



Perspectives

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania School Study Council

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

Spring 2010

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NEW!!! PSSC Blog space: http://www.personal.psu.edu/jph19/blogs/pa_school_study_council/blog/

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Outstanding Service to Public Education

Each year the PA School Study Council confers awards for outstanding service to public education. Nominations for the awards are sought in the spring and the selections are made during the summer months. The awards are announced each fall.



In 1997, the PSSC celebrated 50 years of service to educational leaders in Pennsylvania. During that anniversary year, the Executive Committee announced that a set of annual awards would be named in honor of the significant contributions of three former PSSC executive directors.

These three awards are now officially known as:

The William E. Caldwell Award for Excellence in Administration and Supervision

The Walter J. DeLacey Award for Excellence in Instruction

The William S. Vincent Award for Excellence in Support of the Public Schools.

Individuals nominated for the **William E. Caldwell Award** are considered on a diversity of accomplishments as well as their contributions to administration and supervision. of students. Finally, the **William S. Vincent Award for the Support of Public Schools** is presented to an individual or group of individuals who demonstrate ongoing support that reaches a broad range of students. (Continued on page 3)

Walter J. DeLacey Award for Excellence in Instruction

Annually the PSSC selects a one individual for an excellence in instruction award. This past fall Mary Ellen McMillan, a family and consumer science teacher in the Abington Heights High School, was awarded the Walter J. DeLacey Award for Excellence in Instruction.



The selection committee based their decision on information provided by Principal Pamela Murray and as endorsed by Thomas Quinn, assistant superintendent. Principal Murray credited Mary Ellen with providing the leadership for making technology and differentiated instruction the cornerstones of recently developed curriculum revisions. The result led to increased enrollment in family and consumer science courses. Mary Ellen was credited with increasing the popularity of her preschool program that has created a two year waiting period for admission. It was also noted that a significant amount of interest in the preschool class is the result of the pride Mary Ellen consistently evokes in teaching her high school students how to “teach” preschoolers. The committee also noted that Mary Ellen’s real contribution to teaching was her commitment to making classes meaningful and attractive to the students of Abington Heights High School.

Mary Ellen began teaching in the Abington Heights School District in September, 1994.

She has a bachelor’s degree from Marywood College and master’s degree in instructional technology from Wilkes University.

The award was presented to Mary Ellen McMillan by Jim Hartman PSSC Executive Director during the PA School Board’s Leadership Team Dinner, the kick-off event of PSBA’s Fall Leadership Conference in Hershey. Also, she was recognized as the Walter J. DeLacey award winner during the Educational Leadership Alumni Tailgate at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College. This earned recognition of instructional excellence has been recorded permanently by including her name on a plaque with other recipients and displayed in the Rackley Building at Penn State. Dr. David Monk, Dean of the College of Education and other PSSC and Penn State educational leaders traveled to Hershey to recognize the 2009 recipient of the Walter J.

DeLacey Award. Mary Ellen was accompanied to the award presentation by her husband Robert, daughters Erin and Katie, and her grandson Gregory. Mary Ellen’s acceptance speech in Hershey and during



her brief remarks at the alumni breakfast demonstrated her dedication to teaching and sincere interest in young people certainly validated the committee’s decision and her principal’s imitative in nominating Mary Ellen McMillan for the award.

Editor's Perspective: PSSC in the Blogging Bandwagon

Educators are becoming very aware of the push for technology within the field to accomplish various objectives; but are we really ready to internalize its induction and use into our specific contexts? What are the benefits/challenges? Is there resistance? Why? Is this a disruption to our system? Is disruption "good" or "bad"?

These are some of the questions that may come up when the topic of technology and education is approached. As we move more towards a technologically driven world (both social and professional) it is important to consider these issues and, more significantly, converse about them.

PSSC has taken a little "disruptive" step in using technology to narrow the gap between its members and the academic community. We have now a blog spot for our members to get together to talk about issues that are important to them. Blogging has become

important in both the personal and professional contexts. Blogging provides an accessible virtual space for conversations that become enriched as different voices and perspectives join in to deepen discussions on topics of interest. It takes the social interaction component and merges with scholarly practices of building knowledge and understanding. As our members are spread out throughout the state and may not have access to engage in valuable conversations with colleagues, we provide a space for such endeavors.

Our aim is to also have our members interact with members of the higher education community to contribute to the conversations and share diverse voices and perspectives. As a PSSC member and participant of the blog, you will have access to various resources, links, videos and commentary posted by blog administrators, other PSSC members and others who follow and participate in the

blog discussions.

Blogging is a fairly straightforward and easily accessible forum which offers great opportunity to communicate virtually. As the PSSC blog site grows, so will the community and the resources. We believe this is a great way to reach out and talk about the issues that are important to all of us. You can access our blog at http://www.personal.psu.edu/jph19/blogs/pa_school_study_council/blog/

If you are interested in discussing particular issues and topics or have suggestions for resources, you can email PSSC executive director, Dr. Jim Hartman at jph19@psu.edu, the PSSC editor, Stephanie Cardona at smc1046@psu.edu or June Kim at junekim@psu.edu. We hope to see you around our new virtual space and hope you become part of our interactive discourse community.

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.