



PASC NEWS

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Civic Education Summit Held at Governor’s Residence

PASC was asked by First Lady Judge Marjorie O. Rendell and by Secretary of Education Dr. Gerald Zahorchak to help coordinate a summit in Harrisburg convened to discuss civic education and civic engagement in the Commonwealth. More than 50 student leaders along with 25 student council advisors and other educators participated in the Summit on Wednesday April 15, 2009.

Under the leadership of former Region F Rep, Nick Lavella of Garnet Valley HS, 2008 State President Sarah Cashdollar, and PASC President Abby Case, working with staff members from the First Lady’s Office and the Department of Education, members of PASC helped to develop the conference program and lead many of the general and small group sessions.

The program focused on six major standards of civic education:

1. Citizens must use the governmental process to stimulate change.
2. Citizens must give back to the community if American

- democracy is to survive.
3. The choices we make, whether as consumers or citizens active in politics, have an impact around the globe.
4. A thoughtful citizen evaluates the accuracy of communications and analyzes media sources attempting to influence the public agenda.
5. American citizens will require specialized skills and knowledge to be able to compete in the Flat World.
6. A young citizen must be aware of the greatest international challenges facing the world community in the next half century and be prepared to take action.

Students and educators identified excellent teaching strategies for civics and educational experiences for civic engagement. Students presented their ideas on the six topics and on how to achieve these goals inside and outside of the classroom. Each of the student groups also presented their Operational/Action Plan, which included three concrete

recommendations on how to restore civics and civic engagement in both our communities and schools.

Educators who attended also had an opportunity to express their ideas and viewpoints in small group sessions with both the Secretary of Education and the First Lady. First Lady Judge Rendell and Secretary Zahorchak interacted throughout the day with student leaders and challenged the Summit members to work with them on the creation of a Task Force on Civics.

Promoting a Student Voice as Civics Tasks Force Is Created

First Lady Judge Rendell and Secretary of Education Zahorchak have commissioned a Task Force on Civics and Civic Engagement to operationally define the steps needed to materialize the vision created at the Civics Summit on April 15. In their charge to the educators and student leaders assembled



More than 50 student leaders and their advisors participated in a Summit on Civic Education at the Governor’s Residence on April 15, 2009. First Lady Judge Marjorie O. Rendell addressed the group during lunch.

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News & Notes

Applications and Rubric Now Available for Student-led Workshops at the 2009 State Conference at Pennridge HS

Underclassmen: Enter a competition to win an \$80 VISA gift card by submitting an application to present a workshop for the November 12–14, 2009 State Conference. Applications and scoring rubric can be found at www.pasc.net or www.celebrate2009.org.

The workshop application deadline is July 15 if you want to enter the drawing for the gift card. Final postmark deadline is August 7, 2009.

To improve the quality of our workshops and their selection, students are strongly encouraged to submit a video of the workshop being presented in front of a school group or at a conference. The video submission is optional and lack of submission will not be counted against workshop selection in 2009. It should however, provide additional help in the preparation of the workshop. Remember, your application will need the signature of your advisor, so make sure you plan ahead before the end of this school year.

NASC NAMES NATIONAL COUNCILS OF EXCELLENCE

The National Association of Student Councils applauds the work of the following PASC member schools that have attained the status of Council of Excellence or Gold Council of Excellence. These councils continue to demonstrate exemplary efforts to build student leaders and work to improve their schools and communities through their service, leadership, and activities.



Gold Council of Excellence:

Pennridge High School (District 12)

Pocono Mountain West High School (District 9)

Council of Excellence:

North Allegheny High School (District 3)

For more information on the process used to designate your council as a Council of Excellence, go to www.nasc.us for a listing of criteria and the application, which will be due February 15, 2010. The award recognizes the work of each council during a calendar year. Officers and advisors are encouraged to make sure that files are up-to-date this spring as the student council transitions from one set of student leaders to the next.

