

# UPDATE

Volume 32, Number 3 Spring 2013



**Twice International ASCD  
Award-Winning Newsletter.**

## President's Message



Dr. Mary Wolf

PSSA's, Keystones, field trips and concerts... Spring is in the air! The onset of spring means time for reflection on the accomplishments of the school year, as well as goals for the future. PASCD is continuously focused on keeping our members informed and educated so we can all move toward greater success.

*Check out our web page blog! Executive Director Rich Nilsen is staying one step ahead with his involvement in various state level groups, including the School Funding Campaign. If you wish to be "in the know" with political news happenings and the impact on students, visit Rich's blog on the home page of the website.*

We continue to grow in our outreach collaborative with PAC-TE; the PA Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators. PASCD, along with numerous other organizations, recently joined together to form a group known as the "Keystone Consortium of Educational Organizations." The group developed a unified statement to address the areas of curriculum, whole child, professional development, assessment, and evaluation. The consortium's position statement was unveiled at a press conference in State College on April 16 and may be accessed and used by all members in their effort to support educational-related causes.

In an effort to decrease printing costs and increase access and availability, PASCD's Pennsylvania Educational Leadership Journal is transitioning from print to paperless, and is available exclusively through membership online access. You will receive information on accessing the journal as soon as the next edition is released.

In the area of professional development, PASCD is offering a summer Curriculum Leadership Academy. We are expanding our offering to include a more flexible online option. Those who participate will enjoy working with their own schedule and at a personal pace. For those who prefer the structure of a classroom-style work-

### IN THIS Issue

- President's Message ..... 1-2
- A Message from the 2013 Annual Conference Chair..... 3-5
- Curriculum Committee.....6
- Scholarship Chair .....7
- The Advantages of Online Professional Development .....8
- PVAAS .....9
- All Politics Are Local.....10
- Effective Teacher Supervision ....11
- PASCD Welcomes New PEL Editors .....12
- MWPASCD and Northwest PA STEM Network .....12
- How to Evaluate iPad Apps... 13-14
- PASCD Scholarships .....14
- Regional News .....15
- New Members..... 16-17

### Mission Statement

PASCD, educators impacting teaching and learning through leadership.



[www.pascd.org](http://www.pascd.org)

*"This Newsletter is not an official publication of ASCD and its publication does not necessarily reflect the views of ASCD."*

---

## President's Message *(continued)*

shop, the Act 45 PIL Curriculum Leadership Academy and Supervision Academy will be offered at the Annual Conference.

Registration is now open for our upcoming Annual Conference. Take advantage of discounted rates during the early bird window which closes on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Once again, PASCD is offering timely and relevant sessions during the conference. With a "Whole Child" theme, you can expect numerous session topics ranging from Common Core standards to school safety, and PDE will be available to provide the latest on state initiatives.

One of the strengths of our membership is the fact that we have many educators who enjoy stepping in to leadership responsibilities. If you are seeking a leadership responsibility in a vibrant organization, please send us a message through the website. Major areas to assist include conference committee, executive board committees and regional activities.

With retirements and Executive Board responsibilities rotating, we have several board members who have finished their term. I would like to thank the following members of the Executive Board who are exiting from their current roles within the organization: Dr. Diane Eicher, Dr. Mary Desmone, Dr. Bonnie Troxell, Dr. Cindy Mierzejewski, Dr. Denise Meister, Dr. Judy Zaenglein and Dr. Deborah Cox. *Your committed service over the years is greatly appreciated. PASCD is noticeably a stronger organization thanks to your enormous contributions!*

***Celebrate the successes of the past year, and enjoy a restful and rejuvenating summer!***

---



*PASCD's Executive Director, Dr. Richard Nilsen, (4th from the right), takes part in the Pa Education School Funding campaign on Capital Hill on April 30, 2013. For more information on the School Funding campaign visit Dr. Nilsen's Blog at <http://www.pascd.org/blogpost/902085/Executive-Director-s-Blog>. Or go to the PASCD website and click on the Executive Director's Blog link.*



**A Message from the 2013  
PASCD Conference Chair...  
*Bryan O'Black, Shaler Area School SD***

**REMINDER: NEW DATES: NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> – 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2013  
HERSHEY LODGE & CONVENTATION CENER  
[www.pascd.org/conference](http://www.pascd.org/conference)**



**INTRODUCING PASCD CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND  
ASCD FEATURED AUTHOR DR. CONNIE MOSS**

***Learning Targets: Helping Students Aim for  
Understanding in Today's Lesson***

Dr. Connie M. Moss, is a professor at Duquesne University School of Education where she directs the Center for Advancing the Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL). She has been an invited speaker in over 600 school districts and 100 universities. Connie co-authored, along with Susan Brookhart, two best-selling ASCD books. The first, *Advancing Formative Assessment in Every Classroom: A Guide for Instructional Leaders* was selected by ASCD as one of the top resources to support President Obama's Common Core Initiative. The second, *Learning Targets: Helping Students Aim for Understanding in Today's Lesson* was the member selection for July and represents years of research with Pennsylvania schools as well as schools across the nation, and around the world. Her insights also appear regularly in ASCD's *Educational Leadership*.

