



page 2	Students Prepare for Rewarding Careers
page 3	Willy Wonka Comes Alive at Stanhope Elmore
page 4	Summer Reading Challenge
page 5	Professional Development Opportunities

May 2012 · Issue II



ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

The electronic newsletter of the Alabama Department of Education



Superintendent's Message

Over the past few weeks there have been multiple celebrations of our wonderful profession of teaching, all culminating in our Alabama Teacher of the Year recognition program on May 9, 2012. During that celebration the 16 district Teachers of the Year shared their stories about teaching and the impact it has had on their lives. Wow, what a moving and inspirational testament to this magical experience we call teaching. The evening culminated with Suzanne Culbreth being named the 2012-2013 Alabama Teacher of the Year. Suzanne will be an excellent representative as she brings the voice of classroom teachers to our state and nation.

While there were many highlights from that evening it was the recognition of Alabama's Young Heroes that affirmed why we do what we do each day in service to our children. This program, sponsored by Alabama Public Television (APT), recognizes students who have overcome great adversity and challenges in their lives while achieving academic excellence and service to others.

One story that is etched forever in my mind is that of Wei Min Patrick from Baker High School in the Mobile County School System.

Today, Wei Min Patrick is the president of his senior class, an outstanding scholar, and an admired and talented pianist/keyboardist in his high school band. These accomplishments are impressive in their own right. They are magnified, however, as one considers that 11 years earlier, Wei Min was an abandoned, blind child living on the streets of China.

Wei Min was born blind. His father passed away when he was only seven years old, and his elderly grandfather abandoned Wei Min to the streets of his native China. He spent three years surviving challenges none of us can fathom until he met an American couple who immediately fell in love with him, made the appropriate arrangements for adoption, and brought him to the United States where he has flourished. He began school speaking no English, with no formal education, and this was compounded by the fact that he is blind.



Dr. Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Education

But now, as a senior, he has not only mastered the English language but each and every subject he has taken.

In band he serves as a section leader, comes in early to set up all of the equipment for his section, and remains afterwards to take it down. To ensure that his role of section leader is one of support to his peers, he not only learns his part but the parts of all of his section members – the epitome of a servant leader!

I share this story to not only humble us to the resiliency of the students who enter our classrooms each day but to acknowledge what is

obviously a faculty that has embraced what some outside of education would see as a challenge too great to overcome. As teachers in public education we welcome every student who enters our school doors regardless of the challenges that accompany him or her.

We do this with open arms, a smile, and a hug as we begin to create that nurturing classroom environment where the magic of learning happens every day.

I simply say thank you to every employee involved in public education for what you do each and every day for the children we serve.

Students Prepare for Rewarding Cosmetology Careers

Cosmetology careers are continuing to grow in popularity – even during these tough economic times. If you think about it, everyone (regardless of gender, age, or current economic status) still wants to look good and present a positive self image. Since 1957, the Alabama Board of Cosmetology has licensed and regulated the practice and teaching of cosmetology in Alabama. This board is governed by the National-Interstate Council of State Boards (NIC). Americans often view the services that cosmetology professionals provide as beneficial and work hard to make these services part of their monthly household budgets. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a 20 percent growth in cosmetology-related professions is expected nationally by 2018.

Tracy Smith, an instructor at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, serves on both the national and state board of cosmetology.

“Every Cosmetology State Board works diligently with the NIC to promote the highest standards for consumer safety,” said Smith. “In addition, these boards work collaboratively to regulate the practice of cosmetology and related fields including developing and providing nationally standardized assessments utilized for entrance into the cosmetology profession.”

Currently, statewide there are more than 70 teachers (secondary and postsecondary education combined) that are preparing students for cosmetology careers. Students can begin to enroll in Alabama’s cosmetology programs starting at the age of 16. The top credential that these students can earn is a professional “Cosmetology License.” Students become fully licensed professionals by taking the rigorous state exam.

Alabama students working toward completion of a cosmetology program may also become credentialed by taking the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) exam or SkillsUSA Workforce Ready Assessments. They can earn specialized credentials in the areas of “Cosmetology” or “Nail Care” for both of these

nationally recognized assessments.

