



Lakes Country Service Cooperative

Jeremy Kovash, Executive Director

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Dear LCSC Member,

Enclosed please find the LCSC annual contract agreement for fiscal year 2015. Your membership is vital to our work and is what makes our tagline *"Together We Achieve"* come to life. We thank you for another year of membership with Lakes Country Service Cooperative.

We look forward to continuing our work with you for the success of all students in our region. First, we'd like to look back at a few of the successes our partnership has created.

- LCSC is one of three new Centers of Excellence in the state, partnering with the Department of Education to bring the next generation of on-site direct assistance to districts in the region.
- The Education Service Department has taken the lead to assist with the World's Best Workforce legislation, and continue to work with districts on teacher evaluation and leadership training.
- Our Technology Integration Coordinator successfully worked with four districts to plan comprehensive technology plans focused on learning outcomes in the classroom. LCSC is providing technology integration leadership services to multiple schools in the region, and is hiring additional integrationists.
- The LCSC Technology Department continues to grow and will have 10 full-time employees providing a range of services from audits to full network administration to desktop assistance. Work is customized to member needs.
- The Service Cooperatives statewide have built and implemented a secure web portal, known as Express, for members to place online orders directly with our commodity-based contracts, www.cpcexpress.org. Members can use SMART Finance or Skyward to access the site using purchase orders or credit cards and be guaranteed bid pricing.
- The Cooperative Purchasing Department successfully completed a USDA-approved food bid on behalf of school districts in our region plus three additional service cooperative regions.
- With assistance from two Department of Agriculture grants, our Administrative Services group is designing and piloting a regional food hub, designed to connect regional produce growers with our school for school breakfast and lunch programs. Our Registered Dietitian, in addition to assisting many of our districts with the new menu certification process, is leading a diverse community advisory group in the food hub creation.
- The Human Resources Department has added a human resources audit service and continues the free regional networking and professional development group.
- Our Business Services/Finance Department has grown to nine full-time employees providing multiple districts and organizations with a range of services, from payroll to full business management.
- We continue to advocate with the Minnesota legislature, and work with our national organization, AESA to promote federal legislation on behalf of our school members.

Your input and participation assists us in building responsive programs and is always greatly appreciated. We look forward to another successful year of serving your school. My best regards and have a great summer!

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