



Online News

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AESA Online News

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AESA News

1. Dee Cockrille replaces John Hough on AESA Council

Dee Cockrille, executive director, RESA II at Huntington, WV, was appointed to the AESA Council at its September meeting to replace John Hough, formerly executive director RESA VIII at Martinsville, WV. Hough resigned to become dean of education program development at American Public University System, Charles Town, WV. Cockrille was nominated by the West Virginia RESA executive directors to fill Hough's unexpired term.

2. Cliff Carmody, Lindy Franks, and Dan Hare elected to AESA Council

Three new AESA Council members will begin service at the Spring 2009 meeting. They are Cliff Carmody, executive director of the Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative, Marshall, MN; Lindy Franks, director of the Southwest Arkansas Educational Service Cooperative, Hope, AR; and, Dan Hare, superintendent of Butler County Educational Service Center, Hamilton, OH. Carmody will represent the Central Region. Franks will represent the Southern Region. Hare will represent the Eastern Region.

Carmody, Franks, and Hare were the only nominees from their regions to the Council. AESA Bylaws provide that when there is a single nominee creating an uncontested election, the AESA Council may cast a unanimous ballot and elect the uncontested nominee. If there were contested races, the election for that region would have been held at the 2008 Annual Conference.

3. Annual Conference hotel reservations tied to online registration

AESA staff have received several questions regarding hotel reservations for the Dec. 3-6 2008 AESA Annual Conference at the J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort, Phoenix, AZ. The AESA negotiated rate is \$199 per night. The AESA rate is a significant discount from the hotel's regular room rates of \$350 - \$450 and up per night.

The hotel reservations are tied to online registration, which must occur before you are directed to the room reservation system. The AESA room rate cannot be made directly with the hotel's web-based reservation system or by phone. [The computerized system requires conference registration before it will accept hotel reservations.](#)

When you complete your online registration for the conference, you will then be referred to an online hotel reservation page linked to the registration. You can access the online registration at <http://www.aesa.us/AnnConf2008.html> .

For additional information regarding the conference, visit the AESA website at: www.aesa.us

4. Technology Leadership Summit features Microsoft research program manager

The National Association of Media and Technology Centers will conduct its 10th NAMTC Leadership Summit on December 2 and 3 at Phoenix. The day-and-a-half event will provide insights into the rapidly changing technologies that are influencing instructional strategies. Phil Fawcett, principal program manager for Microsoft Research, will be the keynote speaker for NAMTC's closing session.

AESA encourages those planning to attend the 2008 Annual Conference to include the 10th NAMTC Leadership Summit in their schedule, and to have the NAMTC members continue attendance through the conference in order to leverage the professional development opportunities of integrating the content of both events into their agency planning and operations.

Registration may be made in conjunction with the AESA Annual Conference using the AESA online registration form at www.aesa.us or by downloading a pdf from the Links & Resources tab at www.namtc.org .Registration fees for the Summit will be \$200.

5. AESA Survey: Online Education Needs

This week AESA will disseminate a web-based survey of ESA Online Education Needs. The survey information will provide a national perspective on ESA partnerships and working agreements with local technical schools, community colleges, and colleges and universities. It will also provide data on curricular and degree needs, along with information about the status of online program access. Results of the survey will be released at the 2008 Annual Conference. Data from the survey will be valuable in AESA's federal advocacy in support of ESAs and higher education. The survey is funded by Walden University, an AESA Business Partner. The survey, data analysis, and the survey report are being conducted independently by AESA staff.

AESA Business Partner Announcements

6. 'The Great American Classroom Makeover' contest for teachers

ESA Superintendents:

Please forward this to teachers and principals in your service area

Five \$2,000 awards will be given to teachers for books, carpet, paint, or whatever they choose as winners in “The Great American Classroom Makeover” sponsored by Great American Financial Resources, an AESA Business Partner.

Deadline for submissions is October 24. In order to enter, go to www.gaclassroommakeover.com and complete the short form that asks for contact information, a few short sentences on why the classroom deserves a makeover, and requests an upload of a photo of the current classroom.

Great American Plan Administrators, one of AESA’s longest standing Business Partners, provides ESAs and the school districts they serve with full compliance of the IRS mandated changes to the administration of tax sheltered individual annuity 403(b) and deferred compensation 457 plans that take effect January 1, 2009. Great American Plan Administrators will provide no cost administration of those programs, including third party plan administration provided regardless of the program vendor that will meet the IRS mandated changes.

Great American Plan Administrators is a wholly owned subsidiary of Great American Financial Resources (GAFRI) whose parent company is American Financial Group (AFG). Great American Financial Resources subsidiaries also include a fixed and variable annuity company as well as several other companies.

