



Perspectives

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania School Study Council

<http://www.ed.psu.edu/educ/pssc>

April/May 2008

Membership

Information is available
online at:

[www.ed.psu.edu/
educ/pssc](http://www.ed.psu.edu/educ/pssc)

Closing Thoughts from the Associate Director

I find it amazing that the 2007-2008 school year is beginning to wind down. Spring is finally beginning to show its face, school plays and concerts are upon us, PSSAs have been administered, and graduation ceremonies are being planned. While make-up snow days are taking some districts well into mid-June for the last day of school, the countdown has definitely begun.

The university semester comes to an end even earlier than the K-12 calendar, yet it somehow lacks the craziness and excitement.

Of course, having two fourth graders, I am reminded frequently of the anticipation toward the end of school. And, being part of the PSSC allows me, and the rest of the staff, to be in closer touch with the K-12 schools. It is one of my favorite parts of this job.

All of you do such amazing work that I truly

hope you realize how important and beneficial it is. The PSSC exists because of the demands on your job. It is our main purpose to support you through our connection with Penn State.

This year we offered a number of events and professional development opportunities. Our year began with the Academics & Athletics workshop and the Values & Leadership Conference. We sponsored a school study visit with administrators from the Simcoe School District in Canada.

Like years past, we offered a series of colloquia with topics ranging from technology to rural school initiatives. Our continued work with PDE has helped us understand the PIL standards and how we can develop professional development opportunities that align with these standards.

Finally, we began to develop protocol for linking school districts with



Jillian Reese, Associate
Director of the PSSC.

university researchers so that true partnerships can exist where research informs practice and practice informs research.

We already have many plans for the 2008-2009 school year, with many changes anticipated for the PSSC. We look forward to continuing our relationship with you and building a more meaningful partnership in the years to come.

Enjoy the last weeks of school!

Sincerely,
Jillian Reese

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Penn State's Educational Leadership Program Offers Two Exciting Programs for Practitioners

As spring semester at Penn State winds down, two academic programs are just gearing up. The College of Education and the Educational Leadership program are excited to announce their newly redesigned Principal Certification Program as well as another year of the "Wednesday Program."

The Principal Certification program which begins on May 19, 2008, is designed to allow students to fulfill all of the requirements necessary to attain the Pennsylvania Principal Certification. The students of this program will participate as a cohort to both support each other as students and as practitioners. The program is set up to fulfill the standards of both the Penn-

sylvania Inspired Leadership standards (PIL) and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The certification program is a five semester, nine class program that puts students in the classroom with both Penn State faculty and school administrators. Finally, the program puts students into a 90-hour internship experience that will provide for the most practical experience necessary for a budding administrator.

Individuals interested in the principal certification program should go to www.ed.psu.edu/educ/eps/edldr for application materials and information. Interested candidates must also apply through the graduate school at gradsch.psu.edu. In doing so, explain interest in the

cohort program in the "Statement of Purpose" that you provide. The Wednesday Program is a reoccurring program for practitioners interested in earning their D.Ed in Educational Leadership. This special program allows practitioners to take part in a full day of classes each week, that will consist of nine credits earned throughout each semester of the program.

For the upcoming year the following classes will be offered for the Wednesday cohort:

Fall Courses

- Ethics in Educational Leadership (EDLDR 575);
- Use of Theory in Educational Leadership (EDLDR 580); and
- Diversity and Leadership (EDLDR 597).

Spring Courses

- Educational Leadership Policy Seminar (EDLDR 597);
- Field Research in Educational Leadership (EDLDR 581); and
- Evaluation in Educational Organizations (EDLDR 584).

Finally, not only does the Wednesday program put practitioners in touch with students like themselves, it also fulfills the one-year residency requirement necessary for completion of a D.Ed program.

Applications for the Wednesday program can be found at www.ed.psu.edu/edldr. For additional information on the two programs discussed here, please see the attached brochures in this month's PSSC mailing or contact Becky Contestable at rqc2@psu.edu or by phone at 814-865-1487.

