



Tom Horne Reports to Educators

February 2009

2009 State of Education

The nation's economic crisis and how it has brought out the best and worst among people was among the highlights of Superintendent Tom Horne's 2009 State of Education speech delivered to a joint meeting of the Arizona House and Senate K-12 Education Committees.

Horne outlined how the poor decisions among some business leaders helped lead to the economic troubles the country is experiencing and noted that this is a great argument for increased character education programs in the schools.

Superintendent Horne also unveiled his 2009 theme of the "new Three Rs" – Rigor, Relevance and Relationships, all of which are tied to accountability, high academic standards and encouraging students to choose a meaningful education goal.

Horne also discussed the importance of English language instruction and how ELL models are being effectively implemented throughout Arizona with the expectation that more students will quickly be reclassified as English proficient.

To read the entire speech, please [CLICK HERE](#).

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2009 History Teacher of the Year Award

The 2009 Preserve America History Teacher of the Year nomination process is now available.

For 2009, any full-time elementary school teacher who teaches American history (including local and state history) as his or her primary subject, or one of the subjects they are responsible for in the classroom may be nominated. Also any full-time elementary school teacher who focuses on American history within the framework of their school program may be nominated.

Winners will be chosen based on several criteria.

At least three years of classroom experience in teaching American history in an elementary school.

A deep career commitment to teaching American history, which includes local and state history. Evidence of creativity and imagination in the classroom that address literacy and content beyond state standards.

Close attention to primary documents, artifacts, historic sites, and other primary materials of history, including oral history.

Evidence of thoughtful assessment of student achievement.

Nominations must be postmarked no later than **Monday, March 16, 2009**. [CLICK HERE](#) for additional information, including details on this year's nomination process.

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY

2009 Academic Contest Funds

It's that time of year again for the Arizona Academic Contest Funds. If your school has a team or organization who participated and won a state-wide event and will compete at the national level you may be eligible for funding. Funds can be used to aid with the cost of travel, accommodations, and meals. Not only does it include the students, but chaperones as well. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about this opportunity. You may download the application from this site and return it to the address provided.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Karla Bravo at ADEInbox@azed.gov. We look forward to receiving your applications by the **April 24, 2009 deadline**.

ADE Now Accepting 2009 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Nominations

The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship is a federally funded program for high school seniors who show academic excellence and the promise of continued education.

A specific number of applicants are accepted from each public and private nonprofit high school depending on size. At least two recipients are selected from each county in Arizona based on school size, academic performance, school and community involvement, official recommendation by the school, and intended continuing education load. Additional recipients are selected in the order they meet selection criteria, regardless of county residence.

High school counselors submit applications of all eligible students to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). Schools with a total student enrollment of less than 499 may nominate one applicant. Schools with a total student enrollment of 500 - 1,499 may nominate two applicants, and schools with a total student enrollment of over 1,500 may nominate three applicants. Students may not apply directly for this scholarship.

Applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m. **Monday, March 23, 2009**, and will not be accepted if submitted without the principal and/or school counselor's signature.

For more information and nomination forms, visit: www.ade.az.gov/byrd/Default.asp.

**2009 Great Arizona Teach-In
Education Job Fair
Saturday, April 18, 2009**

Do you have family or friends looking for a job?

The Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services is excited to announce the Fourth Annual Great Arizona Teach-In. This 'One-stop' education career fair will provide comprehensive information to current and future education professionals. Arizona schools will be recruiting SLPs, Special Educators, General Educators, Paraprofessionals, Administrators, Related Service Providers, and more! Schools from around the state will be conducting on-site interviews to obtain the best and brightest to serve Arizona students.

Learn more about the Great Arizona Teach-In online at www.teachinaz.com.

Attention Principals!

Keep an eye on your in-box! In March, the Arizona Department of Education will be seeking information from you on how your school provides arts education (art, music, theatre, dance) to your students. This is a first-ever survey of arts education in Arizona, and will allow the Department to a) identify best practices in arts education delivery from rural, suburban and urban areas of the state to share with others and b) identify schools and districts needing support in providing arts education, whether assistance in understanding the arts standards or additional funds.

Thank you in advance for spending some of your valuable time helping us gather this information. We look forward to learning more about your arts education programs, and sharing the results of the survey back with you next year!

New Approach in Curbing Teen Smoking



The Arizona Department of Health Services Bureau of Tobacco Education and Prevention (ADHS BTEP) launched a new statewide youth tobacco prevention campaign February 16, 2009.

"Brought to you by addiction" is a statewide mass media and grassroots campaign that harnesses the realities of tobacco addiction for 12 to 17 year olds. The campaign was created after more than 30 focus groups with youth and in consultation with a group of teen advisors – some of whom were smokers, some of whom were friends or children of smokers. This campaign is anchored in best practices from tobacco control experts across the nation and spearheaded by Arizona's Tobacco Revenue Use Spending and Tracking Commission (TRUST Commission) which works closely with ADHS BTEP.

Through research it was discovered that forfeiting control to addiction was more relevant to teens than messages about the health impacts of tobacco use. In fact, there was a stagnant attitude toward the health effects of tobacco use among the Arizona teens ages 12 to 17 who were interviewed. While they were well aware of the health implications and easily recited its impacts, these consequences were perceived as far removed from their immediate lives.

"Many teenagers perceive smoking as an intermediary activity, one that they will stop in a year or two. The reality, however, is that they find themselves addicted," said Wayne Tormala, Bureau Chief for ADHS BTEP. "While most teen campaigns focus on health impacts, research pointed us in a new direction, one we believe will forever change the way youth perceive commercial tobacco."