“During the 2012 State SkillsUSA Conference (held in Birmingham on April 25-26) the average score for Alabama cosmetology students who took the Workforce Ready Assessment was 75 percent,” says Alabama Career and Technical Education Specialist **Jennifer Adams**. “In comparison, the national average was only 72 percent.”

Students who have not completed their cosmetology programs before graduating from high school may continue their work at the postsecondary level or through an apprenticeship. Cosmetology and

esthetics apprentices must complete 3,000 hours of training within a three-year period, while nail care apprentices must complete exactly 1,200 hours. Applications, guidelines, and additional information about these opportunities may be obtained from the Alabama Board of Cosmetology.

To learn more about these specialized credentials for teachers and students, or to get additional information on how to participate, contact **Dr. Nan Burgess**, Alabama Department of Education Career

and Technical Education Administrator, or Education Specialist Jennifer Adams at 334-242-9111.



Students competing in the recent Esthetics Contest at the Alabama SkillsUSA Championships in Birmingham on April 25-26.

Willy Wonka Comes Alive at Stanhope Elmore High School



Wesley Morris, Choral Director at Stanhope Elmore High School (Elmore County) has a passion for the arts and spends his hours thinking of creative endeavors for his students. Over the past several years these endeavors have included student performances of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*; Disney's *Aladdin*; *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; and *Seussical, the Musical*. The latest endeavor resulted in high school students performing Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka* on May 3-5, 2012, in the gymnasium at Stanhope Elmore High School.

Morris, who has been the Choral Director at Stanhope for five years, said he had no trouble recruiting students in January to audition for the performance and, in fact, had to turn students away. There were 26 student actors in the play. Much of the practice and work occurred after school hours, which is a real testament to the students' dedication to the production.

Rick Ashcraft, Band Director, spent a month working with ten orchestra students on the music during class time and after school. The performance included 45 songs. **Patti Pelham**, Art Instructor, and her art classes painted the sets and props. **Will Boartfield**, Assistant Band Director, assisted with the stage construction and with the technical aspects of the performance. Morris said, "*Willy Wonka* was a Stanhope Elmore High School arts showcase. Musical theater has the unique characteristic to show off all art forms in one show. Without the help and dedication of my colleagues this performance would not have been successful."

Prior to the official debut on the evening of May 3, three performances were held for elementary school students from Millbrook and Holtville who were bused to the school to see it.

The play was performed in two acts, and all who attended were entertained with good acting, music, and comedy, and a very creative approach to simulate two of the characters flying! Even the concessions sold at the evening performances were unique. They included Willy Wonka brand candy, baked goods, lollipops, and, of course, a chocolate fountain!

Morris, who reportedly spends much of his own money on these performances, is committed to seeing that his students get to have

experiences that he hopes will spark their love for the arts.

Two of the students in the production were All-State Choir winners. Seven of the student actors participated in the 2011 District and State Walter Trumbauer Secondary Theater Festival, and one student, **Matt Peavy** who played Grandpa Joe in this production, won

second place at the Festival for Solo Musical Male Dramatic – Varsity. In addition, **Matthew McCrocklin** who played Willy Wonka/Candy Man will be attending the University of South Alabama to pursue Theatre.

New School Calendar Law



Learn more about the new School Calendar law by clicking [HERE](#). View the webinar and Powerpoint to get information regarding the law and how it applies to your school.

Follow the Alabama Department of Education on Facebook and Twitter!

Friend or follow the Alabama Department of Education and get access to the most up-to-date information, press releases, event photos, videos, links, and much more! Links to all social media sites can also be found on our [webpage](#).

Summer Reading Challenge *Sign the Pledge to Read All Summer Long*

For Alabama's students, summer is a time of fun, but those months away from school can result in a loss of knowledge and reading ability. To combat summer learning loss, the Alabama Department of Education is excited to announce the [Summer Reading Challenge](#), encouraging students to pledge to read and learn over the summer months. [Find a Book](#) links, [videos](#), and other resources including printable [bookmarks](#) have been posted at www.alsde.edu/summerreadingchallenge to assist parents and teachers in finding books for students to read over the summer months.

"During the school year, most students achieve some level of growth in their reading abilities. Then summer break starts, the formal learning process ends, and, instead of progressing, students start to slip in their abilities," said **Dr. Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Education**.