PSSC Executive Committee 2007-2008

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Gerald LeTendre, Head	Dept. of Education Policy Studies
J. Daniel Marshall, Professor-in-Charge	Education Leadership Program

PSSC Staff

Dr. Paul Begley, Executive Director	Email: ptb3@psu.edu
Dr. Jillian Reese, Associate Director	Email: jvr123@psu.edu
Angela Tzilkowski, Research Technician	Email: acr131@psu.edu
Carly Ackley, Project Director	Email: cra151@psu.edu

PSSC Annual Call for Nominations for Outstanding Service to Public Education Awards

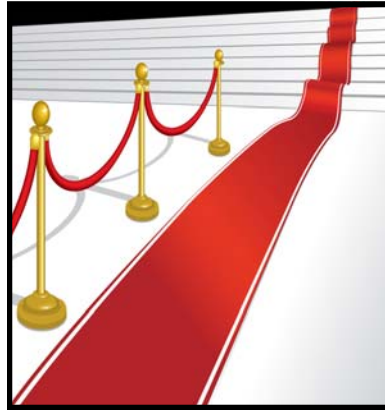
The Pennsylvania School Study Council annually recognizes deserving individuals who have contributed to education in exemplary ways.

We rely on our members and associates to identify these candidates through a simple nomination process. We would like to invite you to take the few minutes to submit a nomination. The process requires minimal work on your part and everyone benefits from a program that promotes excellence in our public schools.

We are requesting nominations for three awards from the membership. The awards are described below:

The Walter J. DeLacy Award for Excellence in Instruction; will go to an individual who demonstrates ongoing accomplishments both in and out of the classroom with service to a variety of students, and has contributed to improving instruction beyond the individual classroom. The nominee's years of service and level of education contribute to the final decision.

The William E. Caldwell Award for Excellence in Administration and Supervision is based on a diversity of accomplishments as



well as the obvious contribution to the broad field of administration and supervision. Years of administrative service and level of education are also considered.

Finally, the William S. Vincent Award for Support of Public Schools is given to an individual, or group of individuals, who demonstrate ongoing support that reaches a broad range of students and schools.

Award winners receive a wall plaque and two complimentary tickets to the Educational Leadership Alumni Tailgate held in association with a 2008 Penn State football game (to be announced).

At the tailgate, the honorees are acknowledged for the achievements that have led to earning their prestigious awards.

Award winners and their nominees also have the opportunity to purchase two tickets to the Penn State

football game immediately following the tailgate.

Finally, the winners' names will be added to the perpetual plaque mounted in the Rackley Building on the University Park campus. There is also provision for recognizing runner-up nominees who receive a certificate of commendation to be presented in their school district or another location designated by the district.

For those interested in nominating an individual, *Please submit a nomination form prior to the May 2, 2008 submission deadline.* If you need a nomination form, please contact Angela Tzilkowski at acr131@psu.edu or visit the PSSC website at <http://www.ed.psu.edu/educ/pssc>.

The selection committee, consisting of members of the PSSC Awards Committee, will review nominations and select the award winners soon after the May 2nd deadline.

Return completed nomination forms to:

*PSSC
200 Rackley Building
University Park, PA 16802*

Penn State Hosts Law and Education Institute for Administrators

Daniel R. Schochor
Pennsylvania State University

The Pennsylvania State University Law and Education Institute will be held on June 23rd through the 27th at the historic Nittany Lion Inn on Penn State's University Park campus. The Institute is sponsored by Penn State's College of Education and the Dickinson School of Law. Prominent professors and attorneys will conduct workshops on educational law to administrators and teachers. Topics include religion, student rights, charter schools, technology, special education, accountability, and employee rights. Dr. Gerald Zahorchak, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Education, will give the keynote address.

