



## Highlights of Upcoming Events!

### June 22-27, 2008

Deliver Differentiated Instruction through Simple Multiple Intelligences Structures

### June 23-27, 2008

PASS: Building Partnerships for Student Success Using Rigor and Relevance (Casa Grande)

### July 14-18, 2008

PASS: Building Partnerships for Student Success Using Rigor and Relevance (Douglas)

### July 21-25, 2008

PASS: Building Partnerships for Student Success Using Rigor and Relevance (Yavapai County)

### July 14-17 and November 13-15, 2008

SEI: Sheltered Instruction in Culturally Relevant Classrooms

### September 10 & 13, December 13 & 15, 2008 and February 18 & 21, March 25 & 28, 2009

Cognitive Coaching (Phoenix)

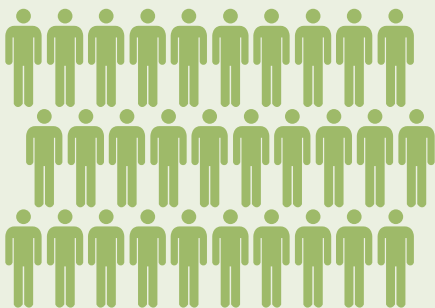
## Did You Know ?

Last school year, the **Arizona K-12 Center** had approximately **1,000** users register for events through our website [azk12.org](http://azk12.org). This year we had over **3,000** users registered. We've more than **tripled** our users!

### 2006-2007



### 2007-2008



## Impacting Arizona's Teachers: A Year In Review

As the school year comes to a close, teachers throughout Arizona will reflect on the year that was and think ahead to the coming one. We at the Arizona K-12 Center are doing the same. It has been a year of dramatic growth. We measure this not in staff members hired, budget numbers or programs offered, but in teachers impacted. So we are excited to report that we have tripled the number of educators registering for our events since last year. The Center has expanded its reach statewide, providing events in Tucson as well as Phoenix, in addition to sending facilitators throughout Arizona.

"Because we value the work of teachers so highly," says the Center's Executive Director, Kathy Wiebke, "and recognize the urgency of supporting their professional development, we are very pleased to have been able to reach out to so many this year."

John Wright, who is the President of the Arizona Education Association, and the Chairman of the Center's Board of Directors, is particularly pleased with the Center's focus on teacher leadership. "Through the Center's work, teachers are not only getting better in the classroom, but at leading the profession," says Wright, who finds this particularly relevant since historically the profession has been governed by others. "Now teachers are seizing the profession as their own," he says.

### SUPPORTING LEADERS TO STEP FORWARD

The Center nurtured teacher leadership in several ways. We have continued to expand the **Arizona Master Teacher** Program, now completing its third year, which we have nurtured from its very inception. The first year, the Center received only 12 applications; we now have over 70 Master Teachers, most of them actively mentoring new teachers. The results in terms of teacher retention have been dramatic. From a 60% retention rate three years ago, schools most in need, where Master Teachers have been deployed first, now show a 74% retention rate, which is 5% higher than the state average. The Center is also instrumental in supporting **National Board Certification**. Pre-candidacy classes, collaborative monthly meetings and working retreats give teachers opportunities to connect with peers, access helpful resources and advance through the process. "None of the other Western States have pre-candidacy support to this degree and are as organized on a statewide level to deliver a program of support," says Nancy Shakowski, Western States Regional Outreach Director, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. "This is thanks in large part to the work of the Arizona K-12 Center."

*"The Center is phenomenal," says Valdez, "it's always top-quality, always totally teacher centered. They not only teach us great things, they make us feel valued and respected."*

In addition, the Center also supported candidates for **Take One!**, which allows teachers to fulfill a single entry of National Board Certification. We were particularly focused in two distinctly remote communities—Chinle and Somerton.

Rilla Fields, a resource for the hearing impaired has taught in Chinle, on the Navajo Reservation for 18 years. "Take One! was a very good educational experience for me," Fields says. "People coming to us, providing insight into how we look at what we do, gave that extra educational impact."

The Center published the **Continuum Guide for Teacher Development** which was written by National Board Certified Teachers, as a tool for teachers designing their own journey of learning. And, in partnership with Arizona State University, and the Arizona Education Association, we launched the **Arizona Teacher Leaders Network** website at [aztln.org](http://aztln.org). This site enables 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.



Amphitheater School District in Tucson, through their Project Excel, has made particularly good use of the resources offered by the Center. This pay-for-performance program includes teacher leadership—along with student achievement and professional development—as a key criterion for qualification. The district uses the **Continuum Guide for Teacher Development** to define what teacher leadership looks like. It also recognizes both Master Teacher and National Board Certification as fulfilling this criterion.

