October 19—October 21, 2017
Red Lion Hotel - Harrisburg East
4751 Lindle Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111

October 20—October 22, 2016
Red Lion Hotel
4751 Lindle Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Conference Theme:
Creating Global Citizens Through Issues Focused Instruction

Vision
Motivation
Solutions
Growth
Collaboration

Food & Water
Conflict & Human Rights
Energy & Debt
Climate & Health
Poverty & Peace

www.pcessonline.org
GREETINGS:

It is my privilege join the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies (PCSS) to welcome all those gathered for the 63rd Annual Conference.

Pennsylvania is home to a rich and diverse history that has played a vital role to the foundation of this nation. Since its inception, PCSS has been dedicated to the analysis, dissemination, and evaluation of instructional materials and programs for effective social studies education in the commonwealth. PCSS has promoted professional excellence and development among schools, intermediate units, and social studies councils to further the educational enhancement of instructors throughout Pennsylvania. With an ever-changing global village, I am certain the theme of Creating Global Citizens through Issues Focused Instruction will be a valuable learning experience that develops thoughtful and conscience students.

As Governor, and on behalf of all the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the City of Harrisburg for this conference and extend my wishes for an enjoyable event.

October 2016

Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies,

Congratulations on this occasion of your 63rd Annual Conference!

I cannot think of a better theme to rally around than Creating Global Citizens Through Issues Focused Instruction.

Our students are growing up in a fast-paced, ever-changing society, and often Social Studies is the class that can provide students with a context for the issues impacting their local, national, and global communities.

As a lifelong educator, I know that social studies instructors have an enormous responsibility in making the classes they teach the vehicles for introducing complex and, at times sensitive, material. That is why it’s critical that the educators who are dedicated to engaging students on these topics have well-informed, careful, and comprehensive professional development and a strong network of other educators who are committed to this important work.

The Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies (PCSS) is a critical partner in safeguarding our students’ access to quality and comprehensive instruction, and ensuring Pennsylvania schools are Schools That Teach.

Again, I applaud the PCSS on reaching this milestone 63rd Annual Conference, and thank you for your continued dedication and advocacy to improving education for Pennsylvania’s students.

Sincerely,

Pedro A. Rivera
Secretary of Education
PCSS Mission

The PCSS promotes quality Social Studies education from kindergarten to higher learning by:

1. Advocating the Social Studies at all levels of education in Pennsylvania.

2. Promoting the analysis, dissemination and evaluation of Social Studies materials.

3. Examining and recommending certification requirements for teachers.

4. Assisting educators in organizing local Social Studies councils for professional development.

5. Cooperating with schools, districts, intermediate units and other interested parties on Social Studies projects.

2016 PCSS Awards

President's Award by PCSS President Nicole Roper
Susan Griffin - Executive Director of the National Council for the Social Studies (retired)

Teacher of Year
Michael Healey - East Stroudsburg Area School District

Rendell Friend of Social Studies
Magisterial District Judge Andrea Duffy
Montgomery County District Court 38-1-18

PCSS Leadership Award
Julianne Petersen - Abington Junior High School, Assistant Principal

Future Leader
Nicholas Silveri - University of Pittsburgh (Student)

The Leo West PCSS Award for Social Studies Awareness & Promotion
Ira Hiberman
Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies

The Ruth Stas PCSS Award for Social Studies Sustainability
Mary Beth Tinker - Tinker Tour

The Kay Atman PCSS Award for Social Studies Innovation
John Papiano - AMY James Martin - School District of Philadelphia

CONGRATULATIONS to all of the award winners!

For more information on our award winners, please visit our website:
http://pcssonline.org/
President’s Award
by PCSS President Nicole Roper

Susan Griffin - Executive Director of the National Council for the Social Studies (retired)

September 20, 2016 marked the end of an era when Susan Griffin stepped down as Executive Director of the National Council for the Social Studies, a post she served in for the last 16 years. Griffin served NCSS in a variety of positions during her 36 years with the organization. Her service to the National Council for the Social Studies has been widely recognized by the social studies community. She was Chair of the Task Force of Professional Organizations that played a key role in the development and publication of the influential College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Enhancing Social Studies State Standards, which was published in 2013. During her time as Executive Director, NCSS also developed and published the revised National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies in 2010. Susan Griffin’s contributions and leadership as Executive Director will influence the entire field as we move forward. The Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies has always claimed Griffin, a Pittsburgh native, as our own and she has been a frequent attendee and presenter at our annual conferences.

CONGRATULATIONS to all of the award winners

For more information on our award winners, please visit our website:
http://pcssonline.org/

PCSS 63rd Annual Conference - October 20 - 22, 2016

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Deborah G. DeLauro 1984-1985 Margaret E. Clark 1957-1958
Leo R. West 1981-1982 C. Maxwell Myers 1954-1955

2016 PCSS AWARDS

Teacher of Year

Michael Healey - East Stroudsburg Area School District

Carrying member state flags at the Peace Bell Ringing Ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters, welcoming a United States Senate candidate to speak to over 130 students, accepting an American flag which flew over the Capitol building for our school district presented by our Congressman, introducing one of Forbes Magazines’ Most Powerful Women in the World to our administrative team, and being filmed by PBS for the documentary adaptation of the New York Times non-fiction Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide --- these are the experiences of my students, putting words into action, applying their Social Studies curriculum, and representing their community.

