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For More Information:
Ana Post
301.588.1800, Ext. 114
apost@ncss.org

“Dreams and Deeds: The Civic Mission of Schools” NCSS Annual Conference to Convene in Atlanta, Georgia


“As social studies educators, especially in times of challenge, we embrace our responsibility to serve our communities by preparing young people to participate in active citizenship,” said Syd Golston, NCSS President-Elect. Golston added that the NCSS Annual Conference, with more than 400 clinics, sessions, workshops, and poster sessions, will highlight how the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities—social studies—prepares students to become effective and productive citizens in an ever changing world.

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Major speakers at the conference include:

- **Maya Soetoro-Ng**, President Barack Obama’s younger sister, a Ph.D. in International Comparative Education from the University of Hawaii, Honolulu. Soetoro-Ng is a social studies educator with a lifelong commitment to the power of non-violent conflict resolution.

- **Greg Mortenson**, best-selling author of “Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace…One School at a Time,” and recently named Person of the Week by ABC News. Mortenson has dedicated his life to promoting community-based education and literacy programs in remote mountain regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

- **Eric Foner**, DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University, and author of “Our Lincoln: New Perspectives on Lincoln and His World.” Foner is one of this country's most prominent historians on Abraham Lincoln and on the history of American race relations.

- **Deborah Lipstadt**, Dorot professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies, Emory University, and author of “History on Trial: My Day in Court with David Irving.” Lipstadt represented President George W. Bush as a member of the official American delegation to the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

- **John A. Stokes**, the co-author of “Students on Strike: Jim Crow, Civil Rights, Brown, and me,” in which he gives an eyewitness account of the “Manhattan Project,” the strike that ultimately became part of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court *Brown v. Board of Education* case ordering the desegregation of all public schools in 1954.

Vital Issues sessions and panels include: “The Civic Mission of Schools,” featuring Carl D.

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Glickman, University Professor Emeritus, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, Peter Levine, Director of the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), and Ted McConnell, Executive Director, Campaign for the Civic Mission if Schools; a blue ribbon Economics panel featuring Professors Mark Schug (University of Wisconsin), Richard McDonald (St. Cloud University, and George Vredeveld (University of Cincinnati), explaining the current economic crisis for non-economics teachers; and an international Social Studies education panel featuring educators from four continents, discussing curriculum development and social education in their countries.

Other Conference highlights include:

- a seminar on Teaching American History (TAH) grants with TAH Grants Director Alex Stein, and more than 100 sessions ideal for TAH grantees;
- a workshop for pre-service teachers on preparing for the PRAXIS social studies examination;
- clinics at the Martin Luther King Center, Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Georgia Public Broadcasting, the Cherokee Historic Site at New Echota, and the Breman Jewish Heritage and Holocaust Museum;
- special sessions and speakers ranging from teaching about the economic crisis to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial;
- receptions honoring the outstanding performance of award-winning social studies teachers, researchers, and other worthy individuals and programs;
- an evening reception at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library;

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- a Saturday night film festival at the Georgia World Congress Center; and
- African-American history and urban geography walking tours of Atlanta.

Founded in 1921, the National Council for the Social Studies has grown into the largest association in the country for social studies professionals, with 23,000 members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 69 foreign countries. Membership includes K-12 classroom teachers, curriculum supervisors and specialists, curriculum writers and designers, and teacher educators. Social studies is the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence.

More information on the 89th National Conference is available at the NCSS web site at http://www.socialstudies.org/conference.

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