“A person who is gifted sees the essential point and leaves the rest as surplus.”

~Thomas Carlyle, Scottish philosopher, satirical writer, essayist, historian and teacher

DEADLINES & UPDATES

SECOND GRADE CHILD FIND LEA SUMMARY REPORT

DEADLINE: APRIL 18, 2014

Yes, this heading is large on purpose to make sure you notice the deadline. This report is due in less than three weeks! The gifted/special education coordinator must submit the Second Grade Child Find LEA Summary Report on or before this date. Thank you to the school systems that have already submitted their reports. Remember this report provides the number of students who are referred through Second Grade Child Find; however, the testing does not have to be completed in order to submit the report. Remember that eligibility must be determined by the beginning of the students’ third grade year and services must start around the beginning of September.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!

IDENTIFICATION OF UNDER-REPRESENTED POPULATIONS IN GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

MAY 20, 2014-JUNE 30 2015

Yes, the dates are correct. This is a one-year PD opportunity to analyze data and best practices, develop and implement a plan, and then reflect and revise that plan in order to identify students from under-represented populations. The activities include, but are not limited to reading journal articles, participating in online discussion boards and WIKIS, collecting and analyzing school and/or district data to determine what is and is not working, attending webinars and MEGA Conference, developing a plan and implementing it, and analyzing the data from the new plan to determine its effectiveness. There are alternate activities if schedule conflicts prevent you from attending a webinar or MEGA Conference.

We are submitting this PD for one PLU or 40 hours of credit. The PLU approval date is May 15, 2014. If you are interested in participating in this PLU, or would like additional information when it is available, please e-mail sfarrell@alsde.edu and enter “PLU/40 hours” in the subject line. I will maintain a list of potential participants. When we are notified about the PLU approval, I will e-mail everyone with the STI-PD registration details.

We look forward to this yearlong PD to help you and the State of Alabama move forward in the identification of students from under-represented populations.

FOLLOW-UP WEBINARS TO GIFTED REGIONAL TRAININGS

To register and access these webinars, go to STI-PD and search by PD Title- 2013 Gifted Regional Training Follow-Up or PD number-SESGift0010. The following webinars are listed as sessions under this PD Title. To know the specific session topic, look under Additional Session Information located at the bottom of each session box.

- Scope and Sequence-Cognitive: May 6, 2014 at 2:30 PM
- Scope and Sequence-Affective: May 8, 2014 at 2:30 PM

SAVE THE DATES

We are scheduling three two-day summer workshops on writing concept-based curriculum and are in the process of securing locations for each one. Once the dates and locations are secure Dr. Bice send a memo with details and how to register on STI-PD. The dates and tentative locations are:
June 19-20 at Old Berry Middle School
June 24-25 or June 25-26 in Mobile
July 30-31 at the Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT) Center in Montgomery.

FREE-NAGC WEBINARS ON WEDNESDAY-WOW!
A Twice-Exceptional Discussion to Help Teachers and Parents Better Advocate for Services
April 9, 2014 at 11:00 am-12:00 pm CST/12:00 pm-1:00 pm EST
“Hear the latest research findings in twice-exceptionality, and how these findings can be applied to practice and advocacy efforts. The discussion that follows will include: common 2e learning profiles and how 2e kids are often missed in modern educational settings; and, the importance of comprehensive assessment in determining specific learning disorders and developmental disorders which impact learning and performance.

In advance of the session, read the NAGC Position Paper: Ensuring Gifted Children with Disabilities Receive Appropriate Services: Call for Comprehensive Assessment. The paper makes five recommendations to improve identification processes so that 2e students will be recognized and served as having both gifts and talents and disability(ies).

Speakers: Megan Foley Nicpon, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa; Dan Peters, Summit Center, Walnut Creek, CA”

Creating a Diversity Toolbox for Gifted Education
April 16, 2014 at 11:00 am-12:00 pm CST/12:00 pm-1:00 pm EST
NAGC’s Diversity and Equity Committee plans to create a diversity toolbox this year to address the needs of our members and provide guiding questions as districts review their diversity strategies. Similar in organization to NAGC’s Administrator Toolbox, which includes videos, fact sheets, and supporting documents, the Committee’s co-chairs will share their vision and plans and seek your ideas and input for what should be included in the toolbox.

