



Highlights of Upcoming Events!

March 10-12, 2008

MEC Conference at ASU Tempe Campus

March 14-15, April 18-19, and May 2-3, May 30-31, 2008

Cognitive Coaching (Tucson)

March 31 and April 7, 14, 21, and 28

Technology Integration: Digital Storytelling

June 22-27, 2008

Deliver Differentiated Instruction through Simple Multiple Intelligence Structures

EVENT SPOTLIGHT: First Annual Beginning Teacher Institute

Dates June 18-20, 2008

Location Westward Look Resort
245 East Ina, Tucson

Times 8:00am-4:00pm

Cost \$225

Deadline 4/25/2008

Notes: Price includes private room accommodations, most meals, training, and materials. This Summer Institute is only for beginning teachers who have completed one or two years of teaching.

Beginning teachers face numerous challenges as they launch their practice. The focus of this Institute is to help teachers in their first and second year perform more confidently and effectively on a daily basis. Classroom management, the use of data, and creating a professional development path for you will be just a few highlights of this Institute. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from local and national leaders as well as National Board Certified Teachers. Our First Annual Beginning Teacher Institute will be a celebration of teaching and learning! Make your attendance at this event part of your own personal professional growth plan.

Did You Know ?

ARIZONA IS NOW HOME TO 100 new NBCTs

Join us in congratulating Arizona's newest NBCT, Tiffany Blasdel from the Gilbert School District.

Arizona's Teacher Leaders Network

EMPOWERING TEACHERS TO MAKE A BROADER IMPACT

In Chinle, Arizona, on the Navajo reservation, DeLyssa Begay mentors nine beginning teachers through the Master Teacher program. Her role is vital, not just in helping new teachers accelerate their professional learning curve, but in aiding them in acclimating to what is, for many of them, a unique and challenging cultural environment.

“Before the Master Teacher training, I really didn’t consider myself a leader.”

“Before the Master Teacher training, I really didn’t consider myself a leader,” says Begay. The Master Teacher program helped validate her practice, and provided the forum from which to direct others. “The pressure can be higher some days,” she says. “It takes someone willing to guide and to lead. Sometimes I have to stop and realize, wow I’m actually doing this.”

In her second year of mentoring, Begay was recently elected to the school board by her community as well. So her leadership role is growing. “Being a leader means addressing not just what I want, but what the community wants, and trying to advocate for them.”

For Arizona’s learning communities to thrive, teacher leaders must be nurtured and empowered. Supporting this personal and professional expansion is what the Arizona Teacher Leaders Network (AzTLN) is all about. The AzTLN is a collaborative partnership between Arizona State University (ASU), the Arizona Education Association (AEA), and the Arizona K-12 Center. It is currently launching an exciting, innovative new online initiative, the AzTLN site, at www.aztln.org. This site will enable teacher leaders throughout Arizona to seek out and connect with colleagues online in order to share experiences, insights and best practices, as well as encouragement for continued excellence in their practices.

DESIGNED BY TEACHERS FOR TEACHERS

Teacher leaders are in high demand in Maricopa County as well. Four years ago, Rae Ann Rumery was interested in attaining National Board Certification (NBC), but there were no National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) in the Cartwright School District

where she taught special education. So as the chairperson of professional development for her local chapter of the AEA, Rumery took the initiative to invite National Education Association and AEA representatives to speak about Certification. As a result, Rumery learned what she needed to know to proceed with the process and ultimately, gain certification. She also helped open her district to NBC and today is one of nine NBCTs working there.



DELYSSA BEGAY, CHINLE MASTER TEACHER

Rumery is very clear about her motivation for being a teacher leader: “I believe in free and appropriate public education for all students, no matter what race, color, creed or socio-economic status.”

In addition to being an NBCT, Rumery works as a Master Teacher and mentors 15 special education teachers in Cartwright from K-8th grade. She also serves as a NBC facilitator, teaching pre-candidacy classes, and supporting candidates throughout the process, and is the president of her AEA local.

Teacher leaders like Rumery have been active in Arizona for a long time, according to Arizona K-12 Executive Director, Kathy Wiebke. But they haven’t always received the support they need to achieve their best. ASU, AEA, and the Arizona K-12 Center have been working to change that through various programs including the Arizona Master Teacher program as well as National Board Certification. As a part of this support, they also provide such professional learning opportunities for teachers as Teacher Leadership Learning Series.

The three organizations recently applied jointly to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, which administers National Board Certification, to be the NBPTS network affiliate. When they were awarded this status, they began to explore how to best empower and nurture teacher leaders in the state. The first step was to talk to the teachers themselves.

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Arizona's Teacher Leaders Network

Continued from front

"They did a very good job of reaching stakeholders," says Stephen Helgeson, VP New Business Development at National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. "They let teachers talk about what their needs are and were very thoughtful about what people are interested in."

