



# PASC NEWS

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## 2012 Student Summit in State Capitol to Focus on Four Issues in Education

PASC will hold its 14th annual Student Summit in the State Capitol in Harrisburg on February 23, 2012. One of the most important issues facing lawmakers and government leaders in Pennsylvania is the education of our state's 1.8 million students. Our state government's continuing goal is to provide the highest quality of education for the 21st century and the most affordable price. Many adults in and outside of government have many and varied opinions on how best to achieve the goal. The students of Pennsylvania are the recipients of this education and also the greatest stakeholders in the success in achieving the highest standard of education in our nation. The 2012 PASC Student Summit is designed to give the students of Pennsylvania a voice in the most important topic.

PASC invites schools to send four students to Harrisburg for this Student Summit on 21st Century Education. The Summit is designed around six aspects:

- **Research and Preparation** by student participations prior to the February 23rd meeting with focus on four specific educational issues.
- **Development of Proposals** by students in advance of the Summit and the refinement of those proposals through working with other students during morning work sessions.
- **Presentation and Debate** on proposals recommended by student committees during an afternoon general session following lunch.
- **Refinement of Proposals** by the "working com-



mittees" to incorporate ideas generated through the general session debates and discussion.

• **Nomination** of up to six students who will be tasked with the responsibility of working with PASC to present students' ideas generated at the Summit to the State Board of Education, the Secretary of Education, and Education Committee Chairs of the Pennsylvania House and Senate.

• **Student** participants will also be encouraged to make **presentations** to their local School Boards.

**Educational Topic Areas**—The topics that students should research and prepare proposals for in preparation for the Summit are:

- Academic Accountability
- Equitable Funding
- Teacher Certification and Training
- Role of Co-Curricular Activities in the Educational Process

See page two for a tentative schedule of the day. Additional details about the Summit, the application process, and additional information on topics areas are available at [www.pasc.net](http://www.pasc.net). A copy of the program information and application will be emailed in mid-December to all students and advisors who receive PASC NEWS; please download it and share it with others in your school. The program is open all students (including non-student council members) in grades 9–12 only. **The deadline to apply is January 18, 2012.**

*continued on page 2*



# News & Notes

## PASC Executive Board Positions Open

There are several ex officio positions on the PASC Executive Board that are vital to the success of the organization. Each position has a three year term. In 2012, the terms of Middle Level Coordinator and Web Site Coordinator expire and the positions become open. The job descriptions for these positions can be found at [www.pasc.net](http://www.pasc.net) or a copy can be obtained by emailing [pascinfo@aol.com](mailto:pascinfo@aol.com). In each case an application and resume will be due from each candidate by Wednesday, February 15. Interviews will be conducted on Friday, March 2 prior to the beginning of the PASC Executive Board meeting in New Castle. In brief, the duties of each position are listed below:

### Middle Level Coordinator:

1. Communicate with junior highs/middle schools/intermediate schools.
2. Act as a liaison between those schools and the PASC Board.
3. Produce a junior high/middle school/intermediate school column for each PASC newsletter.
4. Promote Blue (grade 7–9) Summer Leadership Workshops.
5. Serve as a consultant and advisor to the two student middle level representatives and their advisors on the Executive Board
6. Attend meetings of the Executive Board in January, March/April, August. Attend the state conference as a member of the Executive Board. Work with PASC Executive Board members regarding programs and opportunities provided to middle level students and their advisors.

### Web Site Coordinator:

1. Serve as the clearinghouse for all documents that are to be posted on the website.
2. Check website to verify that items are posted in a timely manner and to remove outdated information.
3. Post additional articles to the website on current PASC and leadership topics.
4. Attend meetings of the Executive Board in January, March/April, August and at the state conference as an ex-officio member of the board. Work with PASC Executive Board members on the posting of state, district, and regional information.
5. Maintain current online resources used by PASC, which may include training the Executive Board, staying current on new technology, and acting as a technology resource to the Executive Board.

