

# 2016 PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference

# highlights success



Hundreds of members enjoyed the PA Association of School Administrators and PSBA joint annual School Leadership Conference held Oct. 13-15. School directors and administrators, students and exhibitors gathered at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center for a variety of professional development and networking opportunities. With the theme of Success Starts Here – echoing the newly launched public awareness campaign for public education – this year’s event focused on the positive news from PA schools.



Topics covered everything from school innovation and community engagement to education technology and legal updates.

## Julie Lythcott-Haims focuses on helicopter parenting at Open Session

The conference kicked off with a presentation to the Superintendent of the Year, **Dr. Mark Di-Rocco** of Lewisburg Area SD in Union County. Entertainment was provided by the talented Lewisburg Area High School Brass Ensemble. Attendees also enjoyed a humorous video featuring 2016 PSBA President Kathy Swope playing the popular smartphone game "Pokemon Go" on her way to conference.

Opening keynote speaker Julie Lythcott-Haims, a former dean of students at Stanford University, spoke about the consequences of "helicopter parenting." Using humorous examples from her experience as dean, she highlighted ways to avoid this style of parenting and tips for dealing with these types of parents.

Lythcott-Haims described the characteristics of helicopter parenting as "overprotection, over-direction and excessive handholding," and said that these parents feel that they will be judged for their child's accomplishments. Comparing today's meticulous parenting strategies with cul-

tivating bonsai trees, she noted that kids seem to be "on a path of someone else's making, to meet someone else's expectations." She encouraged parents to let their children make more of their own choices to foster success: "We're trying to teach them the lessons we've learned, forgetting that humans only learn their lessons by living life."

Lythcott-Haims has written and spoken widely on the subject of helicopter parenting. In addition to numerous articles, she authored the *New York Times* best-selling book, *How to Raise an Adult: Break Free of the Overparenting Trap and Prepare Your Kid for Success*.

## Timothy M. Allwein Advocacy Award presented

**Dr. Richard Frerichs** of Penn Manor SD (Lancaster Co.) was presented with the Timothy M. Allwein Advocacy Award in Thursday's Opening Session. The annual award is giving in recognition of outstanding leadership in legislative advocacy on behalf of public education and students. It was established in 2011 in memory of Timothy M. Allwein, former PSBA assistant executive director for Governmental and Member



Relations. Criteria for selection include impact on legislation or legislators, mobilizing grassroots advocacy, and raising public awareness of important issues. Frerichs is a past PSBA president and PSBA Fellow in School Governance and Master School Board Director.

## Educational sessions

More than 40 educational sessions were offered for attendees. Topics covered everything from school innovation and community engagement to education technology and legal updates. All sessions were recorded by students from Cornwall-Lebanon SD and will be available on PSBA's website.

## Exhibit hall highlights student creations

Between sessions, attendees visited more than 150 exhibitor booths displaying products and services for the education community in the exhibit hall. This year's Classroom of the Future exhibit contained four zones featuring the latest technology and learning environments. These included a LEGO lab showcasing robots, a technology lab featuring classroom solutions for the iPad and Mac, a hands-on zone containing drones and sensors used for monitoring schools, and a STEAM zone, in which students from Pennridge High School created guitars and ukuleles on-site. Watch a video of this process on the PSBA Facebook page. An extension of

the exhibit hall, the Learning Lab featured 20 minutes talks by experts on a variety of topics such as grant seeking and 21st-century learning environments.

## Spotlight on students

In addition to learning and networking, conference attendees enjoyed celebrating the accomplishments of students. Thursday evening was the Student Showcase highlighting the best in public education performing arts. Ten groups from around the state were chosen through an audition process to perform at this event. The evening was hosted by Reese Diaz, a student from Parkland SD, whose stage experience includes several Broadway roles. Other performers included the strolling band Pocono Mountain Prowling Panthers (Pocono Mountain SD), the *a capella* Palisades High School Madrigal Choir (Palisades SD), Radnor Middle School Jazz Band (Radnor Township SD), Franklin Regional Flute Quartet (Franklin Regional SD), Franklin Learning Center Show Choir (Lincoln IU 12), 16-member Ringgold Harp Ensemble (Ringgold SD), honors performance choir Rose Tree Media Ambassadors (Rose Tree Media SD), Shikellamy Theatre Department (Shikellamy SD) performing selections from *Big River*, Coatesville Area B.R.I.D.G.E.E. Step Team (Coatesville Area SD), and Mechanicsburg Area Symphonic Band (Mechanicsburg Area SD). See a video of the Student Showcase on the PSBA YouTube channel.

The entertainment continued in the

## Conference buzz

Here are some top tweets posted during conference:

On Lythcott-Haims...

Marianne Bartley  
 @mariannebartley

Chores build responsibility, work ethics – predict success as adults; love being happiness more than things/ accomplishments. #PASLC2016

On Classroom of the Future...

Joan Marlow Cullen  
 @joanieBaloney90

We're #PennridgeProud at #PASLC2016! @PennridgeHS Guitar Bldg was all the rage in the exhibition hall. Go P-RIDGE! @PennridgeSD @PSBA #STEAM

On Education Excellence Fair...

Michael Faccinnetto  
 @MikeFaccinnetto

@DoneganBASD Leaders explain to @BASDSUPT what it takes to be a good leader. #PASLC2016

On Student Showcase...

Mark B. Miller  
 @MarkBMiller1

Pocono Mountain Prowling Panthers steal the show @PasaSupts @PSBA leadership Conference #PASLC2016 One act is better than the next! PublicEd

On Alan November...

