



TASSR Newsletter

Newsletter of the Tennessee Association for Student Success and Retention
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TASSR Newsletter is published three times a year (approximately February, April, and September) online at www.tassr.org. Editor is Daryl Stephens (stephen@etsu.edu).

President's Letter

Greetings:

Education continues to evolve due to the impact of the Complete College Act of 2010. As an affiliate of the National Association of Developmental Education (NADE), the purpose of the Tennessee Association for Student Success and Retention (TASSR) is to enhance policies and programs that influence post-secondary student academic success and retention in the state.

The TASSR Executive Board met on January 27th to plan the Fall 2012 Conference. There are efforts in the work to increase membership and encourage participation in all areas of higher education (public and private colleges and universities).

The TASSR Executive Board discussed the feasibility of moving the conference to another site; however, due to the cost, the Board decided to hold the conference again at the Renaissance Center in Dickson, TN. The conference theme for this year is "**New Steps to Student Success and Retention.**" The tentative dates for the conference are October 24-26. The first phase of planning the conference has been completed. We ask each of you to consider submitting a presentation proposal for our conference. Remember that we would like to have presentations, not just in the discipline-oriented areas, but in the areas of advising and mentoring, the cohort concept, instructional strategies, enrollment management, and student retention. Please share this newsletter with your colleagues in any one or all of the aforementioned areas on your campus and other colleges and universities (private) in your areas of the state. Let's get the word out about our new name and our new beginning and encourage active participation from these colleagues. You will find the presentation proposal form on our website.

We are seeking nominees for TASSR's awards for excellence among our colleagues and our students. Please nominate your outstanding and deserving colleagues and students from your campus who have excelled in student retention and success. The Award Nomination form is on our website.

The TASSR Executive Board worked untiringly during the first planning session. We know that our work has only just begun. Kudos for your hard work and for making me look good (smile).

Billy Wesson, Karen Siska, Meredith Anne Higgs, and David Otts will travel to Orlando, Florida during the week of February 21st to participate in the 2012 NADE Conference.

Your Servant Leader,

Billy Wesson

In Memoriam: Barbara Hensley

October 3, 1961 – December 6, 2011

Barbara L. Hensley, age 50 and residing in Murfreesboro, passed away on December 6, 2011, after an extended illness.

Barbara had worked as an advisor for Middle Tennessee State University for nearly 20 years starting in the Developmental Studies Department and then in the University College Advising Center. She was a long-time member of the Tennessee Association for Developmental Education (TNADE), the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE), and the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). She served TNADE as Newsletter Editor for about seven years.

She was a native of Birmingham, Alabama, and received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Alabama. She was an active member of Hillsboro Presbyterian Church in Nashville. Barbara will be greatly missed by her family, colleagues, and friends.

—submitted by Vivian Alley, MTSU

Call for Presentations at 2012 TASSR Conference

It's time to start thinking about making presentations at the fall conference (October 24-26 at the Renaissance Center in Dickson). Do you have an idea for a presentation? The call for presentations form is now available on the TASSR website (www.tassr.org). It is a fillable .doc form. For more information, contact TASSR president, Dr. Billy Wesson (bwesson@jsc.edu).

Call for Articles in April Newsletter

As you can see, this is a very short newsletter, though padded with several pages of photographs. For this newsletter to be a success, we need your submissions. What is going on at your campus involving learning support, student retention, student success initiatives, tutoring, or other related programs? What have you found that works on your campus or in your class? Send in an article of any length from one paragraph to several pages to Dr. Daryl Stephens, TASSR's new newsletter editor and webmaster, by Thursday, April 12. Email is preferred (stephen@etsu.edu).

Join NADE!

Are you a member of our national organization, NADE? NADE is the National Association for Developmental Education. Check out the website at www.nade.net. NADE has a conference every year in February or March, and you can also join special interest networks (e.g., math, writing, reading, administration, counseling, TRIO, technology, etc.) and connect with people in your own discipline.

TASSR Executive Board 2011-2012

The next board meeting is Friday, March 30. If you have an item that should receive board consideration, please contact your area representative or President Wesson.

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Scenes from TASSR Conference 2011

Renaissance Center, Dickson, TN, October 26–28

Photographs by Daryl Stephens



Mr. Leon Freeman displays some of his items he has collected in his world travels at the Wednesday night cultural event.



More of Mr. Freeman's collection.



Another sample of items.



President-elect Dr. Billy Wesson addresses the group at the Wednesday night dinner.



Tammy Borren handles registration.



Dr. Don Luck, professor of education specialties at APSU, gives the opening session "There's an App for That!"



Jennifer Dooley and Meredith Anne Higgs (MTSU) prepare for a session.



Pumpkin decorating was a popular pastime at whole-group sessions.



One of the decorated pumpkins



Another decorated pumpkin



TASSR President Dr. Karen Siska introduces our lunch speaker.



Keynote speaker at lunch was Dr. Norma Burgess, dean of Arts and Sciences at Lipscomb University.



Checking out publishers' exhibits.



Lunchtime scene.



Ellen Peete and Rosie McCray



More table conversation



Discussing mobile technology





The executive board meets Thursday evening.



More scenes from the board meeting.



Johnanna Grimes and Jane Asamani await the start of the business meeting Friday morning.



Vivian Alley passes out the Treasurer's Report at the business meeting.



Dr. Treva Berryman, TBR Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, gives updates about TBR's learning support program.



Leadership of TASSR passes from Karen Siska to Billy Wesson.

Nominations Needed

TASSR Award for Outstanding Service to Students in Learning Support Programs

This award recognizes long-term contribution of time and energy to students in Learning Support Programs by a TASSR member. Criteria for evaluation include the following: (a) nominee will have spent approximately half or more of their time serving learning support students through teaching and/or administration for at least five years; (b) evaluation will include both the nominee's record of service and recognition by others; (c) nominee must be a member of TASSR at the time of nomination.

The application should include the following: (1) a letter of nomination summarizing the contributions by the nominee to learning support students (limit two pages); (2) the nominee's resume reflecting the length of service and the diverse ways the nominee has served learning support students. Additional contributions that indirectly affect students, such as leading workshops, conference presentations, and articles in education journals and newsletters could also be included. The resume should contain a record of local, state, or national recognition of the nominee's service to learning support students (limit ten pages); (3) one to three letters (limit three letters and one page each) of support from individual students, advisors, administrators, faculty teaching learning support classes, or colleagues outside learning support programs.

TASSR Award to an Outstanding Alumnus of a Learning Support Program

This award recognizes a student who has been in a learning support program and who has distinguished him/herself in other areas of life. Criteria for evaluation include the following: (a) the nominee must have completed at least two learning support courses or participated in at least two of the following support program activities: TRIO Upward Bound, TRIO Student Support Services, high school-to-college bridge program, special admissions program, enrollment in learning support classes (e.g., math, writing, learning strategies, reading); (b) the nominee must have outstanding accomplishments outside the classroom.

The application should include the following: (1) a letter of nomination that includes specific learning support classes taken and/or learning support programs in which the person participated and the individual's out-of-class accomplishments (limit two pages); (b) one or two letters of endorsement from college faculty, including learning support faculty (limit one page each); (c) nominee's resume summary (limit two pages); (d) one or two letters from current work supervisor and/or community leaders (limit one page each).

Submit portfolios for either award to:

Meredeth McCoy

Columbia State Community College

104 Claude Yates Drive

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931-540-2698

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