



# Perspectives

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania School Study Council

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

Summer 2009

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## 14th Annual Values and Leadership Conference Call for Papers

The 14th Annual Values and Leadership Conference will take place this Fall. This year's theme is: Exploring the Meta-Values of Authentic Leadership: Moral Literacy in Action

The conference will be held from Thursday October 1 – Saturday October 3, 2009 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College, Pennsylvania

The conference features a number of keynote speakers, plenary sessions, individual paper sessions and receptions.

### Some Featured Presenters

Paul Begley, Penn State University  
Michael Bezzina, Australian Catholic University  
Christopher Branson, Australian Catholic University  
Charles Burford, Australian Catholic University  
Pauline Leonard, Louisiana Tech  
Anthony Normore, Cali-



ornia State University – Santo Domingo  
Joan Poliner Shapiro, Temple University  
Robert J. Starratt, Boston College  
Jacqueline Stefkovich, Penn State University  
Nancy Tuana, Penn State University  
Victor Worsfold, University of Texas - Dallas  
Michelle Young, University of Texas University at Austin

### Call for Papers

If you would like to deliver a paper at the conference, we would be pleased to consider your proposal. Send us the title and a 150-word abstract for the proposed paper by June 1, 2009. A committee will review all submissions at that time. This year we are interested in receiving proposals focused on several

sub-themes: 1) *Redesigning educational accountability systems for moral leadership and moral literacy*, 2) *Leadership for learning with moral purpose – the new instructional leadership*, 3) *Defining and serving the best interests of all students*, 4) *Leadership for sustainability in relationships, organizations, communities and the environment*, 5) *Ethics and the social regulation of the school organization*, 6) *Professional Ethics as self-regulation*, 7) *Resources for research, professional development and practice in support of moral literacy*.

Send abstracts to: **Dr. Angela Duncan** ([ald270@psu.edu](mailto:ald270@psu.edu)) 207B Rackley Building, The Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA 16802-3201

**For more information go to:**  
[www.ed.psu.edu/uceacsle/conference09](http://www.ed.psu.edu/uceacsle/conference09)

## Closing Thoughts: Executive Director's Perspective

### Looking Back, Looking Ahead

It was two and half years ago that I accepted my appointment as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania School Study Council. And now I find myself writing a final *Perspectives* column as my three year term of office comes to an end. Looking back over my time as Executive Director I am amazed at the amount of turbulence we have experienced as an organization and also the many policy changes we have witnessed within the Pennsylvania education system. I don't recall quite this amount of turmoil when Sheldon Whitaker was at the

helm in 2003. However, I suspect that my immediate predecessor as Executive Director, Albert Glennon, may have been beginning to feel some of these effects during his tenure. In any case, the dynamics we are currently experiencing are profoundly influencing who we are and what we do as an organization.

The most immediate change the PSSC has confronted in recent years was a change in our organizational focus on professional development. The changes in the Act 48 protocols that resulted from the passing of Act 45 made it very difficult for PSSC to continue many of its traditional offerings. At the



same time, Intermediate Units were increasing their presence and range of services as providers of professional development with financial support provided by PDE. This situation made it hard for professional organizations in PA to compete. In response to this trend the PSSC was refocused as a liaison agent between Penn State University and PSSC member school districts. We have made good progress in this area, especially during the past year. The best evidence of this is our research grant program. During the 2008 – 2009, the PSSC awarded six grants of \$1000 each to scholars conducting research that aligned with the priorities of PSSC member school districts.

There have been some other bright spots in our record of performance. Our Athletics workshops have been extremely popular events, thanks to the work of Jillian Reese and Albert Glennon. Thanks largely to the work of our former Research Technician Angela Tzilkowski and her successor June

### 2008-2009 Executive Committee

#### Officers:

President	Thomas M. Shivetts	BLaST Intermediate Unit 17
Vice President	William B. Bush	Elk Lake School District
Treasurer	Elaine Cutler	Bellefonte Area School District
Past President	Kathryn B. Gruber	Sullivan County School District

#### Secondary Principal Representative

Craig Butler	State College School District
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#### Superintendent Representatives

William A. Clark	Milton Area School District
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#### College of Education Representatives

David H. Monk, Dean	College of Education, Penn State
Kyle Peck, Associate Dean/Outreach	College of Education, Penn State
Jacqueline Stefkovich, Associate Dean/ Graduate Studies	College of Education, Penn State
Gerald LeTendre, Department Head, Education Policy Studies	College of Education, Penn State
William Hartman, Professor-in-Charge	College of Education, Penn State

