Spring 2016

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Wow it's Spring already!

SA REPO

Official Publication of the Arizona Rural Schools Association

By Don German

I know that like many of you I can't believe it is almost the end of the school year. It has not been a typical year with new funding looming, elections, new assessments to be chosen for next year, new ways of determining school labels, new standards that evolve continually, new audit requirements, and the constant need for student achievement analysis. The puzzle seems harder to solve all of the time.

This is why we have chosen the theme "SOLVING THE PUZZLE TOGETHER" for the conference this fall in Flagstaff. We have invited our presenters to use that theme in their presentation proposals. Our exhibitors have been asked to make a puzzle the central theme of their exhibits and we hope to reveal our Mystery Exhibitor through putting puzzle pieces together.

Yes, we are doing the "Mystery Exhibitor" game again this year. If the conference was not enough fun in the past let me tell you this year's "Mystery Exhibitor" has raised the bar extremely high. This year's prize to be given away is a CHROMEBOOK MINI LAB for the winner's school. How generous is that huh?

We are pleased to announce that our new website with the improved "Career Center" is being used much more extensively than ever before. Our social media presence is growing rapidly; we are gaining friends on Facebook and followers on Pinterest and Twitter. I am still not very adept at using any of those things yet, but I am trying. I still have never sent a tweet, nor pinned anything yet. Maybe someday!!!! MAYBE NOT!!!!

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P.A.D.D.L.E. By: Chris Schuldt

If there is only one thing that you remember from this, I hope it is one simple word: Paddle. P-A-D-D-L-E. One word! I will explain the importance of this word in just a moment, but in order to fully understand the concept you must first imagine teaching as a vast and open lake. This lake has been explored by many adventurers before you. Some have journeyed successfully across, while others have sunk, lost their way, or simply disappeared into the mist. Although this lake can be treacherous, if you have the right tools and the "patience of a Saint" anything is possible. You can overcome the towering waves of ungraded assignments, navigate the babbling brooks of noisy students, and avoid the rocky shores of severed classroom budgets. This is where the PADDLE comes in handy. To me, all great teachers have a PADDLE. Better yet, all great teachers represent a PADDLE. They are Passionate, Adaptable, Disciplined, Deliberate, Learned, and Energetic. PADDLE.



Let's start with P. All great teachers are PASSIONATE. Teaching is not a profession for everyone. No one goes into teaching for the money, the recognition, or the free coffee (although the last one is a perk). On average, teachers reportedly work 10 hours per day and 52 hours per week. We all know that those numbers are a lot higher in reality. People who have devoted their lives to this profession truly believe in the work that they are doing. They are proud of the subject or subjects that they teach, and hope to inspire others through their teaching. The long hours are somehow worth it.

I am sure that we could all think of one teacher that has had an impact on our lives. Chances are, this teacher went above and beyond each day to capture your attention, draw

your interest, and further your education. Personally, I can recall at least three teachers that, through their unending passion, helped me to gain the utmost respect for not only their persons, but their individual subjects. To this day, I wake up every morning hoping that I will be able to make as much of an impact on the lives of my students as my teachers did on mine. P is for PASSIONATE.

Next is A. All great teachers, especially in a small school setting, must be ADAPTABLE. When working at a small school, like all of our nominees, you are never just a teacher. When I was attending Northern Michigan University I had a professor and advisor, named Bill Connors. He taught me to fully embrace my love of Physical Education and to never apologize for it. At least once a week he would tell his classes that "You are never just a P.E. teacher. You are never just a person with a whistle and a ball. You are a teacher, a coach, an advisor, an athletic trainer, a nurse, a janitor, a bus driver, a babysitter, and so on." This same quote can be said about all teachers. I may not have believed him then, but I certainly do now. As a teacher in a small school, you must constantly adapt your skills, subject knowledge, and schedule to meet its ever changing demands. Furthermore, constant adaptations of your lessons are required to ensure that all students are successful. Great teachers take the time to plan, evaluate, and adjust lessons to challenge all students to think critically and not just "regurgitate" information. According to E.M. Forster, "Spoon feeding in the long run teaches us nothing but the shape of the spoon." I could not agree more with this statement. As teachers we must utilize the tools and technologies that exist today, and apply them in a way that will not only benefit the students but will inspire them to go above and beyond. A is for ADAPTABLE.

