Parents as Teachers Kicks Off 2016 International Conference

The Parents as Teachers International Conference returns this year to Missouri, as hundreds of parent educators and early childhood professionals gather in St. Louis to learn about the latest in the home visiting field. The three-day event includes nearly 50 innovative workshop options and the unique opportunity to network with top leaders in the industry. Thanks to everyone who came from across the country and around the world to attend this year’s conference. And, if you couldn’t join us this year, we hope to see you in 2017!

2016 AWARD WINNERS

LOSOS Award for Excellence – Blackstone Valley Community Action, Pawtucket, Rhode Island
LOSOS Award for Innovation – Door to Hope, Salinas, California
LOSOS Award for Impact – Strengthening Families, Atlanta, Georgia

Parent Educator of the Year – Dalida Frias, Blackstone Valley Community Action Program, Pawtucket, Rhode Island
Parent Educator of the Year – Lauren Ware, Kansas City, Kansas Public School PAT Program, Olathe, Kansas
Parent Educator of the Year – Karen Berding, Moberly Parents as Teachers Program, Moberly, Missouri

Keynote Speakers
John O’Leary – Inspirational Speaker and #1 Bestselling Author
Dr. Robert Sallis – Physician Spokesperson for the “Every Body Walk!” Campaign
Patricia Kempthorne – Founder and President of the Twiga Foundation

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Founded in Missouri in 1984, Parents as Teachers serves more than 212,000 children in all 50 U.S. states, more than 115 Tribal organizations, schools and communities, and six other countries. Its internationally recognized network of affiliates uses an evidence-based model to deliver parent education primarily through personal visits and group meetings, equipping parents with knowledge and resources to prepare their children, from birth through kindergarten, for a stronger start in life and greater success in school. For more information, visit: www.ParentsAsTeachers.org
The Parents as Teachers Board of Directors recently named Constance Gully as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer, following the resignation of Scott Hippert, who resigned to take on a new role in California as the CEO of LAUP (Los Angeles Universal Preschool). Ms. Gully previously served as Parents as Teachers National Center’s Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

As the unanimous choice of the Parents as Teachers National Center Board of Directors, Ms. Gully is overseeing the ongoing work to support the extended network of Parents as Teachers affiliates nationwide.

“The leadership and experience that Constance brings to this interim role, along with the organization’s leadership team and staff, will ensure the continuity of the critically important work of Parents as Teachers,” said Thomas Melzer, Chair, Parents as Teachers Board of Directors. A national search for a new CEO is being initiated by an executive recruiting firm with a targeted completion date of early 2017.

Prior to joining Parents as Teachers National Center, Ms. Gully held several leadership roles during her 16-year tenure at Harris-Stowe State University, most recently serving as its interim president and executive vice president for business and financial affairs. She has a master’s in business administration and is a certified public accountant.

Parents as Teachers Supervisor Honored as American Graduate Champion

The Nine Network of Public Media in St. Louis recently recognized 11 early education professionals as American Graduate Champions. One of the honorees was MacKenzie Grayson, a supervisor with the Parents as Teachers program in the Normandy Schools Collaborative. Grayson serves as the parent educator supervisor, the liaison between the community and the PAT program, and also serves families directly as a parent educator.

The American Graduate Champions were selected because of their dedication to keeping youth in school and on track to high school graduation and beyond. They were honored during a breakfast and then recognized during Story Time in the Commons, a free, family reading program, at the Nine Network Public Media Commons. The event was also filmed as part of a ceremony that aired on American Graduate Day. Congratulations MacKenzie and thanks for your dedication to Parents as Teachers!

