

AESA congratulates annual award winners

AESA annually recognizes outstanding accomplishments or contributions to education and to AESA. We proudly congratulate the following winners for 2005, who were recognized at the AESA annual conference in Savannah, Georgia.

Walter G. Turner Award

The Walter G. Turner Award recognizes contributions to education and to AESA. Congratulations to the 2005 winners who were selected for outstanding contributions in the advancement of regional educational service agency programs at the regional, state, and/or national levels.

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon

U.S. Congressman, California 25th District

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon has served the California 25th Congressional District for the last 12 years. During this time one of his main goals has been to enhance the role of education as "the great equalizer." Congressman McKeon is a senior member of the committee on education and workforce, which focuses on significant educational reform initiatives; and he is the chair of the subcommittee on 21st Century competitiveness, which has jurisdiction over higher education, technology in education, teacher training, job training, and welfare reform.

Congressman McKeon worked to reform educational programs, including Head Start and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and to increase flexibility under the No Child Left Behind Act, all of which affected key programs operated by ESAs throughout the country. His vision to bridge the gap between low-income and wealthy students made Congressman McKeon instrumental in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (which established the lowest interest rates for the Federal Aid Program in 38 years) and in increased funding of the Pell Grant program.



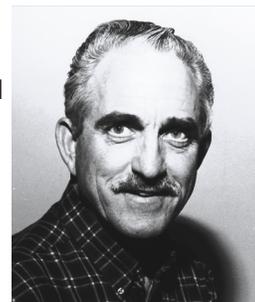
Lee Baggett, Board Member

Umatilla-Morrow Education Service Unit

Lee Baggett has contributed to the advancement of regional service agencies throughout his 25 years of board service for the Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District. During that time, Lee has served as board president for several terms, fostered the ESD's role as an information technology leader, and has been the model of boardmanship and a champion for students.

In addition to his local board service, Lee has played a statewide leadership role. He has served three times as president of the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts and another two terms on the executive board. An active member of AESA, Lee often provides positive and constructive input by serving on several national committees.

Lee Baggett has often been a leader of change at both the local and state levels. He works tirelessly to improve regional services to children. He is humble and somewhat reserved by nature, and yet clearly recognizable as a forceful and tenacious leader who makes a difference and is an exceptional board member.



AESA News is published by the Association of Educational Service Agencies, 801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 750, Arlington, VA 22203-1730; phone: (703) 875-0739; FAX: (703) 807-1849; (info@aesa.us). Editor: Kelly LaGrutta kellag@msn.com

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More AESA award winners!

Justus A. Prentice Award

The Justus A. Prentice Award recognizes outstanding accomplishments of contributions to education and to AESA. Congratulations to the 2005 winner who has been selected for outstanding contributions through executive leadership in the advancement of regional educational service agency programs at the regional, state, and/or national levels.

David Calchera

Executive Director of EASTCONN

David Calchera is a respected leader at the regional, state, and national levels of education, tirelessly lending his vision and diligent work to promote the welfare of education, ESAs and AESA. David was the executive director of EASTCONN for over 25 years. Under his leadership, the organization grew from the newest regional educational service center in Connecticut to an agency with over 400 employees and a budget of \$30 million, featuring diverse programs and services.

In Connecticut, David chaired the Alliance of Regional Educational Service Centers, which is an active group of CEOs/superintendents that meets to plan cooperative activities among Connecticut's regional service agencies. He also held several offices for the Connecticut Association of School Superintendents, including president, and helped develop a highly regarded white paper called Connecticut's Public Schools in the 90s.

David Calchera was instrumental in the 'coming of age' of AESA, and he served on the council from 1989 to 1993 (serving as president in 1991-92), and again from 2001 to 2004. He was instrumental in launching the AESA Foundation, of which he is now a member.



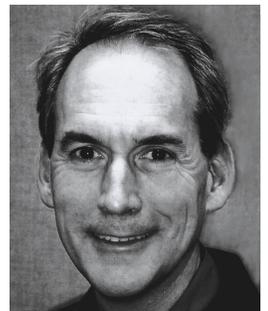
E. Robert Stephens Award

The E. Robert Stephens Award recognizes outstanding accomplishments of contributions to education and to AESA. Congratulations to the 2005 winners who have been selected for outstanding contributions that advance the understanding of regional educational agencies through research, writing, and/or publications at the regional, state, and national levels.

