



# Online News

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AESA Online News

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### AESA News

1. AESA announces All American Line Up with Business Partner Great American Financial Resources, Aflac, and miSolutions.

The All American Line Up of insurance, discount services, and resources for educators from AESA's longest standing business partner, Great American Financial Resources, Aflac, and miSolutions is now available for ESAs and all the school districts, private schools, charter schools and others they serve. AESA has been working for nearly 18 months on developing this menu of services to meet the needs of its member agencies.

The Discount Benefit Program through miSolutions is a specially designed package of discount benefits that can save money on day-to-day expenses associated with medical and lifestyle issues. Also included in the All American Line Up are the Great American Plan Administration, Great American Financial Resources, Aflac's Section 125 cafeteria plans, and the "Teacher's deserve the best" program sponsored by Great American Financial Resources that provides free lesson plans from USA Today.

Each of these programs stands alone, allowing agencies, school districts, private schools, or charter schools to make independent decisions regarding the services that best fit the needs of their employees. Each agency that signs up for the program will have its own web site. Local school districts, private schools, charter schools or city and county governments affiliated with ESAs may also have their own web sites. The web site is set up is provided by staff at Great American. The only staff time required for the program of the ESA or any other agency is the normal HR function of enrolling staff if the group program is selected. No staff time is required for individual enrollments done by the employee online using their credit card for payment.

The AESA has negotiated a royalty agreement for the miSolutions program and will present that opportunity to ESAs during program presentations. Due to some state restrictions, not all discount services are available in some states. The Discount Benefit program includes:

- **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. The national chains offering discounts are: Pearle Vision, Sears Optical, JCPenney Optical, Target Optical, LensCrafters, Sterling Optical, TLC Laser Vision Centers. For contact lenses, mail order discounts for disposable lenses are available from: Acuvue, Durasoft, Encore, Freshlook, Biomedic, Soflens 66, Optima FW, and Focus; mail order discounts for gas permeable lenses are available from Boston, Fluoroperm, SGP, and Transaire.
- **New Benefits Retail and Mail Order Pharmacy** that will save you an average of 30% on prescription drugs. Individual quotes on prescriptions are available from [www.rxpricequotes.com](http://www.rxpricequotes.com). There are over 100 national chains participating in the pharmacy discounts, including, Costco, CVS, K-Mart, Rite Aid, Safeway, and Target. Mail Order prescriptions are available through HealthTrans, which averages 10% below AARP mail order pricing, with no postage or dispensing fees added.
- **Aetna Dental Access**® gives you access to 76,000 dentists with 15%-50%\* discounts on routine specialty care. **Aetna Dental Access**® provides discounts from participating dentists. If a member's dentist does not participate, there is a simple form that the dentist may submit to become part of the program if the dentist chooses to participate. Members save 15%-50% on everything from general dentistry and cleaning to root canals, crowns, and orthodontia. Locating a participating dentist is easy. Dental benefits are not available to Vermont residents.
- **TelaDoc**™ National network of state licensed primary care physicians providing cross coverage consultations 24 hours/365 days a year. TelaDoc™ physicians use medical records and telephone consultations to diagnose, recommend treatment and write short term prescriptions, when appropriate. TelaDoc™ does not replace the existing primary care physician relationship, but instead enhances it with an efficient, cost-effective alternative for minor medical problems. TelaDoc™ does not prescribe DEA controlled substances or lifestyle drugs.. TelaDoc™ provides services for members 10 years of age or older. TelaDoc™ does not replace your primary care physician. Teledoc is not available to Oklahoma residents.
- **VIP Health and Wellness** for savings on vitamins and diabetic supplies. It provides mail-order diabetic supplies and one-stop shopping online or toll-free telephone for thousands of top brand vitamins, supplements, herbs, organics, and natural health care products at up to 80% off retail everyday. Choose from over 400 brands and 12,000 items in stock and enjoy savings of 10% on already low prices. Through the VIP Health & Wellness program, members save dramatically over the retail price of their diabetic supplies. Product packages include a premier Glucose Meter, control solution, test strips, lancets and lancing device. Supplies are shipped regularly at no additional cost. Free shipping is available when the package option is selected. Product packages discounts are up to 60% off the average competitor's retail pricing. Single order discounts are up to 15%.
- **Roadside Assistance** for roadside assistance 24/7, 365 days a year to assist members when owned or leased vehicles are disabled as a result of unavoidable circumstances.

