



# Online News

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AESA Online News

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### AESA News

1. **September 14-16 Washington D.C. Educators' Call of Action: Federal Advocacy Conference – Focus on ARRA, NCLB Reauthorization**

Implications of the ARRA Stimulus funds for education, and the latest on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, also known as No Child Left Behind, will be among the top issues discussed and analyzed at the Educators' Call to Action: Federal Advocacy Conference this September 14-6 in the Washington, D.C. metro area.

The conference presents an opportunity for you to explore the hot issues being discussed on Capitol Hill and speak directly with your Senators and Representatives about the issues that are important to your local districts and educational service agency. The conference is strategically timed so that you will be on the Hill just before final decisions about education funding are made. This year is especially critical as it will be the time that reauthorization bills are being debated. Please make appointments with your Congressional delegation prior to coming to Washington D.C. for Tuesday afternoon.

All activities, other than appointments with Senators and Representatives, will take place at the Arlington Residence Court (ARC), 1200 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, VA. The closest metro stop is two blocks away at the Court House Metro Station on the Orange Line. If you are flying into Washington Reagan National Airport (DCA) you can take the Metro, Super Shuttle, or a cab

to the hotel. It is a 15-minute cab ride to the Arlington Residence Court. The ARC provides shuttle service to/from the Metro Orange Line for those interested in this service. Call (703) 524-4000.

Please make your hotel reservations before August 31, 2009, by calling (703) 524-4000. Let them know you are attending the AESA Educators' Call to Action conference to receive the special conference room rates of \$209 for a studio suite or \$229 for a one bedroom suite per night (rate includes breakfast 7-days a week and dinner Monday-Friday at the hotel, pr). Log on to [www.aesa.us](http://www.aesa.us) for more information.

## **2. 2009 Annual Conference features five stands of workshops**

AESA's December 2-5 2009 Annual Conference at Austin, Texas, will feature a leadership summit preconference organized by the National Association of Media and Technology Centers and concurrent sessions by ESAs in five strands:

- ESA Board Members
- ESAs Responding to the Current Economic Crisis
- Delivering and Measuring Success
- Collaboration/Community Partnerships
- Technology

Registration for the Annual Conference is now open at the AESA website: [www.aesa.us](http://www.aesa.us) .

Ron Clark, the 2000 Disney American Teacher of the Year, and Ed Barlow, president of Creating the Future, will keynote the 2009 Annual Conference at Austin, Texas, Dec. 2-5. Clark, whose work with disadvantaged students in rural North Carolina and in inner city Harlem gained international attention, was the subject of the made-for-TV movie, "The Ron Clark Story" with Matthew Perry playing the lead role. He has been named by Oprah Winfrey as her first "Phenomenal Man." When Disney discontinued sponsorship of the Teacher of the Year program, AESA Business Partner Great American Financial Resources became the program sponsor. Great American Financial Resources is sponsoring Clark's appearance at the Annual Conference.

Another conference speaker will be Ed Barlow. He captivates his audiences with his intuitive and well-studied perspectives as a motivational futurist. His insights into the process of change and expert facilitation skills have also been used to design and facilitate think tank and strategic planning activities in a variety of settings.

## **3. Nominations deadline for AESA's four national awards: August 8, 2009**

Nominations for the Association of Educational Service Agencies' four national awards are underway, with all necessary forms available at the AESA website: [www.aesa.us](http://www.aesa.us). All nominations must be postmarked by August 8, 2009.

The four AESA awards recognize individuals for outstanding contributions to educational service agency programs at the regional, state, and/or national levels. (Individuals currently serving on the AESA council are not eligible for nomination.) The four awards are:

### **• Justice A. Prentice Award**

To an individual for contributions through executive leadership in the advancement of educational service agency programs at the regional, state, and national levels. Nominees have included past or present educational service agency executives and staff. Criteria for this award:

1. Advancement of the goals and philosophies of educational service agencies.
2. Outstanding accomplishments and innovative practices.
3. Exercise of leadership.
4. Service to educational service agencies.

- **Walter G. Turner Award**

To an individual citizen who has made outstanding contributions in the advancement of educational service agency programs at the regional, state, and/or national levels. Nominees could include board members, state/national legislators, and local/state/national educators, and professional association staff. Criteria for this award:

1. Advancement of the goals and philosophies of educational service agencies.
2. Outstanding accomplishments and innovative practices.
3. Exercise of leadership.
4. Service to educational service agency community.

- **E. Robert Stephens Award**

To an individual for research, writing, and/or publishing of information that advances the understanding of educational service agency programs at the regional, state, and/or national levels. The work(s) may include, but is(are) not limited to articles, monographs, dissertations, a book chapter, or a book. Nominees could include any individual whose work(s) meet(s) the intent of this award. Criteria for this award:

1. Advancement of the goals and philosophies of educational service agencies.
2. Scholarly nature of the work(s).
3. Impact of the research, writing(s) and/or publication(s) on educational service agencies.

- **Brian L. Talbott Award**

To an individual or agency for contribution in the area of technological innovation and support to local districts and educational service agencies. Criteria for this award:

1. Advancement of the goals and philosophies of educational service agencies.
2. Evidence that agency/person has provided innovative technology support to constituent schools in the areas of instruction and/or business management that has caused positive improvement; and/or
3. Evidence that the agency/person has effectively used technology for enhancing the agency's own operation and accountability.

