



Online News

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AESA Online News

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AESA News

1. Annual Conference Program online now

The December 3-6 2008 AESA Annual Conference Program may now be download as a pdf document from the AESA website at: www.aesa.us .

Registration for the conference may still be done online, or onsite. However, the AESA room block at the J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort is fully booked. AESA does not have room blocks at other hotels. If you do not have a room reservation, we suggest you try these other nearby hotels. The rates for these hotels are quoted for a single room from the hotel websites:

Courtyard Scottsdale North (\$209)
17010 N. Scottsdale Road
Phone: 480-922-8400

Springhill Suites Scottsdale North (\$189)
17020 N. Scottsdale Road
Phone: 480-922-8700

For additional information regarding the conference, visit the AESA website at:

www.aesa.us

2. AESA Foundation's Silent Auction

The AESA Foundation is again holding its Silent Auction at the 2008 Annual Conference. The Foundation has requested that Individuals, agencies, or companies contributing items for the silent auction to notify Peter Young so appropriate space will be reserved for the silent auction tables in the Exhibition Hall. Please send an email regarding the Silent Auction items to: pyoung@aesa.us.

3. Grace Foundation Corporation donates web server to AESA

In the continuing relationship established between AESA and Grace Global Corporation, an AESA Business Member and Annual Conference Sponsor, Grace Global's parent organization, Grace Foundation Corporation, has chosen to donate computer hardware built by Grace Global to AESA. In keeping with Grace Foundations mandate to assist in the education of young people, it will be donating a Grace branded web server for the AESA website.

Grace Foundation considers the work of AESA, to improve student learning as well as to provide resources to ESAs, to all be in alignment with its core principles.

The new web server built on Grace's "PowerFrame" enterprise server platform, will give AESA a state of the art computing system to accommodate a new dynamic website providing additional services and resources to assist ESA member organizations. AESA plans to begin redevelopment of its website utilizing the capacity of the new server in 2009.

Grace Global Corporation is sponsoring the Internet Café at the 2008 Annual Conference. It will also have a booth in the Exhibition Hall. Please take time to visit the Grace Global Corporation at Booth 301 to learn about its programs for ESAs and ability of individuals working for or associated with ESAs, including board members, to purchase personal computers at the price of awarded bids.

AESA thanks Grace Global for its continued support of AESA, and urges its members attending the Annual Conference to join us in thanking the company at its booth or at the Internet Café.

ESA News

4. Wood County Ohio receives Alcohol and Drug Advocacy Award

Wood County Educational Service Center, Ohio, received the 2008 Alcohol and Drug Advocacy Award for its programs to help reduce alcohol abuse among students by supplementing existing programs and assisting schools in implementing drug testing programs and policies to include all participants in extracurricular programs in the local school districts it serves. The award was presented by the Wood County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board at an October awards dinner. Accepting the award on behalf of the agency were Wood County ESC Superintendent Doug Garman and Coordinator of On-Site Services Lorrie Lewandowski.

AESA Business Partners and Members News

5. Annual Conference Sponsors keep prices low for ESAs

AESA thanks its 2008 Annual Conference sponsors who help to keep registration, hotel, and meal costs as low as possible for conference attendees. Sponsors for the 2008 Annual Conference include:

- Business Partners Comotiv Systems, Direct Energy Business, Great American Financial Services, McGraw Hill Education, and Walden University.
- Business Members Grace Global Corporation, NOVA Southeastern University, Promethean, TCG Advisors LP, and Williams Scotsman.
- Institutional Members AEPA, and PEPPM/CSIU.

6. Visit AESA's Business Partners and Members booths at Phoenix

Many of AESA's Business Partners and Business Members will staff booths at the Annual Conference. We invite you to engage these companies that provide year-around support to AESA about the services they may offer to your agencies and the school districts you serve. These companies are indicated by the AESA logo in the directory of exhibiting companies in the Annual Conference Program. Business Partners are indicated by ALL CAPITALS.

