

# PASCD Newsletter



**“Educators impacting teaching and learning through leadership”**

AUGUST 2015

## President’s Message



Last month, I had the opportunity to attend ASCD’s Leadership Conference—

L2L. Also representing Pennsylvania was Executive Director, Rich Nilsen and President-elect, Jeff Taylor. Here are some highlights and thoughts from the conference:

- ASCD’s new Executive Director, Deb Delisle provided an engaging overview of the future of ASCD. Most recently, Delisle served as the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education. Extremely, child-centered Deb stated, “It takes courage to be a visionary leader who carries kids in

your heart.” It is obvious that ASCD will continue to embrace The Whole Child platform and will continue to be a widely recognized international organization that defines, supports, and engages highly effective learning systems.

- ASCD’s Collective Mission: Prepare the student of today for a world that has yet to be created, for jobs yet to be invented, and for technologies not yet dreamed.
- Also in attendance, the Penn State Harrisburg Student Chapter. The chapter was chosen to participate in the L2L Opening Session, “I am ASCD.”
- Continuing the tradition, Pennsylvania is home to another ASCD Emerging Leader. Felix Yerace is a social studies teacher from

the South Fayette School District in the Pittsburgh area. Felix credits his participation as a member of the inaugural PASCD Emerging Leader class as a springboard to the program at the ASCD level.

The conference theme was “A Leadership Growth Mindset.” Predicated on the work of Carol Dweck, conference attendees participated in several sessions to help them reflect on and further develop a growth mindset. In a fixed mindset, people believe their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply fixed traits. In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. For a great video of Carol explaining the growth mindset, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiiEeMN7vbQ>

We left the conference re-energized by the possibilities of the growth mindset in both the organization and in our professional roles as educators.

### Lori

Dr. Lori J. Stollar  
PASCD President



## PASCD 65th Annual Conference Spotlight

***Leading and Achieving in  
an Interconnected World***

**Powered by Blended  
Schools Network**

**Doubletree Hotel by Hilton  
Pittsburgh Monroeville  
Convention Center**

**November 15-17, 2015**

Meet the Keynote Speakers for the  
65<sup>th</sup> Annual PASCD Conference.



**Heidi Hayes-Jacobs**

*Bold Moves: Leading a Right Now  
School for the Contemporary Learner*

How can we make the transition from “old school” to contemporary? Simply having technologies does not guarantee modern, relevant, and rigorous teaching and learning. If we

want digitally literate, media savvy, and globally connected learners, then we need the same in our teachers and in leadership. Dr. Jacobs will share work from her latest book to be released by ASCD this fall. She will provoke our thinking and share examples of innovative 21st century programs and practices in action from around the world.



**Pedro Rivera, Pa. Secretary of  
Education**

*PDE Status Updates and Initiatives*

Join Pa. Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera for an informative update on all the latest happenings in the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Updates on current and planned initiatives will be discussed.



**Meenoo Rami**

*Teacher Practice in a Connected  
World*

Come discover the ways teachers are using power of networks to reimagine their practice, connect their students to mentors, and find relevant audience for student work. How would your practice change if you shared your work with the teacher across the hall or across the

country? Explore the ways your students can be an active member of a global society and economy.



**David Griffith**

*Get Informed. Get Involved. Make a  
Difference.*

Now more than ever, educators need to be involved in the development of the policies that are having an increased and direct impact on their day-today professional responsibilities. In this new political environment, advocacy can no longer be viewed as a luxury or an add-on for educators but a necessity. The expertise educators can and must share with decision makers at all levels is an empowering form of leadership and vital for establishing the policies that will best support students, teachers, and schools.

**Conference registration is  
open at [www.pascd.org](http://www.pascd.org)**

**Early Bird Discount: ~Register  
before September 30th to  
take advantage of our  
discounted rates!**



Leading and Achieving in an Interconnected World  
PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR REFORMING AND IMPROVING EDUCATION

## PAESSP State Conference

**Register Now – PAESSP State Conference – Oct. 18-20 – State College, PA**

Registration is now open for **PAESSP's** State Conference to be held October 18-20 at The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College, PA!

This year's theme is @EVERYLEADER and features three nationally-known keynote speakers (Dr. James Stronge, Justin Baeder and Dr. Mike Schmoker), professional breakout sessions, a legal update, exhibits, Tech Learning Labs and many opportunities to network with your colleagues (Monday evening event with Jay Paterno).

Once again, in conjunction with its conference, PAESSP will offer two 30-hour Act 45 PIL-approved programs, **Linking Student Learning to Teacher Supervision and Evaluation** (pre-conference offering on 10/17/15); and **Improving Student Learning Through Research-Based Practices: The Power of an Effective Principal** (held during the conference, 10/18/15 -10/20/15).

Register for either or both PIL programs when you register for the Full Conference!

REGISTER TODAY for the Conference and Act 45 PIL program/s at:

<http://www.paessp.org/state-conference/register-now>



## Regional Update Northeast Region Update

Ann Way Ed.D.

The Northeast Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (NEPASCD) recently concluded the 2014 – 2015 slate of activities. The highlight of the year was the Transition to Teaching Workshop hosted by NEPASCD at Wilkes University in March. In June, NEPASCD conducted the election of officers for the 2015 - 2017 term. Online elections were held to enable all members of NEPASCD the opportunity to vote. The officers and executive board will meet in late August/early September to develop the meeting schedule, slate of events, and budget for the 2015 – 2016 year. In the upcoming year, the NEPASCD leadership will continue to discuss ways in which the organization can better meet membership needs.