D is for DISCIPLINED. We all know that establishing clear routines and creating discipline within our students is essential to maintaining a comfortable, productive classroom environment. What we sometimes forget, is that we need to follow our own discipline plans. As teachers, as in all professions, we have both our good and our bad days. How a teacher handles these bad days is one trial that separates an average teacher from a great teacher. An average teacher might let his emotions loose when a student moons him (true story), but a great teacher keeps

P.A.D.D.L.E.

By: Chris Schuldt

his composure. At times, we may have to bite our tongues, but it is something that needs to be done. In order to maintain a positive classroom environment, you must embody the values and expectations that you set for your students. A great teacher knows when and where certain actions are appropriate and other times when it is just smarter to walk away. D is for DISCIPLINED.

The second D is for DELIBERATE. I am a stickler about time. From the daily warm-ups in each of my classes to the time spent on each activity, I am timing it all. I do this because all time is precious. Every minute of my classes should be beneficial to the students. Every assignment should be given for a reason. Every moment is planned accordingly. Everything should be deliberate. D is for DELIBERATE.

L is for LEARNED. After four years of high school, at least four years of college, student teaching, and possibly even higher education, a teacher should be ready to educate students in a specific area of study. Yet, knowledge is not stagnant; learning cannot stop there. A great teacher takes it one step further, and then another step further, and another. A great teacher always strives to better themselves. With every piece of knowledge that is gained, a teacher has yet another opportunity to reach the interest and attention of the students. L is for LEARNED.

Last but not least is E, which stands for ENERGETIC. When I say energetic I am not implying that the teacher is running around the classroom like a mad man, though this does happen to me at times. Physical Education can be very similar to trying to herd cats. Rather, when I say energetic, I mean that you approach each subject with energy and enthusiasm. The energy of the teacher is contagious. The students cannot help but to be intrigued if you are intrigued. Likewise, if you lack energy, and show students that you are not thrilled with the material, they will take the cue from you, and resist it as well. A great teacher is able to immerse the students in the subject, and keep them engaged with their energy and knowledge. E is for ENERGETIC.

Each and every successful teacher has found their PADDLE. They have found a balance of these qualities that has guided them safely across, despite whatever obstacles are in their way. You have learned many lessons along the way. As the great Phil Collins once said "In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn." Continue your journey, enjoy the ride, and never lose your PADDLE.



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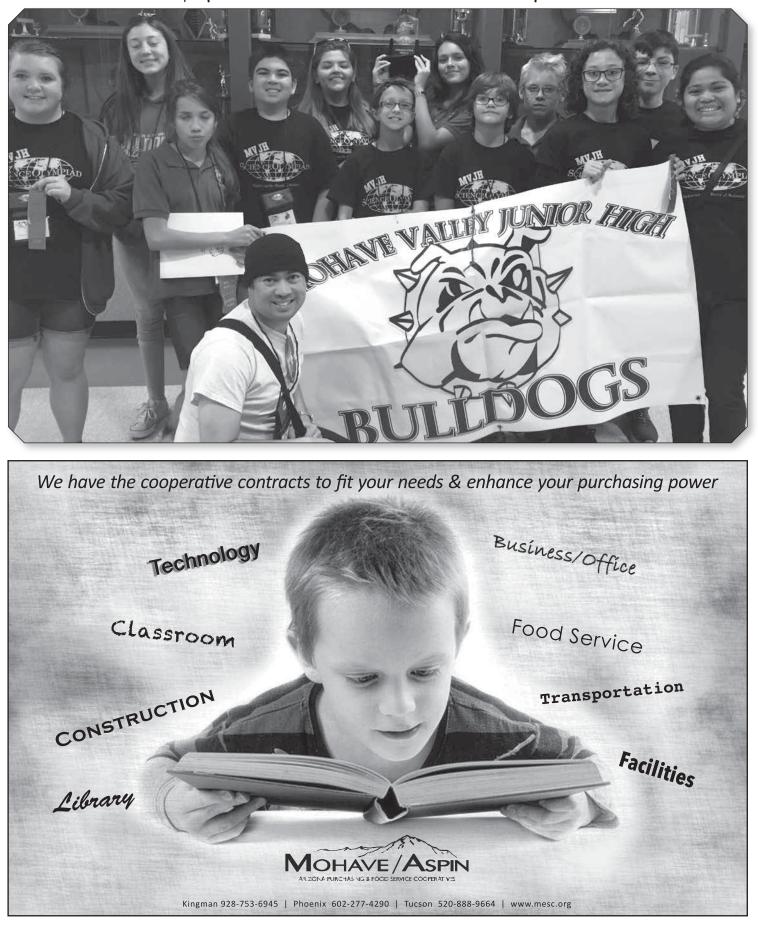
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Our Morning Keynote

By Kathy Wiebke, Executive Director of Arizona K12 Center

In 2005, Kathy Wiebke was brought on as the Executive Director to create a new vision and direction for the Center. Prior to joining the Center, she was the Deputy Associate Superintendent for Highly Qualified Professionals at the Arizona Department of Education, a principal, and a classroom teacher.



