President's Message

As I think back on my term as President of AASCD I feel it an honor to have been elected to the position. I would like to thank the Executive Committee as well as all of the District Representatives for their support and cooperation as we work together to spread the word about AASCD and increase our membership. Currently, AASCD is the second largest affiliate under the CLAS umbrella with 612 members. That is wonderful! And it is due to members like yourself who spread the word to fellow administrators and teacher leaders. We also include retirees in our affiliate.

For me, AASCD has been a constant. As I have moved from teacher to assistant principal, to principal and now central office executive director I have remained a member of AASCD. In all of those previous positions, I joined the affiliate that is associated with the position while also belonging to AASCD. Now, after twenty-six years in education, I remain a member of AASCD. I encourage you, in whatever position in education you hold, to also choose AASCD as you complete your CLAS membership each year. AASCD has so much to offer you as an educator. It provides wonderful professional development as well as professional
networking that provides support as we work in our individual systems. I know you will benefit from membership.

I hope to see you all at the CLAS conference this summer as well as future FILC’s (Fall Instructional Leadership Conference) hosted jointly by AASCD and AAESA. Again, I have enjoyed serving the members of AASCD as president and I thank you for all your support. If I can ever be of assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Got Questions? Need Answers?
www.clasleaders.org/Forums
Forums are available to all AASCD members.
Start discussing topics important to you and your colleagues today!
Our Work ---
A Balancing Act

As another school year draws to a close, it is time to reflect on the challenges, successes, and upcoming opportunities! I received some very good advice when I was in graduate school from a professor/mentor and I have tried to adhere to his message ---- to try and keep balance in both personal and professional dealings and to make time for self. With all the stressors and infringements on our own time, it (keeping a balance) is sometimes difficult to do and often we are just too tired to even make an attempt.

One book I have been reading this Spring is Balanced Leadership for Powerful Learning. This book revisits some of the works published by McRel and ASCD with multiple authors.

“In 2001, McRel set out to study links between school leadership and student achievement. We undertook a meta-analysis of school-leadership for the purpose of answering the following questions: Is there an empirical relationship between principal leadership and student achievement? If so, is the relationship positive or negative? And is it strong enough to matter to those who lead schools (principals and school-level leadership teams) and those who supervise principals? Today these questions seem naïve…….” The answer to the 3 questions is YES. The 21 Leadership Responsibilities Positively Correlated with Student Achievement has been a guide that many of us have used over the years. New information presented in this book (The Balanced Leadership Framework) are categorized into three components --- establishing a clear focus, managing change, creating a purposeful community.

This book provides clear research based data to help us navigate and hopefully, to increase teacher and student learning. Balance is the key to everything I believe, whether applied to exercise, eating habits, leading, or learning and we probably need to remind ourselves of the need for balance.

The ASCD Annual Conference provided times for the Executive Directors to meet and establish a plan to help all affiliates grow and become more influential in their work. A white paper was written, shared with Dr. Deb Delise, ASCD Executive Director, and a draft action plan was presented. The plan is to concentrate on the Whole Child with 5 main areas of work: Global Engagement, Poverty and Equity, Multi-Metric Accountability and Assessment, Supportive Teaching and Learning Environments, and Transformational Leadership. More information will be released at the L2L Conference in July.

SAVE THE DATE
FILC October 24-26, 2016
Wynfrey Hotel, Birmingham
with nationally and state recognized speakers. Principal Baruti Kafele will lead a day-long workshop on October 25.
After 31 years in education, it is often difficult to find conferences that meet my needs. I found the ASCD conference to be both informative and interesting. The breakout sessions provided relevant content that will be useful to me in my job. It has been a long time since I attended a conference and actually took pages of notes – but I did at this one!

- Dr. Brenda Rickett, Opelika City Schools

The ASCD Conference was rejuvenating and inspiring. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to collaborate, network, and learn with phenomenal educators from around the world. I enjoyed listening to the best authors, speakers, and consultants. I can't wait to attend #ASCD2017.