## PASC Student Summit in Harrisburg February 23, 2012 Tentative Schedule

- 8:15–8:45 Registration at the East Wing of the State Capitol
- 9:00–9:15 Opening Session in the House of Representative’s Chamber
- 9:30–10:15 General Work Session  
Students will be divided into groups based on their interest in the four major educational topic issues facing Pennsylvania.  
A facilitator will lead a group of 30–35 students in a discussion of their topic. Students will be asked to present their proposals to the group.
- 10:30–11:45 Resolution Writing  
Each of the four groups will select up to three student resolutions and divide into that number of sub-groups. Each committee will prepare one or more resolutions to be presented to all delegates during the afternoon General Session.  
The committee will select two or more spokespersons to make General Session presentations.
- 11:45–12:45 Lunch on your own/ Free time at the State Capitol Complex
- 1:00–3:30 General Session on the Floor of the House of Representatives  
Each committee will present resolutions to the general body. Delegates and committee spokespersons will engage in a comment period and debate on the resolutions during a 30-minute block of time.  
At the end of 30 minutes the delegates will vote to support or to reject each resolution presented on that topic.  
The same process above will be used to reach student opinion on each of the four educational topic areas. Delegates from other committees may submit written recommendations for the committee to consider following the general session.
- 3:45–4:45 Committees will reconvene to revise their resolutions based on the vote of student delegates in the general session and on written opinions provided to the committee from other delegates. Each committee will select a representative to work with PASC on the final draft of the Summit resolutions and presentations of resolutions to Pennsylvania educational leaders. Following the Summit, participants will be emailed resolutions that they may use to present to their local School Boards.

# 2011 United States Senate Youth Scholars Named

Senators Robert Casey and Pat Toomey have announced the appointment of John Connelly and Mariam Ahmad as the Pennsylvania delegates to the 50th Annual United States Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C. John and Mariam were named following recommendation from the US Senate Youth Scholarship Selection Committee.



John Connelly

■ **John Connelly**, a resident of Oakmont, Pennsylvania is the senior class president at Riverview High School (District 3). John is president of National Honor Society and of the marching band. He is active in theater and the Key Club and planned many community service projects and travelled to Argentina to do service there. John is also the captain of both the Riverview soccer and track and field teams.



Mariam Ahmad

■ **Mariam Ahmad** is PASC State President and Student Council Vice President at Altoona Area High School (District 6). Mariam played a major role in planning the PASC State Conference and has represented Pennsylvania at the state and national levels for the past two years. At Altoona High School, Mariam is on the tennis team, is president of the Junior Academy



*Congratulations to the Pennsylvania finalists for the United States Senate Youth Scholarship program, who gathered in Harrisburg in November for interviews. They are: (Back row) Zachary Cole, Teddy Kolva, John Connelly, Issac Cornell, Benjamin Marasco; (Front row) Aliza Furneaux, Shannon Robison, Dylan Eiger, Mariam Ahmad, Sarah Rudasill.*

of Sciences, competes in forensics, and is on the Executive Council for her class government. Mariam is active in the school and community in service including being the chair of the Altoona Thon, which raises funds to fight Juvenile Cancer.

John and Mariam will each receive \$5,000 scholarships and will attend a program in Washington in March sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

Two additional state finalists were named as alternates for the program, Dylan Eiger of North Penn High School-Lansdale (District 12) and Sarah Rudasill of New Oxford High School (District 8).

## PASC Has Hoodies for Sale

A PASC hoodie designed by Destiny Orchowski, former Region D Representative, is now available and being offered to advisors and students at a great price.

It is a good heavy-weight hoodie in Black with "PASC" printed in Hot Pink, Neon Green, Neon Blue, or Neon Yellow. (See picture) If you

would like to order one, the cost is \$18 plus \$4 for shipping; sizes available are small through 3XL.

