

AESD DISPATCH

ASSOCIATION OF
EDUCATIONAL
SERVICE DISTRICTS

www.aesd-wa.org



Nine ESDs. One Network.
Supporting Washington's Schools and Communities

Winter 2013



A MESSAGE FROM THE AESD PRESIDENT

Welcome 2013 and a new era of government and education. Our new Governor Jay Inslee is hard at work with his staff and the new and changing legislature on

so many issues, and at the top of the list is K-12 education and how it gets funded with a pledge of no tax increase. It will be interesting to see the outcome.

As ESDs we have a huge stake in all of this, and we as board members must continue to educate legislators and the public on the valuable professional programs and services we provide to K-12.

I hope all of you have received your copy of the **AESD 2012 Executive Summary for Legislators**. It highlights the small investment by the state that have yielded such Huge Dividends for Education. Thanks goes to Dr. Twyla Barnes and her staff for putting this great piece of information together.

At our retreat in October we had strong discussions and ideas on the four areas I had mentioned in our last newsletter and below is a summary of those:

- 1. McCleary Decision and implications for ESDs.** 2018- \$1.7 Billion for first phase... Cuts? Levy Swap? Sales Tax? Etc. Could K-3 class size fall off the table? Districts could have additional dollars... It could be a plus to buy services from ESDs.
- 2. Charter School Initiative and its implication and opportunities for ESDs and AESD:** ESDs could provide services for teaching and learning, operational services and technical consulting. ESDs could help legislators with guidance on what policies need to be made and help with the implementation of those policies.
- 3. AESD relationships with various entities moving forward: Continue to enhance our relationship with OSPI.** In order to help influence legislation we must communicate with our constituents we serve about what we are doing in common with other educational groups as we seek common ground. Use the McCleary decision

as a focus.

4. Potential of new ESD services and programs: We need to stay involved in the process and keep our eyes and ears open for legislation that affects K-12 and how we can better serve schools. It will open the opportunity for new services.

We had a really productive retreat and look forward to following through with our ideas. Jim Shoemake and Marcia Fromhold are hard at work for us again, and if they call and need our help we need to jump into action. They are the best team to help and promote our ideas.

Well, it is getting close to our annual conference in Olympia this year at ESD 113. We hope all of you are getting your registrations filled out and hotel reservations made. It is shaping up to be a fantastic event and I look forward to seeing everyone there.

~Merle Kirkley, AESD President
NWESD 189



Dr. Bill Keim, ESD 113 Superintendent (above left) pictured with AESD President Merle Kirkley at the November 2012 AESD Executive Committee meeting.



Marcia Fromhold (left) and Jim Shoemake serve as AESD Legislative Liaisons.

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2013 WA State Teacher of the Year is now National Teacher of the Year finalist



The 2013 Washington State Teacher of the Year, Zillah High School's Jeff Charbonneau, advanced in January as one of the four finalists who'll be vying for the title of the 2013 Washington State Teacher of the Year.

Charbonneau will travel to Washington, D.C., in March to interview with the National Teacher of the

Year selection committee. The other finalists are a high school English teacher from Maryland, a pre-kindergarten teacher from Florida, and a high school music teacher from New Hampshire. The 2013 National Teacher of the Year will be announced during a presidential ceremony at the White House during the last full week of April.

Charbonneau has taught at Zillah High School since 2001, and has gained a reputation in the 1,350-student school district and throughout the south central Washington region for his innovative leadership in promoting STEM education. He obtained adjunct faculty status with Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University and Yakima Valley Community College, allowing his students to earn up to 24 college credits for their high school classes in architecture, physics, engineering, and chemistry. He also started the popular Zillah Robot Challenge in 2008, a multi-district program that has boosted STEM learning for nearly 1,000 students from 43 schools. Charbonneau has also provided online instruction and online cohorts for teachers pursuing National Board Certification and continuing teaching certificates.

Three teachers from Washington have been named the National Teacher of the Year since the award was first presented in 1952. In 2007, the award went to Andrea Peterson, a music teacher at Monte Cristo Elementary School in Granite Falls. She was preceded by Walla Walla High School science teacher Johnnie Dennis in 1970 and by Bellevue High School speech and world problems teacher Elmon Ousley in 1963.

