

AESD Dispatch*



*Dispatch: "The sending of a message with promptness and efficiency."

Spring 2005

Getting to Know Our New AESD President



President Maggie Perez

My family migrated from Texas to Washington State, finally settling in Sunnyside, WA. My parents were farm workers for many years; however, my mother had entrepreneurial qualities, and was determined she could and would seek employment as a radio announcer in Sunnyside. In 1953 my mother began her 25-year radio announcing career.

My mother also had two Mexican restaurants and one Mexican bakery, lasting two to three years. Mom had attained and mastered an array of entrepreneurial skills that prompted her to launch a dance hall where local and out-of-state musicians performed on weekends. Entrepreneurship began with my maternal grandmother — it runs in the family.

I possess a Masters degree in Education specializing in counseling, thanks to the encouragement of my husband Patrick. He is my inspiration and was my mentor and support system throughout my educational career. I have three daughters, Patsey, Debbie and Melissa, and three grandchildren.

I have been working for higher education for 17 years — 13 years at our local community college, and four years at Washington State University Intercollegiate College

of Nursing. I have been very involved in our community for the past 13 years. I've been a member of an array of boards and committees, as well as K-12 school districts, in the entire Lower and Upper Yakima Valley. I actually serve on three committees with the Yakima School District. I continue to diligently serve the Yakima school District, because I have a passion to make a difference for all children in receiving quality education. I strive to promote (on radio, meetings, parenting gatherings) parental involvement in their children's education.

My motive in serving on the AESD Executive Committee as president is my strong passion to have a small part in making a difference in the education of all children from K-12. My education and community efforts have fostered a commitment in the field of education with a sincere determination to help pave the way for others to be able to access education and succeed in their academia. I possess knowledge about the school system, our local government, and the private sector.

I strongly believe that as part of the Executive Committee team we can all conclusively discuss/share concerns regarding the education of our children. I believe there is room for growth and learning strategies for educators. I believe that occasional training for educators should be implemented. If we want to contemplate the future of our children, perhaps we need to review the past.

Changes may need alterations; nevertheless, our priority is to stay focused on the needs of our children. Life, people, communities change throughout the years — rarely does anything stay the same forever — change is inevitable.

What's New With ESD Board Members



ESD 114 Board Member
Bill Serrette Retires

After 7 ½ years of service to the Olympic ESD 114, Bill Serrette has retired. Bill can be best described as a gentleman. He is courteous and compassionate. As a

Board member, he brought his considerable educational experience to the table and worked tirelessly to find the best solution to any challenge. A veteran of over thirty years in education, Bill started out as a teacher. He retired from his full-time job as Superintendent of Port Angeles School District in 1988. He has been a superintendent, elementary school principal, and assistant superintendent at several school districts in Montana.

Born in Butte, Montana, Bill worked in ranching, construction, as a school custodian, and as a retail store manager. He is a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He has been active in Lions Club, Scottish Rite, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, and other civic and fraternal organizations.



Outgoing AESD President Gordon Griggs presented awards of appreciation at the AESD Conference. Shown (L-R) are Norm Wisner, AESD; Bruce Hunter, AASA; Gordon Griggs, and Brian Talbott, AESA.

2005 AESD Annual Conference at Post Falls, Idaho

The Washington-Idaho border was temporarily moved four miles east for April's AESD Conference hosted by ESD 101. Washington briefly annexed Templin's Red Lion Hotel in Post Falls, ID, for the 2005 event, which showcased an array of regional and national speakers — and local school talent.

The conference began with a Thursday afternoon cruise on the Spokane River, followed by a banquet attended by more than 130 conference participants and spouses. Entertainment was provided by the "Supts to Nuts" Band (back by popular demand) and a guest appearance by Elvis.

The serious business began on Friday with keynote presentations by Martin Sedler, on being a change agent in life; Bruce Hunter of AASA and Brian Talbott of AESA, discussing federal legislative issues; and Mac Bledsoe, discussing parenting with dignity.

Breakout sessions included a presentation by the ESD 105 Board entitled, "Tools of the Trade: Board Development." Other session presenters were Norm Wisner of AESD, reporting on the 2005 legislative session; and Deb Ramsay of ESD 101, discussing technology in the classroom.

Saturday's keynoter was Martin

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News from Washington State ESDs

ESD 101: (continued) Fleming, discussing school climate and effective strategies to combat bullying.

The conference also featured outstanding student entertainment from the Rogers High School (Spokane) Steel Drum Band and Cheney High School Music in Motion group.

Conference sponsors included Banc of America Securities, Edusoft, Honeywell, Pearson Digital Learning-Novanet, Red Lion Templin's Hotel, Saxton Bradley, Seattle Northwest Securities, Spokane Teachers Credit Union, The Beresford Company, VEBA Services and Wilbur Ellis.

Thank you to the 92 registered participants who made the conference a rousing success. We look forward to seeing you all again next year in Bremerton.

ESD 105: Experienced in thinking through issues and questions and how to go about doing that in an open and responsible way is a cornerstone of the talent Dr. Patsy Callaghan, English Department Chair and Professor from Central Washington University, brings as ESD 105 Board director. With more than 26 years experience in teaching and practicing effective written and spoken communications strategies, Patsy has provided progressive communications and decision making skills to the ESD 105 Board since 1999.

