



Tom Horne Reports to Educators

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A Message from the Superintendent

Please let us know what we can do to make your life easier.

We have set up an e-mail address makemylifeeasier@azed.gov for you to give us suggestions on how we can make your life easier, so you can focus more on what you are doing with the students in your classroom. It will be open for thirty days. We have already received over 400 e-mails, and some of them have excellent suggestions.

This initiative was announced at the very beginning of my 2008 State of Education Speech last week. The pertinent part follows. You can review the entire speech by clicking here:

www.ade.az.gov/administration/superintendent/pr01-07-08StateOfEducationSpeech2008.pdf

“When we speak of the State of Education in Arizona, we need to give credit to Arizona teachers and administrators for the performance of Arizona students on national tests. Even though we rank 49th out of 50 in our expenditures per pupil, according to Education Week, our students perform above the National Average on the TerraNova test, a National test that is given to all Arizona students grade two – nine, and the SAT and ACT college entrance tests.

“There are three things that really matter in education: the quality of the teachers, the quality of the curriculum, and the motivation of the students. At the Department of Education, we try to do all we can to help the schools attract and retain highly qualified teachers, and help maintain the highest possible morale, to implement a rigorous curriculum, and to stimulate student motivation.

“Helping teacher morale became a priority of mine many years ago, when my children were small, and I served on a school board. In the morning, I would help prepare my children for school: get them washed, dressed, fed, shiny faced and enthusiastic for school. Then it all depended on the teacher that I left them with. So I wanted those teachers to have a high morale.

“At the State level, we have been doing what we can to make life easier on teachers, so they can focus more energy on the students in their classes. Here are four examples.

“Teachers said the students were over-tested. We reduced testing time by one half, but with more efficient use of questions, were able to issue just as detailed reports. In fact, we have made the reporting from tests much more useful for teachers by reporting grades, not just on subjects as a whole, but for every concept tested.

“Teachers were burdened unnecessarily to get finger printed every six years, even though their finger prints do not change. Under the new requirements, fingerprint clearance cards can be renewed without re-fingerprinting. This will be a benefit to our teachers and maintains a high level of security for our student’s safety.

“Teachers were concerned about the complex requirements to be highly qualified at the Federal level, and appropriately certified at the State level. We have implemented the most liberal rules for Highly Qualified that the Federal Government will allow, and are introducing legislation to align the State requirements to the Federal ones.

“Teachers said they needed more opportunities for professional development. We developed over 260 courses attended by at least 50,000 teachers per year in the past 2 years. Some of these are free, and available on the internet.

“Now, we are reaching out to teachers for ideas on how we can help make life easier for them, so they can focus more on teaching the students in their classes. For the next thirty days, we will have a website (makemylifeeasier.azed.gov) where teachers can give us their ideas. We entrust to our teachers what is most valuable to us, our children, and we want our teachers morale to be high.”

Sincerely,

Tom Horne
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Reminder...

Education Webcast with professional and college football legends!

Thursday, January 31
10 AM

Just days before the "Big Game" is played in Glendale, ADE will host a webcast with professional and college football legends who will talk about the importance of staying in school.

To join this webcast, your school must register. There is NO cost to you.

To register, please visit:

<http://azed.gov/onlineregistration/EventLocationSelection.asp?EventID=1584>



The Arizona Department of Education, sponsored by Exceptional Student Services, will hold the 3rd. annual Education Job Fair on Saturday, March 15, 2008, from 10:00-3:00. This event will be held at the Phoenix Convention Center and promises to provide a venue for potential teachers to meet with various school districts and charter schools from

every part of the state. Teachers from across the country and abroad are registering to attend the Job Fair representing every grade level and content area that supports the education job openings in Arizona. Joining us at The Great Arizona Job Fair will be certification specialists, fingerprinting services, and university officials. New this year is the offering of an Arizona room where teachers will be able to relax, fill out paperwork, and learn about Arizona by watching videos, viewing posters, and reading literature that highlights both city and rural areas seeking teachers for the children of Arizona. Please provide the news of this important recruitment event with friends and family by sharing two important web sites;

www.teachinaz.com and www.arizonaeducationjobs.com.

ADE Update

Ralph Romero, Deputy Associate Superintendent, recently attended a meeting of the Education Committee of the U.S./Mexico Border Governors' Commission. At this meeting the representatives of the Mexican States requested that the U.S. States communicate to their school districts the existence of, and the requirement for the use of, the U.S. Mexico Bi-National Education Migrant Student Transfer Document. This document must be used by U.S. schools as proof of grade level and coursework completed by migrant students, in first through ninth grades, transferring to schools in Mexico. The use of this document is contained in a Bi-National Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Secretaries of Education for the United States and Mexico. Information on the MOU can be obtained from the U.S. Department of Education web site at:

www.ed.gov/admins/tchrqual/learn/binational.html.

