



PASCD Newsletter



“Educators impacting teaching and learning through leadership”

DECEMBER 2015

President’s Message

Dear PASCD members,

At the 65th Annual PASCD conference, I had the pleasure of



working with the first PASCD Emerging Leader Class. The class was named in

the fall of 2014 and has completed its first year as PASCD Emerging Leaders. Several of the members were able to join us at the conference and shared their insights and expertise through either a small group session or an Ignite® session. Their areas of expertise include the flipped classroom, student success, project-based learning, gifted education, digital-age learning, collaborative coaching, and adolescent leadership development.

The PASCD Emerging Leader program was designed to develop

the leadership capacity of participants. The group has been connecting virtually, becoming a PLN—professional learning network—for the members. They have been involved in PASCD in various ways—social media, writing for the newsletter and journal, advocacy, and by serving in a region or on the PASCD Executive Board. One member—Mr. Felix Yerace—was named a 2015 ASCD Emerging Leader! As the members move into year two of the program, they will continue to develop their leadership capacity through monthly meetings (virtual!), a TwitterChat, and the upcoming Legislative Advocacy Institute (LILA).

The goal is to name a second PASCD Emerging Leader Class in the fall of 2016. Applications will be available in late spring/early summer. Please consider nominating a young professional for this growth opportunity.

Finally, I would like to thank Laurie Heinricher, Conference Chair, the 2015 PASCD Conference

Committee, and Dr. Richard Nilsen, PASCD Executive Director, for their efforts in planning a successful PASCD Annual Conference. It was great to be in the western part of the state, to connect with colleagues, and to learn about innovative practices in education. Mark your calendars now for the 66th Annual PASCD Conference to be held November 13-14, 2016 in King of Prussia.

With warm regards,

Lori

Dr. Lori J. Stollar
PASCD President

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65th Annual PASCD Conference

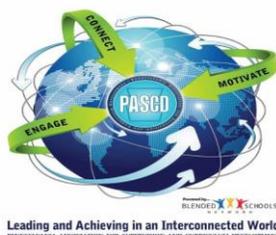


region's activities and continue your pursuit of educational excellence.

I look forward to seeing you in Valley Forge, PA from November 13-14, 2016 for our 66th Annual Conference.

Sincerely,

Laurie Heinricher
2015 PASCD Conference Chair



Emerging Leaders Reflect on their Experiences at the PASCD Conference

Several members of the PASCD Emerging Leader class attended the 65th Annual PASCD Conference. They share their reflections below.

Geri Wilkocz

This year I truly enjoyed the PASCD Conference. After a five hour adventure to sunny Monroeville with my colleagues, we were able to see several Ignite sessions on Sunday evening and enjoy a relaxing dinner. The Ignite topics were excellent and the format was a great way to get a glimpse of an area that you may want to explore further. I noted several topics that I plan on

investigating upon my return to the Philadelphia area. On Monday my group was able to split up and go to variety of sessions and share with each other what we learned. One of the nice things about the conference was the wide range of sessions individuals could attend. The topics definitely spoke to a variety of audiences. In addition, on Monday my group presented our sessions to an engaged audience. One session I really enjoyed attending was "There's More to Professional Learning than Handouts and Slides" by Tammy Andreyko and Karyn Dobda. This topic was timely and provided me with ideas that I could "cherry pick" and bring home to my district very easily. One of the highlights for me was the keynote speaker, Heidi Hayes-Jacobs. Her humor and straightforward approach to how we need to engage our 21st century learners got my creative juices flowing. Attending conferences should stimulate excitement and create energy. That is exactly what I felt when I left on Tuesday morning to take our journey back to the 'burbs" of Philadelphia. I am already looking forward to next year's conference!!

Colleen Hinrichsen

This year's PASCD conference was planned just for me. Well, not exactly, but it certainly felt that way. That is how I could tell it was a well-designed conference. The sessions were diverse, so there truly was something for everyone. Meenoo Rami's opening keynote set the tone for the entire conference. She reminded us all that we need to prepare our students for the complex world, creating opportunities for

I would like to thank all of our members who attended the 65th Annual PASCD Conference in Monroeville, PA late last month. The conference proved to be a great success and allowed for 200 attendees to engage in high quality professional development. Our conference theme this year "Leading and Achieving in an Inter-Connected World" was brought alive in over 30 small group sessions, hot topic sessions, award winners, scholarship recipients, and our general session speakers. As we go back to our classrooms, schools, and districts I encourage you to think critically about how we change the culture of learning in our schools in order to create engaging and innovative learning spaces. Please share out with your teachers and administrative teams the knowledge and information that you were able to gather throughout the conference.

