



## Highlights of Upcoming Events!

**June 18-20, 2008**

First Annual Beginning Teacher Institute

**June 22-27, 2008**

Deliver Differentiated Instruction through Simple Multiple Intelligence Structures

**July 14-17 and November 13-15**

Sheltered Instruction in Culturally Relevant Classrooms

## Getting the Job Done

### BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN EDUCATION AND BUSINESSES

In Arizona, business and education are vitally linked. Businesses depend on our teachers and schools to prepare students for the workforce. What is less recognized is that teachers can turn to businesses for important and effective resources to enrich their classroom offerings. Bringing these two distinct spheres of our community together is the mission of PASS (Partners Advancing Student Success).

*“Businesses have resources to offer educators.”*

Facilitated by the Arizona K-12 Center, in partnership with Motorola, APS and Chambers across the state, PASS enables teachers to spend a week during the summer in a learning exchange with area businesses. This gives educators a hands-on experience of the importance of the Arizona Workplace Skills Standards. Teachers then develop a plan for integrating the standards into their curriculum using the Rigor/Relevance Framework. In the Fall, participants meet again to discuss how their implementation has progressed. But perhaps most valuable of all are the contacts and relationships teachers develop within the business community.

“Businesses have resources to offer educators,” says Donna Davis, PASS Project Director, “they have curriculums that they’ve done and speakers available. Once you get them involved, typically other resources come to you that you weren’t even planning for.”

As an example, Davis cites a story told to her by a teacher working in west Phoenix who connected with a sports apparel store. The first year, a store representative came to her high school classroom to talk about the hiring process and what job interviewers are looking for. The second year, an entire team came from the store and actually conducted practice interviews for the students. The third year, the store sent vouchers for free apparel.

Joyce Moore teaches Secondary Mathematics at Bradshaw Mountain High School in Prescott Valley. “This experience opened up classroom enrichment possibilities for employers,” she says. “I had not considered this before and now see how beneficial it would be for my students.”

PASS strengthens ties on a district-wide level as well, according to Ted Tyler, the Volunteer Chair of Workforce Development for the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce.

“Such a strong focus on partnerships has really resulted in relationships being developed between business and school districts that never existed in the past,” he notes.



### THE CSI SYNDROME

Students are often unaware of all the employment options that may be available to them. Many simply know of what their parents do, or what they see on TV, such as the popular CSI series of shows. While millions watch CSI, only a handful will ever find work in that field. Unfortunately, teachers may not be fully aware of all the employment opportunities that are out there either, as they often go straight from college into teaching.

“Through PASS, teachers can see such an array of jobs they didn’t even know existed, says Louise Moskowitz, a senior consultant in community development at APS. “By learning what’s out there, they can guide students more effectively.”

They can also teach more convincingly about the importance of workplace skills.

“Because of my experience with PASS I have been able to speak about employment after high school with a lot more authority and first-hand knowledge,” Joyce Moore observes. “Among the concepts I have used specifically are such items as self-evaluations for employment applications; work ethics and attendance (reliability), flexibility, willingness to learn new skills, adaptability, and team effort to accomplish goals and objectives.”

While teachers gain important insights into the business world, PASS helps businesses understand schools better as well. “PASS is an opportunity for businesses to really understand the complexities of education today,” says Barbara Clark, who helped pioneer PASS while working with Motorola, and

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## Did You Know?

Many major companies, including APS and others, have *already developed curricula* available for use in K-12 classrooms. These generally focus on some *aspect of learning* directly relevant to their particular industry. For more information, teachers should contact the *Community Outreach Officer* at the company they are interested in.

## Make Your Connection

“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,” says Kathy Wiebke.



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## Getting the Job Done

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who is currently a member of the Arizona K-12 Board of Directors. "It's important that business people making demands on the educational system have the opportunity to see all the challenges involved in changing the system."

### PUTTING ARIZONA WORKPLACE SKILLS STANDARDS TO WORK

Clark sees PASS as an important platform for promoting 21st century skills as defined by the Arizona Workplace Skills Standards. These address the universal need across career fields for skills including fluency in technology, communication and teamwork.