Ultimately, the idea of focusing the campaign on addiction was affirmed by both local and national research. For example, the American Cancer Society reports that only three out of 100 high school smokers think they will still be smoking in five years, while studies show that the reality is about 60 of them are smoking seven to nine years after high school. Arizona ranks higher than the national average for high school age people that smoke with 23 percent of them picking up cigarettes regularly. About 90 percent of adult smokers started before age 19 and smokers who initiate at a younger age are more likely to develop long-term nicotine addiction.

The campaign includes television and radio commercials, in-school posters, cinema advertising, Internet advertising, online media placement, social media placement, a statewide grassroots effort through all 15 county health departments and statewide events; all of which drive to the edgy, youth-oriented website www.venomocity.com. Venomocity is a term coined to mean tobacco addiction and all that comes with it. The website, which had more than 10,000 unique page hits in the first five days after the campaign launched, is Venomocity's lair. It's a dark satirical take on the "voice" and "personality" of addiction that entertains visitors while providing valuable information about addiction.

The television, radio and Internet media placement is very targeted and focuses exclusively on the target market of 12 to 17 year olds. All of media elements are designed to drive the target audience to the website: www.venomocity.com.

Resource toolkits have been distributed to every county health department so they can integrate the campaign messages about addiction into prevention curriculum in schools statewide and into grassroots efforts. These resources are available to all educators online at: www.tobaccofreearizona.com/resources/ade.

Quality Classroom Leaders

By Shelly Pollnow, M.Ed. & Oran Tkatchov, M.Ed.

With all the computer-based programs, multi-tiered interventions, assessment software, aligned textbooks, and scripted curriculum available to the field, some might question if the role of the teacher is significant in today's schools. Does it really matter who is leading the classroom? The answer to this question is a resounding YES!

Although there are many new resources available to schools, research states that the individual teacher's skills are still important to student success. In order for a student to learn, they must be able to put new understanding into context, make connections, and access background knowledge. Research states that students of teachers who can convey higher and lower-order thinking skills regularly outperform students whose teachers only convey lower-order thinking skills (Langer & Applebee, 1987, Wenglinsky, 2000). Other studies have come to the same conclusion, finding that teacher quality appears to be more related to student success than class size and spending (Hammond, 2000).

Multiple sources (see citations below) suggest that exemplar teachers:

- possess a verbal adeptness to communicate to students,
- have a firm grasp of the content knowledge they teach,
- are life-long learners,
- use different instructional approaches to meet the needs of diverse learners,
- and have experience teaching.

According to Horn, Wright, and Sanders (1996), teacher effect is "the most dominant factor affecting students' academic gain." The most important resources in our schools are our teachers, and research shows that effective teachers using good instructional practices increase student academic achievement.

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Free Childrens Circus Tickets

Attention Principals,

The Shriners will send you as many kids tickets (value \$10.00 each) for children 12 years old and younger as you think you need (of course, they are free to your school). And...we will throw in 4 adult tickets (value \$15.00 each) that you and your guests may use or how ever you want to use these tickets, just our way of thanking you for passing out these children's tickets. The tickets may be used at any performance in Scottsdale, AZ in 2009.

All you have to do to allow this great experience for the children under your care is to call Jack Garrett at 480-946-7295, give him your order for the number of children tickets and mailing instructions for the tickets ASAP. Also, please provide a return phone number. The tickets will be mailed within a month prior to the circus.

For more information, please visit:
www.el-zaribah.org/circus.htm

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

****Increasing Student Achievement: Using Data to Lead Change****

Spring 2009 K-12 Leadership Institute
 April 17-18, 2009
 Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines in La Jolla, California

Presented by:
 Johns Hopkins University School of Education's
 Center for Data-Driven Reform in Education

Why district and school leaders should attend:

- * Learn to use your school's data in a continuous improvement process
- * Examine why using research-proven interventions are your best bet for school improvement
- * Step through a process of continuous improvement, from goal setting to selecting interventions
- * Bring your school's data to engage in an evidence-based process that's customized for you
- * Network with other district and school leaders

On-line registration is available at:
<http://www.cddre.org/institute.html>

Got a story idea, picture,
 or celebration?
 We'd love to hear from you!
 Email us at: ADENews@ade.az.gov

The Governor's Youth Commission Seeks New Members!

The Governor's Youth Commission is now accepting applications for the 2009-2010 year.

[CLICK HERE](#) to download the application.

Applications must be received by Friday, April 17, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

The Governor's Youth Commission advises Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families on important youth issues. It is a diverse and representative body of Arizona's high school population, and is composed of 36 members from different parts of the state. Each year, members work together on different policy and volunteer projects that impact youth across Arizona.

For further information, contact Christopher Bodington at (602) 542-3422 or through email at cbodington@az.gov.

Reading and Math Programs Rated by Johns Hopkins Researchers

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University have rated dozens of reading and math programs for grades K-12 according to their strength of effectiveness. The program ratings are the result of a review by the Johns Hopkins University School of Education's Center for Data-Driven Reform in Education.

The ratings -- much like Consumer Reports® product reviews -- are intended to help educators choose classroom approaches proven to work according to research. Program types include curricula, computer-assisted instruction, and instructional process.

The Best Evidence Encyclopedia (www.bestevidence.org) presents these reliable, unbiased reviews of research-proven educational programs for grades K-12 on subjects such as:

- Mathematics (Elementary, Middle and High School)
- Reading (Upper Elementary, Middle and High School, English Language Learners)
- Comprehensive School Reform Models (Elementary, Middle and High School)
- Education Service Providers

To sign up for e-mail updates, contact thebee@bestevidence.org.