By educating participants about the legal issues that may arise in the classroom or school, the Institute will empower them to create educational environments that optimize learning. Recent studies have found that:

- Eighty-two percent of teachers claim that schools are motivated by a desire to avoid legal liability.
- Sixty-one percent of teachers claim their co-workers avoid making decisions they think are correct in order to avoid legal liability.
- Sixty-three percent of teachers believe that the potential for legal liability impairs their ability to do their job.
- Eighty-five percent of teachers and principals



believe reducing the likelihood of legal liability for day-to-day decisions would help improve education quality.

The Institute will address the concerns of teachers and administrators by reducing their fear of legal liability. Consequently, participants in the Institute will be able to focus on developing educational approaches that will maximize student results.

Professional educators are encouraged to confirm that this program fits their school district's professional development plan for Act 48. The Institute also meets the requirements of Act 45 of 2007 for Continuing Professional Education for School and System Leaders. Application has also been made for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits for this event.

Schedule of events:

Monday, June 23
noon-TBA Golf at Penn State's Blue Course (lunch included)
Anyone interested in signing up for the golf outing should contact Dan Schochor at drs328@psu.edu or 843-

810-9018.

Conference Schedule

Tuesday, June 24
8:30-9:00 a.m. Breakfast (provided)
9:00 a.m.-noon First Amendment Rights (Dorothy Bollinger)
noon-1:00 p.m. Lunch (provided)
1:00-5:00 Accountability and Discrimination (Preston Green)
6:00-8:00 Dinner & Keynote Address by Secretary of Education Dr. Gerald Zahorchak

Wednesday, June 25
8:30-9:00 a.m. Breakfast (provided)
9:00 a.m.-noon Personnel and Employment (Robert Abraham)
noon-1:00 p.m. Lunch (provided)
1:00-4:00 Religion (Lance Potter)

Thursday, June 26
8:30-9:00 a.m. Breakfast (provided)
9:00 a.m.-noon Student Rights (David Andrews)
noon-1:00 p.m. Lunch (provided)
1:00-4:00 Charter Schools (Kevin McKenna)

Friday, June 27
8:30-9:00 a.m. Breakfast (provided)
9:00 a.m.-noon Special Education (Julie Mead)
noon-1:00 p.m. Lunch (provided)
1:00-4:00 Torts and School Liability (Jacqueline Stefkovich)

To register please go to: <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/education-law/registration.html>.

Dr. Kai Schafft Presents on Rural Issues to Finalize PSSC's 2007-2008 Educational Leadership Speaker Series

In typical PSSC fashion, the spring semester has once again proven to be an important time for both planning activities for the coming year and implementing influential activities for members of our organization.

Our most exciting activity of the spring semester occurred in February with Dr. Kai Schafft speaking as the final presenter in the 2007-2008 Educational Leadership Speaker Series.

Dr. Schafft who is the Director of the Penn State Center on Rural Education and Communities and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Education Policy Studies at Penn State, spoke to an intimate group at

the BLAST IU 17 in Canton, PA.

Dr. Schafft highlighted many of the issues facing rural schools and spoke to the group about specific issues they are facing in their districts. Throughout the 90-minute presentation, Dr. Schafft discussed how he sees rural schools dealing with economic decline, aging populations and outmigration. Furthermore, he provided an atmosphere of understanding when raising questions and conversation about how these challenges are compounded by the lack of state and federal support, pressure to consolidate, and high stakes testing. While Dr. Schafft's presentation was conversational, he also entertained the audience by discussing his



Dr. Kai Schafft spoke on issues facing rural schools in Feb 2008.

research interests and stories from his own practical experiences that highlight the importance of this topic for rural school districts.

While Dr. Kai Schafft's presentation closed out this year's lecture series, the Pennsylvania School Study Council is now developing next year's slate of professional development offerings. For the coming year, we plan to start working more closely with schools to development customized programs that best fit local needs. Please contact Jillian Reese at jvr123@psu.edu if you would like to request a program in your area.

Get Published!

