



Association of
Educational Service Agencies

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NEWS

AESA

Annual award winners!

AESA annually recognizes outstanding accomplishments or contributions to education and to AESA. We proudly congratulate the following winners for 2004!

Justus A. Prentice Award

The Justus A. Prentice Award recognizes contributions through executive leadership in the advancement of regional educational service agency programs at the regional, state, and national levels.

Dave Distel

Superintendent, Hamilton County Educational Service Center

Dave Distel is a leader in the Ohio network of educational service agencies. At the state level, he has served as president, regional representative to the legislature, liaison to the Ohio State Department of Education and is a member of the regional education delivery system working group. Under the direction of Mr. Distel, the HCESC has contracted with the Ohio Department of Education to provide for the effective delivery of regional school improvement and special education services to school districts in Southeast Ohio. Under his leadership the Hamilton County ESC has been recognized both in Ohio and nationally for its quality initiatives and superior services including an Achievement of Excellence Award. On the national level, Dave served on the AESA council from 1997 to 2002 and as council president in 1999-2000. He chaired both the 1998 and 1999 AESA annual conferences and currently services on the AESA Foundation Board.



Walter G. Turner Award

The Walter G. Turner Award recognizes contributions in the advancement of regional educational programs at the regional, state, and national levels.

Ted Stilwill

Director of Education for the Iowa Environmental Education Project

Mr. Ted Stilwill recently retired as the director of the Iowa Department of Education, a position he had held since 1995. A few of his numerous accomplishments include collaboration with educators to turn around the decline of Iowa reading achievement scores, implementation of a national "teacher quality" initiative, design and implementation of a class size reduction plan, development of a national AEA "core services" and accreditation program, elected as chair of the North Central Regional Education Laboratory Board of Directors, and election as chair of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Ted has consistently recognized the benefits of ESAs and has used his influence to advocate for ESAs in both Iowa and on the national level. In recognizing Ted's retirement, Iowa's largest newspaper recently wrote: "Ted Stilwill is a first-rate advocate for Iowa schools because he has been clear that good isn't good enough."



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HP donates hardware to AESA

HP, one of AESA's business partners, recently began a second round of hardware donations to AESA.

A little over a year ago, HP donated two servers to AESA. These servers, in conjunction with software donations from Microsoft, have allowed AESA to move to their own network, including the new @aesa.us e-mail addresses, and have facilitated much easier document and schedule coordination. HP also donated several lap top computers, which, with our virtual offices spread throughout the country, have been vital. Combined, these donations have dramatically improved the ability of AESA staff to communicate with you, our members, and each other.

In this second round of donations, HP donated an additional server, and has already replaced the desktop computers and printers in the AESA office in Arlington, Virginia. These donations are already hard at

work. The two desktop computers donated have replaced our aging desktop machines, giving us faster, more powerful, more reliable machines. Similarly, an additional lap top donated has allowed us to replace an older machine in use by our staff, giving us greater compatibility and interoperability throughout our organization. The printers have given AESA the ability to be almost completely self-sufficient in our printing needs, too. A combination fax/printer and scanner help with a myriad of office tasks. The server will be used to host the AESA Web site, as well as some membership databases and enhanced member services. These expanded services would not be possible without the generous donations from HP.

AESA would like to thank our partners at HP for their continued generosity and sponsorship, which are helping to propel AESA's services into the 21st Century.

Council election results announced!

Congratulations to the following candidates who were elected to the AESA executive council, they will take office in May 2005.

Central Region

William H. Mayes

Superintendent, Huron Intermediate School District, Bad Axe, MI.

Eastern Region

Robert G. Witten

Executive Director, Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit, Lewisburg, PA.

Southern Region

Linda G. Lowe

Executive Director, Southeast Education Alliance, Kenansville, NC.

Apply now for the AESA Executives in Residence Program

AESA's Executives in Residence Program was designed to meet the ever-increasing need for educational leaders to be active and influential at local, state, and national levels. The AESA council recognized the lack of preparatory programs in masters, specialists, and doctoral programs related to the special skills, abilities, and leadership qualities that are necessary to administer educational service agencies. In addition, promoting and facilitating collaborative work among and between ESA'S on a regional and national level was seen as a critical need to be addressed by the executive council. Applications for the 2005 program year are now open. Please consider applying to participate or to host an executive in residence. The program brochure and applications for the individual or host agency are on-line.

To meet these vital needs, AESA's council asked the membership services committee to pilot test a yearlong executives in residence program, which was finalized during the AESA annual conference in Phoenix this past December. The AESA executive council, through the membership services committee, endorsed the program in an effort to continue to add value to AESA members. Jada Rupley, assistant superintendent, children, youth and family services at ESD 112 in Vancouver, Washington, and Cliff Carmody, deputy executive director at Southwest/West Central Services Cooperative, Marshall, Minnesota, piloted the program on behalf of the association.