Moderator: Tracy L. Cross, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA; Speakers: Jaime A. Castellano, Vida Charter School: A Dual-Language Immersion School, Gettysburg, PA; Gyimah I. Whitaker, Atlanta Public Schools, Marietta, GA

ALABAMA EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE
June 3-5, 2014
Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex
http://alex.state.al.us/aetc/

“AETC 2014 will provide three full days of professional development at an unbeatable price. You can choose from in-depth hands-on workshops or a smorgasbord of one-hour concurrent sessions led by nationally known visionaries in the technology field and by Alabama practitioners with classroom-tested strategies across the curriculum.” Stop by my sessions:
June 5-1:30 pm-2:30 pm: Citizen Science Through Technology
June 5-3:15 pm-4:15 pm: Infographics for Content, Products, and Assessments
(I am also presenting the Infographics at the International Society in Education (ISTE) conference at the end of June.)

LEGACY WORKSHOPS:
Legacy is pleased to announce the 2014 Workshop Series. The series is designed to give educators the opportunity to experience the wonder of Alabama’s diverse environment all the while equipping them with the knowledge and resources to take their experiences back into the classroom. Participants will receive a certificate of completion, professional development hours, and many FREE classroom materials.

- Lodging, meals, and materials for the workshops are provided. Legacy is not able to cover substitute teachers and travel expenses to and from the workshop location.
- Any K-12 educator currently teaching within the State of Alabama, any person about to or who has already graduated with an Education Degree, graduate students with an Education Degree or other environmental educators may apply to attend.
- Contact Toni Bruner at 1-800-240-5115 or toni@legacyenved.org for more information.

Have You Read…?
Venspired: Inspiring Creativity with 10 Resources
http://venspired.com/?p=6431
Krissy Venosdale writes a fabulous blog for and about gifted learners. On March 19, 2014, her topic included 10 resources that could be used by teachers to embed creativity into their lessons. These could be resources for your GT classrooms or to share with general education teachers. Krissy is also known for the inspirational posters that she creates and shares on her blog, twitter and FaceBook. The poster on this blog states “Creativity is about looking at the ordinary in the world, seeing unlimited possibilities and asking yourself, Why Not?”

TWITTER
@venspired
Follow Krissy Venosdale to be inspired!
From Mountains to the Gulf
June 15-22, 2014
Registration Fee: $150 for Legacy Partners and $175 for non-partners

“Three leading scientific experts, Dr. Bill Deutsch (Alabama Water Watch and AU), Dr. George Cline (JSU), and Dan Spaulding (Anniston Museum of Natural History) will guide twenty teachers throughout the State of Alabama, sharing their collective knowledge of the waters, geology, and flora and fauna to help teachers make connections for their students back at home. The journey will begin in northwest Alabama at Camp McDowell Environmental Center, where Dr. Jim Lacefield (Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks) will introduce participants to Alabama geology. Then the trip will zigzag through the state on an educational adventure of a lifetime, visiting Little River Canyon, Mt. Cheaha State Park, Holloway Grist Mill, Fort Toulouse, and even offering a chance to paddle the Coosa River. The final destination will be Dauphin Island Sea Lab where participants will visit the Gulf of Mexico shoreline and waters.”

Our ABCs: Alabama’s Biodiverse Coast
July 6-10, 2014
Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Registration Fee: $50 for Legacy Partners and $75 for non-partners

“Did you know that Alabama ranks 5th nationwide in biodiversity? Our coastal habitats not only support many of these species but also play critical roles in providing services to the hundreds of thousands of people who live in the area or depend on their resources. Participants will explore and learn more about Alabama’s coastal marshes, beaches, and bays, investigate applicable classroom activities, and learn from scientists studying these habitats. Join us at the Sea Lab for this 4-day workshop so you can help us teach others to understand and appreciate their environmental ABCs--Alabama’s Biodiverse Coast.”

Arts and the Environment: Making Connections
July 28-31, 2014
Desoto State Park, Fort Payne
Registration Fee: $50 for Legacy Partners and $75 for non-partners

September 5-7, 2014
Camp McDowell, Nauvoo
Registration Fee: $50 for Legacy Partners and $75 for non-partners

“Join us for a first-hand look at a working farm as we explore its importance to our everyday lives. The Farm School at Camp McDowell plays host to this 3-day workshop focused on food, sustainability, and the surrounding ecosystem. Participants will learn about raised bed gardens and the methods for creating them in their own schools, the Dirt to Dinner activity will have educators harvesting and preparing their own meals, and participants will learn about composting and how to build their own composting bins. Come live, learn, and laugh on the farm with us and get a glimpse at farm life, animal care, and crop maintenance.”

