PROUDLY PRESENTS...

There’s A Reason I Am a Teacher Conference
April 4, 2013

Featuring Keynote Speakers:

Rebecca Mieliwocki
2012 National Teacher of the Year

Nancie Lindblom
2013 Arizona Teacher of the Year

Marlene Armstrong
2012-2013 Arizona Rural Teacher of the Year

Also featuring Arizona K-12 Teacher Ambassadors
presenting breakout sessions and educator panels to address
the Common Core Standards movement

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

8:00-9:10 – Welcome- Dean Michael Sampson  
*Dancing Grannies*  
Morning Keynote Speaker – National Teacher of the Year  
*Rebecca Mieliocki*  
*English teacher*  
*Luther Burbank Middle School  Los Angeles, CA*

College of Education

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

Ashurst Auditorium

1:00 – 1:50 – Raffle Drawing  
Afternoon Keynote Speaker – Arizona Teacher of the Year  
*Nancie Lindblom*  
*AP US History teacher*  
*Skyline High School  Mesa, AZ*

College of Education

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

- Room 170 - **Making Math Meaningful**: Lindsey Connor
- Room 174 - **GETTING Students, Parents and Teachers Ready for the First Day of School**: Barb Tingle
- Room 189 - **FREE Technology Tools for Teachers**: Marlene Armstrong
- Room 200 - **What it MEANS to be a Teacher and Common Core**: Jamie Valderrama
- Room 201 - **Active Participation the Key to Student Motivation**: Nancie Lindblom
- Room 202 - **Project Based Learning in the 21st Century**: Becky Cavazos
- Room 211 - **Save the Drama for your Mama: Keeping Middle School Emotions in Check** – Jose Snook
- Room 212 – **Transition to Common Core in AZ: How Deep is your Knowledge?** – Kristie Martorelli

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

- Room 170 - **Making Math Meaningful**: Lindsey Connor
- Room 174 - **GETTING Students, Parents and Teachers Ready for the First Day of School**: Barb Tingle
- Room 189 - **FREE Technology Tools for Teachers**: Marlene Armstrong
- Room 200 - **What it MEANS to be a Teacher and Common Core**: Jamie Valderrama
- Room 202 - **Project Based Learning in the 21st Century**: Becky Cavazos
- Room 211 - **Save the Drama for your Mama: Keeping Middle School Emotions in Check** – Jose Snook
- Room 212 – **Transition to Common Core in AZ: How Deep is your Knowledge?** – Kristie Martorelli

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

- Room 174 - **Integrating Common Core Into the Classroom**
- Room 204 – **Special Education**
- Room 211 - **If I Knew Then What I Know Now**
- Room 201 - **Set Your Sights High – Life Long Learning – Become a National Board Certified Teacher**
**Session Descriptions**

**Project Based Learning in the 21st Century:** An overview of Project Based Learning will be provided, accompanied by snapshots of actual projects taken on by my 3rd and 4th graders. Participants will see how the Common Core Standards are supported with Project Based Learning, and how 21st century skill development is inherent in a PBL approach.

**What it MEANS to be a Teacher and Common Core:** Appropriate for K-12 Join Jamie on an interactive adventure of preparing all children to become critical, adaptable thinkers in today's bold new world of common core. You will laugh, learn and grow as we talk about how to prepare our kids for the academic knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, career and life.

**FREE Technology Tools for Teachers:** Teachers will examine and explore technology integration strategies available for them to use in their classrooms. Teachers will be exposed to various FREE application tools, instructional software, productivity software and internet-based programs. Teachers will identify advantages of using technology integration and will leave with resources that they can implement in their current classrooms. All the tools are FREE.

**Active Participation the Key to Student Motivation:** How do we motivate students to want to learn? Making students an active part of the learning process instills within them an ownership over their own learning and creates an environment of success. This session will include strategies to engage students in the learning process and create a classroom of active participation.

**Making Math Meaningful:** Join Lindsey and participate in an engaging study of making mathematics INTERESTING. Throw out the workbooks, put away the textbooks, and warm up your brain! Common core instruction is anything but traditional, so join in on an adventure to experience new and exciting ways of exploring math skills. Appropriate for all grade-level teachers, this experience is bound to energize your instructional activities and plans.

**Transition to Common Core in AZ: How Deep Is Your Knowledge?** - Participants will discuss some reasons why Arizona educators are supportive of the change to the Common Core Standards, what the transition will mean for how teachers teach and what next steps are needed to help facilitate this process so that all Arizona students can graduate from high school ready for college and careers.

**Save the Drama for your Mama: Keeping Middle School Emotions in Check** - This presentation centers on connecting with students (especially in the age range of 12-15) and how to deal with the emotional roller coaster they can sometimes ride. The presentation will discuss some successes I have had helping to get students on track in their learning using drama, choir, and good old fashioned listening. Also integrated in the presentation will be ideas for using music as a tool in any classroom.