This document is processed by the Mexican Consul Offices in the state. For more information, please contact the Mexican Consul General's Office in Phoenix at (602) 242-7398 or visit their web site at:

www.sre.gob.mx/phoenix.

Celebrating Education



Congratulations 2007 National Milken Educator



The [Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards](#) program provides public recognition and financial rewards to elementary and secondary school teachers, principals and other education professionals who are furthering excellence in education.

This year one Arizona educator was presented this very prestigious award. Along with receiving a \$25,000 prize, she will join outstanding educators from across the country at the Milken National Education Conference.

Respected as one of the premier events in K-12 education, the Milken National Education Conference is a solutions-oriented conference bringing together leaders from education, government, business and foundations, as well as Milken Educators from 48 states and the District of Columbia.

On Sunday evening, the Milken National Educator Awards Gala—referred to as the "Oscars of teaching" by Teacher Magazine—will celebrate these exemplary educators before an audience of some 600 guests.

And the winner is...Mrs. Caroline Torres of Sahuarita High School!

Caroline S. Torres brings a wealth of real-world experience and leadership to her math instruction at Sahuarita High School in Sahuarita. Before becoming a teacher, Torres was president of a geochemical company in Mexico, and co-owner and vice president of another geological corporation, also in Mexico. In addition, she served as a research assistant for world-renowned heart surgeon Dr. Jack G. Copeland, with whom she co-authored a major publication on heart transplants. As a teacher, Torres has helped students achieve high pass rates on state math assessments. She initiated a Math Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Club at Sahuarita, following her success with the club at her previous campus, Catalina High Magnet School. Through the club, students develop valuable hands-on experience with projects related to math, science and engineering. Torres has also assumed a leadership role in the District Curriculum Planning Team. As a Hispanic female teaching the school's most difficult math courses, Torres has served as an outstanding role model for the school's female students and inspired all students to consider careers in math, science and engineering.



L-R: new Milken Educator Caroline Torres, and Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne

Congratulations 2008 Promising Practices in Character Education Award

ADE Character Education and Development and the Arizona Character Education Foundation (ACEF) would like to congratulate the following schools on receiving a 2008 Promising Practices in Character Education Award!

Bales Elementary | Ironwood Elementary | Sycamore Elementary | Humphrey II Elementary
Catalina Ventura School | Alhambra Elementary District

Runners-up : Sierra Verde, Desert Willow Elementary, Imagine Schools at Cortez Park, Sequoia Elementary, Imagine Schools at Rosefield

The purpose of the award is to recognize schools in Arizona that have developed and implemented a unique practice that promotes character development in students. In addition, schools throughout the state will have an opportunity to learn about and replicate these practices by viewing them on the web.

Each awarded school/district will receive \$100 from ACEF and a certificate of recognition. Runners-up will receive \$25 and a certificate. Descriptions of all submitted practices will be posted on the web at : www.ade.az.gov/charactered.



The pictures above are from Catalina Ventura Character Family Fun Night and ParentLink

"20 to Watch" Lead the Changes in Education Technology

Alexandria, VA - Oct. 9 - Want to find emerging education technology leaders? Look no further than the National School Boards Association's 20 to Watch list. These 20 individuals reflect the spirit of innovation, creativity, and collaboration that place them among the nation's top education technology leaders.

The 20 to Watch list, which started last year to coincide with the 20th anniversary of NSBA's T+L Conference, is the result of a nationwide search to identify the top 20 classroom, building, and district leaders, as well as individuals making exceptional contributions in higher education and non-profit organizations, who are the emerging voices that will shape the future of education technology.

"These educators are the thought leaders of tomorrow. Their natural curiosity allows them to explore the potential of new tools and more importantly, excite and inspire others to follow their lead," said Ann Flynn, director of education technology for NSBA. "We had many great nominees who are not afraid to question, redefine, and transform education."

The 2007 Arizona Recipients of "20 to Watch" are:

Heather Cruz, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, Litchfield Elementary School District #79, Arizona

Empowering students to become leaders and better citizens through the use of technology, Heather Cruz has formed a team of students to help teachers in learning and supporting technology in the classroom. These same students also update web pages, blogs, online calendars, and work with digital video production. Cruz has also been instrumental in getting parents and community members to foster the use of technology.

