



CEO conference: the community makes the difference by Douglas Garman

I just returned from the AESA Foundation 2007 Summer CEO Conference outside Rochester, New York, in the beautiful Finger Lakes Region. The area is considered the Napa Valley of the East with its moderate microclimate created by the deep valleys and hills. The AESA Foundation, along with Joe Marinelli, district superintendent of the Wayne-Finger Lakes Board of Cooperative Educational Services, coordinated the conference. The location of this terrific conference was just perfect. The people were warm and inviting, as were the AESA members who attended. And in this magnificent setting, among these competent colleagues, I had a terrific time and learned so very much.

The initial CEO conference sessions were competently led by Susan Leddick, president of Profound Knowledge Resources, Inc., who always does a fantastic job of leading discussions in a very harmonious manner, allowing for an interaction that can continue to grow in the direction needed by attendees. Additionally, I would like to thank the members of AESA who led the small group sessions. You all did a terrific job. And, I was happily surprised by the diligent attendance and support of our vendors; Comotiv, Systems, Computer Automation Systems, Inc., Strategic Energy, Summit Energy, and TCG Consulting. They thought enough of our business to attend all our sessions listening to our struggles and success, gaining insight into our needs and the role they can play in meeting those needs. They were with us from coffee in the morning through the impressive evening activities, which they generously

sponsored. And finally I am always amazed when I see representatives of educational service agencies from so many states from across country attending to be among their peers from other educational agencies. Whether a state had one representative or many, all were gratefully welcomed. Each service agency has a unique existence and each representative can add a valuable perspective as we discuss issues vital to us all. So we came together



to form a vital Professional Learning Community.

The concept of Professional Learning Communi-

ties has been advanced by Richard and Rebecca DuFour as well as many others. In his book *Failure is Not an Option*, Alan Blankstein stated, "For more than a decade, a growing confluence of research and practice has indicated that our best hope for success in schools is through the creation of Professional Learning Communities." In addition, the report from the National Commission on Teaching, 2003, p.17, stated, "Quality teaching requires strong Professional Learning Communities. Collegial interchange, not isolation, must become the norm for teachers. Communities of learning can no longer be considered utopian; they must become the building blocks that establish a new foundation for America's schools."

To this end, across the country, education service agencies like Hamilton County Educational Service Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Riverside County Office of Education

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Executives in Residence program launches year four

AESA is once again proud to announce this year's participants of the Executives in Residence program, a year-long course on professional development for ESA leaders. The purpose of the program is to offer future superintendents of ESAs the opportunity to network, communicate, and spend a week or more interning at prominent agencies around the nation.

This year's cohort members include Maria Cashman, associate administrator, Grant Wood AEA, Iowa; Beverly Knox-Pipes, assistant superintendent, Genesee ISD, Michigan; Karen Schwartzrock, human resources director, ESD 112, Washington; and Wanda Sommers Wall, education and innovations director, South Central Service Coop., Minnesota.

Twyla Barnes, Educational Service District 112, Vancouver, Washington; and Ron Hitchcock, Multnomah Education Service District, Portland, Oregon; will serve as facilitators.

If your agency would like to nominate someone for next year's program or if you wish to host a participant, please attend the Executive in Residence concurrent session at the annual conference in Tampa, Florida. Information will be on the AESA Web site at www.aesa.us. Also posted will be the program summaries from this past year's participants.

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in Riverside, California, have formed their own Professional Learning Communities, focusing on student performance in their area. They are delivering services to their customers that can make a difference in student scores and teacher satisfaction.

As an example of how Professional Learning Communities function, my own area superintendents traveled to Lincolnshire, Illinois, to Adlai Stevenson High School to spend a full day, learning more about what we could do to improve student performance and create a climate of a professional learning community. We were treated to an educational community where learning was taking place in every part of the building. The students were empowered to assist other students to reach high levels of academic performance. The mission of the school validated every student's growth toward personal excellence. The administrators and teachers were constantly collaborating to create a school culture that increases student learning.

Like these fine examples of educators seeking communities to serve their customers and increase positive student performance, AESA is a Professional Learning Community. I am so very proud to be a part of AESA membership and a part of the excellent leadership of our AESA staff and council. At this summer's CEO conference, we worked collaboratively to better serve our customers. When I was leaving the conference, I was thinking that the AESA CEO Summer Leadership Conference cannot get any better. But I said that after each one of the CEO conferences that I attended because of the enriching personal and professional experience that the conference offered. And then I remembered one thing that I have learned about Professional Learning Communities: Professional Learning Communities are enhanced exponentially by the breadth of their membership. So there would be one thing that would make next year's leadership conference better—we need you to join us, get involved and help us make a difference. I'll look forward to seeing everyone at the AESA Foundation 2008 Summer CEO Conference in Vail, Colorado, July 21-24, 2008.

AESA Annual Conference

Leading for Lifelong Learning

Everyday, educational service agencies (ESAs) across the United States are an influential voice, leading the way in providing schools and other clients with cost-effective, innovative and responsive programs and services that help them succeed. Recognizing this important leadership role, the theme of the 22nd annual conference is Leading for Lifelong Learning and is designed to stimulate thought, initiate action and leverage resources. Starting on Wednesday, November 28 and ending on December 1, 2007, at the Tampa Center in Tampa, Florida, this year's conference will build on a foundation of professional growth opportunities and will provide a venue to learn, share and network with other ESA leaders.

This year's event embraces the conference theme with keynote speakers from around the county who, through their knowledge and experience, demonstrate leading for lifelong learning.