Connie researches the connections among classroom assessment, effective teaching, formative leadership and student achievement. Her research has been published in top-tier academic journals and book chapters, and she presents regularly at national and international research conferences.

Prior to joining the faculty at Duquesne University, Connie served as a public school teacher for 25 years, beginning her career at Rigel Special School on Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska. She continued her teaching career as a special education teacher for Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV (MIU IV) in the Mars and New Castle Area School Districts in Pennsylvania. After leaving her classroom, she served as Curriculum Coordinator and professional development specialist for MIU IV's 27 school districts in Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer Counties in PA.

Connie received her Bachelor's degree in education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, her Master's from Slippery Rock University, and her doctorate in Educational Leadership from Duquesne University.

---

**Visit [www.pascd.org](http://www.pascd.org) for additional information on Dr. Moss and  
Keynote Speaker Chris Lehman, Principal of the Science Leadership Academy, Philadelphia Pa.**

---

---



USE RTT AND TITLE  
I FUNDING

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN

### REGISTER BY JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> TO RECEIVE THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

Registrations for the 63rd Annual Conference are now being accepted. Please take advantage of our early bird registration fees! This year, you can register online with a credit card or choose to have an invoice sent to you. For more information and to register for this year's conference visit [www.pascd.org](http://www.pascd.org). Also included in our newsletter is a paper registration form.

### PA COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS FOCUS OF PASCD PRE CONFERENCE

The PASCD Conference Committee has developed a pre-conference experience that will run on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> prior to our Annual Conference. Understanding the need for professional development as schools implement the new PA Common Core, PASCD is offering the following sessions. (*Please note: that Pre-Conference sessions are in addition to the Annual Conference registration fee and can be selected when registering either online or on paper*).

#### A Closer Look at the PA ELA Common Core State Standards

**Audience:** *K-12 Teachers, Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Curriculum Directors and Principals (Act 48 Eligible)*

**When:** *Sunday, November 3rd, 8:30 am to 11:30 am*

**Cost:** \$45

Receive an overview of the PA Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects. The presenters will explain some of the major constructs of PA ELA Common Core. Participants will deconstruct the document and learn the major components, content and organization with a brief explanation of: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking, and Language.

#### A Closer Look at the PA Math Common Core State Standards

**Audience:** *K-12 Teachers, Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Curriculum Directors and Principals (Act 48 Eligible)*

**When:** *Sunday, November 3rd, 8:30 am to 11:30 am*

**Cost:** \$45

Review an overview of the PA Common Core State Standards for Math. The presenters will assist teachers, administrators, and leaders of kindergarten through high school in building an understanding of the PA Common Core State Standards for mathematics. During this session information pertaining to the mathematical standards of practice, core knowledge skills and learning progressions will be shared.

---

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (continued)

### Curriculum Leadership Academy

**Audience:** Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Curriculum Directors and Principals

**Credit:** 28 Act 45/Act 48 Hours

**When:** Saturday, November 2nd, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Sunday, November 3rd, 8:30 am to 11:30 am

Monday, January 13th, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm; Location TBD

Monday, February 10th, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm; Location TBD

**Cost:** \$350 for PASCD Members • \$415 for Non-PASCD Members



Curriculum Leadership Academy is a program designed to provide in-depth learning and networking opportunities that develop curriculum leadership. Curriculum design, development, implementation, and evaluation have become complex processes in today's schools. New and veteran school leaders assigned curriculum leadership duties are often placed in such roles without all the prerequisite knowledge and skills. The PASCD Curriculum Leadership Academy was designed to help these educators gain a deeper understanding of how to get started. Strategies and techniques to be successful, resources that are available, and how to continue to improve in a variety of areas of curriculum leadership will be addressed.