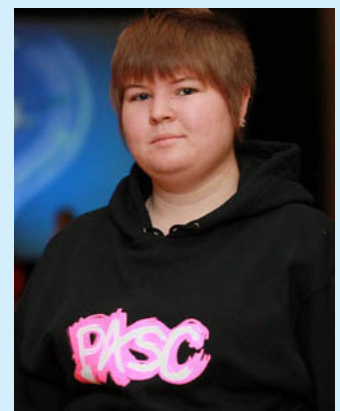
Fill out the order form found at [www.pasc.net](http://www.pasc.net) and mail it with payment (check payable to PASC) to Kathy Coll, 174 Link Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Hoodies will be mailed to the school address so several

can be ordered on one form.

Orders are due by January 1, 2012 and will be shipped by January 15, 2012.

Questions: Contact Kathy Coll at [Kcoll1@comcast.net](mailto:Kcoll1@comcast.net)

**Hoodies only \$18  
plus shipping**



# NASC to Hold LEAD Conference in Washington, DC

NASC will sponsor a LEAD Conference at a familiar site to PASC member schools the weekend of February 3–5, 2012. The conference will be held at the Crystal City Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

These exciting and rewarding weekend meetings are designed to encourage interstate communication among student leaders and advisers, to strengthen leadership skills, and to prepare those attending for leadership roles on the local, state, and regional levels. To register, Go to [www.LEADConferences.org](http://www.LEADConferences.org), choose your site, then click on the registration information link. Deadline to register online to receive the member school early-bird rate (\$175) is December 16, 2011. Regular deadline is January 20, 2012 (\$195).

Special workshop topics for this LEAD conference include:

- Anti-bullying sessions for students
- Middle level leadership strand for advisors and students
- Take the Lead multimedia show
- Tools for combating drugs, alcohol, and depression
- Idea sharing and networking
- Project planning
- Community service ideas and projects
- Fundraising ideas
- Teambuilding
- Education about healthy lifestyles.

The schedule for the weekend will be as follows:

## Friday

- 3:00–6:30 Registration  
7:00–9:00 General Session with Keynote Speaker  
9:00–10:30 Interactive Program

## Saturday

- 7:30–4:00 Breakfast, Second General Session, Workshops for Students and Advisors  
Large Group Workshops and Leadership Training  
4:30–7:30 Dinner On-Your-Own  
8:00–10:30 Third General Session

## Sunday

- 8:00–8:45 Breakfast  
8:45–10:30 Closing General Session with Keynote Speaker

Three keynote speakers will be featured:

## Quiet Riot

Quiet Riot is a team of two brothers—Bill Mettler, executive storyteller, and David Mettler, person in charge of noises and opportunities. In their combined experience they have: circled the globe, led rock climbing expeditions, harvested cotton in Israel, commanded USAF satellites, worked on offshore oil rigs, directed a wilderness school, built a courthouse in Australia, flown airplanes, barely escaped indoctrination into a Moonie commune, worked with drug addicts, the homeless, the CIA, and taught second grade. They have degrees in aerospace engineering and natural resource management. They have studied acting, mime, jazz and modern dance, ballet, neuro-linguistic programming, motivational psychology, CQL, eco-economics & sustainability.



## Scott Greenberg

Scott Greenberg's uncanny ability to connect with a variety of audiences and discuss universal messages about resilience, leadership, and peak performance keeps him in constant demand as an inspirational speaker. As the grandson of a "Schindler's List" holocaust survivor, Scott grew up hearing his grandparents' stories of survival and developed a fascination for the area of human resilience. During his chemotherapy and radiation treatments, he kept a journal and noted the attitudes and behaviors of fellow patients. Why did some suffer and others thrive, regardless of their specific diagnosis? Would these same reasons also apply to people's personal and professional lives? This curiosity would eventually become the basis for his success as one of America's top youth speakers.



## Bob Lenz

Bob Lenz stresses the value of each person and their tremendous worth, no matter what happens to them. He challenges you to have courage to stand up for what's right and not to just go with the crowd. And, he stirs a desire in you to show respect for each other, your parents, your teachers, and for the diversities that make each of us unique.