Focus groups were held with over 60 teacher leaders from around the state. Out of these sessions, a clear vision crystallized. It was to create a network for teachers that provides opportunities for individuals to contribute, grow, and share in learning communities. A primary goal in achieving this vision was to create a technology-based communications network as a starting point for these communities.

"We want to create opportunities for teachers to define this network based on what is important to them," says John Wright, President of AEA. "AZTLN really gives autonomy to the teachers themselves."

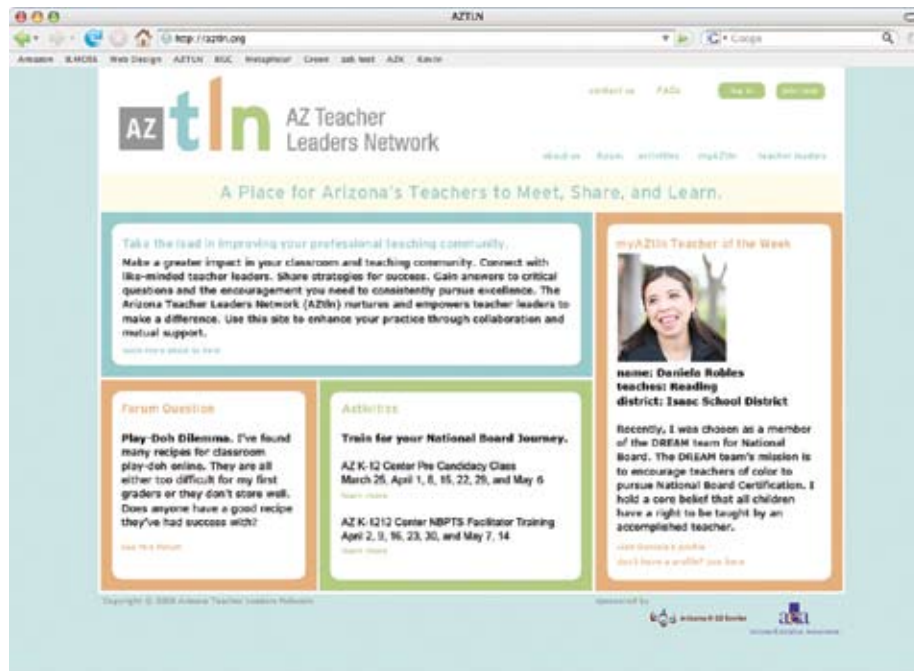
A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN TEACHER LEADERS

The result is an online resource that connects teacher leaders directly to their peers. They don't have to wait for an event to meet up and discuss challenges or brainstorm solutions. Nor do they have to work through the protocols of a sponsoring organization. This site empowers teachers to connect directly whenever they want to in order to empower one another.

"ASU is very excited about the potential that the Teacher Leader Network offers us for an elevated level of partnership with AEA, the K-12 Center

Make your Connection Today

sign up at aztln.org



and teachers in Arizona that are leaders in their schools," says Elaine Surbeck, Associate Dean. "We envision multiple ways that this virtual community can leverage access to accomplished teaching for the benefit of Arizona K-12 students, but also to pre-service and in-service teachers who want to learn with and from their peers. We look forward to this exciting and innovative work."

Every opportunity to support and improve quality teaching will ultimately be of great value to Arizona's students. "Traditionally, teaching has been

an isolated profession," says Kathy Wiebke. "This site gives teachers a place to connect and learn from one another. Through conversations they can discover what strategies and ideas are working in situations similar to their own, and they can explore and discuss new leadership roles they might be interested in pursuing. These types of connections will make for a stronger and more effective system of education."

visit aztln.org and join today

Staff Spotlight: Penny Kotterman Associate Director, Policy & New Programs



Penny helped devise and launch the Master Teacher program, and is actively engaged with all the districts that currently have Master Teachers. Penny also manages the AZTEP federal grant, which

involves her in supporting education on Arizona's Indian reservations. And she advocates on behalf of improved professional development for teachers at various state functions and public forums.

Penny started teaching when she herself was a student, volunteering as a junior in high school to tutor in a special education classroom. She loved it and decided to pursue teaching as a profession. She went on to teach and coach for 18 years, before becoming Vice-President, and then President of the Arizona Education

Association. Her growth from teacher to teacher leader was a natural process.

"I was one of those teachers always volunteering or helping out after school."

"I was one of those teachers always volunteering or helping out after school," she says. "My desire for improving the profession in the late 90s moved me into more prominent leadership positions."

At the Arizona K-12 Center, she has continued this mission. "I love the work we do, because I know it's focused on what teachers believe is necessary," Penny says. "Teachers tell us what's important to them and we create opportunities for them to benefit professionally. We give them an opportunity to be leaders inside and outside of their classrooms."

Did You Know

The initial group of teacher leaders in the AZTLN Network will consist of:



National Board Certified Teachers

Master Teachers

Rodel Teachers

Teachers of the Year/Ambassadors for Excellence

AEA Leaders