### Supervision Academy

**Audience:** Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Curriculum Directors and Principals

**Credit:** 40 Act 45/Act 48 Hours

**When:** Sunday, November 3rd: 8:30 am to 11:30 am (face-to-face session)

Monday, January 13th: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm; Location TBD

Monday, February 10th: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm; Location TBD

**Cost:** \$350 for PASCD Members • \$415 for Non-PASCD Members

The **PASCD Supervision Academy** targets educators who have an interest in promoting teacher growth through the supervisory process. The program is very beneficial for building administrators, central office administrators, teacher leaders and anyone contemplating an administrative position.

Participants will unpack beliefs and assumptions about supervision and evaluation, discuss the essential ingredients that must be present to foster a climate of inquiry, practice using classroom observational tools, analyze data to improve instruction, understand and apply supervisory practices when dealing with novice teachers, seasoned teachers and marginal teachers, and discuss evaluation practices and implementation.



## **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

### **Membership**

Dr. Ann Way, Tunkhannock Area SD

### **Publications**

Dr. Judy Zaenglein, Penn State Harrisburg  
Dr. Denise Meister, Penn State Harrisburg

### **Scholarship**

Dr. Colleen Lelli, Cabrini College

### **Strategic Planning**

Ms. Elaine Sautner, Selinsgrove Area SD

### **Student Chapters**

Ms. Janeen Peretin, Baldwin-Whitehall SD  
Ms. Denise Sedlacek, Baldwin-Whitehall SD

### **Supervision**

Dr. Robert Williams, Williamsport Area SD

### **Technology**

Dr. Jeff Taylor, North Hills SD

### **Conference**

Bryan O'Black, Shaler Area SD

### **Curriculum & Instruction**

Dr. Cindy Mierzejewski, Berks IU 14  
Mr. Matt Friedman, Mars Area SD

### **Equity & Access**

Dr. Deborah Cox, Pittsburgh Public Schools

### **Influence**

Dr. Dean Maynard, Northwest Tri-County IU 5

### **Historian**

Dr. Dixie Winters, Penn State York (Ret)

### **Outstanding Young Educator**

Christine Myers, Brockway Area SD

### **ASCD Constituent Partnerships Director**

Kevin Scott, ASCD

# **Curriculum Committee**

## **Curriculum Leadership Academy**

The PASCD Curriculum Leadership Academy will soon be offered in an online format. The Curriculum Leadership Academy has been offered throughout the state in a face-to-face format and beginning in April will also be offered in an online format. Curriculum Leadership 101 is designed for administrators who are responsible for the development, implementation, and evaluation of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. This is an Act 45 (Act 48 PIL) approved professional development opportunity worth 28 Act 45 hours.

Curriculum design, development, implementation, and evaluation have become complex processes in today's schools. The Curriculum Leadership Academy is a program designed to provide in-depth learning and networking opportunities in curriculum leadership. This can be especially useful for new school leaders. Strategies and techniques to be successful, resources that are available, and how to continue to improve in a variety of areas of curriculum are addressed.

Look for future advertisements for course registration.

## **Common Core**

PASCD and the Curriculum Committee would like to assist you and your districts as you work to align your curriculum or to rewrite your curriculum to the Common Core. Common Core is a "hot topic" that is addressed in the Curriculum Leadership Academy and in sessions during the PASCD annual conference, but we are asking for your input as to how we can further assist. What would be useful to you? Resources posted on the website? Networking sessions for curriculum leaders? If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact Cindy Mierzejewski at [cinmie@berksiu.org](mailto:cinmie@berksiu.org).

---

## Scholarship Chair to Resign Position Effective June 2013

Dr. Mary Desmone informed the Executive Board at the June 2012 retreat of her plans to resign as Scholarship Committee Chair effective at the June 2013 retreat.

Dr. Desmone became a member of PASCD in the 1980's. She held many positions in the Northwest Region, including President. She dedicated a decade of her life to the volunteer position of Scholarship Committee Chair. She succeeded the previous chair, Dr. Gerry Grant, in 2003. During Dr. Desmone's tenure, and with the support of the Executive Board, she spearheaded the revision of the scholarship process: application instructions, application components, training for application readers, and most importantly the scoring process. The application components are each given a score, based on a rubric, which ensures the objective determination of scholarship recipients. The process is evaluated annually and revised as appropriate.



Dr. Desmone has introduced the scholarship recipients at the PASCD conference each year and considers it the highlight of the conference. She has always been passionate about the importance of the scholarship program for the organization and believes it is vital to the aspiring educators who receive the grants.

---

## New Scholarship Chair Named



Dr. Colleen Lelli has been named successor to the Scholarship Chair position.

