

TASSR Newsletter



Message from the President

Dr. Karen Siska, Columbia State Community College

The spring semester has certainly gotten off to a cold, snowy, icy start...and these conditions continue to impact the day-to-day operations at many of our campuses. This has been such an unusual semester that my typical "monitor and adjust" approach to what I am doing has gone from cautious optimism to monitoring and adjusting my "monitor and adjust." Thinking myself to be somewhat technologically astute with regard to my classes, I have been forced to "refine and redesign" my current semester classes to make sure students get the absolute, essential information needed to move to the next level. Despite the issues surrounding each of us, we still manage to hold up our heads and press forward because that's something most of us in Tennessee have learned how to do well.

Our membership numbers in TASSR, formerly TNADE, has fluctuated a lot over the years. Currently, we have about 100 members. Please be assured that your membership and participation in TASSR activities is highly valued. I am committed to the goal of doubling our membership by the October 2014 conference. Obviously, I cannot do that on my own, so I am issuing a challenge to you to contact at least one non-member or former member and commit to getting them to join TASSR and come with you to the fall conference. Are you willing to commit to bringing one new member to TASSR?

The motto of TASSR's national affiliate organization is "Helping underprepared students to prepare, prepared students to advance, and advanced students to excel." Membership in TASSR is open to anyone concerned about and involved in student success and retention. Current TASSR membership includes multi-discipline faculty, both full-time and adjuncts, retention coordinators, trio coordinators, student success counselors, University College faculty/staff, administrators, tutors, enrollment management staff, and research coordinators.

Since our October 2013 fall conference, the Renaissance Center was "gifted" to Freed-Hardeman University. While the change of ownership brought numerous staffing changes, our primary contact, LeAnn Polk, Events Manager, remains in her position. Freed-Hardeman University is very committed to enhancing the physical facility to make it a much more sought after location for college/university and community events. One of the first major upgrades was to increase the Internet bandwidth. We should have few, if any, issues with accessing the Internet and using the Grupio App, for electronic access to our conference materials. I recently learned that Freed-Hardeman University provides each incoming student with a Mac computer, and they are committed to making sure that each classroom and/or lab at the Renaissance

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Center supports both Apple and Microsoft technology. For those of you "non-tech oriented" colleagues, we will provide paper copies of conference materials just for you. There will be a box on the conference form to mark if you prefer to have paper materials.

Speaking of the 2014 TASSR Fall Conference, October 29-31, at the Renaissance Center in Dickson, TN, this is the official conference CALL FOR PROPOSALS. Many of you are involved in worthwhile projects and efforts focused on encouraging and enhancing student success and retention. I think it is fairly safe to say that we are all on the same page in attempting to retain our students and to provide them with the tools to succeed in college and to transfer those skills to workplace success. Consider sharing what you are doing by sending in a proposal. Also, as you travel to other conferences and attend really good sessions, encourage those individuals to also submit a proposal to present at the TASSR conference. I will be looking for YOUR PROPOSAL coming to me soon! The Call for Proposal form is just a click away! Click on it today!

One of the most exciting happenings within TASSR is the inaugural online edition of The Journal of Student Success and Retention (TJSSR). Pertinent information about submitting an article is available on the TASSR website at www.tassr.org. Check it out and consider submitting an article for review. A very BIG THANKS goes to Shelia Otto, the founding editor, and to the journal committee. They have truly worked diligently to make the journal a reality. It will go LIVE September 2014!

Until next time....

Karen

A Note from the Editor

We apologize for the lateness of this edition of the newsletter, which usually comes out in late January or early February. Dr. Karen Siska had written her column and had emailed it to me three times, but it turns out that her institution's email server was blocking emails sent to mine. We finally got it straightened out during the NADE conference.

Upcoming Conferences

TASSR 2014	October 29-31, 2014	Renaissance Center, Dickson, TN	www.tassr.org
NADE 2015	February 25-28, 2015	Greenville, SC	www.nade2015.net
NADE 2016	Date TBA	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 April 25, 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.

Taking a Millennial Approach to Career Advising

Lorneth Peters, Austin Peay State University

The College of Behavioral and Health Sciences (CoBHS) at Austin Peay State University is taking a more germinal approach to student success. Working in conjunction with the Career Services department and other local agencies, the CoBHS will be providing students in Health and Human Performance, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Social work majors, with key career information, needed to excel in the 21st century. Disseminating the information by e-mail, caters to students engrained in the millennial culture, and provides multiple ways for different learning styles to review and utilize the information.

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

Scenes from TASSR 2013 Conference



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

Scenes from TASSR 2013



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
Box 370, MTSU
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(615) 898-5558**

Journal of Student Success and Retention

Call for Submissions

You are invited to submit an article for publication in the *Journal of Student Success and Retention*. The first issue will be published in fall 2014.

About the Journal: The *Journal of Student Success and Retention (JSSR)*, the official publication of the Tennessee Association for Student Success and Retention, provides a forum for the scholarly study, discussion, dissemination, and evaluation of policies, programs, and practices that influence post-secondary student academic success and retention. An online, peer-reviewed, open-access journal, *JSSR* reflects the mission of TASSR to reach out to academic staff, administrators, and faculty working with diverse populations of students on college campuses. This publication is a vehicle for information and idea sharing to support and coordinate the collective effort to improve student success. 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. *JSSR* is published annually in the fall.

Types of Submissions

- Research articles
- Learning support program profiles
- Best practices in teaching, advising, retention, student support, etc. (for example, innovative and effective techniques and methods, lesson plans, classroom handouts, assessment techniques, etc.)
- Literature reviews
- Reviews of professional books and articles, textbooks, educational resources (computerized and print)
- Reflective essays

In addition to the types of peer-reviewed articles listed above, the journal will also publish the following: Eye on the News (short reports and links to current news items of interest to our readers); Event Board (announcements about conferences, workshops, meetings, etc.); Tech Trends (information about software, apps, web resources, etc.).

General Guidelines

- Send submission as an email attachment to the editor. See contact information below.
- Submission document should include the title of the article, a short summary (maximum of 100 words), and the text of the article. Text documents should be typed in Microsoft Word, 12 point font, double-spaced, one-inch margins. Multimodal submissions are also welcome; please contact the editor for information.
- Authors' names should not appear on any of the pages of the article, but please submit a separate cover sheet that lists the title of the article, along with name, institutional affiliation, title, mailing address, email address, and telephone number for each author.
- Preferred documentation styles are APA and MLA.
- Articles should be original, unpublished works that are not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Review Process

Submissions will be screened for appropriateness by the editors and then sent to members of the editorial board and/or invited reviewers for external peer review. Reviewers address these criteria: timeliness, usefulness, clarity, organization, development of topic, and research or theoretical base.

Contact Information

Sheila Otto, editor

Sheila.Otto@mtsu.edu

615-898-5586



Submission Deadline
June 9, 2014

Photos from the TASSR Conference 2013



President Karen Siska, Keynote Speaker Sue Cain



Lunchtime gathering



Math poster sessions



TASSR board meeting



Wednesday banquet entertainment



Student awards

More Photos from the TASSR Conference 2013



Registration



Christina Cobb presents "Division Divas"



Awards



Awards



Awards



Exhibitors



Roundtable discussions