The National Teacher of the Year program is coordinated by the Council of Chief State School Officers.

~David Goehner, ESD 105



2013 AESD Conference scheduled at ESD 113 in Olympia



For conference information see www.aesd-wa.org or www.esd113.org.

THURSDAY, April 11, 2013

- ESD Superintendents & Assistant Superintendents Meeting
- AESD Board Meeting
- Conference Registration - Sign In
- President's Reception
- Banquet
- Social

FRIDAY, April 12, 2013

- Breakfast
- Opening Session & Keynote
- Morning Concurrent Breakout Sessions
- Luncheon
- Afternoon Concurrent Breakout Sessions
- Area Partnership Site Visitations
- Dinner on your own

SATURDAY, April 13, 2013

- Coffee
- AESD Business Meeting & Awards
- Brunch
- AESA Report
- Closing Keynote
- Call to 2014 Conference

2013 AESD Conference

Partnerships: Doing More, Together

Although registration forms and payments are due by March 25, 2013, Superintendent Bill Keim shares it would be helpful, for their planning, to receive registrations for the 2013 AESD Conference by the end of February. For questions or concerns, please contact Jenny Kropelnicki, ESD 113 jkropelnicki@esd113.org or 360.464.6702.

The conference will include a keynote by Ron Fielder, former CEO of Grant Wood Area Education Agency in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; State Superintendent Randy Dorn, speaking on the OSPI/ESD partnership; and closing keynote by Dr. Gene Sharratt, sharing his ideas about partnership and encouraging ESDs to stretch our concept of the ESD mission to include a wide variety of stakeholders.

Washington's Schools and Communities



NEWESD 101

Data Coaching initiative off and running in NEWESD 101

As data collection has become more prominent in accountability and assessment, the dilemma for many districts isn't a shortage of information. Rather, it's knowing where to find the right information and, ultimately, how to use it to improve teaching and learning.

In northeastern Washington, NEWESD 101 has been at the forefront of regional efforts to assist districts in data analysis through a new Data Coaching initiative.

The initiative combines the strength of NEWESD's two largest divisions – Student Learning and Support Services, which provides the curricular know-how, with Operations and Technical Services, which provides the technical and data know-how.

Together, the two divisions are aiding districts in the identification of achievement gaps and, most importantly, how to correct them. Data Coaching services have been provided and will continue in the Deer Park, Inchelium, Kettle Falls, Odessa, Republic, Valley, Wellpinit and West Valley school districts.

Service is tailored to the resources available in each district and includes training in products such as Homeroom, an analytical tool providing a broad range of student assessment data that is offered to WSIPC members at no additional charge. Using funding already in place, the goal in each district is to compile a complete picture of the myriad factors that impact student learning.

Tere von Marbod, Fran McCarthy and Tim Colliver (all of whom will be credentialed this year as certified data coaches) collectively assist districts with needs assessment, planning, professional development, coaching, facilitation and mentoring. Throughout the training process, teachers and administrators learn ways to track data, detect trends, correct problems and head-off others.

The Data Coaching initiative is grounded in the belief that systemic change, informed by data, is essential to student growth and progress. The response from participating districts has been roundly applauded and NEWESD 101 looks forward to expanding the effort beyond the current cohort.

~Steve Witter, Communications/Development
NEWESD 101



ESD 105

ESD 105 Teaching & Learning pioneers science lesson work using GLAD strategies

The ESD 105 Teaching and Learning department is pioneering some work this year that will help teachers use existing science lesson kits as a way to also assist students who need help in learning their language acquisition skills.

Six area teachers began work last summer to develop materials using the strategies of GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Development) to supplement some of the familiar "STC" science instructional materials already being used in the 3rd, 5th, and middle school grades. The new inserts will support Title III requirements, particularly in the area of increased parent involvement in their children's education and language development. The supplements are also designed to align with Common Core Standards.

So far, language acquisition materials have been developed for the Catastrophic Events (middle school), Plant Growth & Development (3rd grade) and Ecosystems (5th grade) science units. Teacher trainings for those kits will run from February and into the summer, eventually impacting 180 teachers.