Members will only have to pay for any non-covered expenses or covered costs in excess of the 15 miles per occurrence maximum (up to \$80 retail value). Coverage is extended to the member, spouse, and dependent children up to 21 years of age permanently residing at registered address when driving any vehicles that they own or lease for 12 months or longer.

- **Travel Assistance** provides access to a global network of practicing physicians, travel assistance personnel and emergency evacuation benefits when traveling 100 miles from home and suffering a serious injury or illness. Knowing help is merely a phone call away provides members with peace of mind. Some of these services include: emergency medical evacuation, transportation to join a hospitalized family member, return of dependent children, pre-travel information, monitoring of treatment worldwide, medical and dental referrals, facilitation of hospital payment, transfer of insurance information to medical providers, replacement of lost or stolen travel documents, legal referrals, medication, vaccine and blood transfers, transfer of funds, translation services, real-time security intelligence, and repatriation of mortal remains. Travel assistance is not available to residents of Connecticut, Florida, Oregon, and Washington.

For more information on the AESA All American Line Up including program costs options and royalty opportunities contact AESA Associate Director Dick Moody at [dmoody@aesasa.us](mailto:dmoody@aesasa.us) or Great American Financial Resources National Manager of Affiliate Programs Pete Titone at [ptitone@gafri.com](mailto:ptitone@gafri.com).

## **2. AESA Foundation Summer CEO Conference registration now available online**

The 2009 AESA Foundation CEO Conference will be June 20-23 at Napa, California. Registration for the event to be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel at Napa is now open on the AESA website at: [www.aesasa.us](http://www.aesasa.us).

## **3. Registration opens for AESA's 2009 Annual Conference at Austin, TX**

The theme for the 2009 AESA Annual Conference at Austin, TX is: ESAs: Creating Tomorrow's Possibilities Today. Registration for the December 2-5 conference at the Austin Convention Center is now available online at [www.aesasa.us](http://www.aesasa.us). Hotel reservation options are available online.

## **4. AESA Congressional Service Award nominations deadline June 1**

Deadline for the AESA Congressional Service Award, which recognizes members of Congress for meritorious support of federal education legislation and Educational Service Agencies, is June 1. The nomination form including eligibility requirements is available at the AESA website: [www.aesasa.us](http://www.aesasa.us). All nominations must be postmarked by June 1, 2009.

## **5. Executives in Residence applications due June 15**

The deadline for the highly successful Executive in Residence Program by the Membership Services Committee of AESA is June 15. Applications for the program are available at the AESA website: [www.aesasa.us](http://www.aesasa.us).

The Executives in Residence is a year-long program for professional development for ESA Leaders. It includes a strong mentor component by CEOs of the AESA Council and host organizations, a variety of leadership experiences, and works in a cohort model providing national networking and communications.

Participants selected for the Executives in Residence program are involved in a one or two week residency at an ESA selected nationally to work directly with the CEO and relevant leadership on local issues, attend the AESA CEO Conference, "Call to Action" Legislative Conference, AESA Annual Conference, and AESA Council meetings as well as participate in email, telephone, and video conferences with their cohort.

