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New Mexico Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

The New Mexico News

Winter 2008/09

Connecting the Classroom to the Capitol

Brian Peterson, NMACSD Board Member, ASCD Emerging Leader Class of 2007

The stakes have never been higher. Though not a direct nod to the annually rising AMOs, it was a resonating theme throughout the three day Leadership for Effective Advocacy and Practice (LEAP) conference in Washinton D.C. that Penny Coppedge, the NMACSD president and Brian Peterson, ASCD Emerging Leader 2007, attended in mid-September.

The pair, joined by James Gallegos, NMACSD past president and current ASCD Board Member at Large, spent a weekend dodging the effects of Hurricane Ike while listening, planning and strategizing with hundreds of other ASCD members to take the word to the Hill. That word was "urgency!"

The legislative updates painted a gloomy picture of education at the national level. With the presidential election looming and focus diverted, details and specifics were lacking, but one message rang clear: education has fallen from second or third to the sixth or seventh most important issue on the public's mind this election season. As a result, lawmakers have put their efforts and money elsewhere. The challenge for edu-

cator advocates is to refocus the public's attention on education! The group heard rousing presentations from Donna Brazile and Frank Luntz (Google them-they're big!) to help attendees formulate and refine the message we would take to Capitol Hill.

Brazile came out charging and stated that education should not be a partisan issue and that politicians need to work together to turn No Child Left Behind "from a slogan to a workable legislation". "We can fix government," Brazile said. "Government is not broken. The will of the politicians to work together is what is broken."

Lutz followed the next day reminding the attendees that the messages we present must be individualized, personalized and humanized. "If you want to improve your school facilities", said Luntz, "don't talk about the process of teaching; talk about the results."

The conference helped remind us how important it is to stay engaged in the legislative dialogue and advance ASCD's mission of moving from successes to significance. A great place for any ASCD member to start is by making sure that you are on ASCD's Educators Advocate and Whole Child Advocate email lists. The email blasts help you stay abreast on political maneuverings at the federal and state level.

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Inside:

- **ASCD, NMACSD and You** Penny Coppedge, NMACSD President
- **Excellence in Education Award 2009 Nominations**
- **NMACSD Spring Conference Information**

ASCD, NMACSD, and You **Penny Coppege, NMACSD President**

As the President-elect of NMACSD for two years and as your current president, I have had the opportunity to do some extensive traveling on your behalf. I have traveled throughout our great state; I have traveled to Anaheim, CA for the national ASCD conference to represent you on the ASCD Leadership Council and to New Orleans, LA for the same purpose. I have been to Alexandria, VA for presidents' training. I have been to our nation's capitol twice to participate in the Leadership for Effective Advocacy Program (LEAP) to meet with our legislators about issues important to us as educators. So, what does all this travel have to do with you? **How does it benefit you?**

Two years of LEAP have provided training in how to prepare to meet not only with legislators but with any entity that we might want to educate about the issues that are most important to us-children. We have learned to be prepared about and to educate ourselves first on issues of great importance to our children. We have learned how to use language to frame our issues powerfully so as to get our point across effectively. This training has helped me when I speak about issues in the state of New Mexico, specifically when I represent you on the New Mexico Coalition of School Administrators (NMCSA) and in supporting the funding formula initiative.

Sitting on the Leadership Council for ASCD has allowed me to sit at the table with some of the most creative minds in education-not just nationally, but world wide. Also on the LC are educators from Japan, Cuarasao, Canada the Phillipines 112 countries total. You are part of a membership 175,000 strong. I have learned about ways educators are solving issues in education that might benefit our students.

So, again, what does this have to do with you?

Did you know that as a member of ASCD you can access not only material for your research, but you can actually contact ASCD research center and have them research a topic for you? Did you know that you can buy professional development books you're your school or district through our NMACSD Affiliate on an on-going basis and not just during conferences? Did you know that you can post and read blogs on an on-going basis by going to the ASCD web site? Did you know that ASCD is one of the main organizations that has the ear of the United States Congress on issues of No Child Left Behind, the GRADUATES Act and High School Re-Design? Did you know that ASCD/NMACSD is representing you on issue of children's health?

How can each of us make the most of our ASCD/NMACSD membership? First by visiting and contributing to the web sites frequently. Next by signing up to be an advocate and having your voice heard by Congress through frequent correspondence. Finally by using the resources, most especially cutting edge professional development, available to you through your membership.