Down Under in North Alabama
September 18-21, 2014
Paint Rock Valley Lodge, Estill Fork
Registration Fee: $50 for Legacy Partners and $75 for non-partners

“Join spelunking experts on an exciting adventure exploring caves and learn about the biodiversity of North Alabama’s karst topography from Alabama’s leading geologists. Find out how caves are formed and what creates the beautiful cave formations. During the cave explorations participants will see endangered aquatic cave life and bats. One exciting part of the workshop will be a visit to an Alabama State Park, Cathedral Caverns, where we will see the world’s largest cave opening, the world’s largest stalagmite and the world’s largest frozen waterfall. We will also investigate a few of the wild caves in northeast Alabama. Through
classroom and field studies, we will explore content knowledge, teaching techniques, and classroom activities to help students learn about the wonders of caves.”

**Torrance Center Summer Institute**

**July 7-11, 2014**

[http://www.coe.uga.edu/torrance/](http://www.coe.uga.edu/torrance/)

The Torrance Center for Creativity and Talent Development is hosting a summer institute. “Come and explore the principles of creative thinking as a framework for curriculum development, classroom teaching and assessment. Designed around research-based strategies for integrating creativity into the classroom, the five day training will feature key strands such as Future Problem Solving, The Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking, Common Core Creativity, and Differentiation in the Creative Classroom. Educators will leave with practical creative strategies for enhancing their overall classroom instruction.” For more information click the link above.

**OPPORTUNITY**

**ALABAMA SPECIES TRADING CARDS!**

**DEADLINE: APRIL 17, 2014**

Dr. Edward Osborne “E. O.” Wilson was born in Birmingham, AL, and grew up in our state. He graduated from the University of Alabama and teaches at Harvard University. He is an American biologist, researcher (sociobiology, biodiversity), theorist (consilience, biophilia), naturalist/conservationist and author. He coined the term “biodiversity!” He has been awarded the Pulitzer Prize twice and has won other numerous awards. So why am I talking about him as an opportunity?

Well, for decades, Dr. Edward O. Wilson has supported the environmental community in Alabama in a very unique and genuine way. Over the years, to the best of our knowledge, within the community, he has never asked for a stipend or expenses when giving presentations to environmental organizations and/or local civic groups. By forgoing these fees, Dr. Wilson has helped strengthen the community and helped spread the message about Alabama’s surprising biodiversity to a generation of Alabamians.

The environmental community would like to "give back" to Dr. Wilson by honoring him with a tribute called “The Wilson Honors.” Held on the campus of the University of Alabama, The Wilson Honors will be a one and one half hour event honoring 4-5 scientists who have made great ecological discoveries in the State of Alabama. They envision this program to be a cross between the “Kennedy Center Honors” television program and a 10-15 minute TED lecture – with an audience being entertained by stories told by scientists, conservationists and students of Alabama.

The Environmental Education Association of Alabama and Gifted Education Programs will present to Dr. Wilson and display at the event a book of letters and drawings about Alabama's biodiversity. This will be a personal gift to Dr. Wilson from the children of Alabama. EEAA also intends to create a “trading card” series from these drawings to help educate children throughout the state about our butterflies, turtles, darters – Alabama’s biodiversity.

Your students are invited to participate in creating Alabama Species trading Cards using the template at the end of this e-newsletter.

**Animal Species Trading Card Directions:**

1. Print trading cards on card stock or heavy drawing paper.
2. Have students research animals endemic to (found only in) Alabama. Students will each choose one plant or animal to research. Don’t limit yourself. Think about plants, insects (beetles, butterflies, flies, wasps, bees, etc.), reptiles (salamanders, snakes, turtles, frogs, toads), fish, mollusks, snails, mammals, etc. Complete the Animal Species trading card.
3. Draw the plant or animal in the box. Decorate the three sides of the box with something that pertains to the plant or animal. Color the counties on the Alabama map where this species may be found.

4. Complete the information on the back of the card. The personal connection is why you chose this species or why is it important to you.

5. Deadline to submit for the E. O. Wilson Tribute is April 17, 2014. These must be mailed and postmarked no later than April 14, 2014 in order to be in my office by April 17.

If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Farrell at 334-872-6895 or sfarrell@alsde.edu.