PA Tuition Relief: An Opportunity for a Student Voice

Governor Rendell is proposing to deliver tuition relief starting in fall 2009 for students whose families earn up to \$100,000 a year and who attend Commonwealth's public colleges and universities in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and the 14 community colleges. Combined with the expanded PHEAA grants in this year's proposed state budget, 20,000 more Pennsylvanians will be able to go to college who otherwise could not afford it or will stay in-state instead of leaving Pennsylvania. More than 170,000 students are anticipated to ultimately benefit from the Tuition Relief Act.

Decisions on this act will need to be made by July 1, 2009. The Pennsylvania State Legislature is currently discussing this topic in hearings, in budget deliberations, and in the media. This is an excellent opportunity for students to use their voice to weigh-in on an issue of critical importance to them. Students can provide input into those decisions now by contacting their legislators.

This proposal is not without controversy. It will certainly affect the amount of funds set aside in the Pennsylvania Education Budget for 2009–2010. Funding of these proposals, as noted in the bill, is to allow video slot parlors to operate in the state for the first time and to use tax revenue from their establishment to fund this tuition relief legislation. Regardless of one's view on this proposed legislation, it affords Pennsylvania high school students and 2009 graduates with an excellent opportunity to learn about the details of this bill and to speak their minds on the future of this legislation. Don't miss this excellent opportunity for civic engagement in May and June. It is truly a golden opportunity to exercise the STUDENT VOICE.

For more details on this proposed legislation visit www.patuition-relief.org or www.pde.state.pa.us.

Seniors Registration Day Register 18 Year-Olds Before Graduation

Set aside time on Thursday, May 21, to register any student who will be 18 years of age by November 3. Registration forms are available at your County Board of Election's Office in your courthouse.

The 2009 election may appear less exciting than the 2008 presidential election, but it will have an impact on your community. Candidates for local township, borough, and city offices will be on the ballot as well as one half of the membership of all school boards during this election.

Encourage student registration and participation now. Remind graduating seniors that they can also get an application for an absentee ballot to vote in your community even while they are away at college. Voter registration is an easy and excellent civic outreach that your council can accomplish in the last weeks of the school year.

Civics Summit *continued from page 1*

at the Summit, they asked that students “use their voice” to promote the ideals of citizenship, civic education, and civic engagement in their schools and communities across the Commonwealth.

Forty-three Summit attendees volunteered to meet again as initial members of the Pennsylvania Task Force on Civics. Twenty-seven students and 16 educators will meet May 27, in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, and King of Prussia for a teleconference designed to

begin the process of promoting a re-emergence of civics education and civic engagement in Pennsylvania. PASC will continue to play a leading role in this effort.

Future issues of *PASC News* and information at www.pasc.net will keep member schools informed of the work of the Task Force and will encourage future involvement by other educators and student leaders as we move into the 2009–2010 school year.



Students presented their ideas on the six major standards of civic education and on how to achieve these goals inside and outside of the classroom

PASC Hosts NASC Region 2 Officers Meeting

Governor Mifflin MS was the site of the annual meeting of state Student Council officers April 24–26, 2009. Led by NASC Region 2 student representative Stephen DeSilvo (NY) and NASC Region 2 adult representative Mike White (PA), state executive directors and student leaders discussed future NASC and NASC Region 2 programs and issues.

More than 40 state student leaders from Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania stayed in homes of the Shillington, PA, community, as arranged by Governor Mifflin HS and MS advisor Nancy Brady. Workshops were presented by New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania and included topics on: Organization and Structure of State Organizations, Using Technology by State Organizations, and Marketing Your State Student Council Organizations.

State delegations joined in roundtable presentations led by each of the above named states and by Maryland. The roundtable presenters shared information among the states on Honor Councils and Recognition, Middle Level Programs, State Conferences, and Summer Workshops. Student leaders also enjoyed a leadership challenge, climbing wall, and high ropes course prepared by Governor physical education teacher Jeremy Crills.