Developing our Social Studies curriculum and receiving the support of colleagues and administrators has given me the confidence, foundation, and platform to highlight the power of Social Studies education. In turn, my students become collaborators and leaders with a responsibility to mentor younger students of East Stroudsburg South High School.

I learned these skills over 13 years of teaching at East Stroudsburg South High School. During my undergraduate studies in Political Science at Dickinson College, I learned how to foster a spirit of collaboration and the integral role of community service. My liberal arts education included service and a wide range of courses in the humanities that enhanced each other. At Dickinson, I viewed curriculum as interconnected and interdependent. Spanish language courses included lessons on culture that seemed to speak with my classes in sociology which laid out centuries of human interaction, complimented by the study of world history, further strengthened by art history which taught me that the greatest stories ever written are also displayed in museums all over the world. Together, these experiences shaped my interdisciplinary vision for curriculum across the humanities. On this small campus in southern Pennsylvania, I was taught the value of global citizenship. It was also at this campus that I was encouraged to pursue my interest in global citizenship, studying abroad in a Spanish language immersion program in Malaga, Spain.

(cont on next page)
Teacher of Year - Michael Healey (cont)

Upon graduating from Dickinson, I enrolled in a graduate level teaching certification program at Marywood University and was hired by the East Stroudsburg Area School District shortly after completing my certification. I will complete a Master of Science degree from Wilkes University in Instructional Technology in May 2017. I have taught World History my entire career and have taught AP US Government and Politics for the last 4 years. With my wife Michele, a psychologist, I founded a social justice and global citizenship student group called United Nations ASPIRE. We are officially affiliated with the United Nations Academic Impact and have served as the model group globally for other schools to launch their own chapter.

I have sought creative ways to bridge gaps within my classroom and community and most importantly use lessons in the classroom to affect positive change through service and citizenship. Working with my students on Social Studies based initiatives, fund raisers, and speaker series has afforded opportunities for students and staff alike that have taken us to the United Nations on numerous occasions. For educating my students to be grassroots advocates for community health, we received the United Nations CTAUN Best Practices in Education Award in 2014. Our studies of current world issues includes an emphasis on gender inequality and inequity that lead to our hosting Pulitzer Prize Winner Sheryl WuDunn at our high school. For this, I was recognized with the Pennsylvania State Education Association Human Rights and Civil Rights Excellence in Education Award for 2013. Connecting my students to community and working with them to develop meaningful service learning based projects to support Social Studies curriculum has been a focus of mine over the last two academic years and I look forward to continuing this as part of all my classes. My students have fundraised $800 dollars donated to provide our Special Needs students with their very own Prom, we participate yearly in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund Walk, and have collected thousands of canned goods for homeless veterans in our local community.

The Leo West PCSS Award for Social Studies Awareness & Promotion

Ira Hiberman - Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies

Ira Hiberman is the tireless Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies and his work in this role has brought PCSS back from the brink of insolvency and irrelevance to the secure economic and educational position it holds today. A longtime administrator in Maryland and Pennsylvania, Hiberman is the heart of today's PCSS and he is the 2016 winner of Leo West PCSS Award for Social Studies Awareness & Promotion.

The Ruth Stas PCSS Award for Social Studies Sustainability

Mary Beth Tinker - Tinker Tour

Mary Beth Tinker wore an armband to school in December of 1965 and the rest, as they say, is history (“herstory”?). On February 24, 1969, the Supreme Court found that by suspending Tinker and her peers for wearing the armbands, the Des Moines School District violated the students’ First Amendment rights. The Supreme Court’s decision in Tinker still resonates today, as does Mary Beth, as she travels the country celebrating both the freedoms of the First Amendment and student activism.

The Kay Atman PCSS Award for Social Studies Innovation

John Papiano - AMY James Martin - School District of Philadelphia

John Papiano is an exceptional Philadelphia educator and the youth court instructor at AMY James Martin. He has institutionalized youth court as an important social studies and social justice element at his middle school and his field research of youth court success as an alternative to suspensions has won praise from politicians, law and justice professionals and educators. Go to observe his youth court (and he will invite you) and you are likely to see someone from the news as Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Kevin Dougherty and Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney have both visited (and praised) his program.
Future Leader
Nicholas Silveri - University of Pittsburgh (Student)

Nicholas Silver discovered his passion in social studies started when he was young reading Wikipedia articles. But it really took off in 8th grade when Mrs. Yurky, his history teacher, asked him to do the National History Bee. He was shy so he declined at first. She then got his friends to encourage him to do it. After that competition he placed first and qualified for nationals (which were televised on the History Channel) and the school had a big send-off with banners and everything. Now it has been reinvigorated by reading books in the fields of linguistics, archaeology, and ancient history.