#### **4. ARRA presentation available online**

Mary Kusler, AESA's federal legislative representative, led a highly interactive session with attendees of the AESA Summer CEO Conference at Napa. Mary's PowerPoint presentation, "ARRA and Stimulus Money: The New U.S. Department of Education and What to Expect" is available for viewing on the AESA website at: [www.aesa.us](http://www.aesa.us).

#### **5. AESA mourns the loss of Dr. Tom Barlow, PREL president and CEO**

Dr. Thomas (Tom) W. Barlow, president and CEO of Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), the ESA serving Hawai'i and the Pacific, died on Monday, June 22, 2009 after a lengthy illness. A lifelong educator, received two doctorate degrees from the University of Nebraska: Philosophy, and Education Administration: Curriculum and Instruction. In 1970, Tom began his career in education as a language arts classroom teacher and then department chair in the Randolph Public Schools in Nebraska. Also, during this time, he served as a researcher and curriculum developer for the National Center for Humanities where he designed, developed and oversaw the implementation of effective English curricula. In 1986, Tom became the State Director of the Comprehensive Drug Prevention Systems in the Nebraska State Department of Education at Lincoln. In 1993, Tom moved to Aurora, Colorado to serve as Senior Director of Curriculum & Instruction Field Services at the Mid-Continent Regional Educational Laboratory (McREL). In 1996, Tom moved to Honolulu, Hawai'i, to join the staff of PREL, becoming its Chief Operating Officer in 2000, and its President and CEO in 2003. In remembrance of Tom and his love for PREL, the Pacific and for all children, all contributions in his name and honor can be sent to the PREL Pacific Teacher Scholarship Fund, 900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1300, Honolulu HI

96813-3718 the fund Tom founded and passionately treasured.

### ESA News

#### **6. Annee Hartzell of ESD 105 at Yakima, WA named national Distinguished Educator of Blind Children**

Annee Hartzell, a vision specialist for Educational Service District 105 at Yakima, Washington, has received the Distinguished Educator of Blind Children Award from the National Federation of the Blind at its 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at Detroit on July 5.

Hartzell, who has been blind all her life, joined ESD 105 this year, and provides vision services through to 12 students and their parents and educators in the Sunnyside, Mabton, and Granger school districts. She began her career in southwest Washington schools as a vision/orientation and mobility specialist for the Pasco-based ESD 123 from 2001 to 2004. She then went to California's Santa Ana Unified School District, where she was named the district's Teacher of the Year this past year.

Hartzell has been active with the National Federation of the Blind as a presenter at numerous conferences. Those appearances have generated requests for her services throughout the United States, and the award recognizes the extensive work she has provided to parents of blind students throughout the country in developing Individualized Education Plans for their children, helping evaluate those children, and enhancing practices at school districts.

While in California, Hartzell helped write that state's math education standards for blind students, creating the only statewide policy of its kind in the United States. She also taught daylong Braille writing classes for parents in California so they could assist in their child's learning.

### Business Members News

#### **7. New Business Member: College Board**

The College Board, known for its Advanced Placement Program® (AP®), PSAT/NMSQT®, and the SAT®, has joined the AESA as a Business Member. Peter Negroni, College Board Senior Vice President for Relationship Development, met with the AESA Council during its summer meeting at Napa, CA, and said the College Board, "Wants to explore ways it can work more closely with ESAs in a variety of ways," including extending the AP® Program to rural areas, and exploring opportunities for international programs. For more information about the College Board, visit its website at: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) .

#### **8. TERC's Using Data demonstrates success through student achievement results**

All children can learn when schools make immediate changes based on their data. AESA Business Member TERC's project evaluators found the potential to dramatically improve the learning of traditionally underserved students has been demonstrated time and again. Schools implementing TERC's Using Data Process narrowed the achievement gaps between students with exceptional needs and general education students in all content areas and grade levels; tripled the percentage of African Americans proficient in middle school mathematics; demonstrated significant and steady gains in mathematics in elementary, middle, and high schools; and cut the failure rate of Native American children in half. TERC's theme is, "Let's work together to eliminate the achievement gap." For more information contact Jake Schlumpf at 617 547-0430, ext 648, email [jake\\_schlumpf@terc.edu](mailto:jake_schlumpf@terc.edu) or visit the Using Data website at: [www.usingdata.terc.edu](http://www.usingdata.terc.edu) .

### U.S. Department of Education

#### **9. What Works Clearinghouse releases Out-of-School Time practice guide**

The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) has released a new practice guide, Structuring According to the WWC, Out-of-school time programs can enhance academic achievement by

helping students learn outside the classroom.

The five recommendations in this guide are intended to help district and school administrators, out-of-school program providers, and educators design out-of-school time programs that will increase learning for students.

The guide also describes the research supporting each recommendation, how to carry out each recommendation, and how to address roadblocks that might arise in implementing them. You can access the guide at:

[http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/practiceguides/#ost\\_pg](http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/practiceguides/#ost_pg) .