



# Online News

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AESA Online News

July 14, 2010

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In this edition:

### AESA News

1. In Memoriam: AESA founder Walter Turner, 1926 - 2010
2. AESA/AASA file broadband brief supporting E-Rate changes
3. Annual Conference at Savannah, Georgia: Online registration open
4. Educators' Call to Action Conference: Online registration open
5. AESA requests for information: ESA Research, Grants, and Development Services

### ESA News

6. Genesee Intermediate School District of Michigan wins prestigious US Distance Learning Association awards

### Business Partners News

7. Great American Teacher of the Year nominations now open

### Business Members News

8. Ascend Math intervention strategies webinar August 18
9. Exinda hosts August 24 webinar on the future of e-learning

### New Business Members

10. AESA welcomes new business members: AVermedia, McGraw-Hill Center for Digital Innovation, Teacher Studio, and Tutt & Dags

### U.S. Department of Education

11. What Works Clearinghouse Reports and Reviews
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### AESA News

#### 1. In Memoriam: AESA founder Walter Turner, 1926 - 2010

AESA lost one of its founders, Dr. Walt G. Turner, on July 4, 2010 at Corvallis, Oregon. Dr. Turner had heart surgery on June 29, 2010. According to his wife Nancy, "Walt fought a brave battle in his post surgical recovery but there were too many complications and he didn't have the reserve strength and endurance to overcome them all."

Dr. Turner spent 41 years providing innovative and inspirational leadership in public education at the local, regional, state and national levels and he leaves an extraordinary legacy.

Dr. Turner, one of the original founders of the American Association of Educational Service Agencies (AAESA), now the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs), served as our first Executive Director, a position he held for 14 years. Walt also served as Associate Director of the American Association of School Administrators and was a teacher, coach and superintendent in four Oregon school districts.

Dr. Turner was the consummate professional and friend. Walt's leadership, dreams, aspirations and commitment made AESA what it is today.

AESA recognized Dr. Turner's contributions in 1993 by establishing the Walter G. Turner Award. This award is given annually to an individual citizen who has made outstanding contributions in the advancement of regional education programs at the regional, state and/or national levels. Dr. Walt Turner's legacy now lives on through each of us. Our prayers and thoughts are with Nancy and the Turner family.

He attended Hillsboro High School in Oregon where he played football, basketball, baseball, and was a member of the Class of 1945. His parents accepted Walt's diploma for him as he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in late 1944 and served as a pharmacist's mate.

After his discharge, Dr. Turner attended Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, where he also participated in athletics and received a degree in physical education in 1950. He began his coaching/teaching career in Boardman, Oregon, and later served as principal at Philomath High School. While an administrator in the Pilot Rock School District, he earned a Master's Degree at Eastern Oregon College. He then served as Superintendent of Schools for the Blachly School District in Triangle Lake, Oregon

Dr. Turner received his Ed. D. from the University of Northern Colorado in 1967 and served as Director of Research and Development in the Colorado State Department of Education. He was then named Executive Director of the Northern Colorado Board of Cooperative Services in Longmont, Colorado.

Dr. Turner moved to Niceville, Florida to spend his retirement years and became a member of the Northwest Florida State College Institute for Senior Professionals. It was in this capacity that he initiated, implemented and, for a number of years, coordinated the PRIME Time program for retired learners.

Those wanting to remember Dr. Turner may make a donation to the PRIME Time program he cherished through the Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC) Foundation, Continuing Education Account, 100 College Blvd., Niceville, FL 32578 ([www.nwfsc.edu](http://www.nwfsc.edu)); or the Kiwanda Community Center, P.O. Box 1111, Pacific City, OR 97135 ([www.pacificcity.org/KCC](http://www.pacificcity.org/KCC)).

## **2. AESA/AASA file broadband brief supporting E-Rate changes**

The Association of Educational Service Agencies and the American Association of School Administrators have jointly submitted an Ex Parte Filing with the Federal Communications Commission regarding Broadband Needs in Education. AESA Executive Director Brian Talbott commended Noelle Ellerson for her work in coordinating and drafting the Ex Parte filing.