Current participants are: Loy Dale, Educational Service District 112, Washington; Tom Goodney, Franklin County Educational Service Center, Ohio; Troy Lange, Mountain BOCES, Colorado; Deb Myers, Hamilton County Educational Service Center, Ohio. Previous participants were:

- Year 4: Maria Cashman, Grant Wood AEA, Iowa; Beverly Knox-Pipes, Genesee ISD, Michigan; Karen Schwartzrock, ESD 112, Washington; Wanda Sommers Wall, South Central Service Cooperative, MN.
- Year 3: Dennis Mathews, ESD 112, WA; Tim Merlino, ESD 112, WA; Julie Staley, SE Regional Resource Center, Juneau, AK.
- Year 2: David Kwiatkowski, CESA 8, WI; Andy Pachacek, Region 4 ESC, TX; Mike Smoczyk, Northeast Metro 916 Intermediate School District, MN.
- Year 1: Cliff Carmody, Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative, MN; Jada Rupley, ESD 112, WA.

#### **6. AESA Council creates Brian L. Talbott Award for Educational Technology Innovation**

AESA President Joe Crozier on Monday announced that at the spring AESA Executive Council meeting in Omaha, NE, the AESA Council took formal action to establish the Brian L. Talbott Award. Crozier said, "The award is established in honor of current AESA Executive Director Brian Talbott in recognition of his exceptional service to ESAs nationwide and more specifically as a visionary in the area of educational technology and innovation."

Crozier said the purpose of the award is to recognize the extraordinary AESA individuals and/or teams of individuals who have shown exceptional innovation in the area of technology either in providing greater service to local districts within an ESAs service area and/or innovation and service to the ESA itself.

Criteria for the award include:

- Advancement of the goals and philosophies of educational service agencies
- Evidence to show 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 to be made
- And/or, evidence to show that the agency/person has effectively used technology for enhancing the agency's own operation and accountability

The Brian L. Talbott award will join AESA's already established awards: the Justus A. Prentice Award, E. Robert Stevens Award, and the Walter G. Turner Award. The application window for these four honorary awards will be available on or before the first of June and a notice will be emailed to each AESA member as well as posted to the AESA website at:

<http://www.aesa.us/awards.html>

On behalf of the entire AESA Council, Crozier said, "Our congratulations go out to Executive Director Brian Talbott for his exceptional service and dedication to AESA!"

#### **Business Partner News**

#### **7. 1 million web hits for Great American Financial Resources' sponsored USA Today "Independent Living 101" lessons**

The USA Today Literacy Lessons sponsored by AESA Business Partner Great American Financial Resources has received 1,071,750 unique visitors through mid-April. The free web-based lessons provide teachers with lesson plans and curricula ideas for teaching financial literacy. The top three lesson plans downloaded from the site are:

- "Bright Ideas for Bringing Up Smart Savers," 296,850 downloads.
- "Weigh before you pay: Debit or credit," 206,250 downloads
- "Congress Oks bill aimed at toppling college obstacles," 154,000 downloads.

To access the lesson plans and review other education in the Great American sponsored "Independent Living 101" section of the USA Today Education materials, go to:  
<http://usatodayeducate.com/wordpress/index.php/independent-living-101>

### Business Member News

#### 8. June 3 Webinar: "Aligning Integrated Solutions to ARRA Funding"

AESA Business Member EDmin, is conducting a webinar on June 3 that addresses the important topic of aligning a proven solution to achieve academic success for students with ARRA funding. AESA Member Agency S-RESA at Hattiesburg and Hinds County from Mississippi, AESA Institutional Member National Association of Media & Technology Centers (NAMTC), the Clark County School District of Nevada, and EDmin invite you to a free webinar to learn how EDmin's integrated learning and accountability solution, the **INFORM Learning Center**, complies with ARRA funding.

As a result of this webinar you will learn:

How S-RESA, Hinds County and Clark County advance effective reforms through ARRA's required four assurances:

- How to **improve teacher effectiveness** and the equitable distribution of qualified teachers for all students, particularly students in need.
- How you can make progress toward rigorous college and career requirements through **high quality assessments** that are valid and reliable for all students, including English language learners and students with disabilities.
- How the INFORM Learning System can provide intensive support and **effective interventions** for the lowest-performing schools.
- How an integrated solution effectively tracks Pre-K-12 student achievement data to **foster continuous improvement**.

