



Students Will Love You, and You'll Change Their Lives

Be a World Class Teacher



You Can Change Negative Attitudes Starting With You

BATON ROUGE — It may not be easy to be a world-class teacher but every teacher has the potential to be one, according to well-known author and inspirational speaker Annette Breaux.

Ms. Breaux told educators attending A+PEL's Annual Leadership Development Conference in Baton Rouge, "You can be the kind of teacher whom students love and remember — the kind of teacher who changes students' lives!"

Breaux says when people observe a world-class teacher in the classroom, they leave and say "Wow!"

"When you listen to a world-class teacher anywhere, you know they love teaching and they are good at it!"

The world-class teacher always appears happy, Breaux says.

Great teachers "never appear ready to crash and burn," she says. "You weren't hired to 'be real.' You were hired to be great and change lives."

"These are the teachers students love! These are the teachers who

See **YOU CAN** on Page 8

IT'S WORKING ALREADY — Speaker Annette Breaux (right) received high praise after her talk at the A+PEL Leadership Conference in Baton Rouge. She said any teacher can be outstanding if he or she follows some simple rules. Teachers really got her message!

Common Core University Jump Starts School Year

BATON ROUGE — Classroom teachers and other educators from across the state packed the Louisiana Resource Center for Educators in Baton Rouge July 29 for A+PEL's first-ever Common Core

University. The event was sold-out.

Attendees had the opportunity to take part in more than a dozen mini-courses. First-year teachers mixed with veteran educators to explore new approaches to cur-

riculum and testing that will come about because of common core.

Courses offered included:

- Common Core 101 — English Language Arts Instructional Shifts by Lee Ann Wall.

- CC 102 — Math Instructional Shifts by Chanda Johnson

- CC 201 — Common Core in the Electives by B. J. Bertucci

- CC 202 — Selecting Appropriate

See **COMMON** on Page 4

A+PEL Grooms Future Leaders

2013 Conference Draws Educators From Across State

BATON ROUGE — Some of Louisiana's top educators gathered at the Renaissance Hotel in Baton Rouge July 18-19 for A+PEL's annual Leadership Development Conference.

It was opportunity for A+PEL members to meet old and new friends and brush up on skills

On Thursday afternoon, attorney Wesley Johnson discussed state and federal issues involving student discipline. She stressed the importance of understanding

See **A+PEL** on Page 5



THANK YOU — First-year teacher Ashton Ebarb (right) of Sabine Parish thanked A+PEL speakers Julie Stephenson and Whitney Whealdon. "You've helped me so much!" she said.

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Completing 1st Term in Office

Meet Lee Ann Wall, President of A+PEL

A+PEL's Leader Is Organization's No. 1 Volunteer

IOTA, Louisiana — Growing up in the rich French culture and traditions of Acadia Parish, A+PEL state president Lee Ann Wall has always built her life around home and family. But not far behind those commitments have been education and athletics.

As a teenager, she tutored other children. She soon got the attention of Jesse Joubert, a teacher who later became Lee Ann's principal. Joubert counseled Lee Ann to consider a career in teaching. In her second year of college, she switched her major to education, and life has never been the same since!

Lee Ann earned a Bachelor's degree from University of Louisiana at Lafayette, her Masters from McNeese, and her EDS from LSU. Now, 17 years later, she's an instructional assistant at Iota Middle School, which feeds into her alma mater, Iota High School. Her husband, Jephtha Wall, is defensive coordinator for the Crowley High football team.

Jephtha and Lee Ann have two children, Regan, 10, and Zeke, 7.

At the Wall household, most things at this time of the year revolve around school and football. "I wake up in the morning and there in bed is my husband watching game films on his iPad!"

Lee Ann's husband Jephtha definitely has football in his DNA. His father was a well known football coach in the area for 40 years.

Lee Ann is proud of her school and community. "We live in a good rural community. Academically, we are very strong. Families want to send their children to our school because of the academics."

Lee Ann was drawn to A+PEL early in her teaching career. "It wasn't a hard decision for me to join A+PEL. I loved the professionalism. A+PEL takes the view that the educator can be a strong, positive influence on the community — a role model. The scholarships and grants and the great education and training were added bonuses."