New Jersey will serve as the host state for the next NASC Region 2 meeting in 2010.



PASC Job Posting for Executive Director

According to the PASC Constitution the term of office of Executive Director is three years. The present term ends on December 31, 2009.

Anyone may apply for PASC leadership positions. Candidates interested in this position can obtain a complete job description from PASC Assistant Executive Director Kathy Coll at 174 Link Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15237 (412-366-5744) or by emailing kcoll1@comcast.net. The Executive Director position is a three-year term of service on the PASC Executive Board (2010–2012). Interested applicants must submit a cover letter and resume to Kathy no later than July 1, 2009.

The PASC Executive Board will conduct interviews at the August board meeting (July 31–August 2, 2009) in Altoona, PA.

Horatio Alger “Franklin Scholars” Meet at Valley Forge

The Horatio Alger Scholarships (featured and promoted in the September 2008 issue of PASC NEWS) provide assistance to seniors who have demonstrated integrity, perseverance in overcoming adversity, strength of character, financial need, a good student record, commitment to pursue a college education, and a desire to contribute to society.

In April, Cory Cruzman, Springfield HS; Ciarra Karnes, Shenango HS; and Caitlin Mitchell, Uniontown Area HS, were recognized as Horatio Alger National Scholars during an awards program in Washington, D.C. Students met with several Horatio Alger Distinguished Americans, including Supreme Court Justice, Clarence Thomas; noted business leaders; musical producer, David Foster; and actor, Denzel Washington. National Scholars receive \$20,000 scholarships and continued support and encouragement from the Horatio Alger Association.

Twenty-five Pennsylvania “Franklin Scholars” were recognized April 25–26, 2009, at Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, where they gathered for a program of inspiration, motivation, and recognition for their perseverance and accomplishments. Franklin Scholars wrote an additional essay in their application showing how the values demonstrated by Ben Franklin applied to their lives. Each of the Franklin Scholars received a \$10,000 scholarship and a plaque presented by Philadelphia’s own “Ben Franklin.” This scholarship has been funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts.



Twenty-five Pennsylvania “Franklin Scholars” were recognized at Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge in April as they received \$10,000 scholarships funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

The generosity of Joseph and Janette Lerman-Neubauer allowed 50 additional Pennsylvania seniors to receive \$5,000 scholarships. Mr. Neubauer, Chairman and CEO of ARAMARK Corporation, is Chairman of the Board of the Horatio Alger Association.

Juniors (Class of 2010) and educators are encouraged to visit horatioalger.com/scholarships/programs_franklin.cfm for details about the association and its scholarships. Applications for the 2010 scholarships will be available online from August 1 to October 30, 2009.

PASC Selects District Advisors of the Year

High School

District Advisors of the Year

- District 1: Dan Kane, General McLane HS
- District 2: Jen Simpson, Clarion-Limestone JSHS
- District 3: Alexis Zywan, West Mifflin HS
- District 4: Romayne Schwartzel, Laurel Valley MSHS
- District 6: High School Sally Nixon, Forest Hills HS
- District 7: Ginny Bower, Lewisburg HS
- District 8: Kyle Kauffman, Southwestern HS
- District 9: Andrea Aten, Mountain View HS
- District 10: To be announced May 22
- District 11: Mitch Itzo-Marple, Newtown HS
- District 12: James Kenny, Council Rock HS-South
- District 13: To Be Named

Middle Level

District Advisors of the Year

- District 1: Kelly Frick and Dave Morris, Union City MS
- District 2: John Motyl, Seneca Valley MS
- District 3: Janice Cherry, Thomas Jefferson MS
- District 4: Craig Neighbors, Albert Gallatin North MS
- District 6: Carrie Andraychak, Greater Johnstown MS
- District 7: Heather Ladd, Rock L. Butler MS
- District 8: Brandi Shatto, Big Spring MS
- District 9: William Vallentine, Wallenpaupack Elementary School-South
- District 10: To be announced May 22
- District 11: Joe Barrett, Norwood MS
- District 12: Amy Welter, Pennridge Central MS
- District 13: Sasha Merkel, Boyertown West JHS

PASC NEWS

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Pennridge High School Gears Up for 2009 PASC State Conference

By Dylan Van Arsdale,
Conference Co-Chair

With State Conference quickly approaching, now is the time to start gearing up for Celebrity Councils: Celebrate! Pennridge is planning a plethora of activities for the second weekend in November, but the highlight of the conference will surely be the General Session speakers Scott Greenberg and Josh Sundquist.