Dr. Desmone has been working with her successor since the fall conference to ensure a smooth transition. Dr. Lelli is currently the Delaware Valley Region president. She has served on the PASCD Executive Board since 2011-2012. Dr. Lelli is currently an Assistant Professor at Cabrini College. She is the Coordinator for the Undergraduate Special Education Program and thoroughly enjoys working with pre-service teachers as they begin their careers in education.

When she heard of Dr. Desmone's intent to resign, she enthusiastically expressed an interest in the position. She shares Dr. Desmone's passion for the scholarship program. She is equally committed to an open and fair process of selecting the recipients. Together they have been working on revisions to the application process. Dr. Lelli will assume full responsibility of the scholarship program beginning July 2013. You can be assured she will do an excellent job!

---

# The Advantages of Online Professional Development

*by Dr. Jeff Taylor*

Many school districts are beginning to consider offering district-sponsored online professional development opportunities for their teachers. In doing so, some administrators are trying to identify the advantages of online professional development. In this article, I will share some of my thoughts on the advantages of online professional development opportunities for teachers.

The need for professional development that can fit into a teacher's busy schedule, that draws on powerful resources often not available locally, and that can create an evolutionary path toward providing real-time, ongoing, work-embedded support has stimulated the creation of online professional development programs.

Online professional development environments can connect learners at different locations to work on a collaborative task or to discuss a complex issue. They create opportunities for learners to interact actively and remove the time and space constraints so that learners enjoy greater flexibility and opportunities to process information pertaining to the discussed issues and problems.

Online learning can be used to bridge distance and time. Teachers can participate in professional development activities via the Internet rather than travel to a specific site, and interactions can be asynchronous so that participants do not need to be available at the same time. In addition to logistical advantages, online professional development can: provide expertise and resources to locations where they would not normally be available, provide new means to interact with experts and colleagues, enable educators to experience for themselves new forms of teaching and learning, and make participation in coaching, mentoring, and professional learning communities more accessible.

Online professional development provides teachers with the ability to: participate during times that are convenient, receive job-embedded support that addresses immediate classroom needs, customize programs to better suit their own individual learning styles, interact with material through a variety of visual or other multimedia formats, and gain valuable computer and online technology skills.

In summary, the following advantages of online professional development can be found: (1) time – flexible and convenient for teachers, (2) access to experts and resources that are not readily available locally, and (3) ongoing collaboration that addresses the practical needs of teachers. School districts may want to consider these advantages when planning future professional development opportunities for their teachers.

---

# **PVAAS – A look at how one school district utilizes this data analysis tool**

***by Christina Myers, Outstanding Young Educator***

The Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System, better known by its acronym PVAAS, is certainly not a stranger to anyone who works in the field of Education in Pennsylvania. Originally implemented as a statewide pilot in 2002 by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the PVAAS system has grown and now includes data from all 501 school districts in PA. Simply stated, PVAAS is a way to measure the growth of your students. The system takes data like PSSA test scores, and keeps a record of those scores every year, comparing them to each other to see where students have gained or lost academically. It is useful in comparing data at the district level, the building level, grade level, class level, and even individual levels. PVAAS is a handy tool in the utility belt of educators, with its data being used to help guide educational decisions about curriculum and instruction in classrooms around the state.

In the Brockway School District, PVAAS is a widely used tool by both administrators and educators. It doesn't matter if you are the math teacher, the superintendent, or the music teacher; you know how to use PVAAS. I thought it might be nice to share some of the creative ways we are using PVAAS and its data in our district.

- Administrators use PVAAS data for class placement into advanced, basic, and academic classes.
- Math teachers use it to place 6<sup>th</sup> grade (elementary) students into 7<sup>th</sup> grade (high school) classrooms.
- Department heads and administrators use PVAAS data to direct department and staff meetings and other professional development opportunities. The staff then takes the information presented and adjusts their curriculum to provide more opportunities for student growth.
- Teachers use PVAAS data as part of a set of data used to determine which students to invite to our afterschool tutoring program, classroom success at the elementary level, and PSSA prep classes at the high school level.
- Administrators use PVAAS data to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses in their staff. This gives teachers a clearer idea of how to change their curriculums to achieve greater student success.
- Advisors use PVAAS data to help guide their advisees through their high school careers. Seeing the data motivates students.
- Our science department utilizes PVAAS data for placement in honors courses, to guide curriculum changes, and to create courses based upon student needs.
- Special education teachers use PVAAS data to review student growth and use it to guide their department in the future.
- We also use PVAAS data to determine the reading and writing levels of incoming students.