Matt Federoff, Director of Technology, Vail School District, Arizona

Through Matt Federoff's leadership, his district was one of the first to connect schools with wireless technology and then provide wireless access at the schools themselves. Federoff led the opening of Empire High School three years ago, a school that encourages students to become self-directed learners. Students at Empire receive a laptop computer in place of textbooks and teachers use technology as a tool in class and for homework. Federoff wanted to educate students for the work world that they will soon be entering, where technology is integrated into most jobs and careers.

Laurie King, Technology Coordinator, Dysart Unified School District, Arizona

Laurie King's area of expertise is in forming cadres of teachers to work together to develop their instructional practices, using technology as a tool for teaching and learning. This year, King worked with the staff development and instructional technology departments to build a cohesive professional development plan focused on the instructional strategies identified in Classroom Instruction That Works. King has also provided leadership in the area of podcasting and blogging as tools for teaching and learning, and as professional development models.

Shawn Wheeler, Director of Technology Services and Training, Peoria Unified School District, Arizona

Shawn Wheeler built a variety of outstanding technology professional development offerings, including the Blackboard e-learning environment; online Small Learning Objects, an impressive collection of single-topic training documentation supported by multi-media materials; and podcasting and RSS (Really Simple Syndication) technology. Wheeler also coordinated the design of the district portal used for instruction as well as district business operations.

About the National School Boards Association

Founded in 1940, the National School Boards Association is a not-for-profit federation of state associations of school boards representing 95,000 local school board members throughout the United States. Its mission is to foster excellence and equity in public elementary and secondary education through local school board leadership. NSBA represents the school board perspective in working with federal government agencies and national organizations that impact education, and provides vital information and services to state associations of school boards throughout the nation. The T+L Conference is NSBA's annual event designed for K-12 leadership teams to explore the most effective use of technology to support teaching and learning, administrative applications, and community outreach.

Attention CHARACTER SUPPORTERS!



Help Arizona remain a national leader in character education!

Join us for the 3rd annual Character Challenge Run/Walk!

- Date: Sunday, March 2, 2008
- Time: 8 a.m.
- Where: Wesley Bolin Plaza/Downtown Phoenix
- Description: A 5K Competitive Run
5K Family Fun Run/Walk
One Mile Walk
- Organization: The Arizona Character Education Foundation provides training and materials on the Character Counts! Framework to educators, youth leaders, parents and students at no charge. The training is based on the proven effective Character Counts! Framework and the Six Pillars of CharacterSM *trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship!*
- To Register: www.azcharactereducation.org

Warm Up with YMCA
T-shirts for Participants
Raffle Prizes
Rock Wall
Bounce House
Live Entertainment
Food and Fun!



"After a recent expansion, DonorsChoose.org is finally available to every public school teacher in Arizona! As a teacher, you work every day to provide your students with the lessons and opportunities to make learning meaningful and fun - DonorsChoose.org wants to help!

At DonorsChoose.org, public school teachers like you submit ideas for experiences and materials. Dictionaries, lab equipment, soccer balls - your creativity is the limit! Simply, describe your idea and how students will benefit and then DonorsChoose.org helps you find the exact resources you need. Once your request is posted online, individuals - people we call citizen philanthropists - search and choose to fund the projects they find most compelling.

Does it work? Yes! Already over 36,000 classroom projects have been funded with more than 16 million dollars. And over 60% of projects under \$400 are funded within three months. Submit your idea today at www.DonorsChoose.org and yours could be next. If you have any questions or suggestions for other ways to spread the word in Arizona, please email Arianne Miller, Teacher Engagement Manager (arianne@donorschoose.org).

www.donorschoose.org/docs/teacher-flyer.pdf



Intel believes all students, everywhere, deserve to have the tools they need to become the next generation of innovators - and that good schools and good teachers are the foundation of student excellence.

Intel Schools of Distinction exemplify this excellence. Every year, Intel honors U.S. schools that have demonstrated excellence in math and science education as Intel Schools of Distinction. One elementary, one middle and one high school in each of two categories - math and science - receive \$10,000 cash grants and more than \$100,000 in products and services from sponsors.

One of the six winning schools is chosen as the Star Innovator, and receives an additional \$15,000 grant from the Intel Foundation as well as additional products and services.

In order to be considered as an Intel School of Distinction, schools must develop an environment and curricula that meet or exceed benchmarks, including national mathematics and science content standards.

Winning programs serve as models for schools across the country. By replicating proven programs such as these, schools everywhere can reinvigorate their own science and mathematics programs, inspiring generations of future scientists and mathematicians.