Rona Kaufmann  
 @drronakaufmann

Alan November #PASLC2016 "We have underestimated children and their ability to manage their own learning."

Julie Lythcott-Haims



Lynn Foltz and Allwein Award Winner Rich Frerichs



## JOIN US NEXT YEAR!

Don't miss this unique opportunity to network and learn with colleagues from across the state. The 2017 conference will return to a Tuesday-Friday schedule. Mark your calendar with next year's dates – Oct. 17-20 at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center.



Alan November



exhibit hall on the CM Regent Insurance Stage. Performances on Thursday and Friday included Parkland Chorale (Parkland SD), Hanover Steel (Hanover Public SD) and male *a capella* group Fermata Nowhere (East Penn SD).

### Student Delegate Program

Students and advisers from all over the state learned about policy and school governance at the Student Delegate Program held during the annual conference. The highlight of the program was the Student Simulated School Board Meeting held Friday morning at the Hershey Lodge. Groups of students presented policy proposals to a mock board on four topics – bullying, school safety, athletic and extracurricular activities, and social media.

### Education Excellence Fair

During the Education Excellence Fair Thursday and Friday, teachers and students from 30 school districts presented a variety of successful ideas implemented in Pennsylvania school districts. Topics ranged from literacy nights and leadership

programs to solar pavilions and STEAM technology. A video on the PSBA Facebook page features Wayne Highlands SD students presenting their Ed Fair booth on the Lakeside Garden Club.

### Ed tech speaker reimagines learning expectations

At Friday's lunch, international education technology expert Alan November delivered a humorous and informative talk on how changes in technology require a change in how students are educated. He illustrated the need to teach critical thinking skills and student-directed education with examples from his experiences working with students and from those of exemplary teachers around the country.

November emphasized that new technology alone will not bring about student achievement unless students are being asked to do new work with that technology. "We should be designing classes that are more sophisticated than the ones we inherited," he said. Critical thinking, understanding of multiple perspectives, and the ability to obtain and assess what

is the best info in the world to solve any problem, are key skills students should be taught. November encouraged educators to not underestimate students' ability to take responsibility for their own education, but offer them "messy" problems and allow them to become "problem designers" rather than just solvers. Teachers should teach about how they learn, not only what they know.

November has held a number of roles including an international speaker, director of an alternative high school, computer coordinator, technology consultant and university lecturer. His writing includes numerous articles and the best-selling book, *Empowering Students with Technology*.

### Auditor General receives William Howard Day Award

Friday evening PA Auditor General Eugene DePasquale was presented with the first William Howard Day Award from the Pennsylvania Public Education Foundation (PaPEF). This award, named in honor of the first African-American school board president in the United States, recognizes



Jaime Casap

outstanding contributions from individuals, groups or organizations to public education across the commonwealth. As part of the award, PaPEF donates \$5,000 in the recipient's name to a public school district education foundation of the person's choice. DePasquale chose Erie SD's educational foundation, Partnership for Erie's Public Schools, as the recipient of those funds.

### Google Education Evangelist Casap talks 'Generation Z' at Saturday's Closing Session

The final day of the annual conference opened with a hands-on workshop with Lego Education. More than 40 individuals learned about innovation in the classroom from Lego representatives Billy Colangelo and Dr. Shirley Disseler from High Point University. Colangelo said that 90% of kindergartners work at genius level. The challenge is to keep them working at high levels as they move through the education system. Teaching creatively is one way to accomplish this.

After being treated to the talent of the Carlisle Area High School Symphonic Band, attendees heard from Jaime Casap, Google's chief education evangelist at the Closing Session. His talk focused on the power and potential of technology. But just adding technology is not the answer. It must be used to enable inquiry-based learning, he said.

Casap recalled the days of going to the library. Technology now has given us 100 million libraries at our fingertips. "How Generation Z learns is different. Not better. Just different," said Casap. He also assured attendees that education is not broken. The world has changed and he challenged them with the question, "What do we do to prepare for the future that is already here?"

In addition to his role at Google, Casap serves on a number of boards, including the Arizona Science Foundation and Inquire Schools, and is an advisor to dozens of organizations focused on education, technology and equity. He is an adjunct professor at Arizona State University, where he teaches classes on policy, innovation and leadership. **B**



PaPEF President Dr. Richard Frerichs, Auditor General Eugene DePasquale and PaPEF Executive Director Christina Griffiths

#### On Jaime Casap...

Randy Ziegenfuss  
@ziegeran

We have the world at our fingertips. How do we change our learning models? @jcasap #PASLC2016

#### On ed sessions...

Mary Rozenkrans  
@MaryRozenkrans

Best quote #PASLC2016 from Big Spring SD Bd. Pres. Wolf, "This is too important an issue [financial literacy] for us to not be doing this."

Chuck  
@chuckisthinking

"We believe the learning environment should foster the development of the whole child." #yoursalisbury #paslc2016



#### FIND IT!

Here's where to find more conference-related videos, photos and posts online.

YouTube: videos, including the conference wrap-up – <https://www.youtube.com/user/PSBAvideo>

Flickr: photos – <https://www.flickr.com/groups/paslc2016/pool/>

Storify: a collection of your conference tweets – <https://storify.com/PSBA/2016-school-leadership-conference>

PSBA LEARN portal: recordings of educational sessions – <https://www.pspa.org/learn/learn-portal/>