Mail completed trading cards to:
Shirley Farrell, Alabama State Department of Education
Special Education Services
3330 Gordon Persons Building
P. O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Legacy, Inc.
Partners in Environmental Education
FY 2015 Grant Program
http://legacyenved.org/legacy-grants/
Deadline: April 25, 2014

Legacy provides environmental education grants annually through the Legacy Grants Program. Funds for this program are allocated specifically to assist with helping to create environmentally responsible citizens through education. Any non-profit/tax exempt Alabama organization or school planning a community based environmental program is encouraged to apply. Grants are available in any amount up to $10,000.

AAGC Grant
http://alabamagifted.org
Deadline: June 13, 2013

The Alabama Association for Gifted Children is pleased to offer grants up to $500 each. The grant application will be available on the Web site within the next two weeks. Follow directions and submit the completed grants before the deadline of June 3, 2013. Grants will be awarded at the AAGC annual conference on September 26-27, 2013.

NEWS FROM AAGC

Annual AAGC Conference “In Living Color”
McWane Science Center ~ Birmingham, Alabama
September 17-19, 2014
Registration is now open! The AAGC conference has expanded to three full days with three different keynote speakers: Brian Housand, Carolyn Coil, and the third will be announced shortly. The conference dates are one week earlier, too! You can register for one, two, or all three days. Membership is included with all registration levels. Register early to include lunch.
Preregistration ends on August 28, 2014. Onsite registration does not include lunch. You can find a registration form at the link above.

**Preregistration fees:** One day-$65; two days-$100; and, full conference-$140.

**Onsite registration fees:** One day-$75; two days-$110; and, full conference-$150.

**BOOK-TEACHER OR STUDENT**

**Nerdy Blogger**

http://nerdybookclub.wordpress.com/want-to-be-a-nerdy-blogger/

This is an opportunity for teachers: “Nerdy Book Club cannot continue without the generous and dedicated guest bloggers who write for them. They have five different types of posts you can choose to write.

1. Reading Lives are about our lives as readers. See www.nerdybookclub.wordpress.com/category/reading-lives/ for examples.
2. New Book Reviews are for books within 18 months of their publication.
3. Retro Reviews are for books that have been out longer than 18 months.
4. Pay It Forward posts are about promoting the love of reading to others. See www.nerdybookclub.wordpress.com/category/pay-it-forward/ for examples.
5. Top Ten posts are lists of ten books or things about books. (See www.nerdybookclub.wordpress.com/category/top-ten-lists/ for examples.)”

**RESOURCES**

**Build It Better Challenge**

http://pbskids.org/designsquad/parenteducators/

This Web site provide challenges you can embed into your concept-based units on invention and creativity. Projects are for individuals or groups. Upload projects for feedback from peers-age and intellectual. Challenges include “Design school supplies that work better,” “Design a better way to eat your meal,” and “Design a new game made from recycled materials.”

**Challenging Social Studies Activities: A Resource and Curriculum Guide-Grades K-12**

http://alspdg.org/challenging_socialstudy_guide.html

YES! It is finally online and ready for access. This link takes you directly to the lessons, student pages, and diversified materials. Math and Language Arts will be up this summer!

**Challenging Science Activities: A Resource and Curriculum Guide-Grades K-12**

http://alspdg.org/challenging_socialstudy_guide.html

This is a reminder that the science guide has been on this Web site since 2011. This link connects you to the lesson plans, student lessons, and diversified materials.

**The Differences Between Successful People and Unsuccessful People**


This article lists 16 differences between successful and unsuccessful people. At the end of the article you will find an infographic illustrating the differences. This discussion is grounded in the business world. You may need to reword the 16 differences to ground it in the school world for younger students. This would be good to use with concepts, such as leadership, success, giftedness, attitudes, and habits.

**CONTESTS & REAL-WORLD CHALLENGES**

**Spark!Lab Invent It Challenge**

http://challenges.epals.com/?src=outreach/UA-26298834-7

**Deadline:** April 11, 2014

This invention challenge is open to students ages 5-18. You must do four of the Spark Lab Steps of Invention -- do all seven if you want a chance at winning a patent opportunity. For details about this competition and how to submit an entry, click on the e-mail above.
At the 2013 AAGC annual conference, many awards were presented for excellence in Gifted Education. It is time again to nominate those individuals who have made a difference in gifted education in Alabama. The award categories are: Outstanding Gifted Specialist Award, Outstanding Gifted Coordinator Award, Outstanding Administrator Award, Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award, Outstanding Community Member Award, Outstanding Gifted Student Award. To learn more about the nomination process, requirements for each category, or to download a nomination form, go to the AAGC Web site.

