



PDS Network News

Volume I, Issue I

Spring 2006

Sharing Information in our Professional Development Schools Network

Upcoming Events

October 7, 2006

MASCD Fall Conference Topic:
Differentiation

Follow up: Jan. 13 & May 17, 2007

Calvert Hall High School

November 4, 2006

MD PDS Conference

Villa Julie College

December 5, 2006

PDS Site Coordinator's Meeting,
4pm-6pm

Minnegan Room in the Field House,
Unitas Stadium

March 29- April 1, 2007

National PDS Conference

Las Vegas

April 19, 2007

PDS Principal & Site Coordinator
Dinner & Workshop

4pm-6pm

Potomac Lounge, University Union

Inside this issue:

North Glen Elementary Applauded by President Bush

President George W. Bush, the First Lady, Laura Bush and the U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings visited North Glen Elementary School, a PDS partner with Towson's MAT Program. The visit marked the fourth anniversary of the *No Child Left Behind Act*.

North Glen Elementary, in Glen Burnie, is a Title I school in the Anne Arundel County Public School System. The North Glen population is 42% African American, 40% Caucasian, 11% Hispanic, and 7% other ethnic groups.

After an exciting helicopter arrival, the President and his entourage visited Laneie Taylor's fifth grade classroom and Meghan Henderson's third grade classroom, to meet and talk with the students. Next, President Bush took the stage in the school auditorium, where he

addressed an audience of about 250 students, parents, teachers, interns, politicians, and members of the media. He focused his speech on the No Child Left Behind Act and program. "It is working," he said. "In 2003, at this school, 57% of North Glen students were proficient in reading and 46% in math. In 2005, he said, 82% were proficient in reading and 84% in math. "It's great news, isn't it?" Mr. Bush said.

The President recognized North Glen for being among the first schools in Maryland to significantly narrow the achievement gap between African American and Caucasian students as measured by MSA testing.

"This is a school that believes any child can learn, not just certain children," Mr. Bush said...

Anne Arundel County Interim School Superintendent, Nancy Mann noted, "It is a boost for morale – for our school staff throughout the system, that we have made that kind of progress that we would have a visit from the president."

The North Glen visit is highlighted on the U.S. Department of Education Home Page (<http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml>.)

The Towson University College of Education and the Master of Arts in Teaching Program (MAT Program) are proud to be working with North Glen Elementary: the Principal, Julie-Little-McVeary and former Principal, Maurine Larkin, the site coordinator, Regina Passwaters, the mentors, faculty and staff and, most of all, the students.

Congratulations North Glen!

News from Park Elementary PDS, Anne Arundel County

Congratulations to **Angela Hood**, site coordinator at Park Elementary, and **Whitney McCann**, site coordinator at George T. Cromwell Elementary in Anne Arundel County for receiving the Community Excellence in Education Award from the College of Education. Their outstanding

contributions were acknowledged during an Award Ceremony at Towson.

BRAVO!

Towson University and NCATE Accreditation

Towson University is preparing for its October 2007 accreditation visit by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). To meet the accreditation standards of NCATE and MSDE, we ask for your ongoing collaboration and support.

NCATE is our profession's mechanism to help establish and recognize high quality teacher preparation. Through the process of professional accreditation of schools, colleges and departments of education, NCATE's performance-based/evidence-based system of accreditation fosters competent classroom teachers and other educators who work to improve the education of all P-12 students.

To meet accreditation standards of NCATE and MSDE, Towson must provide evidence of competent teacher candidate performance, and demonstrate that graduates are ready to help *all* students learn. As in the past, we can achieve these goals and standards of program excellence *only* with your collaboration, through our joint efforts in Professional Development Schools. Strong clinical practice with diverse and inclusive communities of learners is essential for quality professional education. It is your efforts that provide the structure and clinical context to integrate university course work, with field experiences to ensure that key concepts, skills, and theories are demonstrated in a meaningful context.

Indeed, the *year-long immersion in the PDS* is the capstone experience for our teacher candidates, in which they must *demonstrate* the performance-based professional knowledge, skills, and dispositions outcomes required by national, state, and institutional standards. Reflecting national and state standards (e.g., NCATE and Maryland PDS Standards), our collaborative efforts have resulted in numerous awards for the *PDS Network*, and further documents that our mutual efforts are in the forefront of educating teachers in what the National Council for Teaching and America's Future has applauded as "partnerships that are becoming exemplars of what is possible rather than mired in what has been."

Documentation of our efforts will be a critical issue in 06-07. A PDS Abstract for each PDS is part of the required documentation of our efforts, and your Towson faculty liaison has begun this process and will share the PDS Abstract with you. Two of our PDSs are scheduled to be visited by our external accreditors, and preparation for the documentation and the visits are underway. We will invite your participation in several of the accrediting team interviews, and hope that you will be able to attend and share the crucial work that you do to prepare the next generation of teachers.