Apply by February 14, 2008

www.intel.com/education/schoolsofdistinction/index

Freida J. Riley Teacher Award

The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation presents the Freida J. Riley Teacher Award to an American teacher who works with a physical disability, teaches in an especially challenging educational environment, or has performed a heroic act by making an exceptional, personal or physical sacrifice on behalf of students. In 2002, the Foundation's Board of Trustees increased the award from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The award is named after Freida J. Riley a math, chemistry and physics teacher during the early space race era of the 1950s and early 60s at Big Creek High School in Coalwood, West Virginia. While battling Hodgkin's disease, she inspired her students to overcome the limited opportunities of their era and environment to aspire to fulfill their dreams. Miss Riley died at age 31.

For more information and to download the official Nomination form for the 2008 Freida J. Riley Teacher Award, please visit: www.columbusfdn.org/freidajriley/default.asp. The completed Nomination forms must be received by the Foundation by 5:00 p.m., **Monday, February 4, 2008**. Emailed, faxed or late Nominations will not be accepted.

If you have any questions, please call the Foundation at (315)258-0090 or email your inquiry to judithmscolumbus@cs.com.

The Deadline for Nominations is **Monday, February 4, 2008**.



Welcome to the Panasonic Academic Challenge!

The Panasonic Academic Challenge is a highly academic national high school competition modeled after Florida's statewide tournament. Each team consists of six students (four players and two alternates) and one coach. As many as six teams may compete against each other in one competition. This is not a quick response, trivial pursuit contest. Instead, it is a slower-paced tournament in which players are asked questions from the areas of mathematics, science, language arts, social studies, the fine arts, world languages (French and Spanish) and technology. The questions are written by educators from high schools and colleges throughout the nation.

June 7-10, 2008
Contemporary Convention Center
Walt Disney World Resort

For more information, please visit:
www2.polk-fl.net/ac/PAC.htm.

Panasonic National School Change Awards

Each year, a distinguished panel of judges selects six award winners. A school, in our view, is a candidate for the award if it meets at least two criteria in each of the four dimensions and a total of at least ten criteria. Award winners are selected in the spring of each academic year, with the six winning schools gaining national recognition. Schools may nominate themselves.

The Award to each of the six schools includes:

- A ceremony conducted at their school in May/June 2008
- A \$5,000.00 grant
- National recognition and coverage by the media
- Subsidized participation of the school's principal in the Eleventh Annual National Principals Leadership Institute

Nominations must be received by **March 3, 2008**. Please visit <http://www.npli.org/nsca/> to access the nomination application.

For more information contact:
Francesca Sinatra, Nominations Coordinator
212-636-6682
fsinatra@fordham.edu
Juan Fonseca, Co-Director
212-636-6436
jfonseca@fordham.edu

Nominations for the

Panasonic
**National School
Change Awards**



January 22, 2008 - Scottsdale, AZ - Hard work on a United Blood Services high school blood drive could be rewarded with a \$1,000 college scholarship. Just six weeks remain to apply for the Spirit of Giving scholarship, which was donated by Kelly Kubicki, Mrs. Arizona International 2006. One deserving high school blood drive committee member will be rewarded for blood drive leadership at their high school. Mrs. Arizona International 2006 is scheduled to present the scholarship to the recipient during the week of June 14, in honor of World Blood Donor Day.

"Be who you are, do what you love, make a difference and change the world," has always been the personal motto for Mrs. Arizona International 2006. Having chosen United Blood Services as the platform during her reign, Kubicki established the scholarship to inspire high school students across the state to make a difference for Arizona hospital patients. The Spirit of Giving scholarship will be paid to the school of the recipient's choice, an accredited post-secondary educational program during the following school year. Blood drive committee members from among approximately

125 Arizona schools that participate in United Blood Services High School Blood Drive Challenge are eligible to apply. Qualified applicants must:

- maintain a 2.5 or better cumulative GPA
- be a student in good standing on target to graduate in May 2008
- serve in a leadership role on the school's blood drive committee
- host a minimum of two blood drives per school year
- submit the complete application to United Blood Services/Arizona by **Feb. 29, 2008**

According to Audrey Gietzen, Executive Director for United Blood Services/Arizona, one out of every 13 blood transfusions in Arizona last year was provided by a donor at a high school blood drive. "High school students have shown their community spirit by becoming blood donors," she said. "We are so pleased to help further develop a deserving student's leadership skills by offering a college scholarship."

For more information on the Spirit of Giving Scholarship, students should contact United Blood Services at 480-675-5642. Applications with complete details can be downloaded on-line at

www.UnitedBloodServicesAZHS.org and must be submitted to the address listed below by **Feb. 29, 2008**.

