



Highlights of Upcoming Events

February 20, 2010

Teacher Leadership and Advocacy

April 6, 13, 20, 27 and May 4, 11, 18, 2010

National Board Certification Pre-Candidacy
(Phoenix)

April 7, 14, 21, 28 and May 5, 12, 19, 2010

National Board Certification Pre-Candidacy
(Tucson)

June 8-12, 2010

Second Annual National Board Summer Institute

June 23-25, 2010

Fifth Annual Teacher Leadership Institute

Did You Know ? ?

Arizona became the tenth **21st Century Skills Leadership State** by joining the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, the nation's leading advocacy organization focused on **infusing 21st century skills into education.**

In becoming a Leadership State, Arizona has committed to embedding 21st century skills in five critical areas: **standards, assessments, professional development, teacher preparation and youth development.**



PARTNERSHIP FOR
21ST CENTURY SKILLS

PASS Events

Visit azk12.org to register for this year's PASS® events. They are...

June 7-11, 2010 (Phoenix)

June 14-18, 2010 (Yuma)

PASS 

Partners Advancing Student Success®

PASS: A Bridge between Business and the Classroom

Effective education is vital to Arizona's economy. Young people need to be properly prepared for the workforce so that both they and Arizona's businesses can prosper. In recent years, business needs have evolved at a rapid rate. At the same time, classrooms have transformed since many of our business leaders were in school. The changes that have occurred in business and education have created a gap in understanding between school and work that PASS® is helping to bridge.

PASS (Partners Advancing Student Success) is a program that connects teachers and businesses so that both can gain a greater understanding of the needs of the other. For a week each summer, participating teachers visit workplaces to see first-hand how the skills they are teaching will enable their students to succeed in work.

“We're working to get business and education to talk the same language so that everyone benefits and Arizona's development is boosted.”

“We want to give teachers a broad range of business understanding, so they can see how varied the opportunities are for students,” says Penny Kotterman, the Arizona K12 Center's Associate Director for Policy & New Programs. “These experiences should reflect the diverse economic makeup of Arizona.”

Through PASS, teachers gain an unprecedented opportunity to engage with the business community in order to make their curricula more relevant. By visiting a number of different work environments, teachers hear and see for themselves the foundational traits and skills their students will need. They also have the chance to share with business leaders in their communities the challenges they face as educators.

APS and Motorola have been sponsors of PASS since its inception. “Teachers are our greatest resources,” says APS Senior Community Development Associate, Louise Moskowitz. “Our concern is our future workforce and

that's where PASS comes in. We're working to get business and education to talk the same language so that everyone benefits and Arizona's development is boosted.”

CONNECTING THE DOTS TO SUCCESS

Businesses seeking to support the PASS program can get involved in a variety of ways. They can contribute financially to grow the program so that more teachers can participate in PASS. They can also participate in business panels, host teachers on learning exchanges in their businesses, sponsor teachers in their area to participate and provide in-kind resources.

“It's a connect the dots opportunity,” says Barbara Clark, the now retired Education and Community Outreach Manager for Motorola, who helped launch PASS. “Every teacher in the program has a realization about how students need to be prepared to be successful.”

PASS is based on the Rigor and Relevance model and aligned with state workplace skills standards and 21st Century Skills. As a result, it features a strong emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) related subject matter.

“You realize the pervasiveness of science and technology in the workplace,” says Clark. “Very little doesn't share that foundation. It's the aha moments that are so powerful, how everything is part of an inter-related system.”

This year the program will be offered in two venues: Phoenix and Yuma. There, teachers will have a broad selection of businesses to



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PASS: A Bridge between Business and the Classroom

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choose from, representing a range of industries including hi-tech, science, banking, construction, retail and others. Teachers from throughout Arizona are invited to join in. The first day focuses on workplace standards and 21st Century Skills. This is followed by three days in which teachers visit businesses. On the final day, teachers are involved in learning how to

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use technology in their planning and instruction, planning a related in-class project and sharing their experiences with the businesses who participated during the week.

Six to eight weeks later, teachers reconvene to show how their PASS experience impacted their classroom teaching. Each educator presents their results both to one another, and their new partners from the business community. Through PASS, relationships are cultivated that empower both teachers and businesses to better support one another. In many cases, the connection with businesses last long after the program is completed.

LEADERS IN ACTION



Bob Abel, Career and Technical Education
Mountain View High School
Marana Unified School District

Jen Robinson, Instructional Coach
Maricopa Unified School District

Bob Abel and Jen Robinson are facilitating this year’s PASS® program. They help ensure teachers have the richest possible experience by aiding them in aligning with the Arizona workplace standards and 21st Century Skills. As teachers themselves, Robinson and Abel know how important hands-on professional development can be.

“It’s fun getting teachers fired up about making curriculum more rigorous and relevant.”

Abel has been involved with PASS for the past three years. Teaching Digital Arts and TV production keeps him at the cutting edge of technology in school. Through PASS, he can share that perspective with others as well.

“It’s fun getting teachers fired up about making curriculum more rigorous and relevant,” he says. “We want coursework to be meaningful, project-based learning. That’s what is transferable to the work place.”

Jen Robinson, who also provides support for National Board candidates, is excited about the discoveries teachers make while in the PASS program. “PASS is important for teachers at all grade levels,” says Robinson. “It shows how to move beyond basic knowledge into applied skills. Things like time management and teamwork can be taught at a very young age. The projects teachers have worked on to prepare kids for the 21st Century workplace are really amazing.”

A NIGHT OF RECOGNITION

Arizona’s New National Board Certified Teachers

Sponsored by APS

The Arizona K12 Center is proud to announce that this year 123 Arizona teachers achieved National Board Certification. An exceptionally rigorous assessment, National Board Certification recognizes accomplished teaching of the highest standard. It’s also perhaps the finest single professional development program available to teachers today. We’re celebrating the accomplishment of our new National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) in a special evening event on February 18, 2010.

“We’re so excited about these teachers,” said Arizona K12 Center Executive Director Kathy Wiebke, “and of all the teachers who seek to raise their practice by pursuing National Board Certification. We work hard to promote and support National Board candidacy in Arizona, so it’s a thrill to see so many outstanding teachers coming forward.”

Teacher excellence often passes unnoticed, so celebrating this year’s cohort of new National Board Certified Teachers is highly appropriate. The Center is particularly grateful to the Arizona Public Service Company for sponsoring the event.

“Here at APS, education is a top initiative,” says APS Senior Community Development Associate, Louise Moskowitz. “It’s important for these teachers to know that our business community supports them. This is a great opportunity to honor and celebrate teachers who have gone that extra mile in order to perform at their best for our students.”

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