The filing requests the FCC increase the E-Rate program cap. The \$2.25 billion cap has not been raised since 1997, nor has it been adjusted in response to inflation. According to the filing, "For the current funding year close to \$2 billion (\$1.819 billion) of the \$2.25 billion restricted fund is currently used up by priority one services. If it wasn't for the roll over funds, it is unlikely that priority two funding would go below the 90 percent discount."

The AESA and AASA joint filing also support: streamlining the application process, streamlining the competitive bidding process, streamlining the discount matrix calculation, aligning the definition of rural to the US Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics definition, providing greater flexibility to select broadband services, and expanding the reach of broadband to the classroom. To read the complete AESA/AASA Ex Parte Filing, please download the document from the AESA website at: [www.aesa.us](http://www.aesa.us) .

### **3. Annual Conference at Savannah, Georgia: Online registration open**

“Meeting Challenges ... Celebrating Success” is the theme for the December 1-4 AESA Annual Conference at Savannah, Georgia. This year’s conference features four breakout strands:

- ESA Board Members setting direction through policy, leadership, and innovation
- ESAs assisting schools in meeting the four U.S. Department of Education principles:
  - Achieving equity in teacher distribution/certification
  - Improving the collection and use of data
  - Improving the quality of standards and assessment
  - Improving struggling schools
- Technology leading us into the future through student, financial, online learning, data warehousing, student learning systems, personal learning networks, and global networking.
- Innovative ESA programs that meet challenges and demonstrate success

Registration for the conference and hotel rooms is now open on the AESA website at [www.aesa.us](http://www.aesa.us).

### **4. Educators’ Call to Action Conference: Online registration open**

Join with your colleagues from across the nation to discuss the major federal policy issues facing Educational Service Agencies, including reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (No Child Left Behind), at the 2010 Educators’ Call to Action Conference, September 20-22 at Arlington, Virginia. Registration for the conference and hotel rooms may be completed online at the AESA website: [www.aesa.us](http://www.aesa.us).

### **5. AESA requests for information: ESA Research, Grants, and Development Services**

AESA has received several requests from member Educational Service Agencies for information about research, grants, and development services offered by ESAs. In order to facilitate the development of services and extend collaboration between ESAs, we are asking ESA superintendents/ceos to provide AESA with information about programs their agencies are providing. AESA will aggregate that information and report it back nationally so agencies may learn from each other, and that professional staffs may collaborate in a professional learning community of peers.

We are asking ESA superintendents/ceos to send an email to AESA at [info@aesaus](mailto:info@aesaus) with the following information about research, grants, or development services, including:

- Name of staff person, telephone number, and email address
- Job Title
- Program area (Research, Grants, Development)
- Agency Name

AESA is also interested in information about the program office services. If your agency has a program description from a catalogue of services, or a web URL connecting to those services, please provide it in the email to [info@aesaus](mailto:info@aesaus).

### **Educational Service Agency News**

#### **6. Genesee Intermediate School District of Michigan wins prestigious US Distance Learning Association awards**

Educational Service Agency Genesee Intermediate School District of Flint, Michigan was awarded the United States Distance Learning Association’s 2010 21st Century Best Design for Distance Learning K-12 Award at the USDLA’s annual conference in St. Louis. Beverly Knox-Pipes, assistant superintendent at Genesee Intermediate School District as also named recipient of USDLA’s 2010 Outstanding Leadership Award for Distance Learning.

USDLA is a 501(c) 3 non-profit association, founded in 1987, as the nation's leading distance learning organization. The USDLA Awards were created to acknowledge major accomplishments in distance learning and to highlight those distance learning instructors, programs, and professionals who have achieved and demonstrated extraordinary results through the use of online, videoconferencing, satellite and blended learning delivery technologies. For more information about USDLA and the awards, go to: <http://www.usdla.org> .

### **Business Partners News**

#### **7. Great American Teacher of the Year nominations now open**

Do you know a teacher who is changing students' lives through outstanding work in the classroom?