The Alabama Department of Education, along with local libraries and schools, is coordinating a state-led summer reading initiative to bolster student reading achievement during summer break. The Summer Reading Challenge will raise national awareness of the summer loss epidemic, share compelling research on the importance of personalized reading activities, and provide access to a variety of free resources to support targeted reading and the initiative as a whole.

All students experience some level of learning loss – commonly referred to as the summer slide – when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. What is even more alarming is that summer slide impacts low-income students the most – generally those students residing in low-literacy environments where daily reading is not encouraged and appropriate reading materials are not available.

Parents and educators can take the opportunity now before the summer begins in just a few weeks to sit down with a child and go online to find book lists that are fit for his or her grade and reading ability. Also, all public libraries in the state can help to find an enjoyable and suitable book for a child's reading ability.

Ensure your student or child retains and increases his or her knowledge by logging on to the [ADE Summer Reading Challenge website](#) for links to websites that offer specific booklists for your child's age and reading level, along with instructional materials and resources for parents and educators.



August 2012 is the implementation date for the College-and Career-Ready Standards for Mathematics!
Click [HERE](#) for instructional resources.

Shelby County Students Invent and Innovate to Help Underdeveloped Countries

Imagine a prosthetic leg built out of car parts! This is exactly what Shelby County career and technical education (CTE) students are doing, and the invention is still turning heads in the world of medical engineering.



Students at **Calera High School** came up with the idea of creating fully functioning artificial legs by using motor mounts from a Toyota Corolla. Their goal is to help people in underdeveloped countries – often where people simply cannot afford the traditional and more expensive prosthetics. Traditional artificial legs cost thousands of dollars. The students' creation is a more durable invention and only costs \$150. The students hope to raise money to build more prosthetics and deliver them globally to third world countries. The students were recently honored at a State Board of Education meeting. Click [here](#) to watch a video of their work.

Professional Development

Alabama Council for Leadership Development

The [Alabama Council for Leadership Development](#) (ACL D) reviews school systems' professional study submissions throughout the year. Proposals deemed acceptable are approved as PLU credit for professional staff who hold valid Alabama instructional leader certificates. Those holding such certificates may include, but are not limited to, selected central office staff, principals, assistant principals, career technical education directors, teachers, and other educators.

Although superintendents may grant locally approved PLUs, often LEAs want to seek ACLD approval for locally developed professional studies. As directed by the local superintendent, the ACLD encourages professional development coordinators, curriculum specialists, or other designated personnel to submit locally developed professional study via the ACLD's [online Instructional Leadership Professional Study Application](#) (ILPSA) system. The ACLD meets a minimum of five (5) times annually to review professional study applications. To allow sufficient time for the ACLD review, it is important to submit the professional study application at least two months prior to the date of initial implementation of the professional study.

The submission deadline for the upcoming meeting is June 12, 2012. For complete information, contact Telena Madison, Alabama Department of Education, Office of Teaching and Leading, at 334-353-5230 or tmadison@alsde.edu.

ACL D-Approved Professional Studies Available Online Through Professional Development Your Way (PDYW) @ EDVANTIA

The Alabama Department of Education's EducateAlabama/LeadAlabama Section, in collaboration with Edvantia, has partnered to offer Alabama Council for Leadership Development (ACL D) approved professional studies.

To register and participate in the EDVANTIA professional studies, participants must have an active STI PD account. If you need an STI PD account, please contact your school system's STI PD Manager. If you are not employed in an Alabama public school, you must contact call Lori Newton, State Department of Education, Technology Initiatives Section, at 334-353-1112. Edvantia cannot create an STI PD account for you.

Shared Leadership

STI PD Title Number: PLUACLD044

This ten-week online professional study will provide participants with the knowledge and ability to plan for and sustain continuous school improvement in classrooms, schools, and school systems/local education agencies (LEAs). Participants will earn 1 ACLD PLU upon successful completion.

Course Registration: May 14 – May 25, 2012
Course Start Date: June 7, 2012
Course End Date: August 16, 2012
Credit in STI PD: August 24, 2012

Reculturing for Student Success STI PD Title Number: PLUACLD045

This 16-week online professional study provides participants with the knowledge and ability to promote and monitor a high-performance learning culture that promotes success for all students by collaboratively developing and monitoring strategic structures focused on success for all students and exploring and developing core beliefs that support distributed accountability and produce high-performance learning. Participants will earn 2 PLUs upon successful completion.

