



NASS

News

December 2019 Issue

a publication of the National Association of School Superintendents | #NASS

A Word from the Executive Director



Dear NASS Members:

In this month's issue, we lift up the power of peer mentoring and roll out a new NASS mentoring program. We also highlight the power and

urgency to advance our students' and teachers' creative skills, and link you to an innovative resource. We shine the light on the importance of teaching students compassion. And finally, we share professional learning opportunities we've identified and can help you learn and grow with your peers. Enjoy the issue, and remember to dig deeper if you are interested and want to learn more.

Happy holidays!

Jonathan Raymond

Thoughts from the Executive Director

Today's World Requires Our Students to Have an Open Mind, Open Heart and Free Will

Since the late 1990s, policymakers and educators have discussed the need for students to acquire "21st Century Skills." The Partnership for 21st Century Skills defines these as the 4Cs – Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, and Creativity.

And yet, we also need to prepare students for an age where artificial intelligence, robots, and big data are fundamentally changing the way we work and live. Along with math, English, science, history, the arts and the skills embodied in the 4Cs, students will need to be complex problem-solvers and demonstrate cognitive flexibility. If acquiring these skills wasn't enough, however, the World Economic Forum presents us with a further challenge. How might we prepare our students to advance humanity?

Meeting the demands of this global challenge requires students to have more than the 4Cs. They will need to be...

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Featured NASS Partner

What has creativity got to do with my school district's success and me as a leader?

3d-printed homes can be built for less than \$4,000



businessinsider.com/3d-homes-that-take-24-hours-and-3d-print-2018-9

*Jane Reynolds
-President of
FableVision
Learning*

Educators face a daunting mission today. Information is propagating faster than most mere mortals can

keep up with. Technology is accelerating changes in ways that make it increasingly challenging to imagine the future.

Everything is changing at breakneck speed: the cars we drive, our energy sources, the way we build, the way we shop, the food we eat, even how we get jobs done. Even more unfathomable, but seemingly inevitable, is the merging of machines and humans, which has been dubbed the “4th Industrial Revolution.”

How do we prepare not only our students, but also our teachers for an unknown future? What kind of school system is needed to adapt to these unpredictable needs of the rapidly-evolving modern workplace?

We don't have all the answers to these questions just yet, but by embracing creativity as a tool for that adaptation, we just might start the right conversations. Creativity provides the unique skills and attributes required for being able to adapt and problem-solve our way through whatever comes next. This includes...

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Members Spotlight

Creating Pathways to Passion



*Dr. A. Katrise
Perera -
Superintendent,
Gresham Barlow
School District*

I grew up along the hemlines of my Creole grandmother,

who had a love for cooking and a passion for helping others. She believed everyone deserved a helping hand when and where needed. She was no Mother Theresa, but if you knew her, then you knew she was a good listener, compassionate, empathetic, and you knew you could depend on her - no matter what. In her kitchen, if she was asked why she was smiling while she conjured up a daily meal or an everyday snack, her response oftentimes was that when you love what you do, you cannot help but show it with a big smile. She arose each morning with an intentional focus on helping others, to guide others, and in the end she inspired me to do the same.

Naturally, I became a believer in recognizing your passion for what you do, and it has served me well throughout my personal and professional life. While conjuring up my own recipe for life, I found my passion in 1994 as I began my career as a new teacher in Charlottesville City Schools (Virginia). I am no longer leading a single classroom but I am privileged to serve an entire learning community in Gresham, Oregon as the...

[Read the full article](#)

Advocacy at the Core of NASS Values

House Democrats Release Higher Education Act Reform Measure



In October, the House Democrats, led by the Chairman of Education and Labor Committee, Bobby Scott (D-Va.), released a new bill titled the “College Affordability Act” that is the Democrats’ version

of reauthorizing the Higher Education Act (HEA). According to Chairman Scott, this proposal is far more modest than previous proposals introduced by Republicans in the House and Senate.

A key component of the legislation includes a proposal to eliminate tuition and fees for all students at community college through new federal-state partnerships. In addition, there would be new accountability measures for institutions of higher education to hold colleges and universities accountable for student outcomes.

This measure could also have a lasting impact on K-12 school districts. The College Affordability Act would reauthorize and expand the Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) Grant Program. TQP would strengthen coordination between school districts, state agencies, and teacher preparation programs by including school leader programs. Further, TQP would allow state education

agencies and higher education institutions to apply for joint funding to create cohort-based teacher residency programs.

With a potential price tag of \$400 billion over ten years, House Republicans — led by ranking member of the education committee Representative Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) — have stated that this measure...

[Read the full article](#)

“MMM”

Members Mentoring Members

Webster’s dictionary defines “Mentor” as: “A trusted counselor or guide — a mentor who, because he/she is detached and disinterested, can hold up a mirror to us.” Who better to mentor and “hold the mirror up” than a NASS peer and colleague?

We know the superintendent job can be lonely and isolating. We are often surrounded by folks who tell us what we want to hear versus what we need and hear. It is difficult to get feedback from our direct reports and also from school board members. To maintain that delicate work/life balance, there are certain things we shouldn’t bring home to share...

[Read the full article](#)

Professional Learning

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