

TASSR Newsletter



Message from the President

Dr. Karen Siska, Columbia State Community College

The excitement has been steadily building for the TASSR Fall 2013 Conference. We have 22 excellent presentations lined up on a variety of topics related to student success and retention. Also planned throughout the day on Thursday are four separate forums to share ideas about student success and retention initiatives. In addition, there will be a poster (a.k.a. “speed conferencing”) session, where five colleagues will be sharing some of their exciting work.

A highlight of this year’s conference will be Thursday’s keynote address by Dr. Sue Cain, Senior Policy Advisor, Coordinator of College Readiness and Developmental Education, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and coordinates PARCC-related postsecondary engagement activities in the state of Kentucky. I heard Dr. Cain speak at the leadership congress of the National Association of Developmental Education (NADE) conference a couple years ago. She is in high demand as a conference speaker, and I am so glad that her schedule allows her to be with us this year.



A very special inaugural feature at this year’s conference will be the Student Honorarium Award Luncheon. We will be honoring 4 students for their academic achievements with awards of \$500 honorariums. Further details for eligibility and nominating procedures can be found in the newsletter. Please consider nominating a deserving student on your campus.

Last year, we shared with you our desire to **“GO GREEN”** for this year’s conference. While we are not totally **“GREEN,”** we are making good strides in getting there. First, the registration process is now totally online through www.regonline.com/TASSR. You can pay by check and/or by debit/credit. You can print your receipt directly from the website. If you lose it, you can just login again, and print another one. If you encounter difficulties or have questions, contact Tammy Borren, Membership Chair, at tborren@columbiastate.edu or call her at 931-540-2697.

Second, we have purchased a year's license for the GRUIPIO App. All conference materials will be available in an online format and only for TASSR members and conference attendees. We will be uploading all presentation handouts into GRUIPIO, and they will be available within this App for one year. Please be sure to bring your iPads, smartphones, laptops, etc. to be able to access the conference materials and to receive updates or changes to the conference schedule. You can print the conference schedule before you arrive. We will have a few printed "desk" copies of the schedule at various locations within the building.



Last year we announced our desire for TASSR to begin a professional literary journal. A committee was formed and lead by our TASSR Board Member-At-Large, Dr. Sheila Otto (MTSU), who has agreed to be the first editor of the journal. The committee has performed a yeoman's work in developing the plans and guidelines. A session is planned on Thursday to share with you what we have done so far and to project when the journal will be ready for publication.

Friday morning has been reserved for the general business meeting of TASSR. I sincerely hope that many of you will stay overnight to be able to participate with us in recognizing an outstanding colleague and an outstanding student. We will also present the slate of candidates for vacant offices on the TASSR Executive Board. Dr. Treva Berryman, TASSR Political Liaison, will update us on things going on and things to come in higher education.

With so many wonderful sessions planned, be sure to call a colleague/friend and invite them to join you. We really want to expand the scope of TASSR by inviting colleagues from other colleges and universities outside of the TBR system. Won't you consider calling a colleague from another institution and invite them to join you at this year's conference?

I don't know if you have been to many conferences lately, but I can tell you that most conference fees are pricey! The TASSR conference fee is a bargain at \$75 for full-time participants! We want to encourage the participation of not only full-time colleagues at TASSR, but we would love to have a good representation from among adjunct faculty and students. A reduced registration fee of \$45 is just another way we want to support their participation at the conference. The \$20 annual membership dues are a "steal" for any professional organization.

See you soon!

Karen

TASSR 2013 Fall Conference
October 23 - 25, 2013
The Renaissance Center
Dickson, Tennessee



Coming Soon: *Journal of Student Success and Retention*

Sheila Otto, MTSU

Plans are well underway for the publication of TASSR's new professional journal, the *Journal of Student Success and Retention (JSSR)*. The journal editors (Sheila Otto, Stacy Onks, Kelly Ormsby, and David Otts) will host a concurrent session during the 2013 TASSR conference, so if you want to learn more about how you can be involved in this exciting project, please plan to attend.

An online, peer-reviewed, open-access journal, *JSSR* will reflect the mission of TASSR to reach out to academic staff, administrators, and faculty who are working with diverse populations of students on college campuses.

JSSR will be published annually in the fall. The first issue will debut in fall 2014, and you are encouraged to submit an article. Topic areas include, but are not limited to, the following: retention initiatives, learning support and/or developmental education, academic advising, effective teaching practices/techniques and curricula, student support services, special student populations, distance/online learning, student life, enrollment and administrative services, and current research/trends that advance the field of student success and retention.

Various types of articles will be included in the journal, including research articles; learning support program profiles; best practices in teaching, advising, retention, student support, etc.; literature reviews; reviews of books, articles, textbooks, and educational resources; and reflective essays.

In addition to submitting articles, TASSR members are encouraged to volunteer to serve on the journal's editorial board or to serve as peer reviewers. For more information, contact Sheila Otto at Sheila.Otto@mtsu.edu.