Product Spotlight: Diversity in Families, Children and You

This online training product is designed for early childhood and family support professionals. The product uses responsive design and incorporates self-paced activities and reading materials within a three-module curriculum. The content compliments the PAT approach to parenting education for families. For more information visit: www.parentsasteachers.org/resources/diversity-in-families-children-and-you

Product Spotlight: What You Do Matters

This product is a six-week series that combines short parent educator discussions followed by parent-child interaction. Each one hour session focuses on a different topic and parents have the opportunity share experiences, ask questions and try out activities. For more information visit: www.parentsasteachers.org/resources/what-you-do-matters

New Interim President and CEO

The Parents as Teachers Board of Directors recently named Constance Gully as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer, following the resignation of Scott Hippert, who resigned to take on a new role in California as the CEO of LAUP (Los Angeles Universal Preschool). Ms. Gully previously served as Parents as Teachers National Center’s Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

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Parents as Teachers Affiliate Honored for Innovation

Recently, representatives from the national office visited Akron, Ohio, to honor the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) as the 2015 winner of the Losos Prize for Innovation. Parents as Teachers CEO Scott Hippert and Director of National Partnerships Daryl Rothman traveled to Akron to honor the affiliate. In addition to being an outstanding PAT affiliate, the AMHA embodies the vital intersection of home visitation and housing to which Parents as Teachers remains strongly committed.

There were conversations with community stakeholders, a site visit and an opportunity to have lunch with and hear stories from families and frontline staff. There was a special outdoors community group connections event, and the day ended with a visit with some inspiring community partners.

The event was also chronicled by a local media outlet, which put together a video about the visit. You can see that video at the following link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMIrXsLHYAw

Parents as Teachers Conducts Training in Singapore

The Singapore Ministry of Social and Family Development is implementing KidSTART, a comprehensive system that proactively identifies low-income and vulnerable children aged prenatal to six years. It provides them with early access to health, learning and developmental support, and monitors their progress during their early years. KidSTART offers a three-pronged approach which includes home visiting, play groups, parent support and enhanced support to preschools.

Earlier this year, the Singapore Early Childhood Development Agency (EDCA) identified Parents as Teachers as an evidence-based model that complemented the framework of KidSTART and would provide training and resources for the home visiting component. In August, two national PAT trainers traveled to Singapore to provide the Foundational training to 30 early childhood and family support professionals, along with a day of consultation to further explore the implementation of PAT within the KidSTART framework.

KidSTART is a five-year project that will be closely evaluated during the initial three-year pilot. Services are targeted to three communities in Singapore with the goal of reaching 1,000 children. Outcomes include:

- Improved parenting knowledge on child development and early child stimulation
- Increased awareness of community resources
- Stronger linkage with other parents in the community
- Improved maternal health and coping skills
- Improved parent-child relationships
- Improved family functioning and self-reliance

We welcome the Singapore parent educators into the PAT family and look forward to learning more about the effects of using the PAT approach and curriculum in their community through KidSTART.

Left: Greg O’Donnell, Director of Training, Parents as Teachers National Center; Bharathi Manogaran, Assistant Director, Child Development Office, Singapore; and Robin Roberts, SoCst International Director, Parents as Teachers National Center. Right: Singapore training group.
Evaluation Finds Baby FACE Success Story

The U.S. Department of Education’s Investing in Innovations grant funded implementation and evaluation of the Parents as Teachers Baby FACE program. Baby FACE provided the Parents as Teachers home visiting model to more than 1,000 high-needs American Indian families with children from prenatal through three years of age at 19 sites in six states.

On average, parents received more than 25 visits while participating in the Baby FACE program. More than 5,500 books were distributed during the program. That’s more than 95 books per family!

A rigorous, independent evaluation found several pride points, including key literacy, cognitive and social-emotional outcomes. The evaluation also found Baby FACE parents read to children more frequently and participated in significantly more home literacy activities. Those activities are positively linked to increased cognitive ability in children.

“Baby FACE was there from almost the beginning of my pregnancy and has been a part of my life for four years now,” said parent Keyonna Hornbuckle-Owle. “We have appreciated everything that has been offered to us throughout our time in the program and look forward to the years to come!”

