

# PASCD Newsletter



**“Educators impacting teaching and learning through leadership”**

NOVEMBER, 2015

## President’s Message

Dear PASCD members,



Today’s trends in education include the concept of ‘Blended Learning’. While the term is

often defined in a variety of ways, the underpinnings of the concept is a mix of face-to-face and online learning experiences. Blended learning is often touted for its ability to personalize learning as well as provide anytime, anywhere learning.

PASCD is proud to announce a partnership with eduPlanet21 to provide a blended learning experience for the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual PASCD Conference. eduPlanet21 provides professional development in a customized, digital learning environment. For our upcoming conference, eduPlanet21 will provide a learning path featuring the work of

Heidi Hayes Jacobs. The digital content will allow participants the opportunity to explore the work of Jacobs prior to her keynote address, ***“Bold Moves: Leading a Right-Now School for Today’s Contemporary Learner”***. Following the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to engage with fellow attendees as well as members of New Hampshire ASCD who participated in a blended learning experience with Dr. Jacobs last month. Connecting educators from both affiliates will allow for continued collaboration regarding trends in today’s learning organizations.

The growth of digital resources is changing the landscape of education. No longer do desks in straight rows and the teacher as the font of knowledge characterize education. Rather, education is characterized by a plethora of learning opportunities providing anytime, anywhere learning. PASCD is excited to provide this blended learning opportunity.

Looking forward to seeing you in Monroeville!

Dr. Lori J. Stollar  
PASCD President



## 65<sup>th</sup> Annual PASCD Conference

*By Laurie Heinricher*

In previous editions of the newsletter I have highlighted our Ignite Session, Keynote Speakers and our new location. What makes this organization and its annual conference an important educational forum is the people. Those people are regional presidents who, throughout the year, create smaller meetings in local venues; the vendors who share cutting edge materials and connections to

energize education, and the registrants who participate in the conference, join PASCD and become part of the future of the organization.

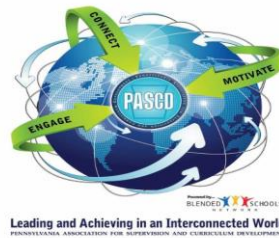
Annually we provide this state-wide opportunity. This conference does not happen without our colleagues from across the commonwealth researching and sharing best practices in all aspects of the educational horizon. All of the small group sessions can be found on the PASCD website at: <http://www.pascd.org/?page=SmallGroups>

In addition to our colleagues from across the commonwealth, our vendors bring fresh technologies, textbooks and other resources to refresh the learning experiences. While sharing innovative tools and strategies many of them sponsor different aspects of our conference. Sunday Night's dinner and President's reception is sponsored by **Edmentum**, Monday morning's breakfast is being sponsored by **Curriculum Associates** and Monday's Lunch is being sponsored by **Grape Seed**. Along with these important contributions, **eduPlanet** will be providing a learning path for Heidi Hayes Jacobs' content and will host her materials.

The Pittsburgh Monroeville Convention Center affords all participants easy access to the vendors. While at the conference, be sure to visit each and every booth, review the materials and make valuable relationships with those who connect us with cutting edge resources for our schools.

If you've not yet registered for the conference, visit the website at <http://www.pascd.org/?page=conference>, review the schedule, the keynote speakers, the Ignite Session

and register! We look forward to seeing you on November 15th in Monroeville.



## Hot Topics November 17, 2015

**Get Informed. Get Involved.  
Make a Difference.**

Now more than ever, educators need to be involved in the development of the policies that are having an increased and direct impact on their day-to-day professional responsibilities. In this new political environment, advocacy can no longer be viewed as a luxury or an add-on for educators but a necessity. The expertise educators can and must share with decision makers at all levels is an empowering form of leadership and vital for establishing the policies that will best support students, teachers, and schools.