- Dr. Carlos Nelson, Sheffield City Schools

The ASCD conference was a great experience! I loved the different learning paths that were available, and the quality of speakers was excellent. It was hard to choose which sessions to attend with so many informative sessions. My takeaways included:

- “As educators, we have to be warriors of hope.”
- Nothing can ever replace the importance of quality classroom instruction.

- Mr. David McCollum, Marshall County Schools

The spring of the year is a time for systems and schools to think ahead to the upcoming school year. We begin to think about how best to support our teachers and target student needs. The 2016 ASCD Conference was perfectly aligned with our system’s planning for 2016-2017. The session offerings allowed us to learn about topics that are part of our focus. The information gained not only reinforced our old learning but helped us push forward in planning the details for the coming year.

- Mrs. Jodi Jacobs, Blount County Schools
Healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged - How do you meet the needs of the whole child? AASCD members willingly share best practices. As you have read in previous newsletters, the partnership between Sight Savers America, KidCheck Plus, Troy University School of Nursing, and Crenshaw County Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) serves as a model program for supporting healthy students. At Morris Avenue Intermediate School in the Opelika City School System, they are teaching students to be safe while engaging in an every-day healthy activity through the implementation of the Bikeology curriculum. Good stuff! These are just two examples of the great works going on in our state. At the Fall Instructional Leadership Conference (FILC) this past November, The Whole Child Panel shared amazing exemplars of Whole Child implementation within their own school systems. These educators are committed to supporting students and colleagues alike, so I encourage you to reach out and explore their successful Whole Child efforts. The FILC Whole Child Panel members welcome the opportunity to work with you in your quest to support students in a Whole Child manner.

WHOLE CHILD PANEL MEMBERS

Mrs. Donna Ash
dash@pcboe.net
Phenix City Schools of Inquiry, Innovation, and Impact are engaging students and creating critical thinkers as the next generation of innovators through their development of a STEM Center for grades six and seven.

Dr. Mark Head
mhead@pikecountyschools.com
One of Pike County Schools’ premier dual enrollment academies is the First in Flight and Leadership Academy. The Pike County First in Flight and Leadership Academy provides high school students with a unique instructional experience that allows them to earn a high school diploma, advanced academic endorsement, advanced career technical education endorsement, academy endorsement, and a post-secondary associate degree from Troy University in general education.

Mrs. Mitchie Neel
mitchieneel@att.net
The Blount County Education Foundation provides financial support for whole child education in Blount County through partnerships with the Blount County Health Care Authority, St. Vincent's Blount Hospital, and the Blount County Board of Education.

Dr. Christen Herring
cherring@auburnschools.org
Auburn City Schools’ Secondary Counseling Program Grant: CREATE (Cultivating a Resilient Emotional Aptitude in Teens Every Day) is working to close the gap in student:counselor ratios, decrease the number of yearly disciplinary referrals, and creating a Positive Behavior Support system to improve student behavior, school safety and student/family/community engagement.
It’s an exciting time in education in Alabama! We have more opportunities than ever to make a difference with our students. In our third year of implementation of the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards, we have made great strides across the state to better prepare students for college and the workforce. AASCD hosted the third CCRS Summit on Friday, April 29th at the Hyatt Regency Wynfrey Hotel. This year’s Summit focused on reflective leadership for lasting change and showcased many of the outstanding programs now in place in Alabama schools to benefit our students. The day opened with Principal Baruti Kafele, author of The Principal 50, compelling us to be inspiring leaders who inspire our students and staff to excellence every day.

“How often do you study your game film?” asked Kafele. His message encouraged us, as educators, to reflect on our practice every day, to “study our film,” to hit the pause button and look at ourselves as leaders. The reflection is the replay, the opportunity to analyze what we do, our effect on those we lead, and to set intentional goals to bring our best selves to schools every day to inspire school-wide excellence. We were implored to be instructional, informational, and inspirational leaders. In a breakout session, Kafele shared strategies for closing the “attitude gap,” which he says is a key element of underachievement for students of all racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups.