The purpose of the program is threefold: to produce quality ESA leaders prepared to enter formal leadership positions, to cultivate future AESA national leaders through current executive mentoring, and to increase networking and communication across the nation's ESAs.

Highlights of the yearlong program include participation at the summer CEO leadership conference, the September Educators' Call to Action: Legislative Advocacy conference, and the December AESA annual conference. In addition, each participant will be required to participate in a two-week residency at another agency working directly with the CEO on relevant leadership issues. The residency requirement is intended to be experiential

in nature, coordinated by the host agency's CEO, and offer an insight to the "internal workings" of CEO leadership challenges and issues.

The program will begin and end at the summer CEO conference, with participants being introduced to a variety of leadership topics over the course of twelve months. Access to current and past council members, as well as an inside look at ESA leadership are critical components to this experiences. Applications for those who want to participate or host are located on the AESA Web site at www.aesa.us, as well as the program brochure. The deadline for submitting completed applications is April 1, 2005. A limited number of individuals will be selected for the first cohort, so be sure to apply early!

Brian Talbott to chair board of the Universal Service Administrative Company

AESA Executive Director Brian Talbott was elected chair of the board of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). The company is an independent, not-for-profit corporation, designated as the permanent administrator of the Federal universal service support mechanisms by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). USAC's mission is to advance the Federal policy of ensuring that all Americans receive the benefits of affordable access to telecommunications and information services.

USAC operates four programs: high cost, low income, rural health care, and schools and libraries. The high cost and low income programs provide consumers in all parts of the country with affordable telephone service, regardless of where they live or their level of income. The rural health care program ensures that qualified rural health care providers pay no more than their urban counterparts for comparable telecommunications services. The schools and libraries program, also known as "E-rate," makes telecommunications affordable for the nation's schools and libraries. This program provides discounts on the cost of service with the highest discounts going to entities serving the most disadvantaged.

Governmental relations -- we need you! by Lee Warne

AESA has an active governmental relations committee working hard on your behalf to affect Federal legislation. This committee is made up of one representative from each state. These folks get together three times a year in January, September and December.

These are important meetings for each state to have a representative in attendance in order to help all ESA's across the country. The January meeting is the platform-setting meeting held in Washington, D.C. The committee hears updates on current topics from key house and senate staff, as well as the U. S. Department of Education, and then establishes legislative priorities for the coming year. The September meeting is the Educators' Call to Action: Legislative Advocacy conference where additional attendees join committee members to hear about timely topics and then lobby their members on the Hill. This is held traditionally just before the appropriations bills are being considered. The December meeting is held in conjunction with our annual conference, next year in Savannah, Georgia.

For the 109th Congress, the priorities for AESA will include review of the proposed rules and regulations for the recently reauthorized IDEA, scheduled reauthorizations include the Higher Education Act, early childhood programs, the Telecommunications Act, which includes the E-rate, and the Carl Perkins Vocational and Industrial Education Act. Federal funding of education programs also will be reviewed.

We encourage each ESA CEO to talk with his or her state's governmental relations committee member prior to the January event to keep the committee connected to individual state needs. Please mark your calendar now for September 14 -16, 2005, for the Educators' Call To Action: Federal Advocacy conference which will take place in Washington, D.C. More information can be found at www.aesa.us and click on conferences.

Many hands make light work - many voices make legislative needs heard!

Lee Warne, Minnesota, is central region representative on the AESA executive council.

Calendar

AESA Summer CEO Conference - Save the Date!

AESA Foundation Chair Ron Fielder has announced that the 2005 summer CEO conference will start with dinner on Monday, July 25, and conclude at noon on Wednesday, July 27. The Heidel House Resort, Green Lake, Wisconsin, will be the site for this event.

The theme of the 2005 conference will be *Leading with Data/Measuring for Success*. During the sessions, ESA executives will share how they are using data and measurement systems to drive decision making and organizational development in their respective ESAs.

Further information about registration and hotel arrangements will be forthcoming.

Educators' Call to Action: Federal Advocacy

September 14-16, 2005
Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill,
Washington D.C.

AESA Annual Conference

November 30 - December 3, 2005
Savannah, Georgia.

Make your hotel reservations NOW for the AESA 2005 annual conference!

The 2005 AESA annual conference team is pleased to announce that Savannah is rolling out the red carpet for the AESA conference, which will be held at the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center, November 30-December 3, 2005. Conference rates are available at the following hotels: The **Westin Harbor Resort and Spa**,

the **Marriott Savannah Riverfront**, and the **Hyatt Regency Savannah Riverfront**. Please reserve only the rooms your agency will need. AESA will bill any agency/individual who has reserved a room in the block and cancels after September 1, 2005. All rooms must be reserved in the name of the person who will be staying in the room, and no more

than one room may be held under one person's name. Reserving a room, and when necessary canceling it, is the responsibility of the individual making the arrangements. Groups of ten or more attendees will be required to sign an affiliate agreement with the hotel. For hotel and conference information, go to www.aesa.us.