What does she see as A+PEL's role in education in Louisiana today?

"A+PEL is one of the organizations helping implement positive programs in our schools and helping inspire teachers in a positive way," she said.

"One of our goals is to help teachers grow professionally, and to assure them that what they are



A+PEL PRESIDENT THANKS COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER — Lee Ann Wall, president of A+PEL, congratulated Teddy Nall of Calcasieu Parish on his service as a volunteer in the schools. Nall serves on A+PEL's state Community Advisory Council.

“There are many new initiatives and many new expectations today. But at A+PEL, instead of saying it can't be done, we see our role as making sure it IS done! So we have to sharpen our skills and make it happen!”

— Lee Ann Wall, President, A+PEL

doing is right.”

“We are there for the teacher.”

“At the same time, our primary goal is to be a voice for the students. They need a spokesman, and that is one of our most important roles.”

“There are many new initiatives and many new expectations today. But, at A+PEL, instead of saying it can't be done, we see our role as making sure it IS done! So we have to sharpen our skills and make it happen!”

One of Lee Ann's major goals is to make sure educators and the general public understand as much as possible about the new Common Core standards. As an organization, A+PEL has taken no position on Common Core but says that it is important that people understand what Common Core is and is not.

“There is so much misinformation out there today,” Wall said.

“Common Core is not a national curriculum or even a state curricu-

lum. Rather, it sets standards for curricula used in public schools.”

Last week, a Lafayette TV station ran a story about a child bringing home an assignment on rap music. Parents blamed the assignment on Common Core. But Lee Ann said that is completely incorrect. “Again, Common Core is not a curriculum and no assignment such as that is being dictated by Common Core or Common Core standards,” she said. “That's simply not what Common Core is about.”

Insofar as the future of A+PEL, Mrs. Wall sees the organization continuing to push for student excellence and achievement.

“We want our students in Louisiana to be on a level playing field with those from other states, and we want to reduce the need for our students to take remedial courses. We want to provide the professionalism that will help our students be successful in college and their careers.”

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A+PEL's Community Advisory Council

Education Is Still About the People Who Really Care

BATON ROUGE — A+PEL's first annual Community Advisory Council Roundtable discussion was held July 19 at the Renaissance Hotel in Baton Rouge.

Much of the Roundtable discussion was centered on teachers' and parents' responsibilities in developing a successful working relationship among the school, parents, and the community.

A+PEL members and parent activists discussed ways for teachers and parents to collaborate on how to help students earn higher grades, boost test scores and improve student attitudes about education. The group listed four characteristics of a successful school where parents and teachers work harmoniously:

- Provides a positive learning experience
- Provides environment where students feel welcome and view the school as a non-threatening setting
- Presents a balanced curriculum with every subject given importance, and
- Recognizes students' different learning styles.

A+PEL plans to hold a Community Advisory Council meeting annually. If interested in becoming a member of this Council, contact Polly Broussard, 225-933-2349.



A+PEL COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS HONORED — (Left to right) A+PEL's Janet Anderson, Nichole Sitz of Ascension Parish, Rene Lewis-Carter, and Larry Hammond, who serves at a charter school in New Orleans, were honored at Governor's Mansion.



A+PEL COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS — (Left to right) Teddy Nall of Calcasieu Parish, Larry Hammond of New Orleans, A+PEL executive director Polly Broussard, Mindy Gonzales of Rapides Parish, and Nichole Sitz of Ascension Parish at A+PEL Leadership Conference in Baton Rouge. At right, Mindy Gonzales is honored at the Governor's Mansion for her service.

American Studies Conference Draws Crowd in Baton Rouge

BATON ROUGE — The J.Y. Sanders American Studies Conference has been held every June for the past 10 years, providing participants with valuable historical knowledge that is intended to enhance student learning. The conference is made possible through

generous funding from the J.Y. Sanders Foundation.