Patsy is also a nationally-recognized scholar in the field of rhetoric and composition and received the CWU Distinguished Professor for Public Service Award in 2000. Her most recent writing textbook, *A Meeting of Minds: A Brief Rhetoric for Writers and Readers* was published in 2004.

"A lot of people think of rhetoric as arguing. But, I look at the use of rhetoric as a way of thinking through important issues and making decisions about issues . . . every good reason to believe, and

no good reason to doubt," shares Callaghan. "I see a lot of blanket positioning in public policy . . . I think there are better ways to move us forward and meet the challenges that lie ahead."

"I see ESDs as so crucial to assisting in the collaborative function that will make it possible for districts to get the most out of their resources . . . when you have ESDs there to synthesize and respond to needs of districts from a regional level, drawing from many resources and ideas, it is very powerful. The ESDs have an ability to come together, especially for complicated and controversial topics," believes Patsy.

ESD 112 has joined the Clark County Skills Center to bring expanded opportunities to students in high schools throughout Clark County.

The partnership will increase educational options for students who access other already successful ESD programs such as Workforce Investment Act and alternative school programs. Additionally, the joint venture will boost offerings to include academics for those students on a career technical pathway.

The Skills Center has served students in Southwest Washington since 1981, bringing hands-on educational training to eight cooperative member school districts through programs such as Applied Medical Sciences, Automotive Technology, Construction Technology, Criminal Justice, Dental Assisting, Hotel Careers, Legal/Medical Office Applications, and Restaurant Management.

"ESD 112 is excited to be part of this opportunity to bolster post-high school options for its region's students, while helping support the economic development of Washington State," said Dr. Twyla Barnes, Superintendent, ESD 112.

ESD 113: Students with teachers in the ESD 113 Teacher Connection Project (TCP) show significantly higher improvement rates on the WASL reading and math test than other students across the state. Credit for this goes to teachers receiving face-to-face assistance in managing classrooms and helping students achieve the challenging standards that require them to reason well, solve complex problems, use inferential thinking, and write skillfully.

TCP was started five years ago and operates under the direction of Kathy Budge, ESD 113 Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning. Basically it consists of a cadre of content specialists who provide teachers in the region with job-embedded professional development in reading, math or writing. They broaden the base of knowledge and skills for teachers who, in turn, are in charge of the student learning in their classrooms. Contact Budge at kbudge@esd113.k12.wa.us or (360) 586-2942.

OESD 114: (See front page)

ESD 123: On March 17-18, ESD 123 hosted the *Professional Learning Communities: Conversations about Teaching and Learning* conference. The 120 participants included teachers, principals, central office administrators and superintendents.

Four models were presented: Lesson Study, Critical Friends Groups, and Schlechty Center's Protocols for Learning Teams and Northwest Regional Laboratory's Professional Learning Teams.

The body of research around professional learning communities continues to grow. Teacher quality is improved when team-based professional learning is focused on the subjects teachers teach. Highly collaborative teams define their purpose and goals for improving student learning. They typically use four key strategies in their efforts to change classroom practices: focus on data, share and reflect on classroom practices, apply research and best practices, and improve teamwork and collaboration skills.

ESD 123 will continue to offer training for regional educators on professional learning communities, beginning in the fall, 2005.

NCESD 171's Executive Committee representative from 2001-2005 was Ed Daling. Ed served as 2003 AESD President, and although he is no longer a member of the committee, he still serves on the NCESD Board. Ed was presented



NCESD Board member Ed Daling receives AESD award from President Gordon Griggs.

with a special honor for his accomplishments as 2003 President at the AESD Annual Conference. Gordon Griggs stated, "Ed provided excellent leadership to the AESD as an officer, and as President. His tact, understanding, and competence made it a pleasure to work with him."

NWESD 189: A new and exciting Classroom-Based Assessment Cooperative is off to an excellent start at NWESD 189. This was formed last spring at the request of districts with the aim to develop quality WASL-like classroom-based tasks and assessments (CBAs) in math and reading that could be used by teachers and are aligned to the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs).

Twenty-five math tasks and twenty reading assessments that can be used by teachers to determine if students have mastered various learning targets that will be assessed on the WASL are included. These CBAs are available on-line to teachers in participating districts. The cooperative has copyrighted the assessments and will market them to other districts, reinvesting the proceeds in the development of additional CBAs.

Puget Sound ESD is moving its main offices from Burien to Renton. The move was precipitated by a town square development project in Burien, which will be built on our current site.

We are very pleased to have found a new home in Renton that was a former corporate office for Boeing, and we have signed a "lease-purchase" option for the facility. Renovations and improvements are currently underway, and we expect our move to be completed by October 2005.

Our new headquarters meets our need for additional office space, will accommodate future growth, has state-of-the-art training and meeting facilities, plenty of parking, and is convenient to major highways and public transportation hubs. We will post directions to our new building and our new phone numbers on our website, www.psesd.org.



AESD Executive Committee: Back, left to right: Robert Bauer, Jane Gutting, Monte Bridges, Twyla Barnes, Bill Baumann, Bill Keim, Jerry Jenkins, Walt Bigby, Bruce Hawkins, Terry Munther, Rich McBride, Randy Johnston. Front: Maggie Perez, Ann Campbell, Howard Coble, Gordon Griggs, Jean Wasson, Brad Gingerich, Ken Seng.