This past November, the district had a day long in-service to take an in-depth look at our specific student data. By looking at this information by subject and grade level, each teacher and administrator was required to develop a PVAAS plan. This plan needed to be about what the teacher, department or administration could do differently to improve student growth after seeing the data. PVAAS data can be a valuable tool for all of us, but it is just one tool that helps give our district an overview of student growth and achievement. How we use the data PVAAS provides helps my district change and progress as student needs change. PVAAS helps the students, and if it helps the students, it is ok by this educator.

---

# All Politics Are Local

*by Dr. Dean Maynard*

In these most trying times of the state's economy, its education funding, politics and reform; let's go back to the basics. At the core of a great society is and always has been a free and high quality public education system. We must continue to believe and act upon the belief that the public education system works and is everybody's business. As we move back to the basics, we must abandon the educational jargon that has been immersed throughout the field of education and talk about what really matters in today's classroom. Our focus must be on effective and resourceful educators in every classroom, learners that arrive each day ready to learn and parents that support the learning process.

The proposed state budget contains approximately \$60+ billion in spending. Approximately forty percent of this is earmarked for education, approximately forty percent is earmarked for human services and approximately twenty percent goes towards corrections. There is a similar breakdown of state expenses across the nation. With the rising costs of doing business, we must once again focus on what is most important as we move ahead as we face these challenges together. At the same time that education reforms are prevailing, privatization is a common term at the state level and the costs of doing business as usual continue to rise, to most Pennsylvanians things seem "static". Overall, voters are not pressuring the legislature about too much in PA right now.

Armed with this information, it is a perfect and opportune time to visit the elected officials' offices at your local level. As educational leaders, we must provide the support for funding reform for charter schools, cyber charter schools and special education. We need programs like dual enrollment returned to once again encourage students to earn college and high school credit while still attending high school. In addition, we need to open the doors of our schools to promote new and different partnerships with business, industry and our communities.

Much like the students in our classrooms today, our elected officials and their aides have become efficient multi-taskers as they work to make the best use of their time in the areas they are assigned. All of us are experiencing an informational overload and an impatience at a level like never before. We need to work this in our favor as we reach out through email, text messaging, the telephone, blog sites and websites to inform our elected officials regarding the urgent need for reform in spending at the state and local levels. We need to develop an action plan and implement this action plan as we make it a priority like never before to speak with our elected officials, their office staff and to invite them to our schools. Like us, they need an opportunity to put names and faces with programs. The next few months are a great time to bring the elected officials to our schools as we celebrate graduations, sports and extra-curricular programs while at the same time face budget issues, staffing concerns, class size, scheduling, and the tough decisions that are made in our central offices and board rooms regularly.

Continue to stay informed of legislative issues and reach out to PASCD for additional information on legislative influence.

---

# Effective Teacher Supervision in the Face of Change

by Robert L. Williams, Ph.D., Chair of Supervision

Is it acceptable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom to NOT differentiate instruction for students? Not differentiating instruction implies that all students are at the same point in their learning and can understand and work at the same level as their peers. We know that failing to differentiate instruction is unacceptable yet in many classrooms, it occurs on a daily basis. These students become disengaged and often develop a negative self-concept that emanates the silent thought “I am not able to learn.” We all know that this is NOT true. Every student CAN learn if given the opportunity to learn at his or her level of understanding within the realm of capability.

We often forget that teachers are students as well. Teachers are growing in their profession, or at least should be, but we fail to recognize that each one has different needs in terms of professional growth. School districts often provide “one size fits all” professional development without recognizing or realizing the need for differentiated supervision. This is realized through the new “Measuring Teacher Effectiveness Model” that will be mandated in all Commonwealth School Districts in 2013-2014. This model views the teacher in terms of 22 elements and within the rubric rates the teacher as failing, unsatisfactory, proficient, or distinguished in each element for observations and evaluations. These elements need to be studied as developed by Charlotte Danielson and professional development for teachers built around them. The model encourages differentiation and therefore PDE has provided guidelines for developing a differentiated supervision model. This is something that is needed but CANNOT be done in a rush!

If you want to understand supervision verses evaluation, how to work with teachers in supervisory capacity to encourage professional growth, develop a differentiated supervision plan for your district, then you may be interested in the PASCD Differentiated Supervision Academy. We will be starting a new session of the academy and offering day one of the academy at the fall conference. If you are interested in registration information for the academy, please visit the PASCD website or contact our executive director at [nilsen\\_pascd@comcast.net](mailto:nilsen_pascd@comcast.net) for a brochure and further registration information. Please stay in touch with the newsletter for further support from PASCD with the new Measuring Teacher Effectiveness Model.



