

The 21st annual Excellence in Early Childhood Conference will be Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Chadron State College Student Center.

The theme for the conference is “United We Stand for Children... Doing What We Love.”

The one-day event this year promises participants once again a high quality professional development experience with a day of inspiration, motivational and hands on presentations and workshops that support best practices in early childhood education.

Dr. Mike Longoria of El Paso, Texas will present two keynote addresses and two workshops. Longoria specializes in curriculum and instruction with a long history of experience in education including preschool, K-12 and a faculty member in higher education both at the community college and university level.

Dr. Kim Madsen, the conference’s organizer, said Longoria is a well-known, highly sought after and highly recognized presenter that integrates music, movement, science, math and literacy into his presentations.

Longoria will present a keynote address focusing on the importance of “Loving What You Do and Doing What You Love.”

Workshops will be in the morning and afternoon on “Sing to Read: Developing Critical Early Reading Skills” and “Wow! Making Science and Math Fun and Exciting.” His final motivational and hands on keynote will address “The Hidden Power of Movement.”

“Taking Care of You–Are you in the Zone?” will be a keynote address midday on Saturday, Feb. 20, by Dr. Jay Sutcliffe of Chadron. Sutcliffe is a registered dietician and faculty member in Chadron State College’s family and consumer sciences program. His knowledge, experience and expertise in lifespan wellness provide an inspirational message to all participants.

The conference will also be offered again this year for college credit, CEU's and Professional Development Units.

For more information about the conference, please contact Madsen, kmadsen@csc.edu or 308-432-6372 or Chadron State College conferencing office at 308-432-6380. Additional information about the conference may be found at <http://www.csc.edu/conferencing/upcoming.csc>