## PASC NEWS

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# Act Locally, Reach Globally with State Charity

By Jasmine Major and Sarah Blinn, 2012 State Charity Co-Chairs

For the 2012 PASC State Conference Charity, Laurel and Union High Schools in the Pittsburgh area plan to join the "Keep It Campaign" by acting locally and reaching globally.

The first part of our efforts will be "to act locally." The September floods along the Susquehanna River and in Dauphin and Lebanon counties destroyed homes and businesses in PASC Districts #7, 8, and 9. Starting November 12 until February 29, we are asking for monetary donations from all Pennsylvania schools. Checks can be made out to:

2012 PASC State Charity  
Laurel Jr.-Sr. High School  
2497 Harlansburg Road  
New Castle, PA. 16101

All money collected until December 15 will be divided among the three PASC Districts and sent to District Directors Edrene Wright, Tressa Rae, and Web Site Coordinator Dotty Noll. They will, in turn, purchase gift cards for the holi-

day season for families in need in their areas.

At the Altoona State Conference, we had the opportunity to speak to delegates living in some of those areas who were "upset about not being able to spend Christmas at home, because they had no home to go back to." So please, do some type of small fundraiser ASAP, so that the holiday spirit will be a part of their lives this year.

Money collected after that date will be used to buy additional gift cards as needed for the victims of this disaster right in our own state. One delegate expressed the following: "After ripping everything out of my house: furniture, pictures, rugs, clothing, and personal items, it felt like my life was out in the open on the curb for everyone to see." It is hard to imagine that feeling of hopelessness and despair just to see your life in such ruins. Some delegates mentioned that they were thankful that a student organization like PASC was willing to help them get back on their feet. They had no idea that this



charity was going to hit so close to home this year.

The second part of the 2012 state charity is to "Reach Globally." More details about that aspect will follow in the January PASC NEWS.

Check out our website at [PASC2012.org](http://PASC2012.org) for quick fundraising ideas and pictures from the flooded areas. Also, tell us what you are doing on the Keep It Campaign FB page, and maybe it will encourage others.



The 2012 State Conference Charity will help families in need who were affected by the floods in PASC Districts 7, 8, and 9.

## Being an Effective Leader Means Being an Effective Listener

A speaker and workshop presenter at the National Conference on Student Activities sponsored by the National Association of Workshop Directors (NAWD) held recently in Salt Lake City, Utah was State Senator Aaron Osmond, a freshman state senator who presented a session entitled "Listening to Your Constituents."

Using an active listening ap-

proach, Senator Osmond (yes, a member of the famous singing Osmond family) challenged advisors to use and teach effective listening skills. Senator Osmond demonstrated how he uses these active listen techniques in working with constituents across the state of Utah, dealing with controversial issues as well as regular communication.

PASC Summer Leadership

Workshops will benefit by the information and lessons learned in his session. The following are some valuable quotes about listening that we can all take to heart.

"They will not care how much you know, until they know how much you care."

"Your actions speak so loudly that I cannot hear your words."

"God gave us two ears and one

mouth so that we would listen twice as much as we speak."

"Be a good listener, your ears will never get you in trouble."

"Man's inability to communicate is a result of his failure to listen effectively."

"80% of our success in learning from other people is based upon how well we listen."

# PASC Seeks Student Nominee for the NASC Advisory Council

In the spring of 2012, the state student council organizations of the Middle Atlantic states will be responsible for the selection of one student from the Middle Atlantic states to serve on the NASC Advisory Council. The NASC Advisory Council membership consists of four students and four advisors, one from each of the eight NASC regions of the country.

