



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Research & Development Committee 2011 Report

Chairman: Dr. James E. (Jim) Henderson

Professor of Educational Leadership

Director – UCEA Center for Educational Leadership and Social Justice
Duquesne University

The PASA Research and Development Committee is charged “to support and promote research on emerging issues which have the potential to improve education.”

Ten-Minute Survey

Last year the Committee conducted its poll of members to determine PASA research interests for 2010-11. The areas of potential research cited most frequently by PASA members included the following:

- School funding related matters
- The impact of PSERS “rate spike” on local school districts
- Student achievement issues
- Assessment systems and measures
- Cyber schools accountability and costs
- School district governance and board-superintendent relations

The 2010-11 PASA research interest list has been shared with educational leadership faculty members and graduate students in the Commonwealth’s universities and colleges. Moreover, the PASA research interests will guide the efforts of prospective PASA Research Fellows. The report was shared with PASA members via the *PASA Flyer*. The responses from PASA members will also guide the research interests of potential PASA Research Fellows.

PASA Research Fellows

The Committee has established a goal of encouraging educational leadership doctoral students from around the Commonwealth to pursue research in areas of interest to PASA members. In 2002 the PASA Board of Governors authorized the Committee to name – on an annual basis – PASA Research Fellows. These fellow designations, renewable annually and based upon the following guidelines, provide an efficient and economical way of highlighting the efforts of doctoral students and of encouraging on-point research efforts.

Educational leadership doctoral students may submit an application to the Research and Development Committee Chair at any time to be considered for the designation of PASA Research Fellow. The application must provide a précis of the research to be undertaken. Such award typically does not constitute any financial award to the student or obligation on the part of PASA. Rather, this designation is honorary and will enable the designated PASA Research Fellow to approach PASA members throughout the Commonwealth as the Fellow attempts to pursue the designated research. In essence, this designation says to the practicing school leader that the Fellow’s research carries PASA’s “Seal of Approval.”

Since 2002, when the program was initiated, the Committee has named twenty-one Fellows (see the following):

Elizabeth Hammond Yonson, Lehigh University, "Women's Career Pathways to the Superintendency in Pennsylvania," October 2002.

Christy Lynn, Duquesne University, "A Comparison of the Perceived Causes of Teacher Efficacy and the Significance of Teacher Attitude within the First, Third, and Fifth Grade Regular Education Classroom Setting," November 2002.

Janice M. Jordan, University of Connecticut, "A Study of How Pennsylvania Superintendents Use Data-Driven Decision-Making and Standard and Poor's *School Evaluation Services* to Understand and Improve District Performance," March 2003.

Shelly M. Riedel, Immaculata University, "Career Pathways of Women High School Principals," August 2004.

April Hershey, Duquesne University, "Factors Affecting the Aspirations and Career Path to the Superintendency: The Differences Between Men and Women," October 2004.

Lucy M. Haney, Immaculata University, "Teachers on Assignment: An Investigation into their Role and Contributions to School Improvement," October 2004.

Elizabeth A. McMahon, Duquesne University, "Authentic Leadership, Teacher Empowerment, and School Climate: An Exploratory Study," January 2005.

Pam Lenz, Duquesne University, "Teacher-School Board Member Trust Relationships and Their Perceived Influence on School Effectiveness," February 2005.

William Frick, The Pennsylvania State University, "An Investigation of Public School Administrators' Ethical Reasoning in Considering 'the Best Interests of the Student,'" March 2005.

Jacqueline Anne Kearns-Barber, Lehigh University, "Exploring the Relationship of Mentoring to Novice School Principals' Perceptions of Leadership Behaviors and Responsibilities," November 2005.

Barbara J. Kelly, Andrews University (MI), "The Perception of Female Hiring in Educational Administration in Rural Pennsylvania Public School Districts as Perceived by School Board Members," December 2005.

Michael Mahan, Marywood University, "The Utilization of Value-Added Assessment in Pennsylvania's Public Schools," August 2006.