The Ron Clark Academy, in partnership with AESA Business Partner Great American Financial Resources, Inc., is searching for phenomenal teachers from across the country to participate in the second annual Great American Teacher Awards. Ron Clark and Kim Bearden, who are national award-winning educators themselves, are currently accepting applications for this prestigious award to recognize those who are doing exceptional work to inspire their students.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for us to recognize those teachers who are doing amazing work inside their classrooms," said Ron Clark, founder of the The Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta. "We all remember that teacher who was filled with energy and excitement, that teacher who was eager to help us learn. We are absolutely thrilled to launch this national award. It's our way of saying thank you to those who have committed their lives to children and education."

In order to apply, the nominee must be a passionate, dedicated teacher who is currently employed by a public or private school, at any grade level or subject from pre-kindergarten through grade 12, and who is planning to continue in an active teaching status. A minimum of three years of current teaching experience is required.

The deadline to submit applications is September 1, 2010. Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee, and semifinalists will receive a scheduled classroom visit by Ron Clark or a member of the Ron Clark Academy staff. From these semifinalists, five teachers will be selected as national finalists, and they will be honored at a special gala on Friday, November 19th, 2010, which will serve as the kick-off event for the November National Educators' Conference. Each finalist will receive prizes and national recognition. The five finalists will also be interviewed by Ron Clark and the Ron Clark Academy staff and a panel of judges from across the country.

The five national finalists will receive the following:

- An all-expense paid trip to Atlanta for the finalist and a guest to attend the Ron Clark Academy's National Educators' Conference in November of 2010;
- Special recognition at the national conference;
- Classroom resources and supplies;
- Media opportunities; and
- A \$1,000 honorarium.

After the five finalists have been selected, one teacher will be named the Great American Teacher of the Year. In addition to the prizes listed above, this exceptional teacher will receive a \$10,000 cash award and a \$5,000 cash gift to his/her school.

To nominate a teacher, to submit an application or to learn how to become a sponsor of the 2010 Great American Teacher Awards, visit [www.greatamericanteacherawards.com](http://www.greatamericanteacherawards.com) .

### Business Members News

#### 8. Ascend Math intervention strategies webinar August 18

AESA Business Member Ascend Math invites AESA members to join the Calcasieu Parish School District of Louisiana webinar about how it increased Tier I, II, and III students' mathematics test scores on Wednesday August 18th. Principal Dr. Betty Washington will present the webinar. Attendees will be entered for a chance to win a complimentary 6 month 50 user subscription to Ascend Math or an Amazon gift card.

The time of the webinar is 8 am PDT, 9 am MDT, 10 am CDT, 11 am EDT.

The webinar will explore proven implementation strategies and documented success of Calcasieu Parish School District's usage of online resources for their Tier I, II, and III students. They will share how this initiative addressed their student's individual needs, while achieving important performance gains! Participation in this program has decreased their course failure rate in Algebra I and other math courses significantly. Webinar participants will be able to question Dr. Washington as she shares stories from different educator's perspectives.

For more information please call Jack Allen at (877) 843-0277.

#### 9. Exinda hosts August 24 webinar on the future of e-learning

AESA Business Member Exinda is hosting an August 24 webinar: "The future of education is e-learning, is your network ready?" The webinar times at 9 am PDT, 10 am MDT, 11 am CDT, and Noon EDT.

The webinar focuses on how school networks support a growing number of on-line applications. Schools are implementing distance learning applications, online student assessment tools, on-line testing, student information systems, and video in the classroom. It asks the question: But how can you be sure your network performance won't be compromised, especially when the number of applications competing for bandwidth keeps on growing?

You need a way to gain visibility into your network & control bandwidth. To learn how you can save bandwidth and ensure that your network runs smoothly moving into the future, register for this complimentary webinar at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/679294849>.

### New Business Members

#### 10. AESA welcomes new business members: AVermedia, McGraw-Hill Center for Digital Innovation, Teacher Studio, and Tutt & Daggs

Four new companies have joined the suite of business services providing resources for ESAs across the nation. Each of the companies has been interviewed by AESA and has determine each company fits its business model to the role of ESAs providing resources and services to ESAs and the school districts they serve. The companies are AVermedia, McGraw-Hill Center for Digital Innovation, Mother Goose Programs, Public Sector Benefits, Teacher Studio, and Tutt & Daggs.