Presenter - David Griffith, Senior Director of Public Policy, ASCD

### **Creating Personal Learning Environments Using STEAM-based Instructional Activities**

This session will focus on how STEAM-based learning activities can be effectively taught in a personal learning environment. Participants will be introduced to various personal learning environment models and Fort Cherry School

District's K-12 STEAM curriculum continuum. Discussion will include the STEAM courses offered K-12, the development of a maker space, and the integration of STEAM activities into core content in the classroom. Programs include Makey Makey, Scratch/Scratch Jr., Cubelets robotics, littlebits, squishy circuits, and Hummingbird Duos. Connections will be made between the activities and personal learning environments. Participants will have the opportunity to try the different programs and discuss how they may implement similar programs in their schools either through curricular integration or co-curricular after-school activities.

### **Supporting 21st Century Instruction with the PA Learns iTunes U Project**

In this session I will discuss the challenges facing student success in the classroom and how technology opens a new door of possibility for supporting student success. Looking at how the PA Learns project was born from the idea of supporting instruction in a way; utilizing the technology available to students. By working with teachers from around the state we have been able to create courses in the iTunes U ecosystem, calling on many of the great free resources available online that will help more concretely inform students of content. The courses were made with supporting instruction in mind, something that students, parents and teachers could use that will make the process of teaching and learning easier, all while imploring the 21st century tools so vital for their success as productive citizens. We will look into the process of using these excellent teachers from around the state and how they worked to create and

curate content that matches their content area standards. We will see the relative ease that anyone with an iPad can access these free courses and start their supportive process quickly. We will see how they have already been used in the classroom and what the overall comments of these courses are. And finally, how we are going to continue to evolve these courses with the increased availability of content, technology and resources.

Presenter - Greg Macer

### Supervising Online and Blended Learning Teachers

The intersection of Danielson and iNacol standards stretches the traditional boundaries of teacher evaluation and allows reflection for both learning and teaching. Helping teachers succeed in the online environment requires more than just a one-method view. In adding iNacol Standards to the assessment process, teacher effectiveness can be viewed in a practical way - giving teachers strategies and language that make the use of technology practices relevant to a successful classroom.

Presenter - Patricia Mulroy, GPA Executive Director of Learning



## Region Update

*By Kendra K. Trail*

Governor Wolf's 15-16 state budget included some initiatives for the career and technical educational system that included Career and Technology Education Innovation Grants, Career and Technical Education Equipment Grants and Career Counseling Grants. With the on-going budget negotiations, Governor Wolf may have bargained some on this issue; however, it is clear that this was an area of concern and focus in his original budget. Consequently, with an increased emphasis on college and career ready standards, we, as educators, are looking for information that will help better prepare students for current jobs and those that have not yet been created.

South Central PASCD's fall event involved hearing from a panel of business leaders discussing skills they are seeing from recent graduates including those skills that are strengths and those skills in which improvements can be made. Evolving technologies were also shared at this event.

The following are two examples of topics that were discussed at the fall event. 3D printing is an area that is gaining a lot of attention. While computer controlled manufacturing has been present in industry for years, this type of technology is becoming more prevalent in homes as the price has dropped for consumers. Just like the internet made digital information available to everyone, 3D printing allows for one to download plans in the convenience of one's home with the ability to share those plans with others. Therefore, amateur engineers are able to create almost

anything with the help of a 3D printer.

In July 2015, a Jeep was hacked remotely. This leads to another example of emerging technology...connected cars. Manufacturers can no longer be focused on just the specifics of the "automotive" side, but they must have employers who are skilled in technology. I recently had a conversation with a business woman who is working with car manufacturers in Detroit on connected cars. If future vehicles are going to be equipped with Wi-Fi, then software engineers and application developers will be in great demand. Currently, the market is predicting connected vehicles should be available by 2020 for widespread commercial use, but that is speculative.

Emerging technologies are changing the way we live and work each and every day. We are living in a world with information at our fingertips with improvements being made on a consistent basis; therefore, we must be vigilant in being lifelong learners as we are tasked with teaching and guiding students who will one day enter the workforce.