Scott Greenberg will open the conference at the Opening General Session and will kick off the conference with an inspiring message of hope and resilience in adversity. Scott's life changed in college when he developed a softball-sized tumor in his chest. However, instead of letting it hinder him, he used that to gain a better understanding of how to conquer any challenge life may throw you. His first-hand experience, wit, and humor have made him a favorite among any who see him. In fact, Sarah from Boulder City HS said, "I laughed so hard, my retainer popped out!" Scott recently performed at the NASC LEAD conference, and PASC is proud to be bringing such a nationally renowned speaker to Celebrity Councils.

Josh Sundquist will be highlighting Friday's General Session, and he will prove to be a speaker you do not want to miss. Josh underwent a similar life experience, and when he was nine, he was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer. It resulted in the amputation of

his left leg. Despite this hardship, his pursuit of life continued unabated. Soon after the amputation, he started skiing and even went on to compete in the 2006 Paralympics in Torino, Italy. He soon found a calling as a motivational speaker, and became one of the youngest and most passionate speakers today. Speaking to groups since the age of 10, Josh has seen hundreds of thousands of people across the nation, been featured on CNN, and has written his own book. After seeing Josh at the 2008 NASC National Conference, PASC knew that Josh would be in incredible addition to the 2009 State Conference.

Come celebrate with us November 12-14, 2009 at the 2009 PASC State Conference with these incredible speakers. The stories of how their lives were changed have in turn changed many more. Come be inspired by them at the 2009 PASC State Conference, Celebrity Councils: Celebrate! All PASC member schools

were sent a conference packet with student-led workshop application and rubric on April 1. Please contact us at www.celebrate2009.org if you need a packet or go to www.pasc.net. Conference registration will begin on September 1, 2009. The cost is \$110 per student and advisor delegate.



Scott Greenberg (above) and Josh Sundquist (below) will keynote the 2009 PASC State Conference at Pennridge HS in November.



"Ask Here PA"

During the Civics Summit, Secretary of Education Gerard Zahorchak promoted the value to Pennsylvania students and educators of an online resource sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the state library system.

Go to www.askherepa.org

You will be connected to a librarian and be able to chat online 24/7 in real time with a librarian one-to-one for help with any topic or information needed.

PASC Selects New Student Rep for the Pennsylvania Board of Education

In April, the PASC Selection Committee reviewed the 16 applications for the position of Student Member-Elect on the State Board of Education. The committee was joined by SBE member Dr. Frances Micheline on Saturday, May 2, when they interviewed six finalists. These students demonstrated a great desire to serve the public school students of Pennsylvania and presented excellent resumes, letters, or recommendations and essays. Each student who was interviewed expressed the need for SBE Student Members to find an active way to communicate with student council leaders and other Pennsylvania students about the actions for the State Board of Education and to create a mechanism to gather student opinion for Pennsylvania students as well.

Big Spring HS (District 8) sophomore Travis Gilbert was named as the second Student Member-Elect on the State Board of Education. Travis will join Bethlehem-Liberty HS junior Gardiner Kreglow on the State Board of Education. Gardiner is completing the first year of his two-year term. Liz Williams, senior member of the SBE will

conclude her term as the first Student Member of the State Board of Education at the SBE meeting in Harrisburg May 20–21, 2009. Travis will join Gardiner and Liz at this meeting, representing the 1.8 million public school students of the Commonwealth.

