College of Education

PROUDLY PRESENTS... 13th Annual
There’s a Reason I’m a Teacher Conference
March 27, 2014

BEING A DYNAMIC TEACHER
IN AN EVER CHANGING SYSTEM

Featuring Keynote Speakers:

Jeffrey Charbonneau
2013 National Teacher of the Year

Beth Maloney
2014 Arizona Teacher of the Year

Torie Ellison
2013-2014 Arizona Rural Teacher of the Year

Also featuring Arizona Educational Foundation
Ambassadors for Excellence
presenting breakout sessions and educator panels to address
how to live in your classroom
being a dynamic teacher in an ever-changing system

7:30 a.m. - 3:30pm
College of Education Ashurst Auditorium
Ashurst Auditorium

8:00-9:10 – Welcome- Dean Michael Sampson
   Marshall Elementary Magnet School Suzuki Violinists
   STAR School students performing
   Morning Keynote Speaker – National Teacher of the Year Jeffrey Charbonneau Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering teacher
   Zillah High School  Zillah, WA

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9:20 – 10:30 – Breakout Session #1

10:45 – 11:55 – Breakout Session #2

12:00 – Lunch – COE front lobby, upstairs lobby and classroom hallway between rooms 170 and 174

Ashurt Auditorium

1:00 – 1:50 – Raffle Drawing
   Afternoon Keynote Speaker – Arizona Teacher of the Year – Beth Maloney  5th Grade Teacher Sunset Hills Elementary School  Surprise, AZ

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2:00 – 3:00 – Panels
Breakout Session #1 – 9:20 – 10:30 – College of Education

• Room 124 – Lessons from Our Favorite Teachers: Jonathan Parker
• Room 155 – The Student Teacher’s Survival Guide: How to Make the Most of Your Semester: Christine Sapio
• Room 170 – Teaching for Understanding, Not Memorizing: Tara Dale
• Room 174 – Teaching with Love: Torie Ellison
• Room 200 – Getting Ready for the First Day of School: Barb Tingle
• Room 201 – Read-Alouds in an Elementary Classroom: Dayna Burke
• Room 203 – Building Your Educational Philosophy & a Classroom Environment to Match: Beth Maloney
• Room 205 – Who is Doing the Math?: Tabetha Finchum

Breakout Session #2 – 10:45 – 11:55 – College of Education

• Room 124 – Lessons from Our Favorite Teachers: Jonathan Parker
• Room 155 – The Student Teacher’s Survival Guide: How to Make the Most of Your Semester: Christine Sapio
• Room 170 – Teaching for Understanding, Not Memorizing: Tara Dale
• Room 174 – Teaching with Love: Torie Ellison
• Room 200 – Getting Ready for the First Day of School: Barb Tingle
• Room 201 – Read-Alouds in an Elementary Classroom: Dayna Burke
• Room 205 – Who is Doing the Math?: Tabetha Finchum

Panels – 2:00 – 3:00 – College of Education

• Room 174 - If I Knew Then What I Know Now
• Room 200 – PARCC Assessment
• Room 205 - The State of Early Childhood Education
• Room 212 - Becoming a Legendary Teacher

Session Descriptions

Building Your Educational Philosophy and a Classroom Environment to Match Construct a personal philosophy of education. Be prepared for important questions in your interviews and make sure you end up at the right environment to match your personal philosophy. Enter your first classroom with brain research-based ideas on how to set up your classroom to be successful for you and your students.

Read-Alouds in an Elementary Classroom Participants considering teaching elementary school will benefit from this session. We will discuss attributes of an effective read aloud, how to select appropriate books to integrate literature across curricula, and techniques in reading to students.

Teaching for Understanding, Not Memorizing With today’s facts at your fingertips (Siri, what is the capitol of Zimbabwe?) we need to teach students to think, not to memorize facts. But how do you teach students to think and test for understanding? I will show you strategies you can
use in your classroom that are easy to implement and free to use! It will make your class more interesting for all kinds of students.

**Who is doing the math?** Have you ever observed a math lesson where the teacher is doing more of the math than the students? Have you met discouraged teachers who are frustrated that their students are not retaining the concepts that they have learned or worse yet not learning the concepts at all? In order for mathematics to make sense for students they must build their own understanding through problem-based mathematics. Join us to examine the core differences between a problem-based approach to mathematics and a direct instruction approach. Find out how teaching in a problem-based format not only increases understanding but also supports the College and Career Ready Standards and the Standards for Mathematical Practice.

**Lessons from our favorite teachers** What are the characteristics of our most powerful teachers? What lessons or wisdom might they impart? This session explores not only the attributes of great teachers, but also examines the powerful responsibility and limitless opportunity each educator enjoys to shape lives.

**The Student Teacher’s Survival Guide: How to Make the Most of Your Semester** Does the thought of stepping foot in the classroom full-time make your heart race with excitement…and fear? Your student teaching can make or break your career as a teacher: don’t go in unprepared! This presentation will focus on practical tips and tricks drawn from my own life-changing semester, as well as my experience mentoring five student teachers. Bring your burning questions!