*Continued on back*

## A Year In Review

*Continued from front*

Also on the leadership front, our **Summer Leadership Institute**, featuring *The Data-Driven Dialogue*, presented by Bruce Wellman and Jane Ellison, was the largest ever. Coming up this summer we will present Dr. Thomas Guskey, sharing his knowledge and expertise on **Leadership and Professional Development**. Next summer we will be looking at Leadership and 21st Century Skills.

### ENHANCING TEACHER LEARNING

This year the Center provided extensive learning opportunities for teachers including high quality **SEI training**. The curriculum included the SIOF (Structured Instruction Observation Protocol) Model, with one of its authors, Dr. Deborah Short presenting. All six of the areas mandated in the state curricular framework were covered. A wide variety of educators attended.

The Center also facilitated the **Partners Advancing Student Success (PASS)** program. Working in partnership with Motorola, APS and chambers of commerce 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 with 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. The program provides an excellent opportunity for teachers to develop contacts within the business community that often lead to on-going relationships and access to valuable resources for their classrooms.

Looking ahead, we are responding to the need for more training in the area of mathematics and science by developing additional programming in these areas, as well as adolescent literacy.

### ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

Last but not least, we continue to promote the integration of technology into every day teaching. Our **Technology Camp** remains extremely popular. Last summer, multimedia, podcasting and web site development were offered with teachers invited to choose one as their focus for the week.

“Tech Camp teaches what the future is,” says Gina Millsaps, who teaches at the Lowell School in Phoenix. “We went there and heard about all these things like podcasts, it got us excited about technology. It’s also a relaxing environment to think about how to apply technology to enhance learning in my classroom. It’s so much easier than trying to learn everything myself.”

The Center also partnered with the Arizona Foundation for Resource Education (AFRE), on an **expeditionary learning** experience to Vulture Mine, in Wickenburg, Arizona. There teachers learned about the geology of the area, which they later included in a slideshow and QuickTime movie for their science curriculum.

“The Center and AFRE have the same values—to improve teacher and student learning,” says Larry McBiles, Executive Director of AFRE, “so it will be super-easy to continue to collaborate.”

This year the Center also added a course in **Digital Storytelling**, which integrated writing with technology. Deby Valdez, principal of Holiday Park School in Phoenix, participated in the class along with a number of her teachers.

The Center is phenomenal,” says Valdez, “it’s always top-quality, always totally teacher centered. They not only teach us great things, they make us feel valued and respected.

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

### SHELTERED INSTRUCTION IN CULTURALLY RELEVANT CLASSROOMS

**Dates** July 14-17 and November 13-15, 2008

**Location** Desert Willow Conference Center  
4340 East Cotton Center Blvd, Phoenix

**Times** 8:00am-4:00pm

**Cost** \$350

**Deadline** 6/20/08

Notes: This class meets the 45 Completion Hours necessary to obtain a full SEI Endorsement (when combined with the initial SEI 15 Hour Provisional).

Architects of learning are mindful of today’s culturally and linguistically diverse classrooms. Classroom structures include varied readiness levels, interests, background knowledge, learning styles, cultures and languages. This learning opportunity will provide any education professional the necessary tools to build a foundation for successful content and language acquisition. You will learn to construct effective lessons based on State Content and English Language Proficiency Standards, and design meaningful learning activities that will allow all students access to key academic concepts. Design meaningful learning activities that will allow all students access to key academic concepts. Explore research-based instructional strategies. Examine multiple formal and informal assessments and use data as a framework for informing instruction. Discover innovative ways to create home/school/community connections. Participants will learn from some of the nation’s most respected educators. Featured in the **July** instruction is **Dr. Deborah Short**, one of the authors of the SIOF Model. In **November**, learners will have the opportunity to learn from the nationally known educator **Catherine Brown**. A wide variety of instructional practices will be addressed. If you’ve experienced SIOF training with us in the past, this will broaden your perspective with new, highly relevant content. Teachers, coaches, administrators, ELL directors, principals and superintendents are all welcome. Be prepared to walk away with effective instructional strategies, refine current classroom practice, and enhance your instructional leadership in the area of sheltered instruction.

## Staff Spotlight: Kim Taburski, AzTEP Coordinator



Kim does the very important work of ensuring the use of AzTEP grant funds are in compliance, as well as managing accounts for the Center. People working for

the Center know Kim as the person who collects their payment information and makes sure it gets processed properly so they get paid. Any vendors working with the Center appreciate her meticulousness in handling these matters.

As a former operations manager for such banks as Norwest and Wells Fargo for sixteen years, Kim

has excellent instincts for detail from which the Center benefits. Originally from Buffalo, New York, she moved to Arizona in 1980, making her virtually a native. After leaving the banking industry, Kim worked for a security company for a time. But feeling ready for a change after a few years, Kim later worked as a bartender.

Kim worked for nine months as a temp before she was hired on full-time at the Center. “I love working with people who have passion for what they are doing,” she says.

*“I love working someplace where you really feel like you are making a difference. I have no problem getting up for work everyday.”*