Upcoming Conferences

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| • TASSR 2013 | October 23-25, 2013 | Renaissance Center, Dickson, TN
www.tassr.org |
| • NADE 2014 | March 5-8, 2014 | Hilton Anatole, Dallas, TX
www.nade2014.net |
| • NADE 2015 | February 25-28, 2015 | Greenville, SC |
| • NADE 2016 | Date TBA | Anaheim, CA |
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TASSR to Honor Outstanding Members, Students

The 2013 TASSR Conference will begin October 23, 2013, 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.

The deadline to nominate persons for these awards has passed for 2013, but be thinking of people you may want to nominate next year.

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

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 January 30, 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.

Dr. Treva Berryman (TBR), TASSR Political Liaison, recommends the following websites:

The link <http://www.nber.org/papers.html> will take you to the search option for the National Bureau of Economic Research. Research papers 3 years or older can be downloaded free. More recent publications are \$5 each unless your institution is a member. I'm sharing this because you might find it of use when you are preparing for your own studies, publications, applications for grants, etc. If you search for "remediation in higher education" you will get a sense of the research available.

Other possible resources for similar reports are:

- <http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/> Community College Resource Center
- <http://www.jff.org/> Jobs for the Future
- <http://gettingpastgo.org/> Getting Past Go (Developmental Education Initiative from the Education Commission of the States)
- <http://www.completecollege.org/> Complete College America
- <http://www.nade.net/> National Association for Developmental Education
- <http://www.luminafoundation.org/> Lumina Foundation (look for newsletter, updates, reports, and Focus magazine)

Student Honorarium Award Luncheon

Join us on Thursday, October 24 during the conference to honor outstanding student achievement with awards of \$500 Honorariums. Eligible students should meet the following criteria:

- First-time freshmen during the 2012 –2013 academic year
- Attending Tennessee Higher-Education Institutions
- ACT scores of less than 19 in math and/or reading and/or below 18 in writing; or SAT scores of less than 460 in math and/or reading and/or below 450 in writing; or comparable placement scores
- Have earned at least 12 credit hours by the end of spring 2013
- Must be nominated by a TASSR member
- Must submit a 500 — 1,000 word essay regarding impressions of the first-year experience
- Must attend the TASSR 2013 Conference to accept the award
- Must speak at the Honorarium Luncheon on October 24 to share the first-year experience (5-minute presentation)
- Questions? Contact Dr. Jane Asamani at 615-963-5573 or jasamani@tnstate.edu
- Go ahead ... make someone's day. Nominate a deserving student! Go ahead ... make someone's day. Nominate a deserving student!
- Nomination materials must be submitted to ksiska@columbiastate.edu no later than October 11, 2013
- Nominator (or representative) must be present at the Honorarium Luncheon to introduce the recipient
- For more information, go to the TASSR website: www.tassr.org

The nomination form is on the next page.





TASSR STUDENT HONORARIUM 2013 Nomination Form

The Tennessee Association for Student Success and Retention supports and recognizes students' academic achievement and personal growth. Recipients of the 2013 TASSR Student Honorariums will be honored at the 2013 TASSR Conference Keynote Luncheon held on Thursday, October 24 at the Renaissance Center in Dickson, Tennessee. Each recipient will relate his/her academic and growth experiences. Recipient must be present to receive the award. Nominator, or an institutional representative, must also be present.

Nominee Information

Nominee: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____
 Major: _____
 Hours Earned: _____ GPA: _____

Recommendation for Nomination

Attach another sheet if necessary. Student essay must also be attached.

Nominator Information

Faculty: _____
 Discipline: _____
 College/Univ: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____

Return completed nomination form and student essay by **October 8, 2013** to:
ksiska@columbiastate.edu



NADE's Martha Maxwell Scholarship Fund

(Editor's Note: This letter was inadvertently left out of our previous newsletter.)



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Annual Conference
March 5-8, 2014
Dallas, TX

Ms. Vivian Alley

Tennessee Association for Student Success and Retention (TASSR)
1301 E. Main Street
Murfreesboro, TN
March 6, 2013

Dear Vivian,

I wish to express my appreciation to you and the members of the Tennessee Association for Student Success and Retention for the donation of \$100 to the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE) in memory of Dr. Martha Maxwell. Donations to the Martha Maxwell Developmental Education Student Scholarship Fund will strengthen NADE's commitment to helping students reach their goals and fulfill their educational aspirations. This donation also allows us the opportunity to recognize a true pioneer in the field of developmental education and learning assistance – Martha Maxwell.

As you and the members of TASSR know, NADE is a non-profit organization dedicated to improved practices in academic coursework and all forms of learning assistance: tutoring, mentoring, supplemental instruction, and academic advisement. Through the hard work of professionals who have been inspired and informed by the work of Martha Maxwell, Developmental Education has been recognized as central to an institution's function to educate and develop students in a seamless transition from high school to college.

In accordance with the Internal Revenue guidelines, this letter is to inform you and the TASSR membership that this donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law and that the National Association for Developmental Education did not provide any goods or services, in whole or partial consideration, for this donation.

Thank you for your generous support and recognition of Martha Maxwell's significant contribution to students and our profession. We will send TASSR's remembrances of Dr. Maxwell to her family.

Best regards,
Patti Levine-Brown
NADE President

Member: Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education