**Getting Ready for the First Day of School** A positive, welcoming and fun first day can set the tone of a whole school year for students, parents and teachers. In this workshop you’ll see and hear a variety of ways for teachers to get themselves, their classrooms, their class parents and students ready for the big event even before the first bell rings. Information and strategies will be geared towards the kindergarten level but can easily be adapted for higher primary grades.

**Teaching with Love** My belief that all children can learn as long as you reach them, ensures that my students are always actively engaged. This is where the “teaching with love” comes in... I have to reach my students. I have to know about them, to know who they are, what they like, where they come from and what inspires them. I do this by creating a safe, trusting and loving environment in my classroom. I get to know their families and have an open door policy with them. I want families to know that they are lending me their most prized possession and I will do my best to make sure that their possession flourishes. My compassion and heart for these children every day ensures that they know the depth of my love for them, this creates success for everyone involved.
If I Knew Then What I Know Now – Recognized Arizona teachers share their insight from the first day of school to where they are today

PARCC Assessment - What next-generation assessments look like, how they are different than AIMS, how to use that knowledge to build formative assessments in the classroom

The State of Early Childhood Education – Current news, issues and trends in Early Childhood Education

Becoming a Legendary Teacher – Stories of legendary teachers and their journeys to inspire us all

Keynote Speakers

Jeffrey Charbonneau: 2013 National Teacher of the Year – Charbonneau teaches at Zillah High School (ZHS) in Zillah, Washington, where he has spent his entire 12-year teaching career. He has a Bachelor of Science in Biology and was a member of the William O. Douglas Honors College at Central Washington University, and holds a Masters of Education from Central Washington University. He is a National Board Certified teacher. He has received numerous awards, among them being various business donations and grants totaling more than $25,000 to support the ZHS Robot Challenge, of which he is founder and director.

Beth Maloney: 2014 Arizona Teacher of the Year – Beth Maloney is currently in her fourteenth year of teaching and enjoys every minute of her time in the classroom. She’s taught kindergarten, third grade, and is currently teaching fifth grade at Sunset Hills Elementary School in the Dysart Unified School District in Surprise. Beth is a National Board Certified Teacher and a Candidate Support Provider for the Arizona K-12 Center for National Board candidates in Dysart and around the state. Beth is honored to be the Arizona Education Foundation’s 2014 Teacher of the Year and appreciates having the opportunity to represent the teachers of Arizona.

Presenters

Torie Ellison: 2013-2014 Arizona Rural Teacher of the Year  Some of my fondest childhood memories occurred in a makeshift classroom that my granny provided for me in the basement of our country farm house in White Deer, Texas. It was in that place that my passion to be a teacher was born at the age of 6 years old. My teaching experience ranges from 2nd to 5th grade. In these years, special education is where I found my passion. It was in Arizona that I took a job teaching in a severe and profound elementary classroom.

Dayna Burke: Dayna Burke teaches first grade at Sahuarita Primary School in Sahuarita, AZ. She is a member of her district’s Professional Development Team, an instructional coach as well as a new teacher mentor. She was named 2013 Teacher of the Year for her school and district, Freeport McMoRan’s Teacher of the Year, Metropolitan Education Commission’s 2014
Crystal Apple Teacher and one of the Arizona Educational Foundation’s 2014 Ambassadors for Excellence.

**Tara Dale:** Tara Dale is a 7th grade science teacher at Akimel A-al Middle School in the Kyrene School District. She has her Bachelors of Science degrees in Psychology and Biology from Arizona State University. She earned her Master’s in Secondary Education from University of Phoenix. Tara was most recently named an Arizona Education Foundation’s 2014 Ambassador for Excellence. Her passion lies in teaching students to think, not memorize.

**Tabetha Finchum:** Tabetha Finchum has taught fourth grade in Tucson, Arizona for 10 years. She holds degrees in Elementary Education and Post-Secondary Education from the University of Arizona and Troy University. Tabetha is part of a five-year fellowship through the University of Arizona called the Arizona Master Teachers of Mathematics Program. Through her work in this program, she has extensively studied equity and the use of problem-based learning in elementary mathematics.

**Jonathan Parker:** Jonathan Parker graduated from University of Redlands with degrees in Political Science and Psychology, earning a Masters’ in American Government from American University. At Thunderbird High School, he currently serves as an AP US History teacher, football coach, Department Chair, mentor teacher, and President of the professional teachers’ association. Finally, he is the son of two teachers, proud father of two extraordinary children, and fortunate husband of a wonderful wife.

**Christine Sapio:** Christine began teaching as an undergrad working at Girl Scout Camp and US Space Camp. She’s been teaching physics for 8 years at Coconino High School and coaches the award-winning “CocoNuts” FIRST Robotics Team. Christine’s boundless energy, infectious enthusiasm, and passion for STEM are her favorite teaching tools. In 2013, Christine was a finalist for Coconino County and Arizona Teacher of the Year and named High School Science Teacher of the Year by the Arizona Science Teachers Association.

**Barb Tingle:** Barb Tingle has been teaching kindergarten for 13 years and believes that classrooms should support curiosity, variety and enthusiasm to inspire a love for learning within the framework of a child-centered, nurturing, and fun environment. Barb has a Master’s degree in Early Childhood Education as well as a Reading Specialist endorsement and was chosen as a 2010 Arizona Ambassador for Excellence by the AZ Education Association.
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