For the past two years, NASC Region 2 has been represented by an adult member, Lou Miller of New Jersey. Region 2 includes the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Each of these states may nominate one current 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade student as their nominee. An interview process for those interested in being the Region 2 Rep for 2012–2014 will be held in April. From the state nominees interviewed, one will be selected for the NASC Advisory Council position. This student will:

1. Serve from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014.
2. Foster communication between the state presidents and executive directors of the Middle Atlantic states.
3. Communicate student ideas and concerns from the states of Region 2 with NASC and members of the NASC Advisory Committee.
4. Assist with planning the annual spring meeting of NASC Region 2 state officers and executive directors.
5. Foster the sharing of ideas and projects among the state organizations of Region 2 as well as among student leaders across the nation.
6. Be expected to attend an NASC Advisory Council meeting in Reston, Virginia in January 2013 and 2014, and the NASC

Conference in June 2012, June 2013, and June 2014. The student may also be asked to attend an NASC LEAD Conference in 2013 and 2014.

7. Possibly be asked to attend other meetings or conferences in which student input is needed. NASC covers expenses for all required meetings.

PASC now seeks a Pennsylvania nominee for this position. Current freshman and sophomores may apply. Since the spring of 2010, Region 2 has had a Student Liaison, Pennsylvania's own Sarah Rudasill of New

Oxford HS, who has fulfilled the responsibilities listed above with the exception of items 6 and 7. To learn more about these expectations and what the position entails, please contact Sarah at [rudasill2013@comcast.net](mailto:rudasill2013@comcast.net).

The following is the PASC application process.

1. An application can be obtained from PASC at [PASCInfo@aol.com](mailto:PASCInfo@aol.com) or by downloading information at [www.pasc.net](http://www.pasc.net).
2. The application is due to the PASC office by postmark deadline January 6, 2012.
3. The PASC committee on NASC Relations will review student applications and select up to five finalists. Students will be notified by February 1, 2012.
4. The finalists will be interviewed by the NASC Relations Committee on Friday, March 2, 2012 prior to the PASC Executive Board meeting in New Castle, PA.
5. The PASC nominee, along with other nominees from NASC Region 2 states, will be interviewed at the NASC Region 2 state officers meeting in Maryland on Saturday, April 21, 2012.

## 2012 NASC Conference to Be Held in Oklahoma

PASC will be "Blazing the Trail of Leadership" as we head to Yukon HS in Oklahoma City, Okla., June 23–25, 2012 for the national NASC conference. This year's conference returns to the format that was sponsored by NASSP and hosted by NASC from 2008–2010. This means that a school site/community will be featured and all lodging will be hotel based.

PASC will travel together for a pre-trip that will begin on June 21 and return home on June 25. Details about the pre-trip will be available in a future issue of PASC News

The conference will feature nationally recognized speakers, student led workshops, speaker showcases, idea sharing sessions, and, to tie in with the presidential election year, the conference will also feature a mock national election. We will meet daily in state rooms for information sessions and one day will be region day where we will meet with all of Region 2 to discuss upcoming events.

The conference and pre-trip is

open to six students and advisors from a school. A cost of \$1,400 for the trip will include all transportation, registration fee, hotel, entertainment fees, meals (except lunches on the pre-trip), chaperones, trading buttons, and state and region T-shirts. The pre-conference trip will be chaperoned by PASC Executive Director Jim Finnemeyer and Assistant Executive Director Kathy Coll, along with other adults who will assist on the trip.

PASC Reservations and a \$500 non-

refundable deposit will be due by January 15. The reservation form will be posted at [www.pasc.net](http://www.pasc.net) by mid-December. Deadline to reserve your conference seat will be February 15, 2012.

Workshop presenters will be needed, and students who have presented at a state or regional conference can apply. Watch the NASC website or check the January PASC NEWS for details and application.

Join us for Blazing the Trail of Leadership and head back to the "west" to have the experience of a lifetime!