David Arsen, Courtney Bell, and David Plank Michigan State University

David Arsen, Courtney Bell, and David Plank have added significantly to the understanding of regional educational service agencies by conducting research that concludes that ESAs are the most promising policy vehicles for providing substantive support for American schools: an issue that has increased in urgency with the passage of No Child Left Behind legislation.

Researchers analyzed technical expertise and local knowledge, scale, and trust. The results, published in the article, *Who Will Turn Around Failing Schools? A Framework for Institutional Choice*, found that ESAs are likely to be more successful in the task of turning schools around than other policy options. This study compliments the working agreement between AESA and the US Department of Education, and supports the AESA/Catapult grant initiative.



AESA Solutions Marketplace

AESA's Solutions Marketplace offers member agencies a clearinghouse to find economical and effective "solutions" for program needs.

Developed by AESA's Business Relations Committee, this exciting initiative provides a centralized marketing vehicle for products and services that could be beneficial to other ESAs. To list products, member agencies complete an on-line form providing information for the selection criteria. A review board considers proposals quarterly, and approved products and services are posted on the AESA Web site. After two years, proposals must be resubmitted.

Solutions Marketplace is:

- an economical means for customer ESAs to buy at a fair price from another ESA;
- an incentive for ESAs to develop more research-based products; and
- a means to recover costs for this enhanced level of research and evaluation work.

Announced in the November 2004

AESA News, the initiative has been fine-tuned over the past year. Enhancements include a streamlined submittal and approval process and a greater focus on the purpose of the products.

We are pleased to announce the following products or services that are currently available through Solutions Marketplace:

- **escWorks:** Software to track various activities via four modules—professional development, accountability, evaluation and credit card billing.
- **E-Rate Service & Consulting:** E-Rate processing and consultation to help school districts or ESAs with completion of their E-Rate forms for submission to the Schools and Libraries Commission.
- **Virtual Learning Academy:** On-line educational delivery system targeted to special needs and at-risk students, those who have dropped out, home-bound and home schooled students, and those in alternative programs in

need of credit.

- **i Classes Org:** Dynamic curriculum aligned with national standards, featuring an assessment data base that provides automatic scoring and management of student performance.
- **eSchool Builder:** On-line course management system developed by K-12 educators, making it possible for anyone to create, edit, and maintain course Web sites without the need for HTML or programming expertise.
- **Administrative Software Applications:** Software applications, supported by experienced developers, offering an extensive array of applications, functions, controls, security modules, etc. for K-12 schools and educational service agencies.

For more details on any of these products, go to the AESA Web site: <http://www.aesa.us/products/products.html>

Announcing: School Redesign Network

Are there schools within your catchment area asking for assistance in redesign efforts? Trainers are available in each region to work with your agency's personnel, who in turn can work with your schools in their redesign efforts.

Responding to the need for new school models to teach all children to high levels, the School Redesign Network (SRN) at Stanford University serves as a valuable resource for school communities working to improve their schools. The network is a learning collaborative that helps school leaders develop broader knowledge about school design, teaching and learning, curriculum and assessment; and a deeper understanding of the features of schools that have been successfully

redesigned to support excellence.

SRN's Study Kit serves as a research-driven resource, organizing the work around a variety of learning products, publications, and activities that assist districts/schools in their high school redesign efforts. SRN's signature portfolio provides context-specific gateways that lead to new understandings and knowledge about what works in specific redesign initiatives. While each of SRN's resources is powerful in its own right, together they provide a spectrum of clear and consistent learning tools. The kit is an extensive library of resources—four books, 275 print resources including examples and research reports, and nine videos and CDS—organized around guiding questions essential to successful school

redesign. This isn't a one size fits all approach: School Redesign offers a tailored process for each effort.

Regional ESA staff specifically trained to train other trainers are available to work with your agency. Please visit <http://www.aesa.us/highschoolredesign.html> to find the trainer(s) nearest you. Please contact them directly to ask about fees and scheduling. Once trained, your agency can offer this facilitation to your schools on a free or fee basis.

AESA offers this project in conjunction with Stanford University. Co-directors of the SRN are Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond and Dr. Ray Pecheone. The project was originally funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

ESD receives prestigious national award

Educational Service District 112 in Vancouver, Washington, is the recipient of a prestigious national award presented by the National Rural Education Association (NREA). The award recognizes outstanding programs, service, and leadership that promote equitable educational opportunities for rural school children and their communities. ESD 112 is the only west coast service agency ever honored with this award.

