Past President’s Message

The closure of another school year is upon us, which brings closure to my term as PASCD’s Past-President. Although four years have passed quickly, I have witnessed so many positive enhancements that have occurred in our organization over time. The success of our organization shows as we have been recognized by ASCD as an affiliate leader multiple times, and have generated enthusiasm and the means for professional collaboration and recognition.

One of the benefits provided to our membership that has proven to be successful is the Gale Virtual Library, which provides members-only access to ASCD online books. I would like to take one more opportunity to highlight this wonderful professional development service for our membership. The organization initially purchased one year of online access to an annual collection of published ASCD books. Based on the feedback from the members, the executive board committed to maintaining the benefit and will soon purchase another year of the ASCD professional collection.

Library books are available online and can be downloaded to PDF copies where you have access on your personal electronic device. Whether it’s at the beach or in a study group, books are available 24/7. The library includes convenient features such as audio reading and bookmark tabs. To access the library, log in to our web page and click (here) (http://www.pascd.org/?page=GALE_Resource_Librar). Use ‘pascd’ as the password, and enjoy!

As I depart from my role on the Executive Board, I would like to thank board members through the years who have worked tirelessly to build the organization, and the leadership of Dr. Richard Nilsen, Dr. Lori Stollar, and Dr. Jeff Taylor. I am confident that the current and new leadership will continue to develop and ensure that PASCD is the go-to organization as promised!

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PASCD 65th Annual Conference Registration opens July 1st visit http://www.pascd.org/?page=Registration
This description is further reinforced by her identity as a published author, national conference speaker and the inventor of the hashtag “#engchat” for English teacher collaboration on Twitter.

In the midst of becoming a well-regarded teacher, Meenoo keenly observed that teachers, regardless of their years in the field, burn out. She was moved to investigate practical and doable strategies for all teachers to affect their own professional learning pathways and keep their interest in the profession and their teaching energized. In her book, *Thrive*, Meenoo talks about strategies to help teachers rediscover why they chose to teach. She shares critical ways for educators to check in with themselves and to inject (or re-inject) passion in their work.

Her thoughts on helping teachers to thrive and excel in their teaching, beat the looming feelings of isolation that teachers often experience and help teachers provide instructional atmospheres that connect students to their global communities, make her a conduit for the invigoration of teachers everywhere.

One story she shared is about being a young teachers and being handed a binder of materials. Although the binder represented curriculum, units and assessments, it didn’t provide the intellectual connections that teachers need to make with their content or the intellectual connections the students needed for the meaningful retention of content. She asked and asked and asked questions until she was able to understand those necessary connections to make the instruction meaningful for herself and her students. Meenoo sees her book “as her love letter to teachers. She loves schools, loves teachers and loves the power of work we can do with students.”

In addition to Meenoo’s classroom teaching experiences and national speaking engagements, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has offered her the opportunity to become a teaching fellow. Starting in July, Meenoo will be advising the foundation and working on initiatives that help to bring teachers together to share their expertise with one and another.

In addition to her role as Keynote speaker, Meenoo will assist the PASCD’s first “Unconference,” Sunday, November 17, 8:30 – 11:30. For those of you not familiar with an “Unconference,” this is an opportunity that will allow the participants to energize their teaching through sharing and collaborating on best practices with colleagues from across the Commonwealth. Who better to assist, than Meenoo Rami?

You can follow Meenoo’s work through these channels: @meenoorami<http://www.twitter.com/meenoorami>

meenoorami.org<http://meenoorami.org>
graduating seniors including a panel discussion with professionals representing various aspects of careers in education including school superintendents and online education. The panel discussion was followed by small group interview preparation sessions in which the students were given information about how to maneuver through the career application/interview process.

On Tuesday, May 19, NEPASCD hosted its first hybrid regional meeting. The face-to-face meeting was held at the Woodlands Inn in Wilkes-Barre with members also having the option of attending online. Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, incoming PASCD President, provided information about the benefits of PASCD membership including the annual conference. The election of officers for the 2015 – 2017 slate of officers was also begun with members having an opportunity to vote electronically for several days following the meeting.

NEPASCD will also hold a meeting at the Woodlands Inn in Wilkes-Barre at noon on Wednesday, June 17, 2015. The main goal of this meeting will be to plan for the upcoming year.

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.

Concetta Lupo

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

Dr. Concetta Lupo is a 2014 PASCD Emerging Leader and serves a principal of Blue Bell Elementary School, in the Wissahickon School District. In addition, Dr. Lupo is also adjunct faculty at Gwynedd Mercy University for the graduate and doctoral programs. Dr. Lupo has been in the field of education since 1997, starting in the City of Philadelphia, then moving to Colonial School District, before moving to WSD in 2004. She has taught students at every level from K-12, served as a reading specialist, union representative, staff developer, curriculum developer and supervisor, director of federal grants, and as mentioned, principal. She is a happily married mother of two young sons and is deeply concerned and passionate about the educational system in the State of PA and in the country overall.

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

I am an elementary principal at Blue Bell Elementary School in the Wissahickon School District. A typical day at work is filled with smiling children who want to give me hugs! It is an incredible experience.

What is your educational philosophy summed up in one sentence?

Teach the whole child supporting creativity and love of learning.

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

Brene Brown books, any book from ASCD, Huffington Post Education, and Ted Talks

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

Change the focus to teaching the whole child with an emphasis on achieving a year of academic growth regardless of his/her starting point.

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

That they love coming to school as they give me a hug on their way in.