# Reflections as the Region 2 Student Liaison

By Sarah Rudasill

As the 2010–2012 Region 2 Student Liaison, I have been afforded numerous opportunities to work with the best student leaders in our region, foster enthusiasm for student council, and develop my own leadership skills. When I first began my term, I was uncertain as to how I was going to effectively facilitate communication between the student leaders and advisors of each of the five states in Region 2. It was a daunting task, but I embraced it with full enthusiasm and ended up having one of the best experiences of my life.

It is incredibly rewarding to be the voice for the students in our region. I encouraged not only the exchange of ideas but the implementation of those ideas to get tangible results and make a difference in our communities. This was achieved through an annual conference

of the states, visits to each state's convention, and contact through social media. It was my goal to strengthen the ties between the student leaders and advisors of the various states and generate enthusiasm for making a difference. By creating an environment of passion for leadership, the leaders of our states were inspired to continue making an impact.

What you cannot see on paper, however, is the tremendous amount of personal growth that I experienced during my term. First and foremost, the Region 2 Student Representative experiences tremendous

growth in communication skills. Traveling to various state conventions and speaking to hundreds of student delegates is just one example of the work required as the representative. I also had the unique opportunity of learning to quickly integrate myself into groups of enthusiastic student leaders when visiting other states' conventions.

Furthermore, as the Region 2 Representative I have had the opportunity to develop an even stronger passion for student leadership and service. It was a privilege to meet hundreds of successful student leaders

making a difference in their communities every day. It is extremely satisfying to be a part of something bigger and to work towards improving our student councils and schools. All of these experiences have given me confidence in myself as a person and leader.

As my term draws to a close, I realize just how fortunate I have been to serve Region 2, which has become a family to me. High school freshmen and sophomores now have the extraordinary opportunity to apply to become the next representative and serve on the NASC Advisory Council. The position requires a huge commitment, but the rewards are incredibly worthwhile. If you are passionate about student council and NASC, download an application from [www.pasc.net](http://www.pasc.net) or contact me for more information at [rudasill2013@comcast.net](mailto:rudasill2013@comcast.net).



## Start the Year Off Right with Some Fun Activities

Looking for some fun ideas to start the year off right when you come back from winter break? Try one of these ideas for January:

■ **Lost and Found Fashion Show.** In honor of National Second Hand Wardrobe Day, January 5, conduct a humorous fashion show during lunch using only items from the school's lost and found.

■ **Toy Drive.** After the holidays, many kids are ready to find new homes for their gently used toys. Hold a collection day and donate the toys to a local shelter.

■ **New Student Ice Cream Social.** Host an ice cream social for students who have transferred into your school during first semester. Match members of your organization to new students to serve as hosts and conduct an icebreaker. Provide nametags so students have an opportunity to attach names with faces. Have students tell about upcoming school activities and traditions.

■ **Finals Care Packages.** Help freshmen survive their first round of midyear exams by preparing care packages with a list of tips for studying, snacks, pens, and other goodies. Deliver one to every freshman in the school with good luck wishes for their exams.

■ **Ultimate Frisbee Tournament.** The first Frisbees by Wham-O were produced on January 13, 1957. In honor of this date, sponsor an ultimate Frisbee tournament in the snow for teams from each class during lunch or after school.

■ **MLK Day of Service.** Organize a local service project for the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday and join the tradition of making it a day on, not a day off. For ideas, resources, and a free toolkit, visit [www.mlkday.org](http://www.mlkday.org).

■ **Healthy Weight Week.** During Healthy Weight Week, January 15–21, invite area health care providers to set up displays during lunch about healthy eating habits, exercise, and healthy weight. Visit [www.healthyweight.net](http://www.healthyweight.net) for more ideas.

■ **Puzzle Power.** In honor of National Jigsaw Puzzle Day, January 29, give pieces of a jigsaw puzzle to every member of a grade level (or classroom if your grades are too large). Provide an area for puzzle assembly and have a contest to see which grade can get its puzzle put together first by having students stop by to insert their piece. Offer good prizes as an incentive for everyone to participate and make the point that “the puzzle isn't complete without you.”