Spirit of Giving Scholarship
United Blood Services/Arizona
C/O Spirit of Giving Scholarship
6220 E. Oak St.
Scottsdale, AZ 85257
ATTN: Denise Gotcher

About United Blood Services: United Blood Services has been Arizona's non-profit community blood provider since 1943 and serves patients in 50 Arizona hospitals. The UBS network is one of the nation's oldest and largest non-profit blood service organizations, and is a founding member of America's Blood Centers and the American Association of Blood Banks. For more information on how to "Be a Hero," please call 1-877-448-GIVE (4483) toll-free or visit:

www.UnitedBloodServicesAZ.org.



**2008 SAMMY Awards
Win \$7500 for college!**

Attention High School Seniors! It's time for the 2008 Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year (SAMMY) Scholarship Awards. Do you have what it takes to wear the famous milk mustache? Do you make the grade in the classroom, on the field and in your community? Then, fill out an application for the 2008 Scholar Milk Mustache of the Year Awards (SAMMY) now. 25 student-athletes will win a \$7,500 scholarship and a spot in a special milk mustache ad to run in USA TODAY. Want more? You'll also get an all-expense paid trip to an exciting awards ceremony at Disney Wide World of Sports' Milk House in Orlando, FL and an induction into the Milk House Hall of Fame.

For more information, visit:
<http://sammy.bodybymilk.com/>

Encouraging Girls in Math and Science

The Department's National Center for Education Research (NCER) has released a practice guide on how to encourage girls in math and science. The second in a series of IES guides in education, it was developed by a panel of experts, and brings together the best available evidence and expertise to provide educators with specific and coherent evidence-based recommendations on how to encourage girls in the fields of math and science. The objective is to provide teachers with specific recommendations that can be carried out in the classroom without requiring systemic change. Other school personnel having direct contact with students, such as coaches, counselors, and principals may also find the guide useful. The guide offers five recommendations and indicates the quality of the evidence that supports the recommendations. Together, the recommendations make a coherent statement: To encourage girls in math and science, educators need to strengthen girls' beliefs about their abilities in math and science, spark and maintain greater interest in these subject areas, and build associated skills. To download, view and print this practice guide, please visit <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wvc/practiceguides/>.



2008 High School On-Line Student Essay Contest

www.nationalww2museum.org/education/studentessays.html

On August 15, 1945, when the neighbors in the 2200 block of St. Roch Street in New Orleans heard the news that Japan had surrendered and the war was finally over, they spontaneously paraded through the streets, celebrating America's long-fought for victory in WWII. Celebrations like this one erupted across the Home Front in communities large and small. What they all shared in common was the sense that all Americans had been part of the fight—and all Americans had been part of the victory.



The National WWII Museum invites you to tell us, in your own words, "How can your community achieve victory?" What do we mean by community: Your city? Your school? A club or congregation you belong to? And what do we mean by victory? That is for you to decide and describe. But remember, victory doesn't just mean success in war. There are many battles that communities fight. Use WWII as a starting point and base your answer in part on examples you find in this history. But don't stop in the past. History teaches us lessons. How can your community overcome the challenges it faces today? This is NOT a research paper about WWII. Your essay will be judged for originality, clarity of expression, adherence to contest theme, historical accuracy, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. The best essays will include specific examples from both WWII and today. You may use examples from your own experiences, if you wish. Museum education staff will judge entries.

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

2008 Middle School Art Contest

www.nationalww2museum.org/education/studentart.html

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: The theme of this year's art contest is Teamwork. Think about what teamwork means to you. Think about times you or someone you know achieved success through teamwork—or failed through the lack of teamwork. Think about and study examples of teamwork during WWII (a company of soldiers fighting together on the battlefield, civilians working in a factory on the Home Front, children collecting scrap metal for the war effort, countries cooperating to achieve their goals of victory). Create a work of art based on an example(s) you find of teamwork during WWII. It can be a realistic depiction or an abstract representation, in color or black and white, you can use pencil, pen, crayons, markers, paint, or collage. It must be original, but you can incorporate existing WWII images.



Student Loan Forgiveness

A law signed by President Bush on September 27, 2007 will allow public service employees, including those in the fields of public education, school-based library science and other school-based services, to have an opportunity to qualify for student loan forgiveness. The law, part of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, forgives outstanding education debt for public service employees who have made 10 years of monthly payments on their loan while serving full-time in government, public education or other positions related to public service. Borrowers must have made 120 monthly payments after October 1, 2007. Therefore, the first cancellations of loan balances will not be granted until October 2017. The benefit is not retroactive. Public service employees seeking further information should contact the Education Department's call center at 1-800-433-3243 and select the option that permits them to speak directly to a call center representative.

Source: Transition to Teaching