#### PSSC Staff

Dr. Paul Begley, Executive Director	Email: ptb3@psu.edu
Dr. Jillian Reese, Associate Executive Director	Email: jvr123@psu.edu
June Kim, Research Technician	Email: jsk21@psu.edu
Dipali Puri, Project Director	Email: dxp175@psu.edu

## Executive Director Perspective (Con't)

Kim, our brochures and publications have taken on a new, colorful and very professional look. Another area of significant improvement has been our publications. Membership in the PSSC now includes subscriptions to five publications; *Perspectives*, *The Beacon*, *Catalyst*, *VEEA*, and the *Education Law Report*. During the past two years we have also sponsored several international school visits. During September 2007 we hosted a group of Ontario, Canada school administrators who visited the State College area for several days. During November 2008 a small group of PSSC representatives reciprocated that study trip by visiting an Ontario school district. And, most recently, a party of five PSSC representatives spent two weeks during March of this year in Australia visiting schools and universities in three regions.

Another new initiative that we took on this year was the annual opinion survey of member school districts. We used this survey to identify and highlight for Penn State faculty and students the priorities of our member organizations. We will be repeating this survey process over the summer to identify our priorities for 2009 – 2010. You will be hearing more about this in coming weeks. We will be urging full participation of all members in this year's survey and using the results as criteria for awarding the next series of research grants.

Our plans for the future include a continued emphasis on the research liaison role we have been

promoting so aggressively, but ironically enough, also a return to providing professional development. Most recently, PDE has announced some changes in how Act 45 / 48 credits can be earned and how institutions can qualify as delivery agents. These changes should make it much easier for us to resume our presence in Pennsylvania as a provider of professional development for school administrators. However, this strategic planning will be left to my successor.

Speaking of successors, the PSSC is currently interviewing several candidates who have expressed interest in being appointed as the next Executive Director. I am pleased to report that we have very strong applicants and that we expect to make an appointment by July 1, 2009.

Looking ahead to next year, I can forecast several issues that the new Executive Director will be confronting. Some are continuations of perennial challenges; others are new and related to the continued evolution of the PSSC as a professional organization in a rapidly changing world. Perhaps our most obvious challenge will be the familiar problem of maintaining membership levels. Our harsh economic times, combined with a movement towards web-based information sharing among school districts, are going to increase our need to justify convincingly the benefits associated with PSSC membership. This is a challenge confronted by all professional or-

ganizations. Direct communications with superintendents and school districts continue to be the best way to do this.

The PSSC also needs to explore new ways to provide services to school districts. This implies the need for an Executive Director with good connections to the field and a range of skills and capacities beyond those possible from one person. The days when the PSSC could be led and operated by one person, the executive director, working alone except for the support of a research technician are gone. In my view, an executive director will need to operate from more of a distributed leadership model, with access to many individuals with very specific skills and areas of expertise taking responsibility for projects and services tailored to our membership needs. This implies more of a coordination and facilitation role for the executive director than has been perhaps the case in the past.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of the PSSC, the members of the executive committee, and the general membership for their support these past three years. It has been a pleasure knowing you and working with you.

Paul Begley  
Executive Director

## Recognition for Outstanding Service in Education: Call for Nominations

As many of you are aware, 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. I would urge you to immediately take the few minutes necessary 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: The Walter J. DeLacy Award for Excellence in Instruction; The William E. Caldwell Award for Excellence in Administration and Supervision; and The William S. Vincent Award for Support of Public Schools.

Award winners receive a wall plaque and two complimentary tickets to the Educational Leadership Alumni Tailgate held in association with a 2009 Penn State football game (to be announced). At the tailgate, the honorees are acknowledged for the achievements that have led to earning the 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, their name is 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.

***Please submit nominations prior to the May 29, 2009 submission deadline.***

The selection committee, consisting of members of the PSSC Awards Committee, will review nominations and select the award winners soon after. The nomination process re-

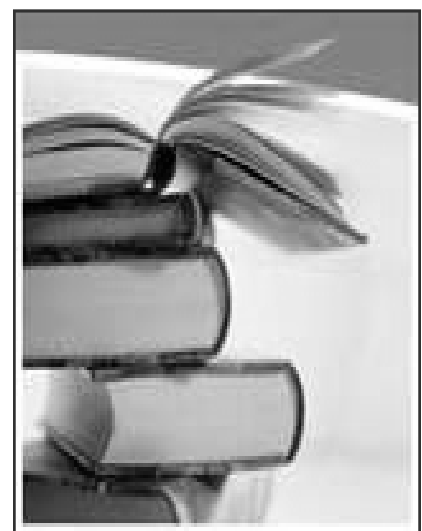
quires the completion of the nomination form included in last month's mailing, the provision of selected references, and any other pertinent data. If you wish to submit a nomination in more than one category, please feel free to photo copy the form.