The two lead instructors involved in the ongoing GLAD work at ESD 105 will follow up the trainings by going into teachers' classrooms to help participants adapt the curriculum into lesson plans.

ESD 105 will also offer a series of general GLAD trainings this summer for middle school and high school teachers.

~David Goehner, ESD 105
Public Information Officer



ESD 112

ESD 112 Threat Assessment program keeps schools and communities safer and saves districts money

Thanks to a program that partners Clark County school districts, law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social service and mental health organizations, Clark County schools are safer, districts are saving money, and students are staying in school. The Clark County Schools Student Threat Assessment Program, administered by ESD 112, assesses students who have been suspended or emergency expelled for incidents of violence.

The program also provides training for school teams, preparing staff to identify and

assess threats and develop interventions quickly and efficiently. Parents are an integral part of the intervention and planning process. Threat Assessment began in 2008 and was modeled after a successful program in Oregon.

One of the goals of Threat Assessment is keeping students in school rather than expelling them. The program saved Clark County school districts \$166,160 in apportionment money over the cost of the program last year. The program also contributed to the on-time graduation rates of school districts by allowing kids to remain in school after suspension. Clark County school districts were able to keep 80% of assessed students in the same school or district each year the program has been in place. Safety and support plans were also put in place to keep schools and communities safer. Threat Assessment also provides follow up and tracking of high-risk students after assessments are completed.

"The Threat Assessment process is a valuable tool in allowing teams to prioritize support for specific students. The tool becomes a neutral and informative document in navigating difficult conversations with families about student behaviors. As an administrator, I have utilized this process several times, and have found it extremely insightful," said Kris Janti, Principal of Felida Elementary School in Vancouver.

"This program has been a great tool for assisting the youth and their families in our community," said Troy Schmidt, Probation Officer at the Clark County Juvenile Justice Center. "We are able to provide resources and options for the schools and families so students can get back to school. This team approach is truly a savior for the schools and some of these families."

~Jodi Thomas, ESD 112
Public Information Coordinator



ESD 113

Kids Learn Better with Case Management School Nurse Model

What if school nurses could take a holistic approach to individual student health? Would it improve academic success? A recent pilot project answered that question with a resounding "Yes!" Absenteeism rates dropped and math and reading scores improved using a nurse case management model in the school setting.

In 2011 OSPI, through a partnership between their Institutional Education and Health Services departments, created a unique pilot project to demonstrate the impact of nursing case management on

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student achievement.

The funding came from a Title 1, Part D grant for neglected and delinquent youth. It provided nurse case management services to 150 elementary and middle school age students with the goal of decreasing absenteeism and increasing academic achievement. Washington is the only state in the nation using Title 1, Part D funds in this unique way.

The project involved 19 elementary and middle schools in 11 high poverty school districts, across three ESD's (113, 114 and 123). Eligible students included those with life-threatening conditions, chronic diseases, high absenteeism and unmet health care needs. The program is still operating in two ESDs and is administered by Lynn Nelson, RN, MSN, NCSN in ESD 113 and Les Stahlnecker, RN, MS in ESD 123.

Health risk factors create barriers to learning through: 1) absenteeism, 2) lack of participation when in attendance or 3) lack of social and emotional skills to engage in learning. The more risk factors each student has, the less likely they will succeed in school or graduate on time. Nurse case managers can help remove these barriers by:

1. Evaluating the student's situation and individual barriers to learning;
2. Prioritizing interventions; and
3. Ongoing evaluation and modification of a health plan.

While traditional school nursing takes a population-based approach, the case management model involves intensive work with individual students. Nurse case managers collaborate with parents, health care providers, teachers and administrators, and outside agencies to assure students' needs are met and services are coordinated.

"The Case Management approach of our school nurses addressed health and kept kids in school, in class and engaged," said Nelson. "We believed this would occur over the long term, but we were uncertain if improvements would be documentable after the brief pilot

project period. The fact that improvement was statistically significant after so little time further underscores the value of this approach."