His greatest accomplishment was when his team took 2nd at the National History Bowl, also in 8th grade year. At the state level, they got 1st in the Middle School Competition and 2nd in the JV competition (which was for 9th and 10th graders). Then, at nationals held in Washington’s Mt. Vernon Estate, they had a hard fought battle for 2nd. But they powered through and took the accomplishment.

He would really like to thank his parents and Mrs. Yurky. Without their support, “I would’ve never had the confidence to get out of my shell, do those competitions, and put me on the track I am now.” He is attending the University of Pittsburgh Honors College with a planned major in anthropology and linguistics with the intent to work in the field of archaeology.

Rendell Friend of Social Studies
Magisterial District Judge Andrea Duffy - Montgomery County District Court 38-1-18

Judge Andrea Duffy graduated from St. Joseph’s University in 1986 with a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice and minors in Political Science and Spanish. She graduated Temple University School of Law in 1990. Judge Duffy served as a Senior Deputy District Attorney in Bucks County for 7 years, concentrating on Child Abuse cases. Judge Duffy was also in private practice for several years prior to being elected to serve as a Magisterial District Judge in Montgomery County. After volunteer teaching in the Norristown Area School District for a year with their Civics program, Judge Duffy brought Law and Liberty to her home school district, North Penn School District, in 2012.

The Judge and her attorney volunteers will be in their fifth elementary school this upcoming academic year and they are truly thrilled with the growth of the program. Law and Liberty is a monthly program which covers vital topics such as Choosing a Political Leader, What Makes a Good Law, Juvenile Court, The Bill of Rights and our Constitution, as well as a contemporary session on Cyberbullying and the First Amendment. Judge Duffy also includes her perspective as a local judge and explains the dangers and risks associated with illegal activity, including underage drinking and drugs. Additionally, Judge Duffy introduced a law enforcement session this past year wherein a County Detective shared with the students his perspective of the legal system, his duties and the significance of responsible decision making. The program concludes with a mock trial presented by the students themselves and they are presented with a personalized certificate of completion.

Judge Duffy believes it is important that students feel comfortable with their local officials and to give them confidence that she and other adults in positions of authority want to assist them. There is ample time each week for questions and the students prove, by their insightful inquiries, that they are truly grasping the material and are eager to learn as much as possible about their roles as Americans.
PCSS Leadership Award
Julianne Petersen - Abington Junior High School, Assistant Principal

Ms. Petersen earned her BSED in Secondary Social Studies Education at West Chester University in 1992 and began her career teaching 8th and 9th grade social studies in Abington School District. After pursuing her Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership at Arcadia University, she became Chair of the Social Studies Department at Abington Junior High School in 2002. In 2013 she was appointed as Supervisor of Secondary Social Studies for Abington School District.

Under Ms. Petersen’s leadership, Abington’s social studies Advanced Placement program expanded to include Psychology, European History and World History which are taught along with long-existing Advanced Placement courses in Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, U.S. Government and Politics, and American History. Recently, with the inception of new elective courses—Topics in World Affairs, America as a World Power, Global Issues in the 21st Century, and History of Contemporary American Culture—the Social Studies department has expanded the lens through which students can view the world.

Ms. Petersen works closely with local leaders, community members, and alumni to create programs that provide students with the opportunity to meet and work with government officials and people who are involved with various parts of our legal system. Each year students in the twelfth grade volunteer to participate in Local Government Day with Abington Township officials. Over the past 2 years, Ms. Petersen worked with Common Pleas Judge Gary Silow to create a program that runs in conjunction with our AP United States Government & Politics course, allowing students to attend court, meet with ADA’s, Public Defenders, Probation Officers and Corrections officers. This year students in the ninth grade law elective will be working with Common Pleas Judge Gail Weilheimer, developing mock trials, visiting court rooms, and working with experts in the field of criminal justice.

Professional development is critical to a successful instructional program. Ms. Petersen develops plans for monthly department meetings as well as district-wide in-service days. These plans include sessions presented by Ms. Petersen and her staff members as well as programs offered by outside experts in the field.

This year, the department hosted representatives from the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center including a Holocaust survivor. Last year, Ms. Petersen brought Ms. Amy Cohen, Educational Director for Philadelphia: The Great Experiment

Ms. Petersen also lends her expertise to social studies curriculum development at the elementary level. She was a valuable resource for the Superintendent’s Committee to select a fourth-grade social studies program as well as for the team of elementary teachers who recently developed interactive whiteboard flipcharts to teach grades 4-5-6 students about “911”. To promote the importance of voting, each year Ms. Petersen develops an on-line mock election that mirrors the offices that are being filled in the General Election. All students in grades 4-12 participate in civics lessons and then are able to vote in the mock election.