



Highlights of Upcoming Events

Sept 13 (Phoenix); Sept 20 (Tucson)

Developing Sustainable Leadership in Times of Great Change: Fall Follow-Up

Sept 14, Nov 23, 2010, Feb 1, & May 10, 2011

Content Coaching Forum Series

Sept 24, 25, Oct 22, 23, Nov 19, 20, Dec 10, 11

Cognitive Coaching

Sept 21-23, Nov 16-18, 2010, Jan 25-27,

& April 26-28, 2011

Mentor Academy—Year Two

Sept 28-30, Dec 7-9, 2010, Feb 8-10,

& April 12-14, 2011

Mentor Academy—Year One

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Advanced Cognitive Coaching

Dates July 6-10, 2010

Location Arizona State University-SkySong
1475 North Scottsdale Road

City Scottsdale

Times July 6th
(Registration from 8:00-8:30AM)

Cost \$500

Deadline 06/18/2010

Notes: Only those who have received a certificate of completion from the Cognitive Coaching series may participate. Registration includes materials, continental breakfast, lunch and breaks.

Building on the successful acquisition and use of the techniques involved in Cognitive Learning, this course will provide refinement and depth of learning to achieve expert proficiency in Cognitive Coaching. This training will allow you to advance and extend core coaching capabilities and skills; develop skills with more sophisticated forms of paraphrasing, probing for specificity, and inquiring to mediate the thinking of your students; expand the possibilities of applications for our identities as mediators; and frame personal coaching mastery as a journey, not a destination.

Did You Know ???

The Arizona K12 Center Board of Directors Meetings are **open to the public.**

They are held at the **Arizona Education Association** located at 345 E Palm Lane.

Please join us:

August 2, 2010, 10:00-11:30

November 1, 2010, 10:00-11:30

February 7, 2011, 10:00-11:30

May 2, 2011, 10:00-11:30

The Power of Purpose: Moving Forward in Tough Times

This past school year has probably been the most challenging in the history of the Arizona K12 Center. The entire K-12 community has been shaken by the economic crisis and subsequent budget cuts. Underfunded to begin with, schools and educational programs have had to face deep reductions in the resources at their disposal and the Center has been no exception.

At the same time, our mission to empower teachers to excel as both educators and leaders became no less urgent. In fact, the need for dynamic, engaged teachers is more pressing than ever.

“The worse conditions for education become, the more vital it is that we all perform at our very best,” says Kathy Wiebke, Executive Director of the Arizona K12 Center. “We have all felt the frustrations of this past year, but we can never lose sight of the fact that we have a critical job to do.”

COHORTS CREATE MOMENTUM

One strategy for generating momentum in otherwise dispiriting circumstances is bringing teachers together to excel as teams. This past year the Center facilitated cohorts in National Board Certification and the single entry alternative, *Take One!*

At Yavapai Elementary in South Scottsdale, all 49 teachers and administrators participated in *Take One!* A *Take One!* cohort was also formed in Mammoth-San Manuel Unified School District, northeast of Tucson. Of the 70 teachers in this small, rural district, 14 opted to pursue the program.

“It’s very positive, very exciting to see these teachers go through the process.”

In the Maricopa Unified School District, the Center facilitated the first ever in-district candidate support program for National Board Certification. This drew a cohort of nine candidates, a considerable increase in interest over previous years. The larger number of participants created a district wide impact, with teachers coming from all the school campuses in Maricopa except one.

“To go from having one or two National Board Certified Teachers total in the district to having a group of nine candidates means we have momentum,” says Jen Robinson, Instructional Coach, National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT), and the cohort’s facilitator. “It’s very positive, very exciting to see these teachers go through the process.”

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The Power of Purpose: Moving Forward in Tough Times

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National Board Certification also expanded in the Phoenix Union High School District, where a cohort of ten pursued full candidacy. As a result, greater interest in National Board Certification is starting to spread to teachers throughout the District.

