

PASCD Newsletter



“Educators impacting teaching and learning through leadership”



NOVEMBER 2017

President’s Message

Pennsylvania ASCD is very excited to announce that after a six-month search, a new executive director has been hired. I am pleased to share with you that Deanna Mayers is our new Pennsylvania ASCD Executive Director. Deanna has many new and exciting ideas for enhancing the member experience as well as provide many new member programs. Deanna recently created the new online and Act 45 approved Digital Leadership and Innovation Academy where participants can work at their own pace to earn 40 Act 45 hours. Welcome Deanna!



Pennsylvania ASCD has been busy over the past year coordinating new and exciting professional development opportunities for our members. We have offered an “Every Child is a Super Reader” workshop in collaboration with

Scholastic Education that was very well received. This workshop taught participants how to use research-based and engaging strategies for teaching young readers. We have also offered a “Connecting the Dots with STEM” workshop in collaboration with Discovery Education that taught participants how to start a research-based and exciting STEM program in their schools. Lastly, we are in the process of offering a Google Boot Camp for Educators where participants will learn all the aspects of Google Education and will be prepared to take the Google certification exam at the end of the workshop if they so choose.

In addition to our new professional development opportunities, we are still offering our very popular Evaluation Academy, Curriculum Academy and our Supervision Academy. If you have any interest in having any of our professional development opportunities at your school or at your intermediate unit, please contact our new executive director, Deanna Mayers, at Deanna.mayers@pascd.org.

67th Annual PASCD Conference

We are so excited for the 2017 PASCD Conference *Sparking Innovation: Personalized Learning, STEM, 4C’s* to be held in Harrisburg, PA November 11-13th. The



67th Annual PASCD Conference will be held at the Best Western Premier The Central Hotel & Conference Center located just west of downtown Harrisburg and only 20 minutes from Hershey.

The *Sparking Innovation* conference begins November 11th with the FREE Pre-Conference featuring Code.org Computer Science for Elementary School Full-day Training presented by Megan Cicconi, Executive Director of Instructional and Innovative Leadership for the Fox Chapel Area School District. The Conference

kicks off Sunday morning with a keynote presentation by the world-renowned Dr. Bena Kallick, co-creator of the Habits of Mind, focusing on Personalization and the Habits of Mind. Dr. Kallick will lead an action lab to further delve into how personalization and habits of mind can be successfully integrated into daily instruction, with the assistance of Stephanie DeLuca, Director of Curriculum for the South Fayette School District. Conversation will continue into the evening for those interested in action planning for their own school districts. ALL individuals attending the conference will receive FREE access to the *Habits of Mind Series* course thanks to our sponsor, EduPlanet, a savings of \$100.

Keynote presentations will also be made by Dr. Lance Rougeux, Vice-President of Learning and Communities & Innovation at Discovery Education, and Judd Pittman, Special Consultant to the Secretary of Education for STEM. Dr. Rougeux will speak to *STEMulating Minds*. Starting with STEM as a project-based, inquiry-driven framework, he will explore how school systems around the world are focusing on the 4Cs and changing the culture of teaching and learning. Mr. Pittman will begin Monday with a discussion regarding the PA Department of Education's work in developing Science Literacy. He will lead an action lab that day focusing on helping schools develop literacy in their science curricula.

The 2017 PASCD Conference will feature 20 one-hour small group sessions focusing on STEM/STEAM Education, Personalized Learning, and the 4C's – Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity - from educators across the commonwealth. Some of the sessions include: *Using Hybrid Learning to Increase Student Engagement and Create More Personalized Learning*

Environments; Making a Makerspace; Using Project-based Learning for Inquiry, Inspiration, and Innovation; and Engineering Design Process: Professional Learning 2.0.

A new addition to the PASCD Conference is the *STEM Playground*. On the first day of the conference, you can visit the playground to see school districts – teachers, students, and administrators – from across the state present their exemplary STEM programs. Some of the schools featured include Fort Cherry School District's 2016 STEM Team, winners of the 2016 Governor's STEM Competition with their SticKey invention. The team also earned 3rd place at the Covestro Pittsburgh Sci-Tech Competition in 2017 and represented Western PA at ISEF, the International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles, CA. Downingtown Area School District will feature their K-5 iDesign Time program which integrates Habits of Mind Innovation into their program. Harrisburg Area School District will present their Middle School Hydroponics and Aquaponics Program.

