

TASSR Newsletter



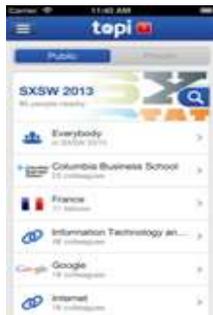
Greetings from the President

Dr. Karen Siska, Columbia State Community College

As I recall some of the last conversations with my maternal grandmother, who was then in her late 80's, there were two recurrent themes. The first was that she was always tired and that her days seemed to run together. The second was that time seemed to be rushing by at an ever increasing speed. While I'm not in my 80's, although I'm much closer now than ever before, I can certainly identify with being tired and time flying by. It is hard to believe that it is already June. The 2014 TASSR Conference is just 21 weeks away!

The TASSR conference theme, "Preparing for the Journey: Enrollment to Completion," is certainly relevant to everything we are currently doing in higher education. The Executive Board decided to change some things for this year's conference in a bold attempt to reach out to the larger campus community. We definitely want presentations from the learning support areas of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, but we also want to expand to other areas like Financial Aid, Completion Delivery, FYE (Student Success), Advisement, Teaching Strategies, Technology in the Classroom, Admissions, Support Services, and Retention Strategies.

As we look to expand conference topics, I know some of you are involved in projects/activities on your respective campuses that make it difficult to share in a traditional 50-minute block of time, so we will be offering Preconference Workshops on Wednesday afternoon. We are waiting on confirmation of available space and times from the Renaissance Center Events Office, but we are thinking about the time frame of either 1:00-4:00 or 2:00-5:00. There will be ample time following the preconference sessions to get checked into your hotel and freshened up for the opening dinner and activities.



The TASSR Executive Board approved the use of the event planning App known as Topi. It is a free download for Android, Apple, and MAC products.

It has some great conference features that will allow us to instantly keep you up to date on any changes and you will be able to connect with conference attendees with just one click. After each presentation you attend, you can use the Topi App to provide feedback on the session. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, there will definitely be paper copies available for the "non-techies" among us. There will be a place on the conference application form for you to mark if you want to reserve a paper copy of the program.

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The Executive Board reaffirmed the plan to award four \$500 honorariums to be awarded to qualified students who began their college studies with learning support assistance. Specific details of the honorariums can be found in this newsletter. We have many outstanding students within our institutions who would certainly benefit from \$500 but also from the recognition they receive from you and from this organization. The three students we honored last year were very excited, and their stories touched our hearts.

We will also continue to award an honorarium for outstanding faculty and the details for nominating a colleague can be found in the newsletter. Nominate a colleague TODAY!

We still want to increase the membership and participation the larger higher education community within the entire State of Tennessee. I want to issue the same challenge I issued to the Executive Board at our last formal meeting which is to bring one new member with you to the TASSR conference in October. Invite a colleague from your institution to join! Better yet why not invite a colleague from one of the many private colleges and universities in the State to join TASSR and come to the October 29-31, 2014 Fall Conference at the Renaissance Center in Dickson.

Until next time....

Karen

Upcoming Conferences

TASSR 2014	October 29-31, 2014	Renaissance Center, Dickson, TN	www.tassr.org
NADE 2015	February 25-28, 2015	TD Convention Center, Greenville, SC	www.nade2015.net
NADE 2016	March 15-19, 2016	Anaheim Marriott, Anaheim, CA	

The *TASSR Newsletter* is published online every winter, spring, and fall, a few weeks after each board meeting. Deadline for the next newsletter will be Friday, September 12, 2014. Submissions of articles or announcements of any length (one paragraph to about 7 pages) related to student success or retention in Tennessee are welcome. Email submissions to Daryl Stephens, newsletter editor, at stephen@etsu.edu. These can be in the text in the body of the email or attachments in any of the following formats: TXT, DOC, DOCX, RTF, WPD, ODT. Photographs of TASSR or NADE-related events are welcome also.

JSSR

Watch for information about the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Student Success and Retention*, a new peer-reviewed journal from TASSR, coming up in the fall.

Division Divas Issue a Fall Back Challenge: Don't "Fall Back" Into Comfort

by Christina Cobb and Meredith Anne S. Higgs, MTSU

The fall comes a hectic time of new courses, large class loads, and numerous activities. With all of the fall's responsibilities, it may be easy to slip into "comfortable" patterns. Take the "Don't 'Fall Back' Challenge." This fall semester challenge yourself to leave your comfort zone. Plan early this summer what new innovations you will try in your classroom. Simply plan to implement one new teaching or organizational strategy each month. Find a faculty mentor or teaching buddy to evaluate your current practices and to suggest new ideas. Participate in workshops or classes at your institution or even at another school. Attend a state or regional conference to gain new insights for the spring semester. Will you take the "Don't 'Fall Back' Challenge"? Bring your best Fall Back Challenge Activity and join the Division Divas at the 2014 TASSR Conference! Challenge up!

TASSR to Honor Outstanding Members, Students

The 2014 TASSR Conference will begin October 29, 2014, and during the conference the Awards Committee will present two prestigious awards!

The **TASSR Award for Outstanding Service to Students in Learning Support Programs** 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 **TASSR Award to an Outstanding Alumnus of a Learning Support Program**

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.

Watch the TASSR website for the deadlines for nominations.

Meredeth McCoy, Awards Chair
Columbia State Community College
mmccoy@columbiastate.edu

From the Nominations Chair

Annette Williams, MTSU

Please consider nominating a colleague or yourself for a position on the TASSR Executive Board. TASSR officers for the positions of President-Elect and Treasurer are needed for the 2014-2015 year. The President-Elect serves in that position for 2 years then assumes the position of President for 2 years. The Treasurer serves a 2-year term. An officer may serve up to 3 consecutive terms. Officers must be members of TASSR and are also expected to join the National Association for Developmental Education, NADE, our national affiliate.

All officers are expected to attend the Executive Board meetings. These are presently held January (or February) and April in Franklin. The fall meetings are usually held in September at the conference location and in October on-site during the conference. It may be possible to attend some meetings via the Internet.

If you would like to nominate yourself or another TASSR member for either of the positions mentioned above, please fill out the Nomination Form and email it to me at annette.williams@mtsu.edu.

Thank you for your interest in serving students through our great organization.

Annette Williams, Nominations Chair
Box 370, MTSU
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(615) 898-5558

TASSR Officer Nomination Form 2014-2015

TASSR Office: _____

Information needed for the Nominee:

Nominee's Name: _____

Institution: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Is the nominee currently a TASSR member? _____

Nominator Information:

Nominator's name: _____

Institution: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Is the nominator currently a TASSR member? _____

Deadline: September 30, 2014

Send the completed form and a short (300-word) vita for the nominee via email to:
annette.williams@mtsu.edu

**Annette Williams, TASSR Nominations Chair
University Studies Department
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