



Online News

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AESA Online News

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To submit topics for the AESA Online News, send an email to: info@aesas.us

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AESA News

1. AESA makes first miSolution royalty payments to ESAs

AESA made the first miSolution royalty payments to participating Educational Service Agencies in January. The program, offered through AESA's Business Partnership with Great American Financial Resources, Inc., provides discount benefits in a variety of services for just \$10 per month per family. The benefits are:

- Coast to Coast Vision that will save you money on vision needs, including eyeglasses, contact lenses, and laser surgery at more than 12,000 locations.
- New Benefits Retail and Mail Order Pharmacy that will save you an average of 30% on prescription drugs.
- Aetna Dental Access ® gives you access to 76,000 dentists with 15%-50% discounts on routine specialty care.
- Consult A Doctor™ offers 24/7 access to its proprietary nationwide cross-coverage network of U.S. licensed physicians for telephone and secure e-mail medical consultations.
- VIP Health and Wellness for savings on vitamins and diabetic supplies.
- Roadside Assistance for roadside assistance 24/7.
- Travel Assistance providing peace of mind knowing help is merely a phone call away.

For more information go to the AESA miSolutions website at:

<https://www.miquotes.com/aesa/DiscountPrograms.aspx> for the list of services under the Discount Programs on the menu bar. Agencies interested in participating in the program may contact AESA Executive Director Brian Talbott at btalbott@aesas.us .

The discount packages are not insurance nor are they intended to replace insurance. This discount card program contains a 30-day cancellation period. For a full list of disclosures go to the miSolutions AESA website under the Discount Programs menu bar.

2. AESA awards presented at 2009 Annual Conference

AESA recognized three educational leaders with awards at the 2009 Annual Conference at Austin:

- Michael P. Flanagan received the Walter G. Turner Award for outstanding contributions in the advancement of regional educational programs at the regional, state, and/or national levels. Flanagan, Michigan State Superintendent of Public Instruction previously was a K-12 superintendent of the largest ESA in Michigan, executive director of the Michigan Association of School Administrators and the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators.
- Dr. William McKinney received the Justus A. Prentice Award for outstanding accomplishments of contributions through executive leadership in the advancement of regional ESA programs at the regional, state, and national levels. Dr. McKinney, Executive Director of Region 4 Education Service Center at Houston, one of the largest ESAs in the United States, has served Region 4 since 1988 working with eight different Texas Commissioners of Education. Under his leadership Region 4 started the Re-Engineering Academy of Region 4 which has shared Region 4's best practices with over 100 organizations representing 40 states. Many of the products and services of Region 4 are used by other ESAs, both in Texas and other states.
- Geoff Craven received the Brian L. Talbott Award for outstanding contributions through innovative technology support to constituent schools that caused positive improvements to be made and through the effective use of technology to enhance the agency's own operation and accountability. This is a new award created by the AESA Council. Craven, Telecommunications and Technical Support Manager of Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit in Pennsylvania, leads a team of 13 who maintain the technology infrastructure of his agency's office, as well as 22 remote sites where various program staff are located. Services include an E-Rate application program that saves constituent schools millions of dollars in addition to providing managed services for affiliated schools and school districts.

ESA News

3. Region 4 Educational Service Center offers Re-Engineering Academy Feb 3-5

Every Educational Service Agency faces critical roadblocks that challenge the organization's path to success. By fundamentally rethinking and redesigning a current business model, an ESA can take a strategic detour that actually drives the organization to strengthen its ability to bring value and worth to customer school districts. With the theme, "A Detour Can be a Good Thing: Restructuring as a Business when Faced with Today's Roadblocks" the Academy offers and opportunity to fundamentally rethink redesign of a current business model with a strategic detour that actually drives the organization to strengthen its ability to bring value and worth to customer school districts. This entrepreneurial detour requires innovation and creative thinking to produce sustainable solutions to real programs. Topics and panel discussions include:

- A case study: Region 4 Overview
- Relevance: Obstacles Present Opportunities
- Entrepreneurialism: A New Path to Success
- Partnerships: Creating Sustainable Solutions
- Innovation: Where Entrepreneurialism Begins
- Intellectual Property: Ownership is Everything
- Culture: Creating an Environment for Success
- Finance and Infrastructure: The Business of Doing Business

- ESA Chief Executives Panel: Featuring Dr. David Distel, Superintendent, Hamilton County, Cincinnati, Ohio and Dr. Twyla Barnes, Superintendent, Educational Service District 112, Vancouver, Washington.

Registration is \$450 per person, which includes all meals and materials. For more information or to register, contact Linda Castro of Region 4 ESC at lcastro@esc4.net.

Business Partners News

4. Nova Southeastern announces an ESA Master's and Doctorate degree cohort program in Organizational Leadership

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Master's and Doctorate Programs in Organizational Leadership are being customized for ESA members and constituents. Join a national cohort of ESA colleagues for a Master's or Doctorate program that addresses your educational and business needs and unique non-profit leadership role. Find the course content you have been seeking including classes that incorporate the topics of entrepreneurship, non-profit accountability, accreditation, operations, and investing as well as techniques for influencing statutes and political agendas. Develop strategic action plans using cutting-edge education and business models that will organize, motivate and guide others to achieve organizational and team goals. Benefit from leadership perspectives of the information age and the success of international education and educators. Enroll in a program that was designed for you, with the guidance and support of your AESA leadership. Attend an international University that was voted #1 Online University in 2008 by OED, is the 6th largest not-for-profit accredited university in the country and has the most innovative, accessible, and technologically advanced programs in the nation. An AESA Scholarship Tuition Reduction (STR) makes your degree affordable. Join the January 2010 AESA national cohort by contacting Dr. Marilyn Gardner at marigard@nova.edu or call 617-399-1775.

5. New research on ELL provided on free January 20 WebEx

Dr. Omar Lopez, founder and CEO of the Corporation for Public School Education K-16 at Round Rock, Texas, will present new research on improving learning for English Language Learners during a free WebEx sponsored by AESA Business Partner Promethean on Thursday, January 21, 3 pm Eastern Standard Time. The research at Round Rock school district focuses on the Digital Learning Classroom Project, a technology initiative using Interactive Whiteboards to increase learning of ELL students in grades K-5. Attendees will have the opportunity to receive a free copy of "The Digital Learning Classroom: Improving English Language Learners' Academic Success" by Dr. Lopez following the presentation.

To register for the free WebEx go to:

<https://promethean.webex.com/promethean/onstage/g.php?d=488052718&t=a>

U.S. Department of Education

6. What Works Clearinghouse adds guided tour to assist users

From the US Department of Education (www.whatworks.ed.gov): The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) released a variety of publications throughout 2009. As a new year begins WWC invites you to take a look at its 2009 releases available at the What Works Clearinghouse website. The Department of Education has added a guided tour to the site so users can learn more about the WWC and how to use its search features, interpret intervention reports, and get a detailed look at quick reviews and practice guides. The WWC works to connect educators with evidence to make informed decisions. Visit the What Works Clearinghouse website to sign up for email updates and releases throughout the year.