Join us for 67th Annual PASCD Conference November 11-13th in Harrisburg, PA. It is guaranteed to be an enlightening weekend of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity focusing on STEM Education and Personalized Learning. For more information, go to www.pascd.org. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Dr. Trisha Craig
2017 PASCD Conference Chair
JH Principal, Fort Cherry SD



The PASCD Supervision Academy

With the mandate of the Act 82 legislation, July 1, 2012, there has been a great emphasis and amount of time spent in school districts implementing the legislation and the required evaluation system for teachers and administrators. In the past four years, there has been a great deal of time dedicated to the evaluation of teachers and less time devoted to the professional growth of teachers.

Supervision Leadership Equals Increased Student Achievement

In reviewing multiple pieces of research concerning student achievement and growth, the primary resource in order to facilitate both is the teacher. The teacher spends his or her time with the students facilitating learning. However just as all students are not at the same level of learning and understanding, so are the teaching professionals? The PASCD Supervision Leadership Academy is designed to assist districts in developing a research-based supervision program that promotes teachers who demonstrate proficiency in their performance, to be given options to grow professionally at a deeper level.

We are happy to announce that the PASCD Supervision Leadership Academy will be offered at IU 5 beginning in January 2018. The three day academy will be held beginning January 31, with day 2 being held on March 7 and day 3 on April 12, 2018. This three-day academy is a hands-on approach for working in a data-centered environment with a teacher in order to promote teacher professional growth. As an answer to Act 82, many

districts rapidly put a differentiated supervision program in place so that administrators did not have to formally observe every teacher every year but rather have a cycle of observation. The complaints we have heard from teachers as we travel to various regions in the state is that this is busy paper workload put on an already overloaded teacher and rather than being professional growth, it is professional overload.

This academy outlines a research-based method for building a quality differentiated supervision program for your district where teachers will benefit from the differentiated options they choose to chart their own professional growth where they need to grow. Just as one-size instruction for all students is poor practice, one-option professional growth for teachers results in negative professional growth. Please go to the PASCD website for more information. If you want to register, and are a member of PASCD, please login in order to receive the discount price. We look forward to bringing the PASCD Supervision Leadership Academy to IU 5.

The PASCD Evaluation Leadership Academy

The PASCD Evaluation Leadership Academy has been presented numerous times over the past year at various intermediate units. There have been academies held at IU's 1, 3, 5, 14, 16, and 20. IU 5 in Edinboro has hosted three evaluation academies and IU 14 in Berks County has hosted two academies since November of 2016 in order to accommodate the large number of superintendents, principals, curriculum directors and CTE directors who wanted to participate in the academy. Administrator comments validate

the value of the academy in addressing the needs and performance of marginal and unsatisfactory teachers. There are many "myths" concerning the Act 82 legislation that have been dispelled through the presentation of the academy ITQ. The academy is in its second PIL approved cycle.

Here are just a few of the comments from administrators written on their final evaluations of the academy:

Wonderful! I learned so much and feel confident in dealing with teacher evaluations.

Excellent academy! Having been through a dismissal, arbitration, and subsequent reinstatement, I know first-hand how important this information is. It could have saved me from reinstating a failing teacher.

This academy was very well done! The information is timely and much easier to navigate now. The presenters and resources were outstanding!

This is a great academy! I wish I had the opportunity years ago. All administrators should be required to attend and why is this not being taught in principal certification classes?

I enjoyed the knowledge and experiences shared by the presenters. I would recommend the academy to all administrators.

I felt this information regarding the evaluation process, how to best evaluate and interpret the Danielson model, was most valuable and made me a better evaluator.

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The next academy scheduled in going to be held in Bucks County, IU 22, beginning January 17. Days 2 and 3 of this academy will be held February 7 and March 5. If you are in need of PIL credits before the June 30, 2018 deadline, this academy carries 40 PIL credits. You can register for this academy or any of the PASCD academies at www.pascd.org. If you are member of PASCD, you can register at a discounted rate by signing in at the website homepage and then clicking on the academy link. The discounted price will appear in the registration once you log in. If you are interested in hosting a PASCD academy at an IU site or in your school district, please contact Robert Williams, Chair of Supervision and Evaluation, at rwilliam3@verizon.net. The academy information brochure is available under the "resources" tab on the PASCD website.