It was an honor to serve as your Annual Conference Chair. I want to thank the Executive Board, Sponsors, Vendors, Keynote Speakers, Small Group Facilitators and the PASCD members for making this conference a rewarding experience for all involved. In the coming year, I challenge you to become integrally involved in your

inquiry, curiosity, and joy in learning experiences. After the keynote, I attended a session about project-based and interest-based learning that was presented by fellow PASCD Emerging Leader, Christine Fleming-Hirshka. Her session was filled with practical examples of how we can implement some of the ideas we heard of in the opening keynote. Later, I presented about how I created authentic experiences and "let the world in" to my classroom through global collaboration. This was my first solo presentation, so I was initially terrified. It turns out, presenting is simply teaching, and I am pleased that being a PASCD Emerging Leader pointed me in that direction. I am in a new role as a technology coach this year, so the Tuesday morning "Hot Topics" session about using STEAM-based activities to create personal learning environments was the icing on the cake. The nice part about this conference is that there are always opportunities to talk to presenters outside of presentations. That is how I was able to add even more value to the sessions I attended. Being around all the passionate educators at the conference is inspiring, and I am especially grateful for the time I spent with the other Emerging Leaders and our mentors. It is fun to share ideas and solve problems together as we all grow professionally. I look forward to meeting the next class of Emerging Leaders, and having my passion for education fueled at the next PASCD conference.

Nicole Avon

The 2015 PASCD conference provided me the opportunity for

both personal and professional growth. At last year's conference, the Emerging Leaders class of 2014 was asked to submit a session for this year's conference. I proposed a small group session on "Flipping for Mastery," but was instead chosen for an Ignite talk- in which the presenter has 20 slides that auto advance every 15 seconds. This was a new presentation style for me and as I told the crowd before my speech, it was the "most terrifying five minutes of my life." However, I was able to draw confidence from the support from those involved in the Emerging Leader program and the very receptive audience. The presentation was a success. I have been in education for 13 years and have come to the conclusion that the best professional development a teacher can pursue is the contact with other experts in the field. At the end of my Ignite session, I left the group with a quote from Einstein: "The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing." I encouraged the audience to connect with professionals that will inspire them to be better today than they were yesterday. I believe that the PASCD learning community has been that source of inspiration for me. The keynote and small group sessions I attended this year have helped me reflect on my practice and return to my district with ideas that I can implement. I look forward to continuing my involvement with this organization and especially with the next class of Emerging Leaders.

Christian Ehrhart

The 2015 PASCD conference was another enjoyable conference. I

attended the PASCD conference a number of years ago, invited by a member within my district as a chance to become familiar with the organization. Since then, I have tried to be as involved as time permits, and because of an opportunity provided by the Emerging Leaders program I was afforded the chance to attend the last two state conferences. It truly is an enjoyable learning experience. This past year - was the most enjoyable not just because of the topics provided at the conference, but because of the people I met. Education's most valuable resource is its people, and this past year at the PASCD conference it was clear they understand the importance of people. Thank you for a wonderful opportunity.

Rebecca Hoffmann

My second PASCD Conference provided many great learning opportunities and a wonderful reunion with my fellow Emerging Leaders. I loved attending the conference last year in Hershey, and I was looking forward this year to the same renewed passion for teaching that I gained last year. From the very first session to the last, I thoroughly enjoyed the speakers and the knowledge I gained. Watching my Fellow Emerging leaders present made me wish that I had the courage to present this year too, and I hope that I have something meaningful to share for next year's conference. My favorite sessions were keynote speaker Meenoo Rami, the Ignite sessions, and Dawn Lovic's small group session on "Game-Based Learning in Today's Classroom." I learned a lot, but most importantly, I

rekindled relationships with PASCD Officers and Emerging Leaders. To quote Meenoo Rami: "If you are a teacher and are not connected, you are doing your students a disservice." I am glad that I was able to connect and reconnect with other educators at the 2015 PASCD Conference, and I am looking forward to another amazing conference next year!

