

PARENTS AS • TEACHERS NEWS



Blue Ribbon Affiliate Spotlight

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is embarking on an exciting new way to honor the top PAT affiliates across the United States. More than 40 programs over the past two years have been honored as Blue Ribbon Affiliates. These endorsed affiliates have completed the Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process, which recognizes affiliates as high-achieving members in the field of early childhood learning and parent engagement.

Starting with this issue of the Parents as Teachers newsletter, we will spotlight one of these Blue Ribbon Affiliates to show how they are making a difference in the lives of children and families. In this issue, we are proud to honor the Goddard Public Schools Parents as Teachers program in Goddard, KS.

Goddard Parents as Teachers began in 2007, serving the town of Goddard as well as the suburban area located within the southwestern part of Wichita. The program is funded through the Kansas Department of Education and Goddard Public Schools, which serves more than 5,800 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Susan Damron-Ridgway, who is the Program Coordinator, says being recognized as a Blue Ribbon Affiliate is a direct reflection of the dedication that each Parent Educator demonstrates on a daily basis.

"It stands as a symbol of the program's pride, excellence and continued commitment to families," said Damron-Ridgway. "It shows that our district as well as our program offers our community the best early learning opportunities for families."

Damron-Ridgway has experienced the powerful impact of the Parents as Teachers evidence-based model. During a recent playgroup, she noticed one of the children was having some difficulty with his vision. After talking with the child's mom, she recommended mom make an appointment with her son's pediatrician and a vision specialist.

"It turns out he had a recurrence of a vertical alignment problem that had been treated 18 months prior," said Damron-Ridgway. "The boy had surgery on both eyes this time and is showing significant improvement. Mom thanked me over and over again, and said she hadn't noticed any changes until it was pointed out during her Parents as Teachers playgroup."

Damron-Ridgway says it's just one of many stories that show how the Goddard Parents as Teachers program is enhancing the lives of our youngest children, one at a time.

"I am proud of the hundreds of parents and children our program has touched over the years. I know that our program is making a real difference in the lives of these families and beyond."

You can learn much more about the Quality Endorsement Improvement Process, and find a list of all the Blue Ribbon Affiliates, by visiting this link: parentsasteachers.org/quality-endorsement-and-improvement



Parents as Teachers®
Model  Affiliate

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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: ParentsAsTeachers.org.



Letter from Interim President and CEO

It's been an exciting first half of the program and fiscal year for Parents as Teachers, as the organization pursues opportunities to reach more children and families in multiple settings. The resources we provide to empower parents to be their child's first and most influential teacher are not limited to a single delivery method or model. Instead, we are embracing a multitude of opportunities to deliver our evidence-based model and research informed curricula throughout the country and around the world.

Parents as Teachers strives to form strategic partnerships and collaborations in several key areas, including education, health care, housing and technology. Through these efforts, PAT will remain a leader in the home visiting field, and a champion for children and families everywhere.

As you read this edition of the Parents as Teachers newsletter, please reflect and share your thoughts with us on the ever-evolving field of early child development, learning, health and well-being. Thanks for everything you do to support the mission of Parents as Teachers!

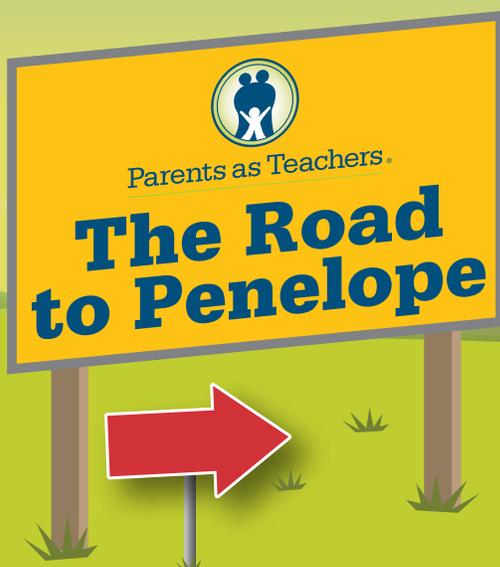


Constance Gully,
Interim President
and CEO

Penelope Corner

The data management team is working on Parents as Teachers Penelope 2.0, which includes improvements to many of its forms and reports. We are making these changes to accommodate additional program reporting needs and to incorporate the feedback received in the first year and a half since Penelope launched. The changes have been shared with the Penelope Advisory Group and during the September webinar, and the response so far has been very positive. Data that has already been entered will be automatically migrated to the new forms and included in the revised reports. For more details on the changes, watch the September webinar: <http://ebiz.patnc.org/eBusiness/Penelope/Webinars>. You can register for the March webinar to get guidance on preparing staff for the update.

For affiliates who are considering using Penelope, this is a good time to start the process. It's helpful to allow time for staff to review the training materials in the Penelope section of the PAT Portal and practice in the Sandbox test environment. The next step is to enter current families in Penelope Live so you're ready to begin documenting services for the next program year, starting July 1, 2017. For access to Penelope, follow the steps on the Adopting Penelope page of the PAT Portal: <https://ebiz.patnc.org/eBusiness/Penelope/Adopting-Penelope.aspx>.



Growth Training Reports



International Conference

The 2016 Parents as Teachers International Conference was held October 17th-19th at Union Station in St. Louis, Missouri. More than 1,100 people came from across the United States and around the world to network and learn about the latest trends in home visiting and early childhood education. The event garnered national and international attention, including dozens of stories about our preconference session focusing on toxic stress in our communities.



Rebecca Bennett at preconference event, Beyond Ferguson.