NASA MOVIES
http://sci2.tv/#!/live/80
Watch astronaut home movies posted to this NASA link. You will also find other NASA and science video.

2000 YEARS OF HISTORY (1000 BC-1000AD)
http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=73c_1353166453
This interactive map shows the birth, rise and fall of the European Union introduced by the Romans.

WORLD WAR II (WWII) IN EUROPE: TIMELINE MAP
http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=cdc_1381005774
Watch how the control of countries changes during WWII.

CHANGES IN EUROPEAN BORDERS
http://loiter.co/v/watch-as-1000years-of-european-boarders-change/
This video was created by Frank E. Reed with Centennia Software and using the Centennia Historical Atlas. This is animated map is copyrighted. The time-lapse map displays dates and country borders. You can ask students to research what caused the changes in Europe during those time periods. It is amazing to see how the birders keep changing!

FUTURE CAREERS
I received a tweet on March 11 of a PowerPoint slide of future careers. What do you and your students think of these? I think my next career will be Curiosity Tutor!

Productivity Counsellor
Personal Digital Curator
Microbial Balancer
Corporate Disorganizer
Curiosity Tutor
Alternative Currency Speculator
Digital Death Manager
Digital Detox Therapist
Drone Driver
Garbage miner
Weather Coordinator

CONCEPT-BASED CURRICULUM
EUs, EQs, SQs
This month’s featured EUs are related to systems. Each concept-based unit would only have 3-5 EUs. Remember that all SQs may not be used because your students may have the prior knowledge. One EU could take months to teach. The SQs are listed with a few activities to help students answer the questions; however, more activities are needed to answer the SQs fully. What additional scaffolded questions can you add to these EUs? What activities would you include with the questions?

Essential Understandings, Essential Questions, and Scaffolded Questions:
EU: Systems operate in human and natural communities and are interconnected
EQ: How can systems operate in human and natural communities and are interconnected?
SQ: What are systems?
SQ: Where do we find systems?
SQ: Do you belong to a system? Explain your answer
SQ: Do you belong to more than one system? What are they? How do you know?
SQ: What defines a human system?
SQ: What are the human systems? Create a list if systems.
SQ: What are natural communities?
SQ: Do you belong to a natural community? Explain your answer.
SQ: Create a list of natural community systems.
SQ: Compare and contrast human systems and natural communities systems.
SQ: How are systems interconnected?

EU: Individuals may belong to multiple systems.
EQ: Why may individual belong to multiple systems?
   SQ: To what systems do you belong?
   SQ: How do you know?
   SQ: How can you belong to more than one system?
   SQ: What are the benefits of belonging to more than one system?
   SQ: What are the negatives of belonging to more than one system?
   SQ: What else belongs to more than one system?

A different “slant” of the EU above is
EU: Individuals may be influenced by multiple systems.
EQ: How may individuals be influenced by multiple systems?

EU: Smaller systems are connected to larger systems.
EQ: How can smaller systems be connected to larger systems?

EU: Change in any part of the system can affect the whole system.
EQ: Why can change in any part of the system affect the whole system?

EU: Parts of a system are dependent on other parts.
EQ: How are parts of a system dependent on other parts?

EU: Individuals can affect a system.
EQ: How can individuals affect a system?

EU: Human systems can learn from natural systems.
EQ: In what ways can human systems learn from natural systems?

EU: People, structures, and processes of human systems work together to make an organization more or less healthy.
EQ: How can the people, structure, and processes of a human system work together to make an organization more or less healthy?

EU: Natural systems include various elements such as air, water, movement, plants, and animals that work together to survive.
EQ: How do the various elements of a natural system, such as air, water, movement, plants, and animals work together to survive?

EU: Humans are part of natural systems.
EQ: How can humans be a part of the natural system?

EU: Actions of humans have an impact on natural systems.
EQ: How do actions of humans have an impact on natural systems?

EU: Understanding systems allows us to see a more complete picture and make better-informed choices.
EQ: How can understanding systems allow us to see a more complex picture and make better-informed choices?

EU: Understanding a system allows us to identify leverage points and create change.
EQ: How can understanding a system allow us to identify leverage points and create change?

EU: People develop systems to manage conflict and create order.
EQ: Why do people develop systems to manage conflict and create order?
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Mail completed trading cards to

Shirley Farrell
Special Education Services
Alabama State Department of Education
3330 Gordon Persons Building
P. O. box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101