Kathy Wiebke earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education from Arizona State University and a Master of Arts degree in elementary education from Northern Arizona University. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy in educational leadership and policy studies from Arizona State University, focusing on quality teaching and teacher leadership in urban schools.

Kathy was Arizona's first National Board Certified Teacher with a Middle Childhood Generalist Certificate. For seven years, she served on the Board of Directors of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. She was a member of the NEA's Commission on Effective Teachers and Teaching and NCATE's Blue Ribbon Panel on Clinical Preparation and Partnerships for Improved Student Learning.

Kathy was a recipient of the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship and focused on project-based learning through the creation of a native habitat on her elementary school campus. Kathy was recognized as an Ambassador for Excellence in Arizona's Teacher of the Year Program and received the Disney American Teacher Award in the elementary category. Her classroom practices were featured in a learning series produced by Disney.

Most recently, Kathy served as the Executive Producer of The Mitchell 20, a documentary focused on 20 teachers seeking National Board Certification or its single entry alternative, Take One. The documentary highlights teaching in America and the struggle for teacher quality.

As a native Arizonan, Kathy has spent almost her entire life in Arizona's public schools as either a learner or a teacher, and sometimes both. She cares passionately about this state and wants its children to have the same great education she received at all levels. That is why she does this work.

Favorite Book Growing Up: Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh

Favorite Teacher & Why: This is a tie! I can't separate the two of them, as they were both remarkable and inspiring teachers. Mrs. Mack, my second grade teacher, had a piano in her classroom. We would always sing in her classroom. I remember how much she cared and the smile that was always on her face. Mrs. Timbrooks, my fourth grade teacher, challenged me to really think and create. In her classroom, learning was an adventure. In both these teachers I knew I mattered.

The best part about working at the Arizona K12: The opportunity to support the learning of Arizona's teachers. I have long held the belief that when we help teachers be their best, we are helping kids be their best. When I was in school, I had great teachers! I want the same for all the children in this great state!



Our Noon Luncheon Keynote

By Shaun Martin

Shaun was born and raised in LeChee, AZ (Navajo Reservation) and is a graduate of Page High School. He currently acts as Athletic Director at Chinle High School, Chinle, Arizona. Shaun is a professional Ultra

Marathoner, running races up to 150 miles. Shaun graduated from Northern Arizona University in 2004 and spent 9 years teaching at Chinle High School and 8 Years Coaching Cross-Country and Track and Field. During this time Shaun had 12 State Team Titles in Cross-Country, 19 Individual State Champions and 49 Student Athletes received scholarships to attend college. Shaun spent 2 years coaching cross country at Dine College where his teams won 3 National Titles and had 12 All-Americans at the USCAA National Championships. Shaun Served as Athletic Director at Dine College from 2012 to 2014. Chinle Superintendent Jesus de la Garza describes Martin as an "exceptionally effective and inspirational teacher and coach who influences students to perform beyond their own imaginations."

Awards include: 2009 National Federation of High School Sports Western Coach of the Year, 2012 Arizona Rural Teacher of the Year, 2012 ASBA Golden Bell Award recipient, 2013 National Rural Teacher of the Year and 2015 Navajo Times Sports Hall of Fame inductee.

Shaun is a husband and father of two.