Kafele’s theme of inspiring leadership to bring about change carried the day as educators from across Alabama shared their own inspiring messages of the work in which they are engaged in their schools and districts. Science in Motion instructor, Dr. Amy Fowler Murphy, reported on the new focus of science education in our state by unpacking the shifts we are making through the new science standards adopted last year. The new Five E + IA instructional model sets the expectation of inquiry and interaction with active student engagement and reflection on learning. Mrs. Demica Sanders from Midfield City Schools shared the impact of a collaborative Pre-K program emphasizing reading, math, and social skills, spanning three cities that share resources, expenses, and successes! Meanwhile, Dr. Shannon Stanley of Jefferson County Schools and Dr. Trey Holladay of Athens City Schools dove into blended and digital learning by sharing their non-traditional blended learning programs that meet the needs of students who need something other than the traditional school environment to reach their potential and be successful. The two shared the experiences, challenges, and “lessons learned” from two school districts as they created virtual school programs that individualize learning while offering rigorous curriculum options.

In the final sessions of the afternoon, area educators imparted their expertise in leading change. Dr. Betty Winches, of Homewood City Schools, explained her 10 tips for making change a more positive experience for faculty and staff. Mr. Keith George from the Alabama Department of...
Education discussed how valuable instructional technology coaches can be in helping teachers utilize new technologies, and Blount County educators Misty Sandlin and Heather Nanny shared how working with career coaches can increase student readiness for college and careers. Finally, Madison City Schools’ Stacy Blair elaborated on their use of diagnostic assessment data to align and track the impact of instruction and assessment for maximum student gains.

Responsibility for reflecting on our leadership to continue to find ways to coach the change process and inspire excellence in our schools rests with all of us. Learning from the expertise of colleagues has proven invaluable in shouldering that responsibility.

New Alabama Science Standards

What an exciting time to be teaching in Alabama! This fall Alabama teachers will be implementing the new Alabama Science Standards for the first time. Because this particular Course of Study was put on hold for some time, teachers did not have the option of putting the new science standards into practice a year before the official statewide implementation. The delay actually allowed many instructional materials developers to catch up with the project based learning (PBL) style of these new standards.

Each one of the standards in grades K-12 have three components. These components are the science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and the disciplinary core ideas. Think of the components like three strands to a rope. Each strand is important on its own but woven together they add a depth and strength that they do not have alone.

Teaching these standards will be a big shift in instructional practice and teachers will need a great deal of support in implementing. Unlike the Mathematics and the English Language Arts standards, the practices are incorporated into each standard. Therefore the biggest shift in instruction is moving to project based learning (PBL) and this is a very powerful shift for instruction. If well supported, teachers can incorporate all core subjects into PBL and greatly enhance student understanding and application of knowledge in all areas. In other words, the new science standards could be the means by which other content areas become more meaningful and applicable for Alabama students. This type of cross curricular learning should be happening at all grades. PBL has the power of “connecting all the dots” for students and teachers. It also allows time for all content areas to be taught at all grade levels.

A change of this magnitude cannot happen quickly or without extensive professional development and administrative support. Research studies as well as business and industry needs are calling for this shift in instructional practices. Alabama teachers are up for the challenge and all they really need is the support and resources to implement. What a change these new science standards can bring to the students in our state and how exciting to be a part of education during this time of instructional transition!

Robin Nelson
Program Coordinator of Instructional Services, ALSDE
Nomination Form
Outstanding Curriculum Leader Award-Spring 2016

Nominee’s Name___________________________________________Position/Title__________

School District/Education Agency________________________________________

Office Address__________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip________________________________________Phone_____________________

Please complete the following information, or attach a resume with the same:

Professional Preparation (including Institutions, dates attended, degrees earned, major area of study)
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

Professional Experience (including school district/education agency, positions held, dates held)
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Professional Contributions in the Areas of Curriculum Development, Professional Learning/Staff Development (or attach letter of explanation)
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Please attach two letters of recommendation by persons familiar with the nominee’s contributions to the field.

