



TASSR Newsletter

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Message from the President...

Dr. Karen Siska, Columbia State Community College

The excitement is really building for our 2011 fall conference. We have some excellent presentations lined up in a variety of areas related to student success and retention. We certainly encourage full-time colleagues, who are not only faculty but retention specialists, enrollment management personnel, counselors, administrators, tutors, adjunct faculty, and student education majors to attend. The low \$20 membership fee is a "steal" for any professional organization. The conference fee of just \$75 is also a bargain compared to most state and national conferences. To encourage participation among adjunct faculty, graduate students, and student education majors, the conference fee is just \$45, a \$30 savings.



Special Featured Presentations

I am please to share with you that we have three very special general sessions planned for your thought and enjoyment. First, during our Wednesday evening dinner buffet, Leon Freeman, retired from the Memphis Public School System, will treat us to a few interesting stories of his experiences traveling to some 96 different countries. He plans to also display some of the artifacts he has collected along the way.

Second, during our Thursday morning breakfast and general session, Jeffery Norfleet, Coordinator of the TBR eLearning Initiative, will be demonstrating some of the latest "e-learning" APP's. Many of these are available "free" to use with your students. If you have an iPad, iPad2, or a Smartphone, be sure to bring it to this session. The Renaissance Center is a completely wireless facility.

Third, Dr. Norma Burgess, the founding dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Lipscomb University, will be our luncheon speaker. Dr. Burgess has served as chair of the women's caucus of the American Association of Higher Education and is currently a board member at-large of the National Council on Family Relations. She is co-author of African American Women: An Ecological Perspective and numerous articles and other writings on work and family life, leadership, faculty development and workplace diversity.

Concurrent Sessions

TASSR Conference 2011

A New Name...

A New Beginning

October 26-28

The Renaissance Center

Dickson, TN

Nominations (volunteers)
are still needed for
East and West Area
Representatives-Elect.

In addition, to some 20 presentations going on throughout Thursday, there will also an opportunity for the academic disciplines to meet in individual forums to share specific plans and concerns. Another group will be meeting at the same time to share “out of the box” ideas that maybe your institution tried during the summer or fall terms and/or plan to explore further to increase student success and retention.

Business Meeting

Friday morning has been reserved for the general business meeting of TASSR. I sincerely hope that many of you will stay overnight to join us. This is an important time in the life of this organization. TASSR is moving toward becoming incorporated as a 503(c) and achieving tax exempt status. The Executive Board has been diligently working for the past nine months on preparing a new constitution and bylaws. These must be reviewed and voted on by the membership at large.

We will be recognizing an outstanding colleague and an outstanding student. Last year, we did not have a single nomination for either award. You cannot convince me that there was not at least one very deserving colleague among us who exemplified outstanding service in promoting student success. I imagine many of you have been so engrossed in the changes within learning support that you haven't take the time to stop and take notice of your colleagues. Now is the time to do that. Submit a name and the information listed on the [Awards Nomination](#) page. In addition to verbal recognition and a certificate, the recipient will be given a monetary (\$\$\$) gift. Also, while thinking of a colleague to nominate, please think about a deserving learning support student at your institution. Surely there is at least one successful student at your college or university, who has made or is making great strides toward academic success. Why not recognize their efforts and give them a confidence boost? Did I mention there will also be a monetary (\$\$\$) gift for each recipient?

Great Food and Fellowship

Following the traditions of many southern events, food is always at the heart of gatherings. This conference is no exception. The Renaissance Center Catering does an excellent job of preparing meals for their guests. We have sampled a number of their food items and can attest to the food being “pretty good.” We have planned well-balanced meals and will do our best to be particularly mindful of those with specific dietary restrictions. As you fill out the registration form, if you have a dietary restriction, please indicate that so we can work with the catering staff to make sure you have meals you can eat. We must submit our meal requests two weeks prior to the event, so please let us know of any food restrictions by October 12, 2011. Any food restriction requests coming in after that date may not be accommodated.

Registration

If you are planning to attend the conference, please complete the registration form and send it in today. If your university's or college's check is going to be delayed in getting to us, please email or call, our membership chair, Tammy Borren, tborren@columbiastate.edu or 615-790-4417. If you are coming to the conference but plan to bring the registration form with you and pay the late fee, please let Tammy know. When we print name badges, we have to print a full sheet at one time. Each sheet can only go through the printer one time. Any unused badges then become wasted. Please help us do our part to sustain the planet.

Accommodations

There is not a designated hotel for the TASSR conference, but there are several hotels in close proximity to The Renaissance Center. Ask for the "state government rate" when make reservations. The Holiday Inn Express is very nice. Quality Inn, Hampton Inn, and Comfort Inn are also located close to I-40 in Dickson.

I look forward to seeing you, October 26 -28, in Dickson, TN, at The Renaissance Center.

Karen