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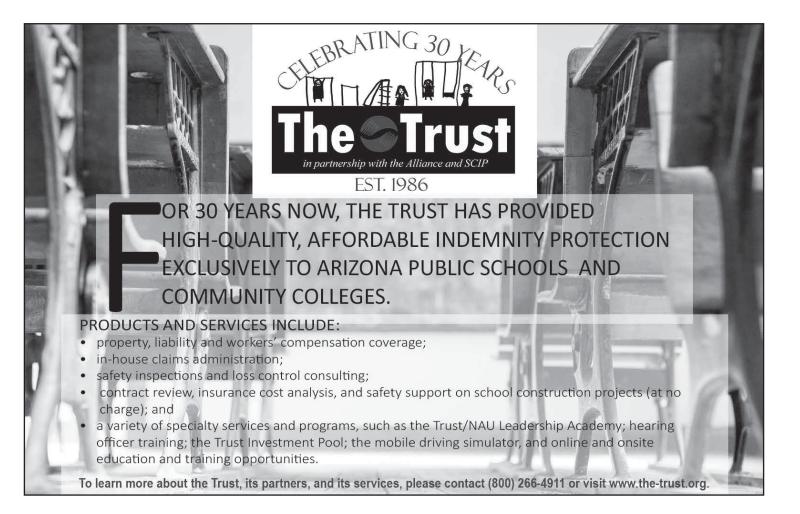
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SW - Andy Smith Antelope Union HSD

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Executive Director **Don German**



Sharon O'Malley with Some Unknown Guy





Thought for the Day: A person who feels appreciated will always do more than is expected. ••••••

If your plan is for **1** year, plant rice.

If your plan is for **10** years, plant trees.

If your plan is for 100 years, educate children.

Confucius

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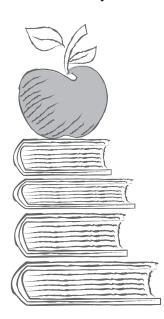
Aaron Genaro aaron.genaro@apehp.org - T 602.200.2431 M 602.432.0605 APEHP is exempt from the formal bidding process (ARS 11-952.01).

Educators Rising

By Jaime Festa-Daigle

In the spring of the 2015 school year, I traveled to Ohio on a teacher-recruiting trip. Lake Havasu City, like many rural communities is not able to fill our positions from in-community or even in-state applicants. Once there, other recruiters and teaching professors told me that even in Ohio teaching applicants were in short supply. Programs were being cut at many of the colleges, as there was not enough interest from the student body. As I traveled throughout Ohio, some days I felt like carnival barker promising young candidates that if they moved to Lake Havasu City, the lake water and warm sunsets would be plentiful. I noticed prospective candidates lining up in long lines just to drop off a resume for an Ohio school district, while the rest of us hoped to lure a candidate away who did not want to deal with one more winter in Ohio.

Lake Havasu Unified School District, where I work is made up of transplants. I surveyed certified staff, and of those who responded only 7% were LHHS grads, 27% were from Arizona or a neighboring state, and 66% were from outside of the area. We see teachers stay in Lake Havasu for a few years, and then make the trek back home with a few years of teaching experience under their belts. As I contemplated this problem, I heard of Educators Rising, it would replace Future Educators of America as a co-curricular pre-teaching program and Career and technical student association. Educators Rising is backed by the National Education Association, Phi Delta Kappan, and National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. According to Dan Brown, co-director of Educators Rising, "Over 60 percent of teachers teach within 20 miles of where they went to high school. Right now — today — in every community, the next generation of educators is sitting on the student side of the desks. We're all counting on homegrown teachers to be highly skilled, well-prepared professionals and our existing pipeline isn't doing the job well enough." By 2020, 1.5 million teachers will be needed in the United States. Only 3% of high school students indicated they were interested in education as a career



on the ACT. The teaching profession is at a crisis point. Educators Rising is the opportunity for us to identify students who have the dispositions of teachers and support them through coursework and mentoring to develop a teaching program starting early on.

This spring, I worked with 15 teachers from around the country to develop standards for Educators Rising. We back mapped National Board, InTASC, EdTPA and other standards to a document appropriate for high school students. These standards are promising and attainable for students. Educators Rising will be working on low cost curriculum for schools in the upcoming year. Educators Rising is developing microcredentials that will allow students to show their skills in specific areas.

Continued on Page 17

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Page 16

Continued from Page 15

Educators Rising

By Jaime Festa-Daigle

A state and national level competiion is held for Educators Rising students in events from job interview to lesson planning to ethical dilemma.

Next year, Lake Havasu High School will have its first ever Educators Rising class. Our Rising Educators will be taught by one of our best teachers and students will be spending time teaching in middle school and elementary school classes. Our goal is a two-year high school program. Mohave Community College has already expressed interest in concurrent credit for our students in their second year. Our goal will be to have developed a high quality "grow our

own" program that puts teachers on the path to accomplished teaching starting in high school. We have high hopes and plans to elevate young people who are interested in teaching and support them to stay in our community.



For more information on Educators Rising see www.educatorsrising.org.





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