Course Registration:
May 14 – May 25, 2012
Course Start Date: May 31, 2012
Course End Date: September 19, 2012
Credit in STI PD: September 27, 2012

STI PD Registration Procedure:

- **Go to** <http://pdweb.alsde.edu> and enter your username and password
- **Click** the PD Titles tab
- **Select** the Search the PD Title Catalog link
- **Enter** the PD Title Number for the desired professional study (on the right of page)
- Then, **click** the **Search** button (scroll down, if needed), press **Enter**
- **Click** the link, List (on the right)
- Then, find the appropriate session and click the **ENROLL NOW** button

If you have questions regarding the Edvantia professional studies, contact Margie Johnson, Edvantia, Program Specialist, at 615-565-0110. If you have questions regarding ACLD-approved professional studies or PLUs, contact Telena Madison, Alabama Department of Education, Leadership and Evaluation, at 334-353-5230.

Note: Participants may only earn PLUs once for the Edvantia professional studies.

Professional Development

eLearning Summer 2012 Free Online CEU and PLU courses

There are less than four weeks left until the beginning of Summer 2012 Semester on June 6th with [50 different courses being offered](#).

Most courses are six weeks long and earn 30 clock hours. STIPD is used for registration; use the PD TITLE NUMBER when you search. All courses are FREE and require between three to four hours of effort per week.

- 1) For those who still need a few hours before the June 30 deadline, we are offering two of our CCTI courses (202 and 303) beginning May 30 and ending June 26th – these courses are four weeks long and earn 20 hours each.
- 2) For those who have yet to complete the PLUACLDxxx portion of their PLU projects, we will offer all eight of the three-week courses beginning August 1.
- 3) For those who still need the second of two reading courses to regain their HQ status, we are running REA3475: *Reading Intervention for Struggling Readers* beginning June 6th.

There are some new courses and some courses with major rewrites:

- EDU4422 - Classroom Management in the 21st Century
- EDU4433 - A Virtual Quest for Adventure
- EDU4435 - Digital Citizenship for the 21st Century Student
- EDU4463 - Spice Up Your Videos
- EDU4464 - Using Moodle in the Classroom
- NBCT202 – NBPTS - Writing and Videotaping (9 wks)

LEADAlabama Announcement

Professional Education Personnel Evaluation Program (PEPE) Central Office, Principal, Assistant Principal systems will be replaced by **LEADAlabama** as the online formative evaluation process for central office and building-level administrators in Alabama's schools. All school system administrators who are evaluated with **PEPE** will be formatively evaluated using the **LEADAlabama** online process beginning August 1, 2012.



LEADAlabama Implementation Training

Target Audience: LEA Superintendents and Evaluation Coordinators

Access STI-PD - <https://pdweb.alsde.edu/pdweb/> to attend one of the following sessions

June 18, 2012	June 19, 2012	June 20, 2012	June 21, 2012
Athens Regional In-service Center	University of Montevallo	Auburn Regional In-Service Center	Troy Regional In-Service Center
8:30 AM-12:30 PM	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	8:30 AM-12:30 PM
STI-PD#: ATHRIC	STI-PD#: LEAD2012	STI-PD#: EARIC584	STI-PD#: TU20261
LEADAlabama 2012			
Max. Session Size: 100	Max. Session Size: 100	Max. Session Size: 70	Max. Session Size: 100

For more information, contact: Dr. Christopher Blair at (334) 353-0478 or cblair@alsde.edu

EDUCATEAlabama 2012 Training

Target Audience:

Local Education Agency (LEA)
Evaluation, Technology, and Professional Development Coordinators, Principals, Assistant Principals, Career Technical Education Coordinators, and *Teachers (*Suggested teacher leader team with two or three teachers from each school) Representatives of Professional Associations, Agencies, Organizations Interested individuals



Purpose:

- Share technology improvements to online process in 2012-2013
- Emphasize importance of EDUCATEAlabama for all users
- Supporting "quality" Professional Learning Plans, professional growth, and Supporting Evidence
- Hearing from LEA practitioners
- Question and Answer Session

2012 Dates/Locations

July 10

Central High School, Tuscaloosa

July 11

Huntsville High School, Huntsville

July 12

Handley High School, Roanoke

July 24

Daphne High School, Daphne

July 25

Honeysuckle Middle School, Dothan

July 26

Carver Senior High School, Montgomery

July 31

Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery

All Sessions:

Sign-in: 9:00 a.m.