### 2015 – 2017 Officers

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| President        | Ann S. Way    |
| Vice-President   | Deanna Mayers |
| Secretary        | Kathi Felker  |
| Treasurer        | Vi Supon      |
| Membership Chair | Amy Martell   |
| Technology Chair |               |
| Past President   | Kurt Eisle    |

### 2015 – 2017 Executive Council

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Barbara Bellucci | Amy Martell   |
| Lori Cooper      | Deanna Mayers |
| Kurt Eisle       | Regina Myers  |
| Kathi Felker     | Carole Myron  |
| Vito Forlenza    | Vi Supon      |
| Andrew Latchford | Ann Way       |
| Sal Luzio        |               |

## Curriculum Committee Update

**A Positive Spin on PSSA Results**  
Laurie Heinricher

Co-Chair of the Curriculum Committee

This time of year is fraught with the excitement for the start of a new school year and the anticipation of the reaction to the most recent PSSA scores. I challenge my colleagues across the Commonwealth to take the data from our first attempt at PA Core aligned PSSA tests and use the information for improvement. Yes, take those lemons and make the most delightful lemonade your teachers have ever tasted.

First, don't panic! Not to sound extremely cliché, but we are all in the same boat. When we began getting emails from PDE and our Intermediate Units during the weeks prior to the scores being released, we should have prepared ourselves for the worst. But, we are educators who are striving for the best for our students. Anything short of how we performed in previous years or of the goals we had established, is simply not acceptable. Unfortunately we find ourselves looking at scores that do not meet our expectation. Again, don't panic... you are not alone!

Before you even start, don't allow yourselves to be pulled into the "blame game." We can blame our teachers, our curriculum leaders, the textbooks, the students and even PDE for the current scores. Rather than blaming one or all of the parties listed above, take a deep breath and begin engineering your district's or your school's pathway towards a different level success for the 2016 PSSAs.

Start by aggregating the data and

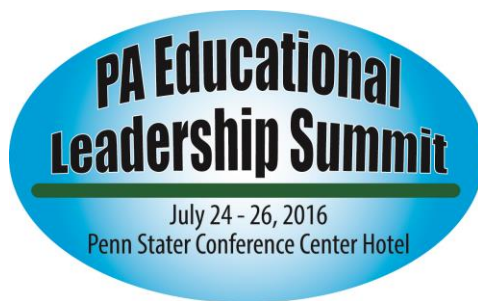


complete a gap analysis. In plain English, calculate the percentages for each proficiency level and then compare that information to the state averages. Add an additional column to that spreadsheet that shows the differences between your percentages and the state percentages. In many cases your data will be higher. Celebrate those positive gaps! Then look back to the previous gap analysis information (eMetric has such a report available). Review how this year's gaps compare to those previous years.

Once you've identified those areas where either your scores are higher than the state averages or your positive gaps have increased, celebrate! Use the DRC site and drill down to the assessment anchors. Identify those anchors that were either successes for a grade level or a classroom. Ask those teachers to share best practices on those anchors before they are taught this year. Set goals for those areas that were not as strong. Make plans for improvement and determine how you will measure for the success of those goals.

Ultimately we can either be down-trodden by the results or choose to use them as a learning experience. Districts who take a positive approach, sharing the gap analyses and celebrating the positive outcomes, will find even greater success for the coming year. So yes, take the lemons. Acknowledge the rotten ones. Plan for them while making sweet lemonade from the successes and toast your teachers who worked extremely hard to prepare the students and only want to help create for the coming year!

## Save the Date!



"Sponsored by PASCD, PAESSP, PASA, and PAMLE"

## Emerging Leader Corner

*Over the next several months we will be introducing our Emerging Leaders through a series of questions they have been asked to answer.*



**Concetta Lupo**

**Provide a brief intro of yourself (no more than 3 sentences) including your location in PA.**

Dr. Concetta Lupo is a 2014 PASCD Emerging Leader and serves as a principal of Blue Bell Elementary School, in the Wissahickon School District. In addition, Dr. Lupo is also adjunct faculty at Gwynedd Mercy University for the graduate and doctoral programs. Dr. Lupo has been in the field of education since 1997, starting in the City of Philadelphia, then moving to Colonial School District, before moving to WSD in 2004. She has taught

students at every level from K-12, served as a reading specialist, union representative, staff developer, curriculum developer and supervisor, director of federal grants, and as mentioned, principal. She is a happily married mother of two young sons and is deeply concerned and passionate about the educational system in the State of PA and in the country overall.

**Tell us about your role in education? What does your typical day look like?**

I am an elementary principal at Blue Bell Elementary School in the Wissahickon School District. A typical day at work is filled with smiling children who want to give hugs! It is an incredible experience.

**What is your educational philosophy summed up in one sentence?**

Teach the whole child supporting creativity and love of learning.

**What professional development (books, webinars, courses, articles) have made a difference in your career?**

Brene Brown books, any book from ASCD, Huffington Post Education, and Ted Talks

**If you could make one major change in education, what would it be?**

Change the focus to teaching the whole child with an emphasis on achieving a year of academic growth regardless of his/her starting point.

**What is the most impactful statement a student has ever said to you?**

That they love coming to school as they give me a hug on their way in.