~ Lynn Nelson, RN, MSN, ESD 113
NCSN, Program Administrator
Health and Student Support



OESD Staff Christmas Angel Program

Eighteen Olympic Peninsula families are a little happier this holiday season, thanks to the generous staff of the Olympic ESD. In a program that's been in practice since the late 90's, families that receive ESD services can be elected to receive a little extra support through the Christmas Angel program during the holiday season if they are not able to access existing community resources.

In early fall, ESD employees try to connect families that are a part of the ESD's Head Start, Early Head Start, ECEAP and Pathways to Success programs to existing holiday help programs, like Toys for Tots, Kitsap Community Resources, the Salvation Army, and local food banks. For whatever reason, some families fall through the cracks and aren't eligible for assistance or support. These caring employees work with the families to make sure they are connected to these existing resources, then take their information for the OESD's Christmas Angel Program coordinated by Donna Wagner and Emily Manson.

Donna Wagner, the co-coordinator for the Christmas Angel Program notes, "Every year we ask the agency staff members if they want to participate and move forward, and every year I'm overwhelmed by the response." Staff members participate to bring a little extra joy by picking a child (only age, size and needed items are provided) and purchasing items the family can put under the tree. Items are brought to the ESD and sorted by staff elves to be delivered to the families. Staff purchase items out of their own pockets and this year, helped 18 families, a total of over 38

children. Last year, the ESD supported 27 families and over 51 children.

In a season that may be difficult for so many families, it can be made a little brighter, thanks to the generosity of the Olympic ESD staff. A family advocate that works with families receiving assistance shared this:

"I dropped off presents to a grandma raising three grandchildren. I brought in one bag and she was excited and touched. But you should have seen her face when I said I was not finished, I was going to get another bag. And then again, when I told her I had a gift card too. She was amazed and so very touched. Thank you for helping this family have a nice Christmas, considering all that they are going through right now in their lives."

~Heather Tonder, OESD 114
Certification Specialist



ESD 123

Board Member Newby retires

After devoting ten years of service to the ESD 123 Board of Directors, Mr. Dale Newby attended his final board meeting on October 25, 2012.

The ESD 123 Board of Directors accepted Mr. Newby's resignation, effective October 31, 2012, during their regular September 2012 Board Meeting. Mr. Newby served as Chairman of the ESD Board in 2010 and his leadership and contributions to the board are deeply respected.

In the resignation letter submitted by Mr. Newby, he stated, "Most of all I will miss working with a very unique and wonderful group of board members... Never have I been on [a board] with such balance and character. The flexibility of our board and its willingness to change and adapt, when needed, is a great strength."

ESD staff and board members hosted a retirement reception in Mr. Newby's honor prior to the October 25 board meeting in the Lewis and Clark Room at the ESD. Both staff and board members present at the reception shared fond memories of time spent with Mr. Newby over the past decade.

ESD Superintendent, Mr. Bruce Hawkins, stated, "Mr. Newby brings a wealth of experience as a retired educational leader. He has also been an active learner related to the issues of the day. He will be missed."



Washington's Schools and Communities



ESD 123 Superintendent Bruce Hawkins presents a plaque to retiring board member Dale Newby.

The ESD Board of Directors is currently in the process of appointing an individual to fill this vacancy until the scheduled November 2014 election period.

ESD 123 is grateful for the dedication Board Member Newby has shown to the agency over the last decade. His commitment to education and to the mission of ESD 123 will no doubt carry on long after his retirement.

~Molly Curtiss, ESD 123
Communications & Graphics Coordinator



Puget Sound ESD

Puget Sound ESD 'Revs Up' Work for Race to the Top Grant

Work is under way to begin implementation of the \$40 million Race to the Top grant that will fuel programs and strategies to improve education for students in seven King County school districts.

The Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, Seattle and Tukwila school districts competed together for the federal funding this fall as the "Road Map District Consortium." The name is a reference to the districts' participation in the Road Map Project, a collaborative effort to dramatically improve education in South Seattle and South King County.

The districts' 320-page plan was among 16 winners picked from nearly 400 applications, the U.S. Department of Education said in December. The region was one of only two applicants to win the maximum award of \$40 million.

