

# PASCD Newsletter



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

JANUARY 2017

## POST CONFERENCE EDITION

### Message from the Conference Chair



I would like to thank everyone who attended the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual PASCD Conference, “Igniting Student Passion Through Technology, Reading and Digital Literacy” in King of Prussia, PA. We had a packed house and held our first sold out event in history! The new 2-day format was well received and our conference sponsors enjoyed being integrated into the conference instead of the vendor hall exhibit

area. We look to build on this format in the future.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Robert Furman, took us on a journey of tools and strategies to motivate reluctant learners and followed with action labs that enabled participants to put theory into practical action steps. We also enjoyed small group presentations from administrators and teachers across the state sharing their knowledge and initiatives focused on motivating today’s learners.

As you now settle into your second semester of the 2016-2017 school year, we hope the event has given you a spark to ignite student learning in a way you may not have tried before. Please continue to reference the conference app to access session handouts and share those with your colleagues and friends.

It was an honor to serve as your Annual Conference Chair. I want to thank the Conference Committee, PASCD Executive Board, Conference Sponsors, Dr. Furman, and our many small group presenters for making this conference a rewarding experience for everyone involved. I look forward to serving you as the Executive Director beginning in July 2017.

Sincerely,  
Deanna Mayers  
2016 PASCD Conference Chair

PASCD 66th Annual Conference



## PASCD 2016 Emerging Leader Class Convenes

The newest group of PASCD Emerging Leaders met at the 66th Annual PASCD Conference. The PASCD Emerging Leaders program recognizes and prepares young, promising educators to influence education programs, policy, and practice at the state level. The 2016 cohort was selected through a competitive process. The 14 member group hails from around the state and includes classroom teachers, administrators, an instructional coach, educational consultant, and college professor. The convening was facilitated by six members of the inaugural PASCD EL Class of 2014-- Nicole Avon, Kristen Craig, Christian Ehrhart, Colleen Hinrichsen, Jessica Shupik, and Felix Yerace--and two ASCD Emerging Leaders--Krista Leh and Allison Rodman. Dr. Lori Stollar, PASCD Past-President and founder of the PASCD Emerging Leader Program, serves as the group's advisor.

PASCD Emerging Leaders have typically been in the profession between 5 and 15 years, have a marked interest in making a positive contribution to education policy and practice, and have invested in professional growth opportunities aimed at improving student outcomes. Over the next two years, the PASCD EL Class will collaborate virtually as well as face-to-face to grow as leaders. Members will choose leadership paths within the organization including Advocacy, Regional Leadership, Writing, Recruitment and Membership, and Social Media.

Reflecting on the initial meeting, Lauren Antimary stated

"...it was quite a humbling experience. So many talents, backgrounds, experience, and knowledge in one room!" Emerging Leader Nicole Stulak shared, "The 2016 PASCD conference was engaging, informative and a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow PASCD members. Meeting with the 2014 Emerging Leaders, hearing their experiences and the wealth of opportunities available to get involved as an Emerging Leader was empowering."

PASCD 2016 Emerging Leader Class includes:

Lauryn Antimary, Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3, PreK Teacher

David Beard, Solanco School District, Middle School Assistant Principal

Martha Dominick, Southern Tioga, Elementary Teacher

Susan Ericson, Downingtown Area School District, Elementary Teacher

Patricia Fawcett, PA Cyber Charter School, Director Elementary Curriculum

Dr. Jennifer Fisler, Messiah College, Director of Teacher Education

Jaime LaForgia, Discovery Education, Director of Professional Development

Ed Luckey, Wilson School District, Middle School Music Teacher

Dr. Ryan McFadden, Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences, Coordinator Online Education

Stephan Pron, Boyertown Area School District, Elementary Principal

Ashlie Rittle, Littlestown Area School District, Elementary Teacher

Tamara Stavenski-Bennick, Parkland School District, High School Assistant Principal for Curriculum & Instruction

Nicole Stulak, Downingtown Area School District, Instructional Coach

Dr. Timothy Wagner, Upper St. Clair School District, Associate Principal for Program Planning and Innovation

We thank Eduplanet21, a professional learning and curriculum development company based in Mechanicsburg, PA, for partnering with us to support the 2016 PASCD Emerging Leader Class.



## Basket Raffle



The basket raffle raised over \$800 for the PASCD Scholarship Fund. This year, each region donated money that was put toward the purchase of raffle items. We bought a variety of different items and assembled them into baskets that appealed to a diverse crowd of people. Instead of a silent auction, raffle tickets were sold throughout the duration of the conference. Winners were randomly selected and announced at lunch on the last day of the conference.

-Colleen Hinrichsen and Nicole Avon

## Keynote Speaker



Dr. L. Robert Furman

**Session Title:** Motivating the Reluctant Learner Through Technology

**Session Description:** Motivating the Reluctant Learner is a high-energy, interactive presentation. This presentation shared ideas on how to motivate the reluctant learner through apps, websites/programs that

create a supportive environment and instill that important passion for reading. Participants were actively involved in all parts of the presentation through the use of technology. Using cell phones, iPhones, etc., the participants had the opportunity to vote on favorite literature, and various ideas.

Dr. L. Robert Furman ED.D. is the principal at South Park Elementary Center in South Park, Pennsylvania. He is the author of *Instructional Technology Tools and Reading, Technology, and Digital Literacy*. His research in the field of Literacy was recently awarded Best Research and Publication by PASCD. Rob is a blogger for the Huffington Post, Ed Tech Review and a producer for The Seditonists Education Video Series. Rob was honored as a national "20 to watch" in educational technology by the National School Board Association.

## Ignite Sessions and Small Group Workshops

A different conference venue and an exciting new conference schedule allowed the small group committee to explore a new format for breakout and Ignite sessions. There was a lot of enthusiasm from the members who submitted proposals to present at the conference.

Barb Davis and Leslie Trimmer, Small Group Co-Chairs, along with several other PASCD leaders, narrowed down the proposals based on content, alignment to the conference theme, and quality of the proposal and video. In the end, sixteen topics for small group breakout sessions were selected. Each presenter created a 4-minute Ignite presentation to provide an

overview of their longer breakout presentation. Positive feedback was provided about the new format for the presentations this year. A lot of great information was presented in the sessions by members of PASCD.



## Conference Sponsors

Thank you to the sponsors of the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual PASCD Conference!