“It’s almost like therapy for teachers who are weighed down with all the external requirements,” says Alaina Adams, NBCT, who is the Phoenix Union District facilitator. “It helps you focus on what’s really important and what’s important is the students.”

NEW THOUGHT, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The Center also continued in its commitment to expose Arizona educators to the most current best practices in K-12 learning. We are pleased to have established an important partnership with a leading educational publisher Pearson Education, Inc. Through this partnership, we were able to bring Dr. Donald J. Leu, a nationally prominent specialist in reading and Internet technologies, to speak on *The New Literacies of Online Reading Comprehension*.

To become fully literate in today’s world, students must gain proficiency in the new literacies of 21st Century technologies. Leu focused on the new skills and strategies required to read, write, and learn with Internet technologies and the best instructional strategies for preparing students for these new literacies.

The Center also hosted nationally recognized educator Grant Wiggins, who along with Jay McTighe, developed *Understanding by Design (UbD)*. This is framework for improving student achievement through deepening student understanding. Wiggins presented the UbD’s three-stage “backward planning” curriculum design process anchored by a unit design template;



a set of design standards with attendant rubrics; and a comprehensive training package to help teachers design, edit, critique, peer- review, share, and improve their lessons and assessments.

GUIDING GREATER COLLABORATION IN THE FUTURE

The upcoming school year promises to bring even greater collaboration between the Center and educators statewide. During the last year, the Center helped guide Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in the Indian Oasis-Baboquivari School District, located south of Tucson, on the Tohono O’odham Nation reservation, and at Mitchell Elementary School in the Isaac School District.

The Center supported these PLCs through the use of its Individual Professional Development Plans (IPDPs), which provide a format for teachers to identify their goals, devise a plan for reaching those goals and select benchmarks to determine if they have done so.

To better enable PLCs in the future, the Center has developed an implementation guide. Based on past experience, the guide will offer tips and strategies for leadership teams at school sites to implement IPDPs at their school or throughout a district. The guide will show how to determine readiness for this approach, introduce the concept, explore options for activities, and gather evidence of impact on practice. We know that teachers are more receptive to change when it comes from within their learning community. This guide will help educators seeking to impact their learning communities for the better.

“...we can never lose sight of the fact that we have a critical job to do.”

The Center is also looking forward to launching its Book Club. The Book Club will be on-going throughout the year and will bring teachers together to discuss and share ideas. The books we selected for the upcoming year are Diane Ravitch’s latest book, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*, and Daniel Pink’s most recent book, *The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us*.

Having pulled through an extremely difficult school year now completed, the Center is looking forward to a new school year of expanded professional enrichment for Arizona’s educators, and real learning improvement for our students.

LEADERS IN ACTION



**ANNIE DIAZ,
NBCT**

Fourth grade, Early Childhood Generalist, Litchfield Elementary School District

“We have such an amazing group of talented teachers...”

Annie Diaz didn’t wait long to pursue National Board Certification (NBC). In her third year of teaching, her first year eligible to do NBC, she went for it and got it. The experience was such an enriching one, that she immediately wanted to share it with her colleagues at Verrado Elementary School.

“I was in the principal’s office every day, saying how can we get this going?” Diaz recalls.

Her passion and enthusiasm became contagious. The principal, Molly Evans, was intrigued by the idea of a school-wide cohort pursuing National Board or the single unit alternative, *Take One!* She pitched it to the teachers and they all signed on to participate.

“We have such an amazing group of talented teachers, but we had reached a plateau,” says Diaz. “This was the next step.”

Having helped motivate the teachers to join in, Diaz has also led fundraising efforts to help cover the cost of National Board entry. “We really had to get creative in educating the community and letting them know what it’s all about,” she says.

As a result, a group of parents have gotten involved and are helping to brainstorm ways to raise support for the teachers. The next challenge is the NBC process itself, which will begin after the summer break. But Diaz isn’t daunted. “I’m really excited. Bring it on. I believe in my school. I’ll do whatever it takes.”

Did You Know



*The Arizona K12 Center will be launching a **Book Club** in the Fall!*

Visit azk12.org to learn more.