This year's event was a huge success. Forty educators gathered from around the state at the offices of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI) to hear remarkable presentations

by Charles Elliot, Dr. Paul Leslie, Roger Busbice, and Andrew Capone. One participant said, "I now have a more in-depth knowledge of the importance of New Orleans in the Civil War as well as Abraham Lincoln's priorities in fighting the war to bring to my students."

Charles Elliot, a native of Baton Rouge and a professor of Louisiana and American history at Southeastern Louisiana University, presented *Carnival Interrupted: The Queen City at War*. Dr. Paul Leslie, a professor of American his-

See 10TH on Page 8

Webinar: Discipline



Discipline Diagnosis: A Closer Look at Classroom Management

A Webinar for Educators

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 10, 2013

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Common Core University Brought



COMMON CORE UNIVERSITY — (Left photo) Stacy Dellafosse and Michelle Joubert attended A+PEL’s training program in Baton Rouge. At right, Ruth Bonner-Thompson and Ann Riley



COMMON CORE TRAINING— (Left to right) Kelli Bottger of A+PEL, Jamie and Denise Stelly, and Robyn Hutchinson at the Louisiana Resource Center for Educators

Common Core University Was Sold-Out; Another Next Spring

Continued from Page 1

ate Text Complexity and Text Based Questions by Julie Stephenson

- CC 203 — The Tri-State Rubric, Content Frameworks, and Evidence Tables by Lee Ann Wall
- CC 301 — Math Instructional Shifts (Advanced) by Chanda Johnson
- CC 302 — PARCC: A Complete Guide to Assessment Design by Susan Kahn
- CC 303 — Closer Examination: PARCC Item Prototypes by Rebecca Freeland
- CC 304 — The Literacy Design Collaborative: A Common Core Framework by Sheila Banks
- CC 305 — Elementary School: Selecting Age Appropriate Texts to Support the CCSS by Karen Parrino
- CC 401 — The Literacy Design Collaborative: A Common Core Framework for Science and Technical Subjects by Sheila Banks
- CC 402 — CCSS Appendices: Text Complexity, Performance Tasks, and Student Writing Samples by Julie Stephenson
- CC 403 — Louisiana Department of Education Toolkit for Teachers by Whitney Whealdon

The next Common Core University is planned for the spring of 2014 on a date to be announced.



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Winning Strategies to La. Teachers



TAKING A BREAK FROM INTENSIVE SESSIONS— (Left to right) Maya Bennett, Amanda Austin, Michelle Williams, Nicki Stroup, Michelle Braud, and B. J. Bertucci.



COMMON CORE — (Left photo) Andy Kling, Grace Babin, Nicole Mayers, and Kadrian Herbert. At right, Natalie McKinney, Christie Spohn, Jennifer Galloway, and Dot Castello.

A+PEL Leadership Conference: Not-to-Be-Missed Annual Event

Continued from Page 1

the local school board’s policies on student discipline, which represent a teacher’s legal requirements at the local level. She said the courts stand behind teachers far more than one might expect.

Master teacher Miranda Rupnarain had the educators fully engaged as she taught them some strategies for cooperative learning. Her plan to “Stand Up — Hands Up — Pair Up” had attendees in the aisles, talking, laughing, and participating.

At Thursday’s banquet, A+PEL

honored scholarship winners and out-going chapter presidents. Special recognition went to student teacher Jazlyn Leger of McNeese State, who was awarded a scholarship in honor of the late Deborah Nelson of A+PEL.

Contractor Eddie Rispono urged A+PEL to continue its support for education reform in Louisiana.

On Friday morning, Louisiana schools Supt. John White thanked A+PEL for its support of education reform and called on the group to continue its commitment to high educational standards.



BATON ROUGE CONTRACTOR Eddie Rispono and wife Linda called on A+PEL to continue its support for education reform. The Rispones are major supporters of A+PEL and have produced a movie, *The Experiment*, which shows the transformative power of education. Shown with A+PEL’s Polly Broussard at A+PEL’s Leadership Development Conference in Baton Rouge.