Sherri L. Smith, Duquesne University, "Spiritual Leadership as an Effective Leadership Style for the Public School," January 2007.

Allen Sell, Duquesne University, "The Relationship between Spirituality and Authentic Leadership Behaviors of Public School Superintendents," February 2008.

Arthur Abrom, Widener University, "Pennsylvania's Superintendents: Current Thoughts on the State of Homeschooling," February 2008.

Brian Miller, Duquesne University, "Influence of a Collaborative Norming Process on Teacher Perceptions of Middle Level Team Structure and Development," February 2008.

Jane Coughenour, Duquesne University, "Teacher Perceptions of the Components of New Teacher Induction and Mentoring Programs," April 2008.

W. David Bowman, Widener University, "An Examination of Pennsylvania's Novice School Principals and Assistant Principals and the Impact of Transition Upon Job Satisfaction," September 2008.

Michael A.P. Jordan, Widener University, "Journey to Improvement: A Middle School's PSSA Experience," September 2008.

Chad Daloia, Duquesne University, "Examining Novice Teacher Development through the Clinical Supervision Process: A Participatory Action Research," September 2008.

Lori A. Suski, Widener University, "The Perceived Quality of Professional Development in Pennsylvania's Public School Districts," October 2008.

Robert Gildea, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, "Leadership Succession: The Impact of Applying Succession Management Strategies, Developing District Leaders and Promoting From Within an Organization on the Self-Perceived Degree of Preparation and Job Effectiveness of First Time Pennsylvania Superintendents," November 2010.

Dr. Henderson stands ready to accept and review additional completed applications. Those applications (and questions regarding the PASA Research Fellows program) may be submitted by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to Dr. Henderson at henderson@duq.edu

Next Steps

The Committee has continued the process of attempting to identify ways of developing and disseminating practical research information for PASA members keyed to their priority areas of interest. A major component of this effort has been attempting to engage faculty members and graduate students in the educational leadership and administration programs throughout the Commonwealth, though this has continued to be a source of frustration for the Committee Chair. Jim Buckheit met with Jim Henderson and urged contact directly with the PA Deans of Education Council. Jim H. sent the following e-mail to Dean Len Soroka of Holy Family University, this year's Convener of the PA Deans Council:

I'm sorry about the telephone tag, Dean Soroka. By way of background, I have been at Duquesne for 20 years as a professor and served as dean of the school from 1995 through 2003. Before that, though, I was in k-12 education for 22 years, the last 13 of which were in the school superintendency. I think that explains my great affiliation with the PA Association of School Administrators. I have been chair of the PASA Research and Development Committee and a member of the PASA Board since 1999. One of my greatest joys over that time was linking university professors and their students into PASA activities and people. That linking has proven to be a bit frustrating at times, though. I know that my university professor-colleagues are very busy with their teaching and research activities. I think we have a continued opportunity, though, for connecting practitioners—namely superintendents and other administrators in PASA—with our university colleagues. Jim Buckheit, Executive Director of PASA, and I would like to engage in a more systematic way of doing that. For PA doctoral granting institutions, we already have a means of connecting graduate students via the PASA Research Fellows designation. I've attached information regarding that program. We would like to create a means of encouraging more dialogue between school leader practitioners and scholars in the Commonwealth. We hope that the PA Deans might be interested in working with us. Selfishly, I'm also looking to replace myself on the Research and Development Committee and the PASA Board as I hope to retire in a few years. I hope that this outlines our hopes for enhanced collaboration. Perhaps this would

merit additional discussion? I'm also CCing Jim Buckheit as he may want to add additional perspective. Thank you for your interest and have a great holiday weekend. Best regards, Jim Henderson

Dean Soroka replied to us and has sent our PASA information and interest to all of his fellow deans around the Commonwealth. This could be a real breakthrough, thanks to Jim Buckheit. We have also been invited to a convening of the PA Deans of Education Council next spring to discuss mutual opportunities.

10/14/11