August 21, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice, State Superintendent of Education

RE: Alabama Association for Gifted Children Annual Conference

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is pleased to announce the 2015 Alabama Association for Gifted Children (AAGC) Annual Conference on September 16-18, 2015, at the McWane Science Center, 200 19th Street North, Birmingham, Alabama. The theme for this three-day conference is “Igniting Gifted Potential.” This annual conference offers an excellent selection of sessions for gifted specialists and coordinators, classroom teachers, school administrators, counselors, parents, preservice teachers, and college/university faculty to explore current issues in gifted education.

The conference will feature internationally known leaders in the field of education and gifted. On Wednesday, I will be the keynote speaker and will be followed by three full-day workshops: Torrance Test of Creative Thinking: Administration and Scoring; Engaging ENTIRE Gifted Learners Through Critical and Creative Thinking; and Igniting Gifted Potential Through Technology. On Thursday, the keynote speaker is Dr. Bertie Kingore, consultant and author from Austin, Texas. On Friday the keynote speaker is Dr. Tarek Grantham, professor and researcher from the University of Georgia. Thursday and Friday will feature multiple, one-hour content sessions on a variety of practical strategies for teachers and parents. Vendors will offer a variety of materials and information for gifted educators and parents.

Participants can register for one, two, or three days. A preliminary schedule and online registration form can be found on the Web site at alabamagifted.org. You can download the free AAGC Conference App from the Apple or Android App stores for a complete schedule of events. Online registration is open until August 31, 2015. After this date registration increases by $25.00 and must be completed onsite.

I encourage you to support the attendance of your gifted specialists, teachers, counselors, or anyone who works with gifted students. This conference provides professional development, networking opportunities, and resources for teachers to help gifted students achieve annual growth. If you have any questions, you may contact Ms. Shirley J. Farrell or Ms. Nancy J. Johnson at (334) 242-8114.

TRB/SF/SH

cc: City and County Special Education Coordinators
    City and County Gifted Coordinators
    Mrs. Sherrill W. Parris
    Dr. Linda Felton-Smith
    Ms. Crystal Richardson
    Ms. Alicia Hodge
    Ms. Nancy J. Johnson
    Ms. Shirley J. Farrell

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