we invite you to join us on Saturday, October 17, from 8:45 a.m. to noon.

What is the time commitment for an Evaluator? The training time is different for everyone. If you are already a coach or FPS Alumna, you will learn very fast. We require that all evaluators do research. We send you a minimum standard and are always glad when more is done. Often, the evaluators will send out research links that they have found. We do not make you go out on your own to research a topic. Our evaluators generally spend four or more hours on a topic but this is done as time allows.

Some evaluators assist with the Optional Problem and Freelance booklets that are submitted early in November, later in November, late in December, and again in May.

We need all evaluators to score at least one grouping of five booklets for the qualifying problem #2 on December 4 and/or 5. We will have onsite evaluators, but because of ROCS, many will now be able to work from home.

COACHES: Please consider recommending your graduating seniors as evaluators! Let them know we are inviting them to join the team, too!

All evaluators need to score at least two groupings of five booklets during the regional evaluation weekend that starts Friday morning, February 5, and ends Sunday noon on the 7th. A few evaluators do all three days while most work on Saturday only.

The last really important date is Saturday, April 9, our state competition day! All evaluators work at different speeds. Each evaluator scores five booklets, while some do up to ten or more. The more evaluators we have on this date, the less booklets each evaluator needs to do, and the more quality feedback we can give the students.

We offer a per booklet stipend in appreciation of your time and talents. A noon meal and snacks are provided throughout the day for onsite evaluators.

To learn more about becoming an evaluator, contact: adam.schoh@gmail.com

“Why not go out on a limb? Isn't that where the fruit is?”
– Frank Scully

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Creating an MN FPSP Account

Go to:  http://www.mnfpsp.org  Just under the logo you will see tab titles going from left to right.  If you are new and have not yet created an account, be sure to do so under the Coaches Tab by clicking on "Login."  If you can't remember if you set up your new account, just try your user name and password that you have on file.  If it does not work, let Cheryl know.  Once authorized by a site administrator, you’ll be able to download the Program Materials as you have in the past.  New coaches, please create a username and password and email:  cheryl@mnfpsp.org  to let her know you have done this.  She will approve your access to the secure site if your school district has registered and will give you further instructions.

Important Dates!

Workshop Registration Deadline:  Sept. 23  
District Registrations Due:  October 15  
Team Registrations on ROCS:  October 1-30  
PP#1 Due on ROCS:  October 30  
PP#2 Due on ROCS:  November 25  
Scenario Writing First Draft Due:  December 7  
CmPS Preliminary Reports Due:  December 11  
Scenario Finals Due:  January 28 
REGIONAL COMPETITIONS:  January 30  
CmPS State Competition Materials Due:  March 11 
STATE COMPETITION:  April 9

2015-16 Tee Shirt Pre-order

Information

We will again do our online tee shirt pre-order.

1. Information will be sent out in early December.
2. You may send the information to families so they can order or you can collect all of the orders and submit the order for them.  We had some families last year that did not use credit cards so the coaches collected the money and ordered for them.
3. The tee shirts will be ordered and paid for online.
4. They will be delivered at your regional competition, unless other plans are made to have them delivered or shipped.  Shipping will cost extra.
5. An email will be sent to all coaches when this year’s tee shirt is posted on our website.

FPS and The Use Of Social Media

As you research topics, please keep in mind a special message from the International Office.  No videos of skits are allowed on facebook.  Photos only.  Be sure that photo descriptors do NOT give away the Future Scene to other affiliates.  Affiliates are allowed to change the order of the future scenes and may use anyone for competition.  THANK YOU!