Great American Plan Administrators, as required by law, maintains a separate program staffing, financial, and records keeping from Great American Financial Resources and its other subsidiaries. Its reporting structure to GAFRI is through the legal department to ensure full compliance with these guidelines. In addition, it ensures data separation from GAFRI and its other subsidiaries by maintaining its program on separate servers and a separate network.

For additional information, visit www.gapladata.com, email AESAGAPlan@gafri.com, or call Lana Woodring at 800 695-1471.

AESA Business Member Announcements

7. InnerLink earns Anti-Terrorism Technology status from Homeland Security

InnerLink, an AESA Business Member that provides school safety and security solutions with partnerships through ESAs, has been designated as a Qualified Anti-Terrorism Technology under the Support Anti-terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies Act of 2002 (SAFETY Act) for TeamPrepared, its safety solution for schools.

TeamPrepared is the bridge between schools and those who serve them in a crisis. This secure, role-based safety portal integrates all-hazards information, helps eliminate barriers between schools and first responders, and helps ensure compliance with local, state, federal, and organizational emergency preparedness mandates. Adoption of the TeamPrepared planning and solution provides compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) standard adopted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and federally mandated for public facilities, including schools. TeamPrepared received District Administration magazine’s 2007-2008 Reader’s Choice Award.

TeamPrepared features comprehensive site assessments, maps, floor plans, planning tools to help schools coordinate emergency preparation with first responders, and best-practice templates for planning both natural and manmade incident responses.

The SAFETY Act was created to ensure that manufacturers are not deterred by the potential liability from developing new products and technologies that could save lives. Managed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the SAFETY Act includes two levels of distinction, Designation and Certification, for innovative technologies that assist the United States in anti-

terrorism initiatives. The SAFETY Act affords liability protection to designated companies' clients.

To learn more about TeamPrepared, visit www.TheInnerLink.com .

New Business Members:

8. Grand Canyon University

Grand Canyon University (GCU) 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 bachelor's and master's degree programs through the Ken Blanchard College of Business, College of Education, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and College of Liberal Arts.

The school is ranked as one of the top online education programs by OEDb (Online Education Database) and as one of the top five online colleges for entrepreneurs by Fortune. For more information go to:

<http://oedb.org/rankings>

http://money.cnn.com/galleries/2007/fsb/0708/gallery.bestcolleges_elearning.fsb/2.html .

With a total enrollment of approximately 15,000 students, GCU emphasizes individual attention for both traditional undergraduate students as well as the working professional. For more information about Grand Canyon University, go to: www.gcu.edu .

9. Zonar Systems

Zonar Systems provides electronic inspection, tracking, and management for school bus fleets and other vehicles. By replacing manual processes with simple to use electronic methods, Zonar makes it easy to inspect and repair fleet defects, track vehicle and workforce activities, and manage fleet operations in real-time. Zonar's Electronic Fleet Management is a ground-breaking electronic inspection, tracking, and management solution for fleet operations. The integrated system includes Electronic Vehicle Inspection Report, High Definition GPS, Ground Traffic Control, and a patented ZPass System with a web-based, passive RFID card-based system for student tracking. It delivers unprecedented performance and accuracy without impeding the normal loading and unloading process.

For more information go to:

www.zonarsystems.com .

US Department of Education Announcements: New What Works Clearinghouse guides

10. Dropout Prevention practice guide

The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) has released a practice guide on Dropout Prevention. This guide provides six specific recommendations for reducing dropout rates in high schools and middle schools. Designed for school- and district-level administrators, the guide offers processes for diagnosing dropout problems, intervention practices, and schoolwide reforms that can be of use to educators, school boards, and policymakers in implementing dropout prevention strategies.

11. Tools of the Mind focuses on early childhood curriculum

Tools of the Mind, an early childhood curriculum that involves developing self-regulation, working memory, and cognitive flexibility based on the ideas of Russian psychologist Lev Vygotsky, has been released by the What Works Clearinghouse.

The *Tools of the Mind* curriculum focuses on 40 activities designed to develop children's executive function, including child-directed, teacher-supported, and cooperative peer activities.

12. Reducing Behavior Problems for elementary schools

The What Works Clearinghouse has released a new guide that provides five concrete recommendations for promoting positive student behavior in elementary schools. The *Reducing Behavior Problems in the Elementary School Classroom* is designed for elementary school educators and school- and district-level administrators.

The guide offers prevention, implementation, and schoolwide strategies that can be used to reduce problematic behavior that interferes with the ability of students to attend to and engage fully in instructional activities.

All of these, and other reports, are available at the What Works Clearinghouse website at:

http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/practiceguides/#dp_pg and

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/reports/> .