Greetings, LINCSters!

It’s hard to believe that we’re two months into 2015 already but I hope that everyone is doing well! On behalf of the executive committee, I want to personally thank each of you for attending the 2014 PDS in New Orleans. Kudos to our immediate past chair, Morgan Blanchard, our NCSL LINCS Liaison, Jane Andrade, and the entire executive committee for a job well done! The seminar was a roaring success filled with great excitement, wonderful energy, and loads of fun! Moving forward, I’d like to keep that momentum going!

As LINCS enters its 16th year, we will continue to face many challenges as one of NCSL’s smallest staff sections. However, our commitment to preserving and strengthening our staff section remains just as vibrant as when created. Together, we must continue to meet every new challenge as a welcomed opportunity.

Now is the time to reach out and garner excitement from others about our staff section and the upcoming 2015 professional development seminar. Share your experiences from previous seminars with others and do all you can to get them involved in LINCS. I also want to encourage you to take a moment to “LINC-up” with fellow LINCSsters in your state and those nearby.

You are the most important part of the LINCS team, and the executive committee is here to support you. Communicate with us regularly and share your ideas for our next PDS. Put forth a suggestion or ask how you can be more involved. You always have a voice at the table, and we want you to be engaged! Because of you, I firmly believe LINCS has a vibrant future.

Finally, check out LINCS’ beautiful new logo in the masthead above. I want to recognize our vice-chair, Dennis Yoder, for his time and talent in creating it. Thanks, Dennis!

Please feel free to contact me at 225-342-7646 or Jane at 303-856-1464 with any questions or suggestions. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your chair!

Looking forward to another exceptional year for LINCS!

Cory Stewart, LINCS chair, 2014-2015

LINCS-LSS Fall Professional Development Seminar

This just in … The LINCS and LSS executive committees have agreed on the site and dates for our annual fall PDS. It will be held Oct. 18-21 in America’s sixth-largest city—PHOENIX! We’ll keep you posted as details emerge, and you can always check the LINCS Web page.

We are always looking for ideas for session topics—both specific to our field (social media, media relations, publishing and editing, etc.) and professional development (conflict resolution, enhancing memory, time management, etc.). Please email Jane Andrade or Cory Stewart with your ideas.
Meet Your 2015 LINCS Executive Committee

**Chair—Cory Stewart, Louisiana,** stewartc@legis.la.gov
Cory serves as deputy communications director for the Louisiana House of Representatives, where he coordinates media relations; designs new marketing strategies to promote current and upcoming services; develops policies for producing media services; and coordinates civic education events. He oversaw a new in-house process for producing direct-mail marketing pieces for members, saving the House and state $500,000 over two years. Prior positions include endorsement clerk with the House and assistant press secretary to Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco. Cory is a graduate of Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, La.

**Vice Chair—Dennis Yoder, Texas,** dennis.yoder@senate.state.tx.us
Dennis Yoder has served as the audio manager for the Texas Senate since 1997. Since then, his duties have grown to cover other areas, including coordinating audio archiving for all official Senate-sponsored events as well as serving as audio-visual coordinator for special events and media logistics coordinator for Senate field hearings. He develops and oversees major upgrades and renovation projects for audio and video systems in Senate facilities.

**Secretary—Lauren Russell, Louisiana,** russelll@legis.la.gov
Lauren is a communication specialist for the Louisiana House of Representatives, where she facilitates media relations; researches, writes and distributes news releases and speeches; acts as liaison for the media and public; and assists with photography and video requests. Lauren was appointed to the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education as the state coordinator of the Louisiana Legislators Back to School Program. In this role, she organizes Back to School visits for legislators and provides them with key materials. Lauren graduated from Louisiana State University, where she majored in Mass Communications.

**Past Chair—Morgan Blanchard, Louisiana,** blanchm@legis.la.gov
Morgan is the communication specialist for the Louisiana State Senate. Serving 39 members, she maintains media guides, writes news releases and speeches, assists in publicizing Senate events, maintains issues analyses and organizes the Senate’s Back to School efforts. She has served the Senate for seven years and has been a LINCS member for five. A proud graduate of Louisiana State University, Morgan majored in Mass Communications: Public Relations and minored in Business and International Studies: Global Diplomacy in Africa and the Middle East.

**Director—Drew Volturo, Delaware,** andrew.volturo@state.de.us
Drew has served as the communications director of the Delaware House Democratic Caucus since 2009. The caucus currently is comprised of 27 state representatives. Drew drafts press releases, opinion pieces and letters for members, and manages the caucus’ social media sites (website, Facebook and Twitter). Prior to that, he was a reporter for the daily Delaware State News for eight years. Drew is a native of Wilmington and currently resides in Newark, Del.
Director—K’Lynn Sloan Harris, Montana, ksharris@mt.gov
K’Lynn serves as the audio video coordinator for the Montana Legislative Branch, overseeing the broadcasting and live streaming program, proudly making all legislative proceedings available to the public. She has been with the Montana Legislature since 2010, was a member of NALIT, and joined LINCS in 2012. A journalism and political science graduate of the University of Montana, K’Lynn was previously an election reporter for MTV, news director at 89.9 FM KBGA, worked for the United States Senate, and completed a White House Internship. She also serves on the state board of directors in Montana for Kiwanis International.

Director—Jill Turetsky Malinger, Texas, jill.turetsky@senate.state.tx.us
Jill has been a photographer for the Texas State Senate since 1997. She has helped her department grow and modernize from photographing with film and printing black and white photographs to shooting with digital cameras and creating a photo archive of thousands of images per session. Other than photographing floor action, committee meetings, press conferences, headshots and Capitol events, she also implements special projects such as the Texas Senate Composite, researching and curating a permanent exhibit of Texas Civil Rights and Suffragist photographs, and creating displays for important celebrations and memorials.

Director—Jeff Fossett, Texas, jeff.fossett@lrc.ky.gov
Jeff is a video producer and photographer for the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission, where he has worked since 1993. He has extensive experience in television news, working as a reporter, videographer and assistant news director for visual content. He received his bachelor’s degree in telecommunications from the University of Kentucky, where he was a cheerleader and cheerleading coach. Jeff is a husband, father and grandfather, and serves as a high school and college volleyball referee in his spare time.

Have you seen NCSL’s dynamic new YDraw video geared especially to legislative staff? It’s informative and fun. Be sure to check it out on NCSL’s Legislative Staff Services Web page.

Mark your calendars! NCSL’s 2015 Legislative Summit will be held Aug. 3-6 in SEATTLE!

The city known for the Space Needle, Starbucks, Microsoft, grunge rock and more will be an exciting place to gather, learn and network. Planning is underway for the largest gathering of state legislators and legislative staff in the country. Registration opens soon. Stay tuned for details.

UPCOMING WEBINARS


3/13: A State Budget Update and a Look at Long-Term Trends through Data Tools

3/17 and 4/21: NCSL Bill Information Service for legislators and staff

3/20: Juvenile Justice 2015: Status Offense Reform
FRIENDSHIPS WERE FORMED AND RENEWED
LESSONS WERE LEARNED, FUN WAS HAD
At the 2014 LINCS PDS in September in New Orleans
With much appreciation for LINCS sponsor Rob Stoddard
and the National Cable & Telecommunications Association

Whether or not you were able to attend, check out this great video created by NCSL’s Mick Bullock. It not only captures the 2014 PDS, it offers insight from attendees about the value of LINCS and the opportunities to network with peers from around the country.