- **American Public University System**, Booth 103. American Public University, a member of the regionally accredited American Public University System, offers programs tailored to the needs of current and future educators. All courses are online, affordable, and conveniently scheduled for the working professional.
- **COMOTIV SYSTEMS**, Booths 300/302. Designed around the specific needs of educators, Comotiv Systems web-collaboration software allows for effective face-to-face meetings, Professional Development, and planning sessions without the cost of travel, substitutes or time out of the building. Our easy-to-use audio/video application features one-to-one, many-to-many and presentation mode to maximize effectiveness. Comotiv Systems comprehensive program also enables educators to share desktops, store and edit files and record sessions and best practices for later review.
- **Computer Automation Systems, Inc.**, Booth 202. CAS is the national leader in special education automation. CAS provides Special Education management solutions to school districts with its award-winning SEAST product line, including Medicaid reimbursement. CAS is pleased to partner with Educational Service Agencies through its ESA Partner program.
- **DIRECT ENERGY BUSINESS**, Booth 400. Direct Energy Business is a leading commercial retail energy supplier dedicated to serving our customers with innovative energy management solutions and providing them with cost-effective choices for their electricity and natural gas requirements. As your energy partner, we can help you streamline your procurement process.
- **Discovery Education**, Booth 601. Discovery Communications revolutionized television with the Discovery Channel and is now transforming classrooms through Discovery Education. Powered by the #1 non-fiction media company in the world, Discovery Education combines scientifically proven, standards-based digital media and a dynamic user community in order to empower teachers to improve student achievement.
- **eChalk**, Booth 309. eChalk® offers K-12 schools web-based systems that transform teaching, learning, and leadership by creating communities in which all stakeholders can easily work together.
- **FirstClass – Open Text**, Booth 612. FirstClass enables academic organizations to create secure, collaborative online communities that connect students, faculty, parents, and administrators. A platform independent solution, FirstClass offers secure email and instant messaging, personal/group calendars, online testing and reporting, collaboration and document sharing, web publishing, discussion forums, simplified course creation and material sharing, unified messaging and more.
- **Grace Global Corporation**, Booth 301 and Internet Café. Specializing in providing advanced information technology systems and services to education and government organizations, Grace products and services include a full complement of hardware computer systems, I.T. infrastructure management/design, hosted Microsoft Exchange, E-mail archiving, surveillance systems and onsite and remote disaster recovery services.
- **Grand Canyon University**, Booth 514. Grand Canyon University is one of Arizona's leading higher learning institutions. Based in Phoenix, the regionally accredited, private, non-denominational Christian university offers online and campus-based bachelors and masters degree programs and is ranked as a top online education program by OEDb.
- **GREAT AMERICAN FINANCIAL RESOURCES**, Booth 101. For more than 30 years, Great American Financial Resources, Inc. subsidiaries have provided retirement plan solutions to educational institutions. We also offer ease, flexibility and compliance with the new 403(b) regulations with plan administration services through Great American Plan Administrators.

- **Image Now by Perceptive Software**, Booth 406. Perceptive Software created ImageNow enterprise document management, imaging and workflow to help office workers in K-12 school districts efficiently capture and organize virtually any document type, then route and retrieve a precise page with a single click from within any business application at the moment it's needed.
- **Lightspeed Systems**, Booth 501. "Network security" is controlling who can do what on your network. And control is all about detecting and resolving any activity that doesn't align with your organization's policies. Lightspeed gives you control with: Email Archiving; Content; Filtering; Spam Management; Antivirus; Extensive Reporting; Gateway Server & Desktop Security; Bandwidth Management; Mobile Content Filtering
- **LiteracyFirst**, Booth 603. Literacy First is a research-based, systematic, systemic and comprehensive reform process interested in forming business partnerships with ESAs to accelerate reading achievement of all students in grades PreK to 12. Flexible models are available to scale for schools and districts.
- **Netchemia**, Booth 515. Netchemia, LLC provides data-driven, Internet-based software to nearly 250, K-12 districts across the nation. Their software streamlines administrative process and optimizes information flow. Web-based management solutions include: netIEP®, Special Education; ScholRecruiter™, Applicant Tracking and Hiring, and netRTITM, Response to Intervention.
- **NOVA Southeastern University**, Booth 509. NSU's Fischler School of Education and Human Services is one of the nation's largest schools of education at an accredited university. Our ideas, our approach, and our programs inspire educators to inspire their students to move the world. Cause an effect online, on-site, or on campus.
- **PBS**, Booth 414. Serving America's schools for more than 30 years, our collection of teaching and learning resources--including digital media--meets state and national standards and is guaranteed to enhance the educational experience in any classroom. Visit us to learn more!
- **Promethean**, Booth 805. The Promethean Activclassroom engages students with interactive lessons, integrates curriculum with our teaching software and facilitates communication and collaboration through our learner response systems. Come see our new Activcommand application. In addition, learn about our Promethean Certified Learning Academy program developed specifically for Education Service Agencies.
- **SchoolCity, Inc.** Booth 206. SchoolCity has a comprehensive suite of standards-based web-based data solutions. From School Improvement Planning to Assessment, Analysis, Reporting and Curriculum Management, SchoolCity provides a turnkey solution for school districts and service agencies across the U.S.
- **Spectrum Industries, Inc.**, Booth 408. Innovative Learning & Training Furniture - Manufacturer of Laptop Storage Carts, Instructional Media Lecterns, Seating, Computer Lab, CAD, Flat-panel & Office Furniture. Ergonomic, Modular, Durable, Attractive Designs. Made in the USA!
- **SUMMIT ENERGY**, Booth 401. Summit Energy has been selected by AESA to assist its members in the purchasing and management of natural gas, electricity and diesel fuel. Summit is an independent and unbiased energy services company, with more than \$20 Billion in annual energy spend under management. Utilizing Summit's expertise, a district can exercise better control over the price of its energy products, thus allowing for better forecasting and planning. Summit's energy management program is one of the most effective steps that a school district can take to control its energy costs and effectively manage the risk of volatile energy prices, thus protecting your budget against the unknown.
- **TRANSACT**, Booth 213. ActPoint Decision-Tree Management System. The ActPoint decision-tree RoadMaps enable anyone, from policy makers to the front line staff, to consistently implement changing strategic initiatives. ActPoint transforms cascading technical, procedural and compliance guidelines into a series of easy-to-follow decision-tree actions for all staff. ActPoint is the missing link in change management, creating a smooth transition between process flow maps, decision-trees and successful execution.