---

## **PASCD Welcomes New PEL Editors**

Dr. Erin McHenry-Sorber is an assistant professor of education at Wilkes University. She earned her PhD from Penn State University in 2011 in Educational Leadership with a focus on rural school politics. Her dissertation won the Penn State Don Willower Dissertation Award, the National Rural Education Association Edward Chance Memorial Dissertation Award, and the American Educational Research Association Rural Special Interest Group Outstanding Dissertation Award. Erin earned her masters' degree in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy from Harvard University, and her BSEd from Bucknell University. She has served as a high school English teacher, middle level reading teacher, and district grant writer in Pennsylvania public schools. She currently serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Research in Rural Education and as a member of the research committee for NREA.

Dr. Kathleen Provinzano is also an assistant professor of education at Wilkes University. She earned her PhD from Marywood University in 2010 in Human Development with a focus on educational administration. Kathleen earned her MS in School Counseling from the University of Scranton, and her BA in History from King's College. She is currently pursuing her MPA through Villanova University and is a recent graduate of the Education Policy Fellowship Program offered through the Education Policy and Leadership Center in Harrisburg, PA. Kathleen has served as a middle and high school Social Studies teacher, a secondary school counselor, and an elementary assistant principal. In Pennsylvania, she is a certified Superintendent of Schools, Principal (K-12), School Counselor (7-12), and Social Studies teacher (7-12).

Dr. Erin McHenry-Sorber and Dr. Kathleen Provinzano are thrilled to take on the co-editorship of PEL, particularly as it transitions to an electronic format. They are hoping to help move the journal forward, include research and practice-focused pieces, and expand the focus of the journal to include higher education.

## **MWPASCD is partnering again with the Northwest PA STEM Network**

**by Dr. David McCommons, Fox Chapel Area SD**

On May 21, 2013, at Grove City College, MWPASCD will partner with the Northwest PA STEM Network to sponsor the STEM teacher award recognition at this year's Northwest PA STEM Conference: *STEM for Life*. Three teachers from NWPA schools (elementary, middle and high school levels) who have modeled Inspiration, Innovation and Leadership in STEM education within their classrooms will be selected, with special consideration given to those who have created partnerships with higher education and/or business.

The Northwest Region Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Network is one of five networks in the Commonwealth working to create regional STEM Strategies for its stakeholders. Individuals in Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren counties collaborate and share programs that will expand options for students to acquire literacy to prepare them for high-demand, high-skill, high-wage careers.

This year's *STEM for Life* Conference is designed to address the urgent need to strengthen our region's students and employees in the fields of **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**, and will also highlight successful practices and positive collaborations among area businesses and educational institutions. MWPASCD supports this vision, and is proud to honor the hard-working teachers bringing these principles to life. Each recipient will receive a membership to PASCD and certificate of recognition.

---

# How to Evaluate Educational Apps for the iPad

*by Dr. Jeff Taylor*

As of today, there are a little over 300,000 iPad apps in Apple's App Store. With so many possibilities, it can be difficult to identify which apps should be used in schools. In an effort to assist administrators and teachers, I have identified eight considerations that may be used as categories in a rubric for evaluating educational apps.

## **Category 1: App's Content Accuracy**

- Above all, an app has to have accurate, up to date information for students with no errors.

## **Category 2: Curriculum Content**

- An app may be very engaging and have a lot of bells and whistles, but unless there is a direct connection to the curriculum content ~ the app is useless. The app must be able to address the topics, skills and competencies that are identified in the curriculum.

## **Category 3: Support Materials**

- As technology often runs into technical difficulties, it is important to ensure that an app has full technical support available. Support materials, and troubleshooting guides should be available for users to assist with the implementation of the app.

## **Category 4: Active Engagement**

- Active engagement is a critical characteristic of any successful classroom. Similarly, an educational app must be able to actively engage a student by adapting to their individual responses and needs.

## **Category 5: Cost of Licensing**

- When evaluating an app for a possible school-wide implementation, one must consider the cost of acquiring a copy of the app for each iPad in the school. Many times there are less expensive or free comparable apps available for schools.

## **Category 6: User Interface Aesthetics**

- In order to engage students, the user interface of the app must be aesthetically pleasing. Graphics, animations, and sound effects can all enhance an app's ability to convey important curricular content to students.

## **Category 7: User Interface Navigation**

- An app can have the most interesting and accurate curricular content available but still be an ineffective app if the user interface navigation is poor. Students must be able to easily navigate the app through intuitive menus, icons, and navigational links.