Dr. Tom Proffitt, Associate Dean

Congratulations!
Kristal Linnett and
Edgewood ES
(Harford Co.) for
expertly representing
our PDS Network
in The Sun.

News from the Ellicott City PDS Triad, Howard County

The Ellicott City PDS Triad held its first PDS Triad Family Math Night on April 13th. Staff members from all 3 schools within the PDS and both ELED and SPED interns collaborated in the planning and implementation of this Family Night. Over 300 parents and children from the 3 schools attended and were able to participate in hands-on math activities together. Staff members and interns presented on a wide variety of activities, games, and math resources that parents and students can work and play with together. Local business partners including Learning How, Barnes and Noble, Eastern Savings Bank, and the Howard

County Public Library participated in this Family Night providing resources for students and their parents. The night was a tremendous success with so many students and parents asking when the next one was scheduled! This was a great opportunity to bring our 3 staffs together, involve our interns in a school and community based event, and bring our communities together!



National Association for Professional Development Schools

2006-2007 Membership Application

Membership year runs from April 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007

Please print or type information as you would like it to appear in membership listings.

Dr. Mr. Ms.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Department: _____ Institution: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

E-mail: _____

Payment: Check Visa MasterCard Discover Purchase Order (please enclose)

Account Number _____ Expiration _____

Cardholder's Name _____

Cardholder's Signature (required) _____

Amount Enclosed (Checks should be made payable to NAPDS/USC) \$ _____

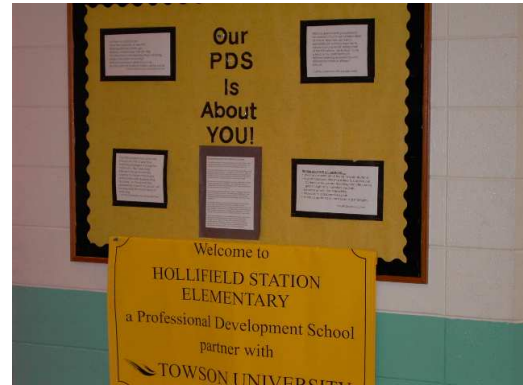
Please check one: **Professional Member** \$35.00 **Student Member** \$15.00 (Requires verified current enrollment in at least 9 credit semester/term hours)

Note: Complete this 2006-2007 Membership Application *only* if you are **not** attending the March 2006 PDS National Conference in Orlando, Florida. Registration for the conference includes NAPDS membership.

Please mail payment with form to:
National Association for Professional Development Schools
University of South Carolina – College of Education
Wardlaw 240
Columbia, SC 29208
Phone 803.777-1515 Fax 803.777-3035



College of Education
 Center for Professional Practice
 Hawkins Hall, Room 303
 8000 York Road
 Towson, Maryland 21204
 410-704-2567



If you have a bulletin board that could be devoted to PDS, TU interns will manage it for you. Intern pictures or PDS activities could be displayed.

If you would like to contribute to the PDS newsletter, please email your news to: Karen Schafer, Director, Center for Professional Practice; kschafer@towson.edu

Other examples of PDS Bulletin Boards:

- * Pictures of PDS sponsored events or activities
- * Maryland PDS Standards
- * Any artifacts that will explain the PDS to the community
- * Pictures of mentors and interns labeled with their names
- * A combinations of any of the above

News from the Ellicott City PDS Triad, Howard County

The Ellicott City PDS Triad held its second annual PDS Family Night for student and parents of St. John's Lane, Waverly, and Hollifield Station Elementary Schools. The focus for this year's family event was language arts, with the theme for the evening being "Spend an Evening with the Stars". Approximately 120 students and family members were in attendance at the stellar gathering. The most recent Caldecott Award winner, The Hello, Goodbye Window, was the highlight of the evening. Break-out sessions of a primary "story cube" literacy activity and an intermediate overview of

brief constructed responses gave students and parents ideas about how to reinforce language art skills at home. The PDS interns provided support before, during and after this event. They had numerous opportunities to meet family members and work with students. This was a memorable service learning experience for the interns in the Ellicott City PDS Triad.



News from Timber Grove Elementary PDS, Baltimore County

At Timber Grove Elementary School, Theresa Wilkinson organized the repainting of the United States Map on the playground. She asked the other interns and her fifth grade students to participate in the painting. The interns were

very willing to give up their time after school to help. Among these student teachers were Elisa Van Heel, Jamie Beser, Jamie Johnson, Jesse Spinnler, and Jeremy Sallow. Many students received permission to help paint after school. Par-

ents were also welcome. The turnout and the repainting was a success. The students, interns, and parents got a real feel to making a difference in their community.