The Puget Sound ESD will be responsible for managing the grant's implementation and function as the fiscal agent. Initial work on implementation is getting under way – a Project Manager will be hired shortly and the grant oversight Executive Committee is being established.

The winning plan covers 261 schools and 150,000 students, including 36,000 high-need children. The districts are using the grant to implement the following plans in an effort to help students "Start Strong," be "STEM Strong" and "Stay Strong":



(l-r) Federal Way Superintendent Robert Neu, Renton Education Association Phyllis Silling, Kent Superintendent Lee Vargas, Highline Superintendent Susan Enfield, former Renton Superintendent Mary Alice Heuschel, PSESD Superintendent John Welch, CCER Executive Director Mary Jean Ryan, Auburn Mayor Pete Lewis, Seattle Superintendent Jose Banda, and Auburn Superintendent Kip Herren.

- **Start Strong** - with a focus on early learning by ensuring students are ready for Kindergarten and improve math, science, and English language learning teaching. This will involve a lot of collaborative work between community PreK efforts and elementary schools.

- **STEM Strong** - our region is known for innovation in science, technology, engineering and math. We will invest in new tools that support the integration of digital content and blended learning approaches in the classroom and out of school for high need K-8 students. Investments will also help students explore STEM careers, and implement the Next Generation of Science Standards.

- **Stay Strong** - increases students' post secondary opportunities by offering all students the SAT, PSAT and ReadStep in school for free, provide training and assistance for our middle and high school guidance counselors, increase AP courses as well as STEM, IB, world languages, and enhanced career and technical training opportunities.

"We are excited to win this highly competitive and substantial grant to raise achievement in our region," commented Puget Sound ESD Superintendent John Welch. "Our successful grant application builds off of work already occurring in our districts and with our partners. These federal dollars will enhance, extend, and accelerate work we already know to be successful learning strategies."

A representative, nine-member Executive Committee will provide grant oversight and is in the process of being formed. Members include District superintendents, building leadership, teacher association leaders, and community partners. In addition, leading a complex, large federal grant such as this is a full-time job. The consortium is in the process of hiring a project director

who will be housed at the Puget Sound ESD Renton offices. Applicants for the position should have a background in large-scale project management, experience in managing collaborative partnerships and program development. The project director will report to Superintendent John Welch and the Executive Committee.

For more information on Race to the Top, please visit the Puget Sound ESD website, www.psesd.org

~Peter Daniels, PSESD
Communications Manager



NWESD

NWESD PreK-3 Alignment

This year we launched the new NWESD Mental Health program. The program consists of fully licensed therapists and a supervisor, experienced in conducting therapy and case management with children and adolescents of all ages. The mental health program is currently coordinating with seven Skagit County school districts and focuses on children with social, behavioral, and emotional concerns who are presenting at Tier II and III levels. The program provides assistance for students who are not Medicaid eligible and who do not have private health insurance, so their access to mental health services might otherwise be non-existent.

The Teacher and Principal Evaluation Project (TPEP) is going strong again this year, and we will have nearly half of our districts connected to the project by the end of the year. We also have regional coordinators and coaches working directly with the schools to get them prepared for the Common Core State Standards and Smarter

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Balanced Assessments coming in 2014. This month, we released a Common Core toolbox with newly created professional development modules, resources, and training.

The NWESD will be hosting the 5th annual Starting Strong P-3 Institute on August 6-7, 2013, at the Lynnwood Convention Center. This is an exciting opportunity for us to host this event focusing on the four key components for P-3 early education efforts – leadership, family engagement, aligned and effective instruction, and partnerships. Registration is open in April and updates are available on our website nwesd.org/startingstrong and on [facebook.com/startingstrongwa](https://www.facebook.com/startingstrongwa).

~Rachael Woods, NWESD 189
Communications Specialist

ESD 112 receives state grant for STEM project

Educational Service District 112 is one of six educational organizations in the state that will share an annual \$1.7 million federal Mathematics and Science Partnership grant for three years.