- Dr. Raymond Reyes, associate vice president for diversity, at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, will speak on the "New Literacies for a 21st Century Authentic Multicultural Democracy."
- Pedro Noguera, professor in the Steinhardt School of Education at New York University and executive director of the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education, will offer perspectives on racial inequality and diversity in our schools.
- Stan Collender, managing director at Qorvis Communications in Washington, D.C., and a well known authority on the Federal, budget will help conference attendees better understand the intricacies of the Federal budget and the Federal deficit.

The concurrent sessions and product workshops offered at this year's conference are organized around five educational strands—Leading for Learning, Emerging Issues and Trends, Technology Transfer, Tools for Collaboration, and Measuring Success. These sessions are designed to allow ESA's to acquire the knowledge and skills that will directly benefit local school districts and enhance student performance.

Members attending the Tampa conference will not be disappointed and will return home with fresh ideas, new resources and great friendships to Lead for Lifelong Learning.

Come for the Conference...Stay for the Sunshine. It's an experience you will not want to miss! For more information please visit our Web site at www.aesa.us.

ESA documents on line!

Are you looking for the 2007 Governmental Relations Legislative Agenda and brochure for your next meeting with your elected officials? Trying to find out what the reauthorization of the Perkins Act means for your ESA? Want to know how ten years of E-rate has effected your state? Looking for samples of job descriptions, evaluations, or job openings? How about a list of ESA state statutes?

We have it all at www.aesa.us.

Not only can you find these documents, but AESA also provides a series of legal documents for use among ESAs, LEAs and providers for supplementary educational services. The adaptation of these document templates by legal counsel will save ESAs the expense and time-consuming effort of individual document development.

Be sure your ESA is listed under the ESA state links page. Check also to be sure that AESA Web site is linked from your Web page. We want to know about any ESA-specific research you know about that isn't listed on the research page.

Make this your one-stop-shop for anything related to ESAs and AESA!

Rick Everitt wins Florida top honor



When Bob Graham became governor of Florida, his wife Adele was passionate about the importance of all school districts having an organized school volunteer program.

She recognized the value in all districts—large and small, urban and rural—having staff and financial resources committed to recruiting, training, and recognizing volunteers.

To promote her vision for strong school volunteer programs, Mrs. Graham persuaded the governor and his legislative leaders to provide resources to fund organized school volunteer programs. She continued her advocacy when Governor Graham became a United States senator.

As Adelle Graham demonstrated sustained, passionate support for school volunteer programs; so, too, do the recipients of the Adele Graham Award, which is presented annually to recognize an individual district volunteer coordinator who has given tirelessly to build the statewide school volunteer program infrastructure that Florida enjoys today.

AESA member Rick Everitt of the Panhandle Area Education Consortium in Chipley, Florida, received the Adele Graham Award in 2007 for his long resume of leadership in education. He joined the Florida school volunteer effort in 1983 as coordinator for Washington County District School Volunteer and Senior Mentors for Creative Students. Today, he boasts the longest tenure on the Florida Commissioner of Education's Community Involvement Council.

Rick has long advocated for legislative funding for Florida's district school volunteer program. As early as 1990, when the concept of supporting school volunteer programs was first becoming popular with the state legislature, he was working as a volunteer advocate for the statewide school volunteer program. Congratulations Rick!

AESA announces council election results

Congratulations to the following candidates who were elected to the AESA executive council and took office in April 2007:



Central Region
Mick Loughran, Administrator
Educational Service Unit #9
Hastings, Nebraska



Southern Region
John Hough, Executive Director
RESA VIII
Martinsburg, West Virginia



Western Region
David Long, Superintendent
Riverside County Office of Education
Riverside, California

Congratulations, too, to the the following council members who are filling unexpired terms.



Central Region
Ed VanderTook, Exec. Director
Foundation BOCES
Leadville, Colorado
Filled the unexpired term of
Dale McCall.

In September, Vicki Markavitch, superintendent at Oakland ISD in Waterford Michigan will replace Richard Lane representing the Central Region of AESA.



Southern Region
Lindy Franks, Director
Southwest Arkansas RSC
Hope, Arkansas
Filled the unexpired term of Rick
Saunders.



Western Region
Dee Alarcon, Superintendent
Solano County Office of Education
Fairfield, California
Filled the unexpired term of David Long
who was chosen by Gov. Schwarzenegger
to be California Secretary of Education.

Timelines, reminders and announcements

August 20, 2007 award nominations due

AESA bestows three national awards to outstanding candidates for their contributions to ESAs at the regional, state, and/or national level.

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

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

The E. Robert Stephens Award acknowledges contributions that advance understanding of regional educational agencies through research, writing, and/or publications at the regional, state and national levels.

More information can be found at www.aesa.us/awards.html or to view past years' awardees.

August 24, 2007 hotel reservation cutoff Educators' Call to Action Legislative Conference

Register now for this important annual event when the final appropriation/budget bills are being debated and voted upon in Washington DC. Come and be part of the solution! The Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill is the setting for this event. Schedule your Hill appointments before arriving in DC. For more information go to www.aesa.us/conferences_ECA07.html.

September 14, 2007 Executive Council nominations due

Submit nominations now for the AESA executive council elections. AESA President Doug Garman sent a memo to all ESA CEOs on July 16, 2007. For a copy of the memo, instructions, pledge letter, and the online form to submit a nomination, go to www.aesa.us

November 1, 2007, Registration rate increases AESA Annual Conference

Save money by registering online before November 1, 2007, for the 22nd AESA Annual Conference in Tampa, Florida from November 28 to December 1, 2007. See article on page 3 for further details or online at www.aesa.us/conferences_AC07.html.