Felix Yerace

For me there were several highlights of the PASCD conference. One was the outstanding sessions that were offered by different practitioners on Sunday and Monday on a diverse group of topics, including project-based learning, student engagement, and professional development. Additionally, the Ignite session on Sunday featured many wonderful speakers with lots of ideas to share. I was fortunate enough to have a session I submitted be selected for inclusion in the program, which was a great way for me to spread my own reach as an educator by presenting on a passion area of mine: Adolescent leadership development. I am very appreciative for this opportunity and it helped me be a more reflexive practitioner in my own classroom. On Tuesday, being able to hear from David Griffith from ASCD about legislative advocacy and then attend his small-group session was also great, and made me more excited for the LILA conference in Washington DC in January. The best part of the conference for me, however, was the opportunity to reconnect with members of the 2014 PASCD Emerging Leaders class. It was great to be able to meet up with those

who were able to attend and to share this experience with them. Being selected for the PASCD Emerging Leaders group is one of the best things that has happened to me as an educator, and has helped open many doors for me in the last year. I am very excited to continue on in this process and to help welcome the next group of PASCD Emerging Leaders in 2016!

Christine Fleming-Hirshka

The PASCD annual conference was a fabulous opportunity to receive professional development surrounded by inspirational people. It sparked many ideas that I hope will come to fruition as I continue to build a choice-based program that meets the needs of all learners in my home district. A few years ago I was a Social Studies teacher and a coach and felt that this would be my path until retirement. When I was faced with furlough due to staff cuts that ran deep I was approached about interviewing for the gifted support position. Learning Chapter 6 and the ins and outs of compliance became my new challenge which I gladly accepted and changed my professional existence. The Emerging Leader program was another career opportunity that was transformational. Presenting to a small session was a highlight of my career. It afforded me the opportunity to network and connect with other professionals who are passionate about teaching kids and transforming lives. Thank you for including me in the program and for allowing for us to help facilitate the next class of Emerging Leaders who will be joining us next year in King of

Prussia (which is so much closer to home...10 minutes!). I am excited to see where the road leads us all over the next year. I intend to throw my hat into the administrative realm and apply for positions this spring. I wish you all the best of luck in your professional and personal endeavors!



Region Update

T.E.A.C.H. visits the MW region

Written and submitted by
Richard Britten

The Training to Educate, Achieve, and Collaborate with Heart, or TEACH, program conducted a fall workshop at the Punxsutawney Area Middle School. TEACH is an initiative of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National State Teacher of the Year Organization whose purpose is to encourage preservice and beginning teachers through mentoring and professional development opportunities. The workshop featured a presentation from Mairi Cooper, the 2015 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year. In

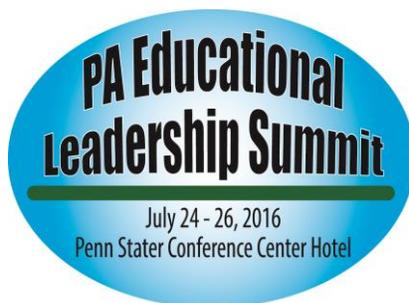
addition, several breakout sessions that were mostly facilitated by NSTOY members and a lunch were offered to workshop participants. The highlight of the workshop, however, was a visit from the region's most famous weather prognosticator, Punxsutawney Phil.

Fox Chapel's 2015 PA-TOY, Mairi Cooper, kicked off the event by explaining her nontraditional route to the public school classroom. She discussed how she became a teacher and what she has learned through her years of teaching in a public school. She focused on the importance of building a rapport with students and teaching them to use critical thinking skills. She also shared various hands-on, creative teaching methods.

The breakout sessions, led by 2010 TOY Michelle Switala in her construction outfit, provided pre-service teachers with many resources to add to their teaching "toolboxes." The sessions included topics such as creativity in the classroom, how to prepare for a job interview, teaching students in poverty, and effective vocabulary instruction. Students from Penn State, IUP, Slippery Rock, Shippensburg, and Clarion University attended the event and added to their teaching "toolboxes."

A goal of TEACH is to encourage conversations about problems in current teaching practices. Several significant problems were addressed at the workshop. One such problem is the apparent trimming of teacher education programs at the state universities. At the workshop, many educators collaborated to discuss possible solutions to this problem. They believe that there is a great need for more dialogue between governing agencies, universities, and public schools. These institutions

need to be aligned in order to promote best teaching practices across the state.