Funding for the grants comes through Title II, Part B, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and is being distributed by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

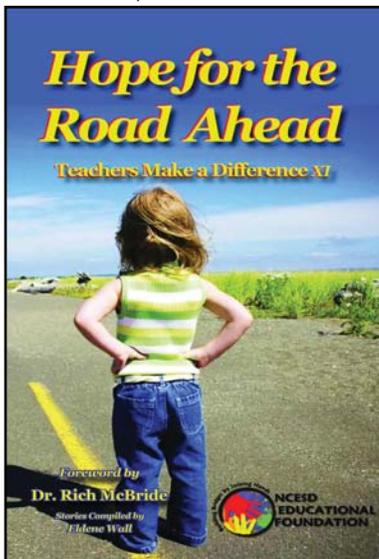
ESD 112 will work with Evergreen and Vancouver

school districts, SEH America, Clark College and Washington State University Vancouver. The project will focus on professional development for 30 to 40 sixth- to eighth-grade teachers who will deepen their knowledge in science and math by developing and using standards-based STEM lesson plans. Materials developed will be available to schools across the state.

~from *The Columbian*

2012 Teachers Make a Difference

The 11th edition of *Teachers Make a Difference, Hope for the Road Ahead*, follows the theme of the 2012 AESD Conference, with foreword written by NCESD Superintendent Dr. Rich McBride.



Highlights of the book include inspiring stories written by speakers at the "Road Ahead" Conference, including Dr. Yong Zhao, global scholar, author and conference speaker, and popular national speaker Kevin Honeycutt from ESSDACK in Kansas, describing teachers who changed their lives.

Copies are available for \$12 each. Please contact Eldene Wall eldenew@ncesd.org if you have questions or would like to order a copy of the book.

AESA Leaders from Washington State



The Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA) announced November 27 that Dr. Rich McBride, superintendent of North Central Educational Service District in Wenatchee, was selected by the AESA Executive Council as president-elect for 2013-2014. Dr. McBride will assume the presidency in April 2014, following the term of the current president.

While serving as a member of AESA for 10 years and in his position on the AESA Executive Council for the past two years, Dr. McBride has served as governmental relations chair. He has also been a member of the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) for over 20 years, serving as president in 2008-2009. He was honored with the 2011 WASA Leadership Award.

"It's such a distinct honor to be called to serve as president-elect of such an exceptional organization as AESA," stated Dr. McBride upon learning of his selection. "This is a unique opportunity to serve as an advocate and cheerleader for both the districts in our region and the hundreds across the nation."

As president, Dr. McBride's goals will be to:

- Continue to support AESA staff in their advocacy for public education in the nation.
- Support key initiatives, which build professional leadership at the central office and building levels.
- Support continued

cooperation with other key educational partners/organizations across the nation to build public awareness and support for equitable funding.

•Continue to be an "unabashed cheerleader" for the success and continued progress of public education in our nation.

Dr. McBride further commented: "I look forward to working beside Executive Director Lee Warne and the AESA staff, and all of our members as we continue to promote the leadership development of our administrators and high academic achievement for our students. My deepest appreciation to the AESA Executive Council for this humbling vote of support for our organization."

Twyla Barnes leads AESA Educational Foundation



Dr. Twyla Barnes was selected as president of the AESA Educational Foundation during the 2012 AESA Conference business meeting.

A hallmark of Dr. Barnes' career is creation of the "Executive in Residence" program, preparing the next generation of ESA leaders. Twyla also served as 2002-2003 AESA President and was honored with the Justus A. Prentice Award in 2007.

Washington's Schools and Communities

November 15, 2012 AESD Executive Board Meeting



Sharing a discussion at the November AESD Executive Board meeting were: (l-r) Dr. Walt Bigby, Superintendent, ESD 114; Karen Sorger, ESD 114 Board; Superintendent Bruce Hawkins, ESD 114; Dr. Mike Dunn, Superintendent, ESD 101; Charlie Staadecker, Puget Sound ESD Board; and Bill Gant, ESD 105 Board.



Merle Kirkley (left), shown with Dr. Mike Dunn, ESD 101, Gary Coe, ESD 101 Board; Dr. Walt Bigby, ESD 114, and Charles Staadecker, Puget Sound ESD Board, presided over the November 15 AESD Executive Committee meeting.