***Return completed nomination forms to:***

***PSSC  
200 Rackley Building  
University Park, PA 16802***

Paul Begley, Executive Director

Jillian Reese, Associate  
Executive Director



## Penn State Center for the Performing Arts Unveils 2009-10 Informances for Schools Amy Vashaw

The Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State offers four Informances for Schools during the 2009-10 school year, featuring shows for every academic level: elementary, middle and high schools. The goal of these performances is to animate literacy for the students and encourage curiosity for further exploration and critical thinking.

For elementary school-aged students and educators, the Center offers three performances throughout the year:

*Harold and the Purple Crayon*, a production by Philadelphia-based Enchantment Theatre, opens the series with a delightful adaptation of the Crockett Johnson classic on Monday, October 5 at 10AM. This one-hour performance will take the audience on a wild ride as Harold jets to Mars (shooting stars, space ships!), joins a circus (he walks a tightrope!) and meets a king in an enchanted garden (of course, there's a dragon). This production is perfect for students in pre-K-third grade.

Specifically for middle and high school students, the Center for the Performing Arts is thrilled to bring back the Mayhem Poets for a performance on November



16 at 10AM, in Schwab Auditorium. The three men of Mayhem bring performance poetry that deals with issues all students of this age can relate to, including body image, global warming, and gossip. These theatre trained, comedically gifted, lyrical virtuosos seamlessly blend elements of hip hop, theatre, improv and stand up comedy to tell truths that leave audiences forever changed.

Eight of the most popular picture books for children are brought to charming life in TheatreworksUSA's whimsical style in *If You Give a Pig a Pancake and Other Story Books*, coming to Eisenhower Auditorium on January 25 at 10AM. Other books featured in the production are *Diary of a Worm*, *Fluffy the Classroom Guinea Pig*, *Horace & Morris but Mostly Dolores*, *How I Became a Pirate*, *Lilly's Big Day*, and *The Paper Bag Princess*. This performance is geared for audiences in grades pre-K-4.

The informances series concludes with an adaptation of Arnold Lobel's classic story, *A Year With Frog & Toad*. The stage musical remains true to the spirit of the original stories as it follows two great friends, the cheerful and popular Frog and the rather grumpy Toad through four fun-filled seasons. Waking from hibernation in the spring, they plant gardens, swim, rake leaves and go sledding, learning life lessons along the way, including a most important one about friendship and rejoicing in the attributes that make each of us different and special. This production is made especially for students in grades K-5.

Tickets to the informances are \$7 for each student, chaperone and teacher. The Bill and Honey Jaffe Endowment for Audience Development allows the Center to offer generous busing subsidy to make the growing fuel costs less of an issue for your schools.

Reservations and more information can be obtained from Shannon Arney, at 814-863-2688 or [sld17@psu.edu](mailto:sld17@psu.edu).

The Center looks forward to hosting your students and educators this season. Please join us!

## Coming this Summer: Law and Education Institute

This summer The Pennsylvania State University will be hosting The Penn State Law and Education Institute. The Institute is co-sponsored by Penn State's Dickinson School of Law and The College of Education.

The Law and Education Institute will be held the week of June 21st 2009 at the Lewis Katz Building, University Park, Pennsylvania.

This summer the goal of the institute is to educate administrators, teachers, and attorneys about the legal issues that may arise in the classroom and at the district level. Prominent lawyers and professors will conduct workshops on a wide variety of legal topics, including religion, student rights, charter schools, technology, special education, and employee rights.

The Law and Education Institute will offer two options for attendees pursuant to Act 45 of 2007 for continuing professional education for school and system leaders.

The first option is a three credit course, EDLDR 597B: The Law and Education Institute, and will meet from June 21st to June 27th. Each attendee must also complete three job-embedded assignments that will be due later in the summer. Upon successful completion of the class, attendees will receive 90 hours pursuant to Act 45. Attendees must attend all sessions and complete all assignments in order to receive credit.

The second Act 45 option is a professional development program that will meet from June 22-26. Each attendee must complete one job-embedded assignment that will be due later in the summer. Upon successful completion of the requirements of the pro-

gram, the attendee will receive 45



hours pursuant to Act 45.

For more information about the Law and Education Institute at Penn State, please visit their website at: [www.dsl.psu.edu/centers/education-law/index.cfm](http://www.dsl.psu.edu/centers/education-law/index.cfm)

Or contact Dan Schocohor at [drs328@psu.edu](mailto:drs328@psu.edu). Penn State University

### **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 Dipali Puri, editor at [dxp175@psu.edu](mailto:dxp175@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 for PSSC. As we finalize our 2009-2010 slate of activities, we will keep you informed on upcoming events through this newsletter, our website, and the PSSC member list-serve.

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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