"For those that have not been exposed to these standards, it's a user-friendly way to get integrated



*"The proof is in the pudding. Listening to what businesses say, they feel students are better prepared in terms of the standards."*

into the community of business and education," she says. "For those that already understand the need, it's an excellent way to affirm that and develop relationships to further that focus."

Bob Abel, who teaches at Mountain View High School in the Marana Unified School District and is a PASS facilitator, agrees wholeheartedly:

"In my opinion, this is an opportunity every teacher should be able to experience. It truly is the catalyst public education needs to make student learning more rigorous and relevant."

Participants leave feeling the same way.

"Teachers are always saying is there a PASS II, can I do PASS again?" says Donna Davis. Davis hopes teachers use PASS as a foundation for integrating the workplace skills standards into every lesson, and that they leave understanding that businesses are available to partner with them.

For Ted Tyler, the results of PASS speak for themselves:

"The proof is in the pudding. Listening to what businesses say, they feel students are better prepared in terms of the standards," Which is the ultimate purpose of PASS.

## Staff Spotlight: Cyndy Lozano, Master Teacher Coordinator



Cyndy coordinates all events related to the Master Teacher Program, including Mentor Academies and Cognitive Coaching. She started working at the Arizona K12 Center as the Administrative Assistant.

"You might know me my by voice, because I was answering the phones," she says, "but it's nice to be out meeting people now. My favorite part of my work is meeting teachers, watching them enjoy and get a lot out of our trainings."

Cyndy moved with her husband to the Valley from Seattle about a year and a half ago. In Seattle she managed a workroom for an interior design company. But she was ready for a change. "It sounded good to me to support such a good thing," she says. "To be helping teachers that make a difference is more rewarding."

Cyndy's mother is actually a teacher at a community college and she has several friends in teaching who have given her some insights into the profession. In her free time, she enjoys the outdoors and catching up on all the sunshine she missed out on living in Seattle.

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## EVENT SPOTLIGHT: PASS: Building Partnerships for Student Success Using Rigor and Relevance

**PASS**<sup>®</sup> (Partners Advancing Student Success<sup>®</sup>) was designed by Motorola and APS with the purpose of *bringing education and business together* to better prepare students to be workforce and college ready with the skills necessary to be successful citizens in a rapidly changing world. *Teachers participate in learning exchanges* with area businesses to see firsthand how important the mastery of the Arizona State Academic Workplace Skills Standards are to success in business. At the end of the week, teachers use their newly gained knowledge to develop a plan for *integrating the standards with their current curriculum* through the Rigor/Relevance Framework. In the fall, participants reconvene to present the results of their action plans to the business partners and other educators in their group.

### SOUTHWEST VALLEY

**Dates** June 2-6, 2008  
**Location** Avondale TBD  
**Times** 8:00am-4:00pm  
**Cost** \$25  
**Deadline** 4/25/2008

### EAST VALLEY

**Dates** June 9-13, 2008  
**Location** Tempe TBD  
**Times** 8:00am-4:00pm  
**Cost** \$25  
**Deadline** 5/16/2008

### SCOTTSDALE

**Dates** June 9-13, 2008  
**Location** Scottsdale TBD  
**Times** 8:00am-4:00pm  
**Cost** \$25  
**Deadline** 4/25/2008

### PEORIA

**Dates** June 23-27, 2008  
**Location** Peoria TBD  
**Times** 8:00am-4:00pm  
**Cost** \$25  
**Deadline** 5/16/2008

### CASA GRANDE

**Dates** June 23-27, 2008  
**Location** Casa Grande TBD  
**Times** 8:00am-4:00pm  
**Cost** \$25  
**Deadline** 5/16/2008

### DOUGLAS

**Dates** July 14-18, 2008  
**Location** Douglas TBD  
**Times** 8:00am-4:00pm  
**Cost** \$25  
**Deadline** 5/16/2008

### YAVAPAI COUNTY

**Dates** July 21-25, 2008  
**Location** Prescott Valley TBD  
**Times** 8:00am-4:00pm  
**Cost** \$25  
**Deadline** 5/16/2008