### **OFFICERS**

#### **President**

Dr. Mary Wolf, Clarion-Limestone SD

#### **Past President**

Dr. Gary Robinson, Hollidaysburg Area SD

#### **Treasurer**

Dr. Diane Eicher, Dallastown SD (Ret)

#### **Executive Director**

Dr. Richard Nilsen

### **REGIONAL PRESIDENTS**

#### **Delaware Valley**

Dr. Colleen Lelli, Cabrini College

#### **Eastern**

Dr. Bonnie Troxell, Berks IU 14

#### **Midwestern**

Dr. David McCommons, Fox Chapel Area SD

#### **Northeastern**

Dr. Kurt Eisele, Wilkes University

#### **North Central**

Mr. Brian Griffith, Penns Valley Area SD

#### **Northwestern**

Dr. Susan Curtin, Edinboro University

#### **South Central**

Mr. Brian Keagy, Hollidaysburg Area SD

#### **Southwestern**

Dr. Beth Hutson, Albert Gallatin Area SD

#### **Southern**

Ms. Cheryl Rudawski, Capital Area IU

#### **Western**

Ms. Cathleen Cubelic, Midwestern IU 4

## **How to Evaluate Educational Apps for the iPad** *(continued)*

### **Category 8: Application's Embedded Help and Tutorials**

- Once a student opens an app, there should be opportunities for them to learn how to use the app appropriately. Interactive tutorials and help screens are effective ways to assist students if they become confused.

Again, with over 300,000 apps available in the App Store ~ educators should identify a procedure for evaluating apps. By identifying categories for evaluating apps, educators may have an easier time finding the most beneficial apps for classroom use.

## **PASCD 2013-2014 Scholarship**

PASCD is again offering three scholarships for the 2013-2014 academic year. Offered are two PASCD scholarships for \$2,000 each and one Mary Ravita Memorial Scholarship for \$3,000. Requirements for all of the scholarships are as follows:

- Student must be a PA resident
- Student must be enrolled as a full-time student in an education major and be in their second, third, or fourth year of studies at a college or university in Pennsylvania. A student's fifth year of study, for purposes of earning teacher certification, will be accepted.

There has been a fabulous response for the scholarships and thus far 40 applicants will be considered. Recipients will be invited to the Annual PASCD Conference banquet in November and will be introduced to the conference participants.

---

# NWPASCD

## Annual Spring Dinner Meeting

*by Dr. Susan Curtin*

The NWPASCD chapter will hold its annual Legislative Conversation and Spring annual meeting on May 16, 2013 at the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit. Several legislators have already agreed to participate and the event is typically of great local interest and well attended. We will also conduct elections for offices at the meeting and invite suggestions for topics for the next year.

### **Legislative Event**

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit

Conference Room B

4:30 - 5:00 p.m. - Registration

5:00 p.m. - Dinner/Business Meeting

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Program

Full details will be sent to all NWPASCD Members, Superintendents, and Building Administrators

Register online at <http://www.coursewhere.com/iu5/cw/main.asp>

Contact Dean Maynard or Della Gentile for further information:

[Dean\\_Maynard@iu5.org](mailto:Dean_Maynard@iu5.org) [Della\\_Gentile@iu5.org](mailto:Della_Gentile@iu5.org)

## North Central Region Meeting

*by Mr Brian Griffith, Penns Valley Area SD*



The North Central Region of PASCD gathered at the Ramada Inn in State College for a conference and meeting on April 11, 2013. The "Up Close and Personal with PDE" conference provided members with the opportunity to hear from and dialogue with key officials from PDE on the future of assessment, the School Performance Profile and Teacher Effectiveness. Dr. Rich Maraschiello and John Weiss spoke about the future status of the PSSA and Keystone exams as well as additional grade levels being able to utilize the Classroom Diagnostics Tools. Dr. Michelle Sellitto and Robert Shinsky provided the latest information on the School Performance Profile justifying the need for extremely accurate data in PIMS, TIMS and EDNA. Theresa Barnaby shared the most current information on the Teacher Effectiveness initiative. All North Central PASCD members had the opportunity to provide input and have their questions answered by their colleagues at PDE. In other action the North Central membership voted to approve the slate of officers, revisions to the constitution and bylaws, and strategic plan. The North Central members from the districts that comprise IUs 9, 10 and 16 are encouraged to contact North Central Region President, Brian Griffith ([bgriffith@pennsvalley.org](mailto:bgriffith@pennsvalley.org)), with suggestions for activities / events that will benefit our membership.