Superintendent Rich McBride from North Central ESD and Harlan Warner, NCESD Board (filling in for Larry MacGuffie) enjoy a moment together at the AESD Executive Board meeting.

AESD Executive Board

ESD Superintendents

ESD 101 - Dr. Mike Dunn
 ESD 105 - Dr. Steve Myers
 ESD 112 - Dr. Twyla Barnes
 ESD 113 - Bill Keim
 ESD 114 - Dr. Walt Bigby
 ESD 121 - Dr. John Welch
 ESD 123 - Bruce Hawkins
 ESD 171 - Dr. Rich McBride
 ESD 189 - Dr. Jerry Jenkins

AESD Board and Legislative Representatives

ESD 101 - Gary Coe gicoe@aol.com
 ESD 105 - Bill Gant yviaa@embarqmail.com
 ESD 112 - Dr. Richard Graham samgouche@yahoo.com
 ESD 113 - Howard Coble hcoble48@msn.com
 ESD 114 - Karen Sorger karennfred@msn.com
 ESD 121 - Charlie Staadecker, Past President info@staadeckerrealestate.com
 ESD 123 - Brad Gingerich bradlisagingerich@msn.com
 ESD 171 - Larry MacGuffie, President lhmaccguffie@homenetnw.net
 ESD 189 - Merle Kirkley merlek@chberesford.com

See the AESD Website www.aesd-wa.org for other information
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AESA 27th Annual Conference



Pictured above at the AESA Conference are (l-r): Superintendent Steve Myers, ESD 105; Superintendent Walt Bigby, ESD 114; and NCESD Superintendent Rich McBride, North Central ESD.

Dateline Tampa, FL—The Association of Educational Service Agencies welcomed nearly 800 ESA board members and CEOs to Tampa, November 28 to December 1, for their 27th annual conference.

The theme for this year's conference was "Inform, Innovate and Implement." The opening keynote for the conference was noted educator Marcia Tate, author of "Worksheets Don't Grow Dendrites: 20 Instructional Strategies to Engage the Brain." A reading specialist by background, Marcia provided key scientific and medical research into the structure of the brain and how different "research based" strategies can dramatically improve student achievement and success.

Author and Edupreneur Rob Mancabelli opened the Friday morning session. Rob is the author of "Personal Learning Networks: Using the Power of Connections to Transform Education." Rob has over fifteen years of experience in education, technology and change management. He has worked in schools as they move toward improvement of their technology services through integration into the whole school program.

Saturday morning's closing session was keynoted by Manny Scott, one of the original Freedom Writers. Manny's story was told in the Hollywood movie, "Freedom Writers." Manny was once dismissed as unreachable and unteachable, but due to the undaunted efforts of his teacher Erin Gruwell, Manny now speaks to thousands across the nation and holds degrees from the University of California and Trinity International University. Manny is author of the book, **Take Matters into Your own Hands: Dream Now.**

As part of the business portion of the conference, AESA has announced that Dr. Twyla Barnes, ESD 112 in Vancouver will serve as the Chair of the AESA

Educational Foundation Board and that Dr. Rich McBride, North Central ESD in Wenatchee has been elected as AESA President-Elect.

SAVE THE DATE:

AESA Executive Director Lee Warne has announced that preparations are already underway for the 2013 Annual Conference on December 4-7 at the J.W. Marriott, San Antonio Hill Country, Texas. The theme for the 2013 Conference is "ESAs Version 2.0: What does an ESA look like in a 2.0 World?" The conference will explore how ESAs are transforming to meet the needs of local districts as they rapidly change and adapt to this new global landscape. Keynote speakers already confirmed are noted author and global education leader Dr. Yong Zhao, as well as futurist Jamie Vollmer. More details to come, but circle the dates now, dust off your Stetson and we'll see you in December in San Antonio!

~Rich McBride, AESA Executive Committee



Puget Sound ESD Board members John Zurfluh (left) and David Okimoto (center) enjoy a visit with another attendee at the 2012 AESA Conference.



Rick Anthony (left), ESD 113 Board member, visits with board members and guests at the Conference.