We thank and congratulate the following SBE Member finalists who will join five present juniors as they serve on an Advisory Board to the Student Members of the State Board of Education: Christina Atterbury, Westmont Hilltop HS; Ben Barnhart, Lampeter-Strasburg HS; Natalie

Geise, William Allen HS; Jake Paston, Upper Dublin HS; Ben Zauzmer, Upper Dublin HS.

The June issue of *PASC News* will feature a final report from Liz Williams. In September 2009, Gardiner and Travis will begin writing a series of articles for *PASC News*. Student SBE Members also report to the PASC Executive Board and will develop surveys and other communicational links as they move forward in this unique opportunity of civic engagement.

For additional information on Elizabeth, Gardiner, and Travis, the selection



Big Spring HS (District 8) sophomore Travis Gilbert was named as the second Student Member-Elect on the State Board of Education.

process, and the role that the State Board of Education plays in the long-term improvement of education in Pennsylvania, go to www.pasc.net/board_of_educ/board_of_ed.html



Finalists for the position of Student Member-Elect on the State Board of Education interviewed with the selection committee on May 2.

Valley View MS Hosts 18th Annual Grandparents' Day Brunch

The student council at Valley View Middle School sponsored the 18th annual Grandparents' Day Brunch in April. All fifth graders at Valley View Intermediate School (District 9) could invite their grandparents and great-grandparents to join them for brunch on Wednesday, April 1.

An excellent brunch was provided by the Valley View Food Service. Brunch included scrambled eggs, home fries, sausage patty, fresh fruit cup, min-muffins, juice, and coffee/tea/milk. The present economic conditions required that a fee of \$6.00 per person be paid for this event to cover the cost of food. Cost to students was \$1.65.

Grandparents arrived at 9:30 a.m. and brunch was served at 9:45 a.m. Following brunch, grandparents were given tours of the Intermediate School building. At 11:00 a.m. grandparents and their hosts returned to the gymnasium where the fifth grade chorus and band presented a program. All students returned to class by noon.

Fifth grade students who participated had blue (girls) and yellow (boys) special Grandparents' Day T-shirts made at a cost of \$5.00. All fifth graders wore khaki slacks that day.

The 7th and 8th grade student council members of Valley View Middle School sponsored the program and helped with set up and clean up so that the fifth graders could enjoy their morning with their grandparents.

For more details contact Valley View MS advisors Deborah Rafter and Diane Puhalla at puhallmom@yahoo.com or call 570-876-6461.



United States Senate Youth Scholarship Washington Week 2009

By Alex Sproveri, Corry High School

For the past 47 years, the United States Senate Youth Program has inspired top students across the country who are interested in careers involving public service. After a lengthy and intensive selection process, 104 students are chosen to be involved in the program. Two students from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Educational Activity travel to Washington for a week of hands-on experience with our national government.

Washington Week 2009 was, quite simply stated, the best experience of my life. I had the chance to personally meet numerous government officials, including: Michael Leiter, Director of the Counter Terrorism Center; U.S. Senator Bob Casey; and President Barack Obama. I even had the chance to present President Obama with my senior picture (taken with my Obama/Biden campaign sign.)

The interactions I experienced with these officials have transformed my life. Because of this week, I no longer feel any apprehension in appearing before large groups, or feel star-struck when meeting other government officials. Once you converse with the President of the United States, it is hard to feel intimidated by anyone else. However, the greatest experience of all was the opportunity to exchange ideas with 103 other students who are as politically-minded as myself. I come from a small community, where I am the only student who aspires to launch a political career. It was surreal to see my passion mirrored in others. I felt like, after only one week, I had made closer friends than I ever have or ever will in my life.

The United States Senate Scholarship applications will be sent to high school principals from the Pennsylvania Department of Education in late August. The deadline for submission will be in mid-October. Junior and senior elected class and Student Council leaders and those holding statewide office in other organizations are eligible to apply. Look for more information in the September issue of PASC News.