## **PASCD Welcomes Our New Members!**

Veronica Andes  
Edith Andress  
Victoria Asplen  
Steven Barbato  
Marianne Bartley  
Jason Beals  
John Bell  
Barbara Benglian  
Rebecca Bennett  
Shawn Bennis  
John Berardoni  
Patricia Berezansky  
Paula Berry  
Bryttani Biggica  
Gina Blackburn  
Bernadette Boerckel  
John Bohle  
Christine Bradley  
Janet Braker  
Sarah Brookhart  
Connie Brown-Weber  
Sean Burns  
Jason Buto  
William Callahan  
Anthony Carnuccio  
Mathew Caro  
Larry Celmer  
Megan Cicconi  
Paul Cindric  
Paul Cindric  
Karen Colangelo  
Leslie Collopy  
Matthew Conrad

Michael Costa  
Deborah Cotner-Davis  
Ashley Coudriet  
James Cramer  
Rae Ann Crispell  
Robert Croop  
Patricia Cross  
Andrea Danial  
Mary Dankosky  
Dee Davis  
John Deflaminis  
Beth Delay  
Bruce Deveney  
Thomas Dinga  
Pete Donaghy  
Michelle Dutrow  
Richard Eby  
Ro Edmiston  
Karen Esbenshade-Hess  
Sharon Fasenmyer  
John Fetterman  
Karen Fisher  
Marc Freeman  
Gregory Frigoletto  
Steve Furst  
Anthony Gabriele  
Rachel Gattuso  
Ruth Geisel  
Brenda Gilio  
Michael Glew  
Sherry Glosek  
Brian Gochenour  
Jay Gordon

Augie Grant  
David Grillo  
Jessica Grotevant-Webster  
Jesse Haight  
Josh Hanlon  
Matthew Harris  
Dave Harrison  
Barbara Hartle  
Lisa Hartsock  
Michele Hartzell  
Norman Hatten  
Theresa Haught  
Philip Heggenstaller  
Gigi Hetrick  
Dean Hoffman  
Susan Incorvia  
Mary Beth Irvin  
Joyce Kail  
Alexandra Kane  
Kristen Kelley  
Paula Kijowski  
Kathleen Knell  
Mary Teresa Komara  
Renee Kotz  
Rebecca Kremer  
Gail Kulick  
Joseph Lachowicz  
Kim Lacoste  
Mark Leidy  
Justine Liberatore  
Jason Lilley  
Jason Lilley  
Lyn Logelin

---

## PASCD New Members (cont.)

Charles Longwell  
Kirk Lorigan  
Susan Mabus  
Rich Mackrell  
Donovan Mann  
Matthew Martin  
Ronald Matchock  
Ronald Matchock  
Sandra Mattucks  
Jean McClearly  
Leah McComsey  
Elaine McKnight  
William McNamee  
William McNamee  
Angela Mike  
Julie Moore  
Ryan Moran  
Corinne Murawski  
Tom Murray  
Jody Nace  
Amanda Nelson  
Diane Nettles  
Joseph Neuch  
Sandy Niggel  
David Nuhfler  
Janet O'Rourke  
Marianne Ouellet  
Darryl Overton  
Trevor Palmatier  
Janene Palumbo  
Barbara Parkins  
Matthew Pawk  
Jonathan Peebles

Randy Peters  
Susan Pritchard-Harris  
Susan Raiders  
Stefanie Raspotnik  
Jeanne Rauch  
Wendy Reisinger  
Jennifer Reiter  
Jennifer Ritter  
Jenny Robinson  
Allison Rodman  
Christopher Ross  
James Rummel  
Cathy Russo  
Sloan Sample  
Donna Samuelson  
Richard Scaletta  
Karen Schito  
Pamela Seidel  
Rox Serrao  
Michelle Shearer  
Karen Sheely  
Eve Shellenberger  
Carolyn Shipley  
Sherry Short  
Stephen Shutters  
Jeffrey Smale  
Brenden Smith  
Kathleen Smookler  
Bronwyn Sodrosky  
Eric Stair  
Amy Stewart  
Martha Strickland  
Brenda Sweeney

Randal Sydeski  
Donald Teti  
Brian Thimons  
Michelle Tomicek  
Joseph Treglia  
Robert Tridico  
Todd Vankirk  
Matthew Vankouwenberg  
Vance Varner  
Chris Venna  
Matthew Walsh  
Brittaney Weeks  
Jill Wenrich  
Paula Westerman  
James Wile  
Amy Williams  
Michael Wilson  
Sue Wise  
Pamela Wolff  
Linda Wolfgang  
Erin Wright  
Lynda Yordy  
Jim Zack  
John Zuk  
LouAnn Zwierzynski