S-RESA provides an easy to manage and powerful set of web-based solutions to help improve student achievement to numerous districts who were devastated by Katrina and. Hinds County in Mississippi is one of the districts served by S-RESA. Clark County School District, one of the top 10 school districts in the U.S. and one of the top 10 places in the country with the highest home foreclosure rate, still manages to improve academic performance year after year and has made AYP for two consecutive years.

The Webinar is scheduled for 2 pm EDT on Wednesday, June 3. To register go to:  
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/218647048> Please also R.S.V.P. to Mary Scales (mscales@edmin.com) by Friday, May 29 to win an IPOD. You must be present to win!

### New Business Members

#### 9. New Business Member One Call Now announces June 2 and 4 Webinars: *When Disaster Strikes, Emerge Unscathed: How an Effective Communication Plan Minimizes Chaos and Maximizes Recovery.*

One Call Now, a new AESA Business Member, will conduct two Webinars for AESA's and NAMTC members on Tuesday, June 2 at 11 am EDT, and Thursday, June 4 at 2 pm EDT. The free Webinar, "When Disaster Strikes, Emerge Unscathed: How an Effective Communication Plan Minimizes Chaos and Maximizes Recovery," addresses the questions: Are you proactive in times of trouble? How did your organization respond to the swine flu, peanut butter recall, school violence and severe weather or other disasters? Join us and hear from your colleagues on how they successfully handled these issues.

The Webinar is intended for AESA superintendents/chief executive officers, IT directors, business managers, and communications directors. Best practices will be shared on:

Proactive Measures: ways for administrators to know how to use the nationwide network of 8,000 weather stations installed on the rooftops of schools armed with a new lightning detection system to call your cell and office phone *before* bad weather hits.

Alternative Communications: communications directed to parents and how to manage and control the exploding forms of social uncontrolled media like twitter, which can be corrupted with false messages, re-tweets of rumors and scattered, partial facts.

Post Communications: how to turn broadcast into conversations using a “hot transfer” feature in voice broadcasting services.

Presenters include: Geoff Craven, Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit, PA, and president, NAMTC (June 2<sup>nd</sup>); Tom Dunn, Superintendent, Troy City Schools; Rick Hanes, Superintendent, Piqua City Schools; James Anderson, Vice President, Weatherbug; Leib Lurie, CEO, and Angela Kirchner, President, One Call Now.

Register today for the Webinar and be in a drawing to win an Apple I-Touch or a Blackberry Storm. To register call: 877-698-3262 ext: 3 or go on line: [www.onecallnow.com/NAMTC](http://www.onecallnow.com/NAMTC). Registration deadline date is May 29. (Please note that you have to be present on the Webinar to win!)

#### **10. School Fusion provides web hosting and web services**

SchoolFusion is a leading provider of web hosting and web services for K-12 education. Its web hosting solution is easy to use and packed with powerful functions proven to connect administrators, teachers, student and parents. SchoolFusion works with schools and districts to provide an effective communication tool that aids in building school communities while enhancing your building's teaching and learning tools. Currently there are 3,000-plus schools in 43 states using SchoolFusion. For more information, go to:

[www.schoolfusion.com](http://www.schoolfusion.com)

#### **11. School Specialty provides supplemental learning products**

School Specialty is a leading education company that provides innovative and proprietary products, programs and services including supplemental learning products to help educators engage and inspire students of all ages and abilities to learn. The company designs, develops, and provides preK-12 educators with the latest and very best curriculum, supplemental learning resources, and school supplies. Working in collaboration with educators, School Specialty reaches beyond the scope of textbooks to help teachers, guidance counselors and school administrators ensure that every student reaches his or her full potential. For more information about School Specialty, go to:

[www.schoolspecialty.com](http://www.schoolspecialty.com) .