- **AVermedia** provides presentation, video conference, and surveillance products. AVerMedia is the technology leader in Digital Multimedia Video Convergence Technology. AVerMedia provides Hardware and Software Surveillance Systems, Document Cameras, Digital Video Makers, and PC-to-TV Converters for consumer and corporate/educational markets. As a leader in innovative manufacturing and environmentally friendly products, AVerMedia is also highly involved with community and social responsibilities. Tech & Learning named the new AVerVision CP355 Interactive Portable Document Camera as one of the best new classroom technology products of 2009. In addition to the Tech & Learning Award of Excellence, AVerMedia has been given the Educational Computing Organization of Ontario's Innovator of the Year award

- for outstanding products, resources and contributions to help student achievement. For more information go to: <http://www.averusa.com/>
- **McGraw-Hill Center for Digital Innovations** is a first-of-a-kind research and development center with a mission to create leading-edge, paradigm-changing resources to meet the challenges of education in the 21st century. Its work capitalizes on the net-generation's deep engagement with the digital world outside of the classroom to improve their learning in school. It leverages technology for an educational approach that goes beyond the traditional 'one-size-fits-all', so that teachers can deliver instruction of unprecedented individualization, fitted to each student's abilities. McGraw-Hill Center for Digital Innovations designs educational solutions that accelerate mastery of the 21st century skills that students—our nation's future workforce—need for success in tomorrow's world. The McGraw-Hill Center for Digital Innovations products include Planet Turtle for Grades K-3, CINCH Mathematics for Grades K-6, and CINCH Project for Grades 6-12. For more information go to: <http://www.mhcdi.com/>
  - **TeacherStudio™** is a vital, worldwide professional learning community allowing teachers to see, hear, and collaborate with exemplary educators in action. Through a unique combination of networking technology, rich-media, and proprietary tools, TeacherStudio™ allows educators from member districts to come together anytime, anywhere to share ideas, receive mentoring, and learn best practices. For more information go to: <http://www.teacherstudio.com/about-teacherstudio> .
  - **Tutt & Daggs** is a professional development and motivational speaking group that has been speaking to and inspiring groups for the past 10 years in the area of employee commitment and corporate culture. Tutt and Daggs are well-regarded by leaders across the nation, whose presentations lead participants through an entertaining time, designed to challenge their current level of commitment and inspire them to maximize their potential impact on the lives of the people they serve. Tutt and Daggs specialize in training that is engaging, powerful and results focused. Check out the programs tab at the top of the page to see if Tutt & Daggs are right for your team or conference. For more information go to: <http://www.tuttdaggs.com/> .

## U.S. Department of Education

### 11. What Works Clearinghouse Reports and Reviews

- National Education Study – Part I: Performance of American Indian and Alaska Native Students at Grades 4 and 8 on NAEP 2009 Reading and Mathematics Assessments. Available from: <http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2010462>
- Numbers and Types of Public Elementary and Secondary Schools From the Common Core of Data: School Year 2008-09 - First Look. Available from: <http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2010345>
- Principal Attrition and Mobility: Results from the 2008-09 Principal Follow-up Survey. Available from: <http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2010337>
- Suggestions for Improving the IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey Data Collection and Reporting. Available from: <http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2010832>
- WWC Quick Review of the Report "Charter School Performance in New York City" Available from: <http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=WWCQRCS0710>
- WWC Quick Review of the Report "When Schools Close: Effects on Displaced Students in Chicago Public Schools" Available from: <http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=WWCQREDS0610>

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- WWC Report on Project Read Phonology. Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=WWCIRSLDPR10>
  - WWC Report on Alphabetic Phonics. Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=WWCIRSLDAP10>
  - WWC Report on Barton Reading & Spelling System. Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=WWCIRSLDBR10>
  - WWC Report on Dyslexia Training Program. Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=WWCIRSLDDT10>
  - WWC Report on Foundations. Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=WWCIRSLDF10>
  - WWC Report on Herman Method. Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=WWCIRSLDHM10>
  - WWC Report on Orton-Gillingham-based Strategies. Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=WWCIRSLDOG10>
  - WWC Report of Read Naturally. Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=WWCIRELLRN10>
  - WWC Report of Wilson Reading System. Available from:  
<http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=WWCIRSLDWR10>