- **WALDEN UNIVERSITY**, Booth 208. Walden is an accredited institution that provides high quality online programs to educators. Walden's Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership features nationally recognized educational experts and cutting-edge curricula. The college is the choice of more than 29,000 students and alumni.
- **Western Governors University**, Booth 200. The mission of Western Governors University, a not for profit, fully accredited institution, is to serve working adults with online degree programs. WGU offers bachelors and masters degrees in Education, Business, Information Technology, and Health Professions.
- **Williams Scotsman**, Booth 500. Williams Scotsman offers space solutions for the education, construction, industrial, commercial/retail, healthcare and government markets throughout North America, with operations in the United States, Mexico and Canada.
- **X2 Development Corporation**, Booth 507. With X2 Development Corporation, you get an experienced, dependable partner sharing a common vision for an integrated, enterprise-level SIS. Our focus on service, approach to software development, and commitment to customers make us the best choice for your district's current and future needs. Our vision is integration — one solution from one vendor lets information management take a back seat to student education. It takes a new kind of system to make this a reality, and the X2 team has engineered Aspen to deliver on that goal.
- **Zonar Systems**, Booth 505. Zonar Systems' Electronic Fleet Management™ solution makes managing fleet operations effortless. Customers have the unmatched ability to not only verify an inspection, but to understand asset utilization, fuel savings and repair status. For more information, visit www.zonarsystems.com.

7. Product Demonstration Workshops provide in-depth look at educational solutions

Fifteen Product Demonstration Workshops will provide ESAs the opportunity to drill down on product and services provided by a select group of companies supporting the Annual Conference. Plan to have someone from your agency attend these workshops to evaluate the solutions these companies provide as possible services for your agency or the school districts you serve.

The 10:45 – 11:45 am Thursday, Dec. 4 workshops are:

- **Read Naturally**, "Read Naturally: Remediate Reading Fluency and Improve Comprehension."
- **FirstClass**, "Connectivity and Collaboration Tools for Web 3.0."
- **Grace Global Corporation**, "Federal Rules and Civil Procedure Mandate: Are you in compliance? Email Archiving, Data and Disaster Recovery – Grace G-Track: A Smart, Easy and Reliable Solution."

The 1:30 – 2:30 pm Thursday, Dec. 4 workshops are:

- **SchoolMessenger**, "Effective Communication and Notification Services."
- **NetTrekker DI**, "Using Digital Content for Differentiated Instruction and 21st Century Skill Development."
- **NOVA Southeastern University**, "Earn the Credit You Deserve: A Collaborative Alliance between AESA and Nova Southeastern University (NSU)."

The 3 – 4 pm Thursday, Dec. 4 workshops are:

- **ImageNow by Perceptive Software**, "ImageNow at Work in Educational Service Agencies."
- **Lightspeed Systems**, "Winning the Proxy Battle with a Multi-Layered Approach."
- **SchoolCity**, "Effective Assessment and Data Tools Designed for Service Agencies."