PA Educational Leadership Summit

PASCD in conjunction with three other educational organizations will be offering an Educational Leadership Summit in State College from July 24-26, 2016. REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN, but it is limited to the first 400 participants. If you need Act 45 hours, this summit will award 50 PIL hours upon completion of the required assignments. Please see the link below for registration information:

<http://bit.ly/1No46of><http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=00148uectU-EoeIOU10qn8NLPss6toh66FLjz7zSplWdocjFXmBqDpprAhox1YuDa31G6AAzleXiYL8GrZIVp8MfyDeA66RD1jjBGXF91kgA3Z5v7xu9jZeoVv-XUhwg9jsybpZrimYrUaDW_T3yMNI83cnFAYxPYCc2llq7VEw4b4=&c=hDvz7eGS21VMZpGyeHqtlag4kQ1glYGxikJFF-ex1qwLYHGF6VbtKw==&ch=t_10YAZqF2z2FGL5kmmgc-zv-myKECV5uCVKRJAtVf2neVyjgrosAw==

Using PASCD Members-Only Benefit for Deeper Evaluation That Produces More Effective Teachers

Most districts are under increasing pressure to implement evaluation systems that measure and emphasize leadership and teacher performance, among other factors. At the same time, administrators know that it's hard to start teacher evaluations without first training principals well. No one wants to be evaluated by a principal who isn't proficient.

To help address this challenge, PASCD is pleased to offer you access to the following ASCD titles on our Gale Virtual Reference Library platform to help increase principal and teaching effectiveness. These titles can help you think through ways to implement an approach that is more complex, fair, accurate, and rigorous at measuring your principal and teacher effectiveness. Access our library at: http://galesites.com/k12/pascd_Passcodepascd.

ASCD Titles Aligned to Educator Effectiveness:

Five Levers to Improve Learning: How to Prioritize for Powerful Results in Your School

<http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7C9781416617631&v=2.1&u=pascd&it=etoc&p=GURL&sw=w>

Using Data to Focus Instructional Improvement

<http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7C9781416615576&v=2.1&u=pascd&it=etoc&p=GVRL&sw=w>

The Data-Driven Classroom: How Do I Use Student Data to Improve My Instruction?

<http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7C9781416619772&v=2.1&u=pascd&it=etoc&p=GVRL&sw=w>

You can access these eBooks 24/7 from any device with an Internet connection. Chapters are available digitally in HTML, PDF, or audio formats.

For more information on how you can purchase additional digital content for your district from ASCD, ISTE, CORWIN and LINWORTH, please contact your PA Gale Education Sales Consultant, Carl Moore, at (c) 610-731-9271 or email - carl.moore@cengage.com.

Emerging Leader Corner

Over the next several months we will be introducing our Emerging Leaders through a series of questions they have been asked to answer.



Becky Hoffmann

1. Provide a brief intro of yourself (no more than 3 sentences) including your location in PA.

I live in Gibsonsia with my husband Shawn and our cat Shadow. My interests include reading, cooking, and visiting different zoos. I am in my seventh year of teaching, and I have been teaching at Mars Area High School since 2013.

2. Tell us about your role in education? What does your typical day look like?

I am a high school English teacher and am currently providing instruction for AP English Language and Composition. I also am the faculty advisor for Planet Peace, which is our school's anti-bullying club. My typical day includes lots of humor, a little disorganization, and several occasions where I geek out over some aspect of literature and language.

3. What is your educational philosophy summed up in one sentence?

Since the best learning comes when students seek answers to their own questions, I want my students to learn to question anything and everything rather than blindly accepting what is told to them.

4. What professional development (books, webinars, courses, articles) have made a difference in your career?

My favorite type of professional development is simply collaborating with my coworkers and sharing ideas. I learned so much about education just by interacting with and listening to my colleagues at the 2014 and 2015 PASCD Conferences.

5. If you could make one major change in education, what would it be?

I think more schools need to see the benefit in pass/fail courses or some other type of grading system that isn't focused on an arbitrary letter. Students can work the system to get an A or B, but that doesn't necessarily mean they actually learned more than the other students in the class.

6. What is the most impactful statement a student has ever said to you?

The best compliment I've ever been given by a student was, "You hold us to a high standard and expect a lot out of us, but we like you and want to make you proud so we gladly do it."

Educators impacting teaching and learning through leadership

PASCD continues to support its state's educators through innovative ways that encourage connection and collaboration. With that in mind, we invite you to participate in our first-ever #PASCDchat February 17, 2016 from 8:30-9:30 PM. Our first topic will be "The Power in Administrator-Teacher Collaboration."

The PASCD twitter chat will continue each month on the third Wednesday from 8:30-9:30 PM. As dedicated educators, we will join together to discuss current topics, concerns, and ideas of educational practice.