President's Message

As we quickly move from spring to summer in Arizona and anticipate the end of another school year, it is tempting to relax our vigilance and assume that our work is nearly finished for this school year. But the political climate in Arizona continues to be volatile (and bordering on depressing). Here is a quick look at some of the pending issues.

Common Core

This from the 3/30/15 Capitol Times: “The state Senate voted 16-13 today (3/30/15) to kill legislation that would have required the state Board of Education to scrap the academic standards it approved in 2010 and essentially start over again. Four Republicans sided with the Democrats. Today’s vote is a major setback for Rep. Mark Finchem, R-Oro Valley, who shepherded the measure through the House. It also is a slap at state schools chief Diane Douglas who was elected largely on a commitment to kill the standards. But it also comes just a week after Gov. Doug Ducey, a foe of the standards, asked the Board of Education to review — but not to repeal — Common Core.” Expect More Arizona attributes this vote, at least in part, to public pressure on lawmakers.
Education Funding

While K-12 education funding took a major hit in the budget approved by the legislature, it could have been worse. According to the Arizona Republic: “the final product fell short of some of Ducey's goals. His plan to mandate that schools transfer 5 percent of their non-classroom spending into the classroom was softened to a suggestion in the face of fierce opposition from schools and key Republican lawmakers.” According to the Children’s Action Alliance: “Neighborhood public schools have to cut $113 million in spending; charter schools have to cut $3 million.” If you are looking for more information on the funding of education in Arizona, I recommend a booklet provided by the Arizona Children’s Action Alliance, available for download at: http://azchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/CAA_Budget_QA.pdf

While we cannot claim to have moderated this outcome alone, AASP members did contribute to the discussion, including publication of an Op Ed piece by Kathleen Rahn, Libby Nellsch, and me which was published in the Arizona Republic. The editorial will be featured in an upcoming edition of the NASP Communiqué, along with the backstory of how the editorial came to be written and an article about the importance of advocacy.

Seclusion and Restraint

As of this writing, this bill is still in process. The March 20 newsletter from AzCEC indicated that “The House Committee on Judiciary unanimously approved another step forward for SB 1459, the important restrictions on the use of restraint and seclusion in schools. Committee members praised the supporters of the bill for sharing their stories and experiences in order to bring about improvement and change in school policies. The proposal is expected to move to the full House for consideration early next week.”

Please stay tuned, stay informed, and stay active. We need for all of our voices to be heard so that we can effectively impact education policy in Arizona.

Elizabeth Danielson
AASP President

Helpful Online Resources: A Handout to Parents

Click here to personalize a handout for parents from their school psychologist that provides information about helpful online resources. Feel free to add your own favorites! (Log out of Google or paste link into another browser if you have difficulty accessing this document)

AASP Nominations are now closed

Information regarding candidates for the AASP Board and how to cast your vote will be coming soon.

ADE Rules Committee Update

The ADE Rules Committee would like feedback on Draft IEP and LRE Language. To give feedback, please download and review the proposed guidance for IEP/LRE:
Current Proposed Guidance for IEP/LRE 2.27.15

and then click on the following link to take a survey and provide your comments.

Survey on Proposed IEP/LRE Guidance

To read the full communique for the last Rule Committee meeting click on this link:

Rule Making Communique 2-27-15

The Arizona Association of School Psychologists Western Region is sponsoring a workshop for members of the Arizona Association of School Psychologists on:

Friday, April 24, 2015
By
Stella Ro1ueblave, M.Ed.
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Riverside

A New Era of CHC Assessment and Interpretation

2:45 to 4:45
Millennium High School
14802 W Wigwam Blvd; Goodyear, AZ 85395

Description: This workshop will introduce participants to the new features and content of the WJ IV Tests of Cognitive Ability and Tests of Oral Language. The Woodcock-Johnson IV is the latest generation of the Woodcock-Johnson psycho-educational test batteries. The WJ IV features an updated Cattell-Horn-Carroll (CHC) theoretical model, a carefully designed organizational plan with new tests and clusters, and new interpretive procedures that will help psychologists identify strengths and weaknesses among co-normed measures of cognitive abilities, oral language, and academic achievement. All new tests and clusters will be reviewed, as well as new interpretive features. The different types of comparison procedures (discrepancies and variations) that are useful for learning disability identification will be explained.