The 10:45 – 11:45 am Friday, Dec. 5 workshops are:

- **Great American Financial Resources (GAFRI)**, "Are you really ready for the 403(b) regulations?"
- **American Public University System (APUS)**, "From Barriers to Bridges: A 21st Century Approach to Meeting the Demand for Qualified Educators."

- **Mid-continent Research for Education & Learning (McREL)**, “Partnering with McREL to expand your agency’s staff development programs.”

The 1:30 – 2:30 pm Friday, Dec. 5 workshops are:

- **PCI Education**, “Leadership, Assessment, and Curriculum: The Power of 3 for Improving Student Performance.”
- **TCG Advisors**, LP, “Nightmare on Wall Street – Understanding the Financial Crisis of 2008 and its Effects on You.”
- **Handwriting Without Tears**, “Handwriting Without Tears Professional Development Training.”

8. Netchemia offers web-based candidate recruitment solution

One of AESA’s newest business members, Netchemia, provides ESAs with web-based tools for their school districts. One of its newest offerings is SchoolRecruiter, a web-based applicant tracking and hiring management solution. SchoolRecruiter helps school districts of any size, within ESAs, to attract a larger pool of qualified candidates while dramatically decreasing the amount of effort that goes into processing and hiring the best fit. Netchemia will work with ESAs providing candidate recruitment and screening cooperatives to simplify its systems with SchoolRecruiter. This solution removes paper, spreadsheets, and cumbersome HRMS modules used by ESAs and K-12 school districts from the hiring process. SchoolRecruiter provides a solution that will allow districts to collaborate about their efforts through ESAs, providing consistency and delivery of software, effective training and education services, and technical support. AESA members are offered to try a free, no obligation, online demo of SchoolRecruiter at www.schoolrecruiter.net/freedemo. For more information, please visit www.schoolrecruiter.net or contact the company at 1.800.490.9686 or email graham.forman@netchemia.com.

US Department of Education Announcements

9. NCLB Title I final regulations announced

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, announced final regulations for No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The Secretary made the announcement while speaking to educators, state and local policymakers, and business leaders at South Carolina Educational Television at Columbia, S.C. on October 28.

According to the Department of Education, under the new regulations:

- All states will use the same formula to calculate how many students graduate from high school on time and how many drop out. The final regulations define the "four year adjusted cohort graduation rate" as the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who entered high school four years earlier, adjusted for transfers, students who emigrate and deceased students. The data will be made public so that educators and parents can compare how students of every race, background, and income level are performing.
- Requires that parents must be notified in a clear and timely way about their public school choice and supplemental education service options including what tutoring providers are available, how these providers are approved and monitored, and most importantly, how effective they are in helping students improve.
- States and districts must now publish reading and mathematics results from the Nation's Report Card alongside data from their own tests for students and include participation rates for students with disabilities and those who are limited English proficient.
- Measures of student academic achievement may include multiple question formats and multiple assessments within a subject area. In order to ensure the inclusion of all sub-groups of students, states will be required to explain how its minimum group size, or "N-size" and other components of its AYP definition, interact to provide statistically reliable information and at the same time ensure the maximum inclusion of all students and subgroups.

- Relating to the Department's growth model pilot program, the regulations outline the criteria that States must meet in order to incorporate individual student progress into the State's definition of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), including that interventions specifically address the reasons for the school being in restructuring.

Under the new regulations, the Secretary of Education will be required to continue the dialogue and address some of the more technical needs of the states through the National Technical Advisory Council. The council is comprised of experts in the fields of education standards, accountability systems, statistics and psychometrics and it is advising the Department on complex and technical issues and ensure state standards and assessments are of the highest technical quality.

Detailed information on the new regulations including links to regulations, the announcement webcast, PowerPoint presentation, and fact sheets are available at:

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/reg/title1/index.html>

10. "The Achiever" documents successful school practices

The latest issue of the U.S. Department of Education's online newsletter *The Achiever* focuses on how a Philadelphia middle magnet school-one of 320 schools honored with the Blue Ribbon award this fall-has increased eighth-grade performance in reading at the advanced level from 29 percent in 2004 to 77 percent in 2008. *The Achiever* is now available solely online, providing a greater focus on how successful schools across the country are working toward the goals of No Child Left Behind to have every student reading and doing math at grade level by 2014. See the new issue at <http://www.ed.gov/achiever> . Back issues of the newsletter and a customer feedback form are at <http://www.ed.gov/achiever> .