Motivational speaker and burn survivor John O'Leary kicked off the conference with a passionate and emotional keynote speech. His message about overcoming challenges to achieve your dreams brought many in attendance to tears. During the closing session, family physician Dr. Bob Sallis and National Mother of Achievement and PAT board member Patricia Kempthorne delivered important messages about the future of early childhood education.



Keynote speakers John O'Leary, Dr. Bob Sallis and Patricia Kempthorne.

The conference also featured nearly 50 innovative workshops, ranging from kindergarten readiness to engaging millennial parents. Other workshops focused on the role home visiting plays in enhancing tribal communities, promoting learning through music, and even how to create toys out of common household recyclables.



2016 Conference vendors and State Rep. Chris Tuck, D-AK

The 2017 Parents as Teachers International Conference will be held November 29 - December 1 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The theme for the conference is **Family Engagement: Making Connections Matter**. Information about registration will be coming soon. [We hope to see you in Philly!](#)



Advocacy in Action

In January, Governor Jay Inslee and First Lady Trudi Inslee of Washington State learned first-hand how the Parents as Teachers evidence-based home visiting model and the federal Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting program is changing outcomes for families in his state. The Governor and Mrs. Inslee spent time with Children's Home Society of Washington, a Parents as Teachers affiliate, to observe a home visit. They met mom Katrina DeVries and her children, Dutch and Nola. During the visit they observed Parent Educator Shelly Nelson partnering with Katrina to discuss her family's goals and healthy nutrition for her toddler. They also shared a parent-child activity.

During an interview with the *Spokane Spokesman-Review*, Governor Inslee stressed why the Parents as Teachers program is so important, saying small changes for children during the early years can have benefits that will last a lifetime.

"Families with access to home visiting have a 50% lower likelihood of child abuse and neglect," said Erica Hallock, State Director of Fight Crime Invest in Kids-Washington. "For moms like Katrina who suffered from postpartum depression, it is invaluable. The program connected Katrina to mental health services, and during visits, encouraged parenting practices and protective factors. Being a parent is hard, and home visiting supports parents, so they can be their child's best, first teacher."

Read the story in the Spokesman-Review newspaper: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/jan/19/inslee-visits-spokane-home-highlighting-early-child/>



Gov. Jay Inslee visits with Nola and her brother, Dutch, on Thursday at their home in Spokane. Inslee visited the family to highlight the Parents as Teachers program and has proposed increased funding at the state level. (Tyler Tjomsland / The Spokesman-Review)



Gov. Jay Inslee and First Lady Trudi Inslee with parent educator Shelly Nelson



Book Fair Grant Award

The Greater St. Louis Book Fair recently awarded Parents as Teachers National Center a \$3,000 grant to purchase new and age appropriate books for the Parents as Teachers program within the Normandy Schools Collaborative in St. Louis County, Missouri. The grant will help to increase access to books in the home and increase literacy. We'd like to thank the Greater St. Louis Book Fair for their support in helping children learn, grow and develop to reach their full potential!

If you're in the neighborhood, we encourage you to participate in the 2017 Greater St. Louis Book Fair. It will be held May 4-7 in the Greensfelder Recreation Complex at Queeny Park.



Board Buzz



Parents as Teachers board member Colleen Kraft, MD, was recently named President-elect of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Dr. Kraft officially became President-elect on January 1, 2017, and will take over as AAP president on January 1, 2018. Dr. Kraft has a long history of being a champion for children and families. In 1965, she was a student in the very first Head Start class. It was only a summer program, but one of the teachers told

American Academy of Pediatrics



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her she was so smart, she might even become a doctor someday. Those words later became reality, and her impressive medical career has included being a primary care provider, managing a practice, creating a residency program and working at an academic center focusing on health care finance. Congratulations to Dr. Kraft!

Philanthropy Spotlight

The Heising-Simons Foundation is a family foundation based in Los Altos, California. The Foundation works with its many partners to advance sustainable solutions in climate and clean energy, enable groundbreaking research in science, enhance the education of our youngest learners and support human rights for all people.

The goal of the Heising-Simons Foundation's grantmaking in education is to prepare children from birth through age eight for school and life. By funding a diverse portfolio of projects that support effective practices, research and evaluation for improving policy and practice, and policy analysis and advocacy, the foundation strives to achieve a higher-quality and better-funded early childhood education system.

Home visiting is part of the Foundation's strategy for engaging families in their young children's education and creating a meaningful learning environment. The Foundation's grants to Parents as Teachers support the identification, through research and evaluation, of effective family engagement programs and practices.

The grants lead to positive learning outcomes for children, and the building, through networking and convening, of a highly coordinated national home visiting field.

In 2015, the Foundation's Education program awarded \$22.9 million through 75 grants for programs that advance early education.



HEISING-SIMONS
FOUNDATION

The partnership and consistent support of the Heising-Simons Foundation has made it possible for the Parents as Teachers National Center to have a more profound impact on the home visiting field. On behalf of the children and families we serve – THANK YOU for your commitment to early education.

For more information about Heising-Simons, please visit their website at heisingsimons.org.



How to Donate

We invite you to visit parentsasteachers.org to learn more about our evidence-based programs that improve parenting, narrow the achievement gap, prevent child abuse, and detect delays and health problems while saving taxpayers' money now and in the years to come. Please consider supporting our efforts and advocate with us for the children and families that need us most by making a donation. parentsasteachers.org/donate





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 to share experiences, ask questions and try out activities.

This product includes the following items:

- Five posters for parent-child interaction
- Supply list
- Facilitation guides and slides
- Professional resources
- Parent handouts

The Spanish translation of the posters and parent handouts are included.

For more information visit:

parentsasteachers.org/what-you-do-matters.