**GETTING Students, Parents and Teachers 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.
What Do Kids Do While I’m Teaching Small Groups? - A Guide to Rigorous and Relevant Literacy Stations: We will be taking a look at how to place the big 5 reading ideas (comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, phonemic awareness, phonics) in literacy stations that support common core instruction with emphasis on rigor and relevancy. Teacher candidates will gain knowledge in what makes a literacy station over a center and how to differentiate the stations for all students to be successful.

Panel Descriptions

Integrating Common Core Into the Classroom: Seasoned classroom teachers will share their experience and methods for integrating the new Common Core Standards into K-12 content areas.

Special Education: We are all teachers of exceptional students. Discover how working teachers awaken genius in all of our children. Listen to expert educators share their gifts in bringing the Common Core alive.

If I Knew Then What I Know Now: Several of Arizona’s top teachers will share their expertise on translating theory – what you’ve learned as a student at NAU’s College of Education – into practice – what you’ll actually be expected to do as a classroom teacher. They will share their own personal experiences of how to deal with the emotions and the ups and downs of transition from college to classroom. They will share techniques and activities they have adopted to integrate the arts, social justice, real-world learning, creativity, ethics/character development, workplace skills, technology, and more into the prescribed curriculum.

Set Your Sights High – Life Long Learning – Become a National Board Certified Teacher: Nationally Board Certified Teachers working in local schools will share the importance and power of professional development. Your education does not end with graduation. In this session you will learn how to take the next steps to enhance your career as a teacher.

Keynote Speakers

Rebecca Mieliwocki: 2012 National Teacher of the Year – Rebecca is a 7th grade English teacher at Luther Burbank Middle School. She has been teaching for 14 years and has spent 9 years in her current position. Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication from California Polytechnic State University and her professional clear credential in Secondary English Education from California State University Northridge.

Nancie Lindblom: 2013 Arizona Teacher of the Year – Nancie graduated from Northern Arizona University in 1995 with a Bachelors degree in social studies education. She currently teaches AP US History and American Government at Skyline High School in the Mesa Public School District.
**Presenters**

**Marlene Armstrong: 2012-2013 Arizona Rural Teacher of the Year**
Marlene came into her career in education late in life, quite by accident. Once she tasted the joy of working with children, she applied for a classified technology teaching position at Frontier Elementary School. She is currently teaching at both Rim Country Middle School and Payson High School, having piloted the first rural Arizona engineering program.

**Becky Cavazos:** Becky was born and raised in Tucson. She received her Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Arizona in elementary education. She has been teaching for 29 years (gr. 1-4), and is currently teaching 4th grade at Borton Magnet School in Tucson Unified School District. She is also the coach of the after-school Cross Country and Softball teams.

**Lindsey Connor:** Lindsey Connor is a 7th Grade Pre-Algebra teacher at San Tan Elementary, located in Gilbert, AZ. Currently in her fifth year of teaching, Lindsey was recently recognized as the 2012 Higley Unified School District Teacher of the Year by fellow colleagues and coworkers. She now serves as a 2013 Arizona Ambassador of Excellence. Lindsey contributes her love of teaching to previous teachers and the love of instilling the importance of education in her students. Lindsey is currently obtaining her MEd in Educational Administration from Arizona State University and looks to begin her National Board Certification Process this Spring.

**Kristie Martorelli:** Kristie is the K-3 reading interventionist at Thompson Ranch Elementary School. She has a Master’s degree in Educational Administration and Supervision and another in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Language Arts, as well as Reading & ELL endorsements. The Arizona Educational Foundation named Kristie the 2012 Arizona Teacher of the Year and in 2012 Northern Arizona University awarded her an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

**Jose Snook:** José “Chach” Snook is a professional singer/actor turned teacher who teaches choir and drama at Flowing Wells Jr. High School in Tucson, AZ. His passion is teaching—the art of teaching and the teaching of the arts. Having graduated from Northern Arizona University, lived in and performed in New York City and growing up in Napa, California, he now, happily, calls Tucson, Arizona home.

**Barb Tingle:** Barb has been teaching kindergarten for 12 years. She 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. She has enjoyed the roles of mentor and cognitive coach while working with new teachers and regularly welcomes interning students into her classroom.

**Jamie Valderrama:** Jamie has been a biology teacher for the last ten years at Higley High School in Gilbert, Arizona where she was named Teacher of the Year for both the high school and the district in 2009. Currently, Jamie sits on the education curriculum board for Grand Canyon University, teaches Integrative Health for Arizona State University and is working with both Arizona State University’s school of education and the Smithsonian to take both experienced and pre-service K-6 teachers to Panama during the summers to teach them how to effectively teach science in the classroom.
Joy Weiss: Joy Weiss, BA.E., MA.E., D.H.L., has 14 years teaching experience in kinder, first and third and third/fourth combo classrooms. She is currently earning a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership. Joy is passionate and committed to ensuring that all students have a quality education that inspires the love of life-long learning.

Special Thanks to:

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
College of Education

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And the following College of Education Student Organizations:

Future Teachers Club
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NAEYC NAU
TASH NAU

Thank you for your donations!! Star School will be this year’s recipient of all food and books thanks to your generosity!