For this evaluation, researchers were able to follow children up to age three. But thanks to generous investments, evaluators will be able to investigate long-term outcomes by following Baby FACE children into the kindergarten year. This will allow evaluators to determine if the gains reported in this study are sustained in future years.

To see the full Baby Face Evaluation infographic, go to: www.parentsasteachers.org/results/research

Wyoming Teen Parent Program Finds Parents as Teachers as a Reliable Resource

A highly successful program that helps teen parents succeed in Cheyenne, Wyoming, is now using Parents as Teachers curriculum as a key and reliable resource. The Teen Parent program at Triumph High School offers a variety of services, including a parenting class, transportation to school for teen parents and their children, and opportunities for parent-child field trips. Now, the program is using Parents as Teachers Foundational Curriculum and Partnering With Teen Parents Curriculum as a resource in the classroom, as well as during home visits for their teen parents.

This key partnership was made possible thanks to the work of Dr. Michelle Aldrich, a family and consumer sciences instructor in the Laramie County School District. Dr. Aldrich, who learned about Parents as Teachers through a colleague, has been an advocate and user of Parents as Teachers curricula for many years. She attended Foundational training in Colorado Springs in 2005 and brought Parents as Teachers to the cities of Powell and Casper. Then, three years ago, as past president of the National Association Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences, Dr. Aldrich brought Parents as Teachers Partnering With Teen Parents training to the entire state of Wyoming. Triumph High School adopted the Parents as Teachers curriculum in 2005. Since then, it’s been helping to support an incredible program that provides invaluable resources for teen parents.

Triumph High School has a child care center for teen parents that provides meals and transportation services. There’s a free, on-site early learning facility for the children of Triumph students and for the children of teen parents across the district. The early learning center staffs two foster grandparents and two paraprofessionals. One of the paraprofessionals is the director of the child care center. Students who have a child in the early learning center spend time in the Early Childhood Lab class where they interact with the children and learn skills to educate and care for preschool-aged children. Teen parents who are Triumph students receive parent coaching from foster grandparents. Extended day tutoring is also available.

In the past six years, the retention and graduation rates for teen parents in the PAT for Teen Parents program have grown significantly. Teen parents often cite the program as being vital to their ability to graduate, and they commonly return for advice and to keep us informed about how they are doing.
Parents as Teachers Program Gets Visit from State Senator

A Parents as Teachers Program that is thriving in Yakima, Washington, recently got a visit from one of the state’s top political leaders. Washington State Senator Judith Warnick visited Catholic Family and Child Services. CFCS is a non-profit that supports more than 60,000 families each year through a variety of family services. Their PAT program provides home visiting services to nearly 200 families in central Washington.

The senator’s visit included a meeting with the program’s director, staff members and representatives from the national center. Senator Warnick then learned about the organization’s history and the mission of Parents as Teachers. She also accompanied a parent educator on a home visit with a family that’s about to graduate from the program. The Catholic Family and Child Services program is thriving thanks in part to federal MIECHV funding and additional state funding that allows for sustainability and expansion. It’s just one great example of how Parents as Teachers is making a difference across the country.
Conference Highlights

Parents as Teachers is proud to honor three dedicated individuals for 30 years of service. Their milestone is being celebrated at the 2016 Parents as Teachers International Conference.

Kathleen Albers – Pattonville School District
Colleen Ratcliff – Lamar R-1 Schools
Elaine Shiver – Texas Parents as Teachers

Curriculum Spotlight

Interactions Across Abilities: Supporting Families of Children With Special Needs

This curriculum guides family support professionals through the different types of special conditions and challenges these families often encounter and how to effectively support them. The curriculum includes the Spanish translation of the parent handouts and is available via USB drive or digital download. For more information visit: www.parentsasteachers.org/resources/interactions

GUEST BLOG APPEAL

We're seeking passionate and knowledgeable people to serve as “guest bloggers” for our website. If you'd like to contribute a column or submit a story idea, please let us know!

Send an email to:
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