Session: 9:30 a.m – 12:30 p.m.

Registration and Training Details

Access STI PD [HERE](#)

Select PD TITLE: EA2012

Contact Chris Wilson at 334-353-8924

or educatealabama@asc.edu

Congratulations!

State Board of Education Meetings Now on Ustream.tv!

Minor High School Proves Change is Good

The academic potential of every child at Minor High School in Jefferson County is being dynamically tapped and nurtured, as demonstrated through the school's recent national recognition.



MHS was among two extraordinary Alabama schools selected to receive the "[National School Change Award](#)" from the National Principals Leadership Institute (NPLI). Winterboro High School in Talladega County was also honored.

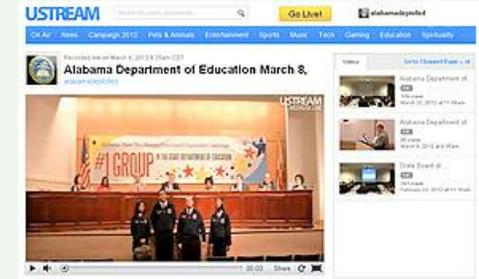
Only six schools in the United States and Canadian provinces were selected for this acclaimed distinction.

"I think it's affirmation and validation of all the hard work," said MHS principal **David Pike** following a ceremony held at the school.

MHS has implemented several programs that it credits for significant progress and improvement, including working with A+ College Ready's advanced placement initiative. As a part of an A+CR cohort, MHS's highly motivated students are encouraged to take AP courses, and teachers continue to receive excellent training and support from A+CR to help prepare more students to succeed in college.

Other educational enhancement programs that MHS credits for receiving the national award include a Freshman Academy and a rigorous tutoring program to help students struggling to pass the graduation exam.

[Click here](#) to read a *Birmingham News* article and view a video from the MHS award ceremony. *Courtesy of A+ Education Partnership*



See your State Board of Education in action - Online at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/alabama-department-of-education>. See LIVE video every second and fourth Thursday of the month or watch the archived videos anytime you want (different days in July, November, and December).

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- President – Gov. Robert Bentley
- District 1 – Randy McKinney, Vice President
- District 2 – Betty Peters
- District 3 – Stephanie Bell
- District 4 – Yvette M. Richardson
- District 5 – Ella B. Bell
- District 6 – Charles Elliott
- District 7 – Gary Warren
- District 8 – Mary Scott Hunter

State Superintendent of Education and Secretary and Executive Officer – Thomas R. Bice

AEN EDITORIAL STAFF

Managing Editor: Dr. Michael O. Sibley
Contributing Editors: Ed Crenshaw | Malissa Valdes
Graphic Artists: Mary Nell Shaw | Charles V. Creel

Contact **Alabama Education News**
334-242-9950 (p) · 334-353-4682 (f)
aen@alsde.edu (e) · www.alsde.edu (w)

Alabama Education News
P.O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

Alabama Education News (USPS #387-290) is published bi-monthly by the Alabama Department of Education, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, AL 36130-2101. This publication, authorized by Section 16-2-4 of the Code of Alabama, as recompiled in 1975, is a public service of the Alabama Department of Education designed to inform citizens and educators about programs and goals of public education in Alabama.

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, gender, race, religion, national origin, color, age or genetics. Ref. Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.; Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972; Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008: Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334) 242-8165.

2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Award

Congratulations to **Daniel Morriss** of Vestavia Hills High School and **Abigail Knight** of Hewitt-Trussville High School as the [2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Award](#) recipients. This national award celebrates students who make a difference in their communities.

Daniel and Abigail were named the top high school and middle level youth volunteers in Alabama in February. In addition to cash awards, they received engraved silver medallions and an all-expense paid trip with their parents to Washington, D.C.