Nominated By________________________________________Position/Title_______________

School District/Education Agency_______________________Phone_____________________

For additional information or to submit recommendations, please contact:

Dr. Lisa Beckham, Awards Committee Chair, AASCD
Mountain Brook Board of Education
32 Vine Street
Birmingham, Alabama 35213

Phone: 205.871.4608 E-Mail: beckhaml@mtnbrook.k12.al.us
Nomination Form

Emerging Leader Award – Spring 2016

Nominee’s Name__________________________________________ Position/Title____________________

School District/Education Agency____________________________

Office Address_____________________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip__________________________________________ Phone_____________________

Please complete the following information, or attach a resume with the same:

Professional Preparation (including Institutions, dates attended, degrees earned, major area of study)
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Professional Experience (including school district/education agency, positions held, dates held)
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Professional Leadership Contributions in the Field of Education (or attach letter of explanation)
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Please attach two letters of recommendation by persons familiar with the nominee’s leadership contributions to the field.

Nominated By__________________________________________ Position/Title____________________

School District/Education Agency____________________________ Phone____________________

For additional information or to submit recommendations, please contact:

Dr. Lisa Beckham, Awards Committee Chair, AASCD
Mountain Brook Board of Education
32 Vine Street
Birmingham, Alabama 35213

Phone: 205.871.4608 E-Mail: beckhaml@mtnbrook.k12.al.us
Full Name: _________________________________________

First Name for Badge: ________________________________

Position: ____________________________________________

School System: ______________________________________

School: _____________________________________________

Phone: ___________________  Fax:  ____________________

E-mail Address: ______________________________________

(required for confirmation)

Bill To:  _____________________________________________

Billing Address: ______________________________________

City, ST Zip: _________________________________________

1. CONVENTION REGISTRATION
( Includes all meals, breaks, door prizes, sessions, and president’s reception)

circle the appropriate registration fee

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Spouse/Guest Name:  _____________________________________________

(Complete only if registered, does not receive professional development credit)

TOTAL Section 1 ............................................ $ _____________

2. MEALS (No charge for paid registrants, but reservations are required!)

Awards Luncheon ................................. Tuesday, June 14

☑ I will attend  (No charge if paid convention registration)
☑ My spouse/guest will attend (Included in spouse/guest fee)
☑ I need _____ extra ticket(s) at $40 each

Closing Breakfast Session ...................... Wednesday, June 15

☑ I will attend  (No charge if paid convention registration)
☑ My spouse/guest will attend (Included in spouse/guest fee)
☑ I need _____ extra ticket(s) at $30 each

TOTAL Section 2 ............................................. $ _____________

GRAND TOTAL (Sections 1 & 2) .................... $ _____________

3. SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

4. EMERGENCY CONTACT (In case of emergency, we will contact)

Name: _____________________________________________

Relationship: ________________________________________

Daytime Phone: _____________________________________

Other Phone: _______________________________________

5. PAYMENT
(Refunds granted only upon written request. No refunds granted after June 3, 2016.)

☑ Check (enclosed) # ________________________________

☑ Purchase Order # ________________________________

☑ Credit Card (Visa/MC/Discover)

☑ Visa

☑ Master Card

☑ Discover

Card Number: _______________________________________

Expiration Date: ________/_________  CVV:  _______________

Cardholder Name: ____________________________________

Cardholder Address: __________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Cardholder Phone: _____________________________________

Signature: __________________________________________

Send registration by 24-hour fax line to (334) 265-3611 if paying with credit card or purchase order, or mail the completed form with your payment to:

CLAS
P.O. Box 428
Montgomery, AL  36101-0428

Room Reservations: Hotel reservations may be made by calling the Renaissance Montgomery at (877) 545-0311 and asking for the 2016 CLAS Summer Convention room rate of $132 per night for single/double rooms. Reservations are subject to availability and must be made by May 12, 2016, to receive this rate. Online room reservations - http://j.mp/CLASConvRes16

Questions?  Call (800) 239-3616 or visit us online at www.clasleaders.org/conv

Online Registration available at www.clasleaders.org/conv
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