Submit your work to PSSC's peer refereed journal...

THE BEACON

Manuscript Requirements:

Generally, manuscripts should be between 2,500 and 5,000 words in length. Prospective author(s) must include a statement which indicates they agree to the submission of the manuscript, and that the manuscript has not been published, and is not under consideration for publication, in part or in substance, elsewhere.

Manuscripts should be double-spaced and leave wide margins. Manuscripts should not identify the author(s) of the work. A separate page should be included which provides the author(s)' details, including contact information (address and e-mail).

Send to Carly Ackley at cra151@psu.edu

The Center for the Performing Arts Wants to Hear from You

Amy Vashaw
Center for the Performing Arts

In this time of standardized tests, budget crunches, and high fuel costs, where do your students and teachers go for field trips?

Amy Vashaw, audience & program development director at the Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State is asking you to send her an email (adv1@psu.edu) with information on your field trips and how they are funded.

The Center is researching best practices in providing outstanding service to the schools it serves through its "Informances for Schools" program.

The Center drew more than 5,000 children and educators from 52 different schools this season for its Informances for Schools series.

Schools from all over Central Pennsylvania were represented in that number, including schools from Tidioute, McAllisterville, St. Marys, and Tionesta. The Center for the Performing Arts makes it easy for educators to bring students for an "Informance."

Also it should be mentioned that most of our participating



E-mail Amy Vashaw, Audience and Program Development Director, for tips and ideas as to how the Center for the Performing

schools also take advantage of our significant busing subsidy - usually around 70% of the trip's total cost is reimbursed to the schools at the end of each year.

In addition to offering a unique opportunity for educators to satisfy the arts requirements indicated in the Pennsylvania state education standards, these live theatre productions spark the imagination of children who learn through a variety of learning styles. Seeing a work of literature that they've perhaps read, spring to life on the stage can be a powerful teaching tool.

In a post-performance survey, one teacher commented that as a result of bringing her class to see the Hudson Vagabond Puppets production of *Ferdinand the Bull*, presented at Eisenhower Auditorium on October 23, she uses lessons learned as a teaching tool and her students "refer to it often when problems occur" in the classroom.

Another teacher commented on the fact that the artists included conflict resolution and how to deal with bullies into the presentation. An issue facing many school districts.

Another teacher voiced her enthusiasm and appreciation for her experience with Informances by stating, "we came for enrichment and exposure to live theatre at an affordable price - thank you!"

To learn more about involving your students in the Informances for Schools program, look for information in upcoming issues of the PSSC sponsored "Perspectives" newsletter or you can also call Amy Vashaw at (814)-863-8205 or by e-mail at adv1@psu.edu.

The Pennsylvania School Study Council
would like to thank you for your
membership over the past year!



Please Remember to renew your membership during the Annual PSSC Membership Drive in **May, 2008**. As we finalize our 2008-2009 slate of activities, we will keep you informed on upcoming events through this newsletter, our website, and the PSSC member listserve.

Again we appreciate your continuing support and look forward to working with you in the coming year.



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Serving Pennsylvania Educators since 1947

The Pennsylvania School Study Council

Founded in 1947, the Pennsylvania School Study Council (PSSC) is a partnership between Penn State University and member school districts, intermediate units, and area vocational-technical schools. PSSC is dedicated to improving public education in Pennsylvania by providing up-to-date research information, professional development activities and technical assistance that will enable its members to provide top quality educational services to students.

Mission:

We believe that....

- PSSC's primary function is to provide services in response to identified member needs.
- PSSC services should be unique and have a competitive advantage.
- PSSC services should be easily attainable, timely, effective and helpful.
- PSSC must respond to changing circumstances with creativity and innovation.
- PSSC must use an entrepreneurial approach to providing services to its constituency.
- Professional integrity and responsible management of resources is essential.
- Personal contact is an important component of services offered and delivered.
- Integrity and collegiality must characterize relationships between PSSC, member LEA's and the University.

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