As my presidency continues throughout this year and next, I welcome communication from you on issues that are important to you. You can reach me at pcoppedge@hotmail.com or pcoppedge@cimarron-schools.org. I also have newly signed up for Face Book (where there is a link to the Whole Child). Hope to see you there!

Excellence in Education Awards

Nominations Sought

Educators are the least recognized professionals. Each year NMASCD sponsors the **Excellence in Education Award**. Nominated from the membership, up to ten outstanding educators are honored from their respective fields: Elementary, Middle School, High School, Administration, Higher Education, Student teachers (any level) and Novice teachers (any level, first three years of teaching). The nominee for this award would be an educator who is innovative in spirit and practice and dedicated to the education of New Mexico's children. Please take time to nominate an outstanding member of our profession. Recipients will be honored at a luncheon on April 4 at the NMASCD Spring Conference at ENMU-R in Roswell. In addition they will receive a one year complementary membership in NMASCD. Deadline for nominations is March 4, 2009.

Excellence in Education

Award Nominations Form

Circle one area:

Elementary Middle High School
 Administrator Higher Ed Other
 Student Teacher Novice Teacher

Criteria

1. Innovative in spirit and practice
2. Completed nomination sent either through email or U.S. Postal Service

Nomination

Name:

School:

School Address:

District:

School Phone:

Position:

No. of years in position

How is nominee innovative in spirit and practice?

Why should this nominee be considered for this award?

Person making this nomination (self-nomination not allowed):

Name:

Title:

Address:

Phone:

Please send to:
 Chris Milyard
 P.O. Box 57
 Mesilla Park, NM 88047
or email cmilyard@nmsu.edu
by March 4, 2009

NMASCD Spring Conference

Educating the 21st Century Learner

The NMASCD Spring Conference is an exciting opportunity for novice teachers, student teachers, mentor teachers-all educators-who are interested in:

- **Assessment**
- **Classroom Management**
- **Best instructional practices**
- **Instructional Technology**

ENMU-Roswell
Campus

April 4, 2009

8:30-3:30



This one day forum at the ENMU-Roswell Campus on Saturday, April 4, will highlight various and engaging breakout sessions centered around *The Art and Science of Teaching*, a leading ASCD book authored by Robert Marzano. This text-based forum is a great resource for building-level teams, as a basis for book studies, or PLC collaborative learning. Plan to send a team!

KEYNOTE BY DR. JIM KERN

As more and more schools and districts encounter the challenges of Program Improvement, it is critical they hear stories of success and hope from all who work with our educators. Using anecdotes from his own experiences gleaned from twenty one years as an educator and thirty years as an educational consultant, Jim will lead discussions on raising the morale of educators, emphasizing the importance of establishing and maintaining a meaningful and caring relationship with kids, and through that relationship teach the skills necessary for success in the twenty-first century. Jim presents a rationale for increasing 'hope' as an essential for turning schools toward success.

**VISIT US ONLINE AT NMACSD.ORG
FOR MORE SPRING CONFERENCE
INFORMATION, MAPS AND REGISTRATION**

Maiil-In Registration Form
For credit card payments, please pay securely at NMACSD.org

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Work Address _____

Home Address _____

Email Address _____

_____ \$75 Pre-Service Teacher _____ \$100 NMACSD Member _____ \$125 NMACSD Non-Member

Registration fee includes ASCD book and lunch.

Return this portion with check payment (payable to NMACSD) or purchase order number to:

Alma Meza, NMACSD
5800 Stern Drive, G-6
Las Cruces, NM 88001 (575) 546-8841

(Continued from Page 1.) After receiving an Advocate update, write to your local newspaper or send letter to your legislator letting them know how you feel. Remind those that aren't in education about your commitment, passion and dedication to students. Suggest that the quality of education today affects the quality of the country in the future and that the consequences of inaction are dire. Historic change is on the political horizon and members of ASCD should take advantage of this ripe opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations. Our students, and their future, depend upon it.

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P.O. Box 57
Mesilla Park, NM 88047

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* Professional, \$25 * Student, \$10

* Institutional Membership \$300

Name _____

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Position _____

I am willing to help with:

- * Newsletter / Articles
- * Conference / Program
- * Board Member Activities
- * New Mexico Contact
- * Other _____

Enclosed is my payment of ____ for a year's membership.

Date: _____

Please complete this optional survey:

Gender _____ Ethnicity _____

Age:

- * under 45 * 45 or older



New Mexico Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

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