Nominated by the superintendents of the Columbia River Gorge school districts, ESD 112 accepted the Howard A. Dawson Award at the 97th Annual NREA Convention in Tucson, Arizona, last November. Stevenson-Carson Superintendent Jim Saltness praised the ESD in the nomination application. "Service is not only the organization's middle name, it is the way ESD 112 employees tackle every request, large or small, from member districts," he wrote. He went on to say that all of the districts served by ESD 112 greatly benefit from the agency's "mission of excellence."

"We are thrilled with this national recognition. But more importantly, we are honored that our local superintendents took the time and effort to recognize the work that we do together," said ESD 112 Superintendent Twyla Barnes.

"Service to rural schools is the backbone of our agency. We are extremely proud of the support system we've built in partnership with schools to help them maximize resources and save money," she added.

White Salmon Valley School District Superintendent Dale Palmer said his 1,800-student school district doesn't have enough staff or resources to secure services that aren't needed at any given time, but he is assured that ESD experts are available whenever needed. "With one phone call to ESD 112, I have all the resources I need to handle a crisis; from securing a special education teacher to reconfiguring a bus route, to handling a sensitive media and parent communication issue," he said.

ESD 112 was recognized for building sustainable, cost-saving cooperatives including special education; transportation; and health, risk and insurance. The nomination also included supportive material for the ESD's staff development and teacher training, school improvement assistance, and innovative programs that benefit hundreds of students and teachers in rural school districts throughout southwest Washington.

Savannah conference a huge success!

The 2005 AESA Annual Conference at Savannah, Georgia, was a huge success! Over 1,300 attendees gathered to learn, share and network as they explored the conference theme, "Architecture for Successful Service."

For the first time this year, the AESA Foundation offered a pre-conference that addressed the needs of board members and CEOs. With over 100 participants in this first-time event, a committee is working to provide a similar pre-conference for next year.

Opening day events were kicked off with the first timers' breakfast hosted by the membership services committee. This was followed by a very powerful address by Dr. Robert Ballard, one of the world's foremost oceanographers. His discovery of the Titanic and explorations of the Bismarck, Lusitania and Britannic captivated the audience. His work with students throughout the world in the area of science, math and underwater exploration has opened new opportunities through the Jason and Immersion projects for students across the country.

The AESA Foundation held a very successful silent auction and raised over \$6,000 for its activities. Thanks to everyone who donated or purchased items to support the AESA Foundation. Thursday evening, attendees enjoyed Jukebox Journey, a Broadway-style revue from the 40s through the 70s. The event was set in the historic Savannah Theatre and hosted by Strategic Energy.

On Friday Dr. Doug Reeves, who leads the Center for Performance Assessment, provided a stimulating and practical address on standards, assessment and accountability.

The Skylarks Choral Group from the Savannah Arts

Academy and the Fine Arts Group from Mercer Middle School provided outstanding student entertainment.

Highlights of the conference included numerous insightful breakout sessions that were designed by ESAs. These breakout sessions provided an opportunity for attendees to learn from each other. The conference closed on Saturday with new job-a-like and breakout sessions, and a challenging keynote address by Dr. Cile Chavez, who presented many examples of effective leadership.

Staff from Wood County Educational Service Center in Bowling Green, Ohio, and Ohio Educational Service Center Association went beyond the call of duty in preparing for the conference. Special thanks to Sue Ullman, Warren Fauver, Cecilia and Craig Burford, and conference chairman Doug Garman. Thanks also go to the Texas and Ohio ESCs for all the support they provided.

This conference could not be successful without our sponsors and exhibitors. AESA specifically thanks our major sponsors: AIG Apple, Catapult Learning, Comotiv Systems, eSchoolMall, HP, Immersion Presents, Jason Education Foundation, Laureate Education, Inc., Microsoft, PARS, Strategic Energy, TCG Consulting LP, TCPN, Teachscape, Thinking Maps, TransAct, Valic, Williams Scotsman for their continued support.

Please mark the date and plan to join us for our 2006. The 21st Annual AESA Conference will be held at the Desert Springs Marriot Resort & Spa, November 29-December 2, 2006 in Palm Desert, California. More information will be sent shortly on how you may reserve hotel rooms, submit proposals, exhibit, or showcase your agency.