Workshop Objectives:
1. Review (briefly) existing and new subtest administration guidelines
2. Learn about the changes in the CHC theoretical model and the revision goals
3. Understand the Composite Scores (GIA, Gf/Gc, BIA) and the benefits
4. Learn about the variation and comparison procedures and how this can identify strength and weakness within and across batteries

5. Understand how the Oral Language tests can be incorporated to enhance your cognitive assessment

6. Learn about the new web-based WJ IV scoring

Presenter information: Stella Roqueblave is the National Director of Clinical Sales for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Riverside. Stella has worked in educational test publishing since 2005 and has conducted trainings in various test instruments including the Woodcock-Johnson Tests. Prior to this, she worked as a school psychologist specializing in the assessment of English language learners. She received her Master’s Degree in Educational Psychology from Loyola Marymount University in California.

Arizona Association of School Psychologists is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists to offer continuing education for school psychologists (NASP Approved Provider #1013). AASP maintains responsibility for this program. Contact Ashley Taylor, AASP Professional Development Chairperson, at ajtaylor@mpsaz.org with any concerns or needs regarding this workshop. 2 CPD credits will be given to those AASP members who attend this workshop in its entirety.

Cost: Members of AASP are FREE! Non-members will be charged a fee of $20 (cash or check only). There will be a raffle for $25 (in the form of a gift card) for any person who joins AASP or renews their AASP membership prior to April 20, 2015. If you join or renew AASP now, your membership will be good from now through June of 2016!

Register by e-mail to: allison.TruaxLoescher@gmail.com

Parking is available in the faculty parking lot on the east side of the administration building as well as on Park Ave. (east of the administration building) in the tennis court lot.

Following the workshop, there will be a reception from 5:00 to 6:30 at The Wigwam Resort Bar (outside patio). Join us for complimentary appetizers and great company!
Argosy University in Phoenix is hiring!

Full-Time Faculty, School Psychology - Argosy University, Phoenix

Job Summary
The instructor facilitates meaningful learning of the course competencies in the curriculum and proactively supports all facets of the learning environment. S/He provides education through learning-centered instruction that will enable graduates to fulfill the evolving needs of the marketplace. S/He encourages a culture of learning that values mutual responsibility and respect, life-long learning and ethics as well as personal and professional development. Incumbent must assure that the EDMC philosophy: quality services to clients; development, growth, involvement, and recognition of employees; sound economic principles; and environment which is conducive to innovation, positive thinking and expansion - is considered in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of this position.

Key Job Elements
- Provides competency-based education which aligns with the EDMC model of curricula as well as supports the EDMC style of system delivery.
- Designs and delivers class instruction through the development of instructional plans to meet course competencies, the development of activities which support lesson objectives, and (in the case of online instructors ONLY) delivers the instruction as approved.
- Enables the achievement of pre-described exit competencies for student achievement and evaluation of learning by providing instruction which fosters competencies and establish student performance criteria and evaluation.
- Delivers learning-centered instruction by establishing a classroom environment conducive to learning and student involvement as well as effectively planning and preparing for classes and student success.
- Promotes student success by showing flexibility in style and work schedule as well as exhibiting a passion for teaching and students and engaging students in the learning process.
- Manages the learning environment through keeping accurate records, submitting grades and other reports on time, and enforcing school/campus academic and attendance policies.
- Contributes to a learning culture by participating on curriculum and system task forces, supporting local campus events such as orientation and graduation, and participating in various other workshops and meetings.
- Relates professional/life/industry experience to learning by the continuation of professional/technical skills development, the introduction of industry perspective into courses, and the active awareness of professional/industry trends and opportunities.

Job Requirements:
- PsyD or PhD in School Psychology
- Zero to two years’ experience in instruction or formalized education process, preferably in a post-secondary or college institution.
- Membership in a professional association tied to area of instruction preferred.

Interested applicants can email their resume to Mark Pierce: mpuice@argosy.edu or apply online at https://edmc.hua.hrsmart.com/ats/js_job_details.php?reqid=27975.
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