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A+PEL's Annual Leadership Conference



A+PEL's scholarship winner Jazlyn Leger with A+PEL director Polly Broussard



A+PEL's Paula Singleton



A+PEL's presidents — past, present, and future —



A+PEL chapter president Juanita Hall and membership director Jennifer Andrews



Karen Callender of LSU



A+PEL's chapter presidents at A+PEL



A+PEL board members Michelle Abadie, Kellye Hoogland, and Shirley Owens



Presenter Miranda Ruparain



Some of A+PEL's student members gathered



A+PEL board member Keith Leger makes a point during a session.



Rep. Frank Hoffman spoke.



MERMENTAU ELEMENTARY, led by

Conference Brought New Ideas, Approaches



Kenneth Jenkins, Lee Ann Wall, and Mitzi Murray



A+PEL board member Michelle Abadie



Louisiana Supt. of Education John White addressed A+PEL delegates.



A+PEL Leadership Conference in July



A+PEL president Lee Ann Wall

**A+PEL Annual
Leadership Conference
Baton Rouge
July 17-18, 2013**



Delegates during the A+PEL Leadership Conference.



Some of A+PEL's student members at A+PEL Leadership Conference.



Calcasieu Parish delegates to A+PEL's annual Leadership Conference



Principal Melvyn Smith, sent a large delegation to A+PEL's Leadership Conference.



A+PEL members discussing university-level service projects

You Can Be a World Class Teacher

Learn to Control Many Difficult Situations That You Encounter

Continued from Page 1

can get even the most challenging students to do anything!" she said.

Breaux said a great teacher can work with alternative students with phenomenal results. "One teacher had students who had been in jail and averaged three years behind grade level. Yet, under this teacher's guidance, 27 of 29 passed the LEAP tests."

If you're working with students who have behavioral problems, there are two rules to follow, she said. They are:

- First, smile all the time. "It's almost impossible for a kid to misbehave when the teacher is smiling at him."

- Second, believe in the student. "And if you don't believe in the student, pretend to believe in him!" One student who had a long history of criminal activities turned his life around because of his teacher. When she asked him why he changed, he told her, "You believed in me. So I believed in you!"

Breaux says you must take students where they are. Then take small steps at first. Be sure the student experiences success.

Breaux says the contrast between good teachers and ineffective teachers is stark. "One ineffective teacher will impact a school's test results two years later," she said. On the other hand, "a good teacher will save more lives than a good surgeon," she says.

"The teacher is the single most important factor in education," she says. "What would you choose," she asks, "a school with no resources but great teachers or a school with great resources but ineffective teachers?"

Breaux has a plan for improving student achievement and making



ANNETTE BREAU — Author and inspirational speaker Annette Breaux, a former teacher, earned rave reviews from attendees at A+PEL's annual Leadership Conference in Baton Rouge. Breaux is the author of *Making Good Teaching Great* and other books.

a difference, even without a program, without the latest reforms, and without the fancy terminology.

Some of Breaux's rules include:

- Understanding the teacher is a role model

- Knowing our actions speak louder than our words. "In communication, the words count for seven percent, the tonality for 38 percent, and our actions for 55 percent," she says.

- Having clear rules, although only a few. "Ninety percent of all discipline problems come when kids talk," she says.

- Making sure there's a consequence for violating the rules

- Keeping students in class during recess is one of the most effective tools for discipline

- Serving the students. "I walk around the room doing things for them, such as sharpening their pencils."

- Looking stupidly happy to see the students. "Make it personal!" she says. "Be elated to see them! It's fun to mess with students' minds. They think I'm miserable without them! Use the 'Are you al-

right?' technique to find out what's going on."

- Never engage in a power struggle.

- Be kind ahead of being right. "It's not always easy to be kind!" she says.

- "We're not the victims of our kids but their role models."

- "There are days when you feel lousy or frustrated. So just put on your biggest smile. Every year there are four days you don't want to be there — Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday! That's okay, just smile!"

"Teach with enthusiasm, even if you don't feel enthusiastic!"

"Students should feel that the subject you are teaching them is your favorite subject!"

"Praise everything they do that is good. Babies learn to speak by saying 'Dada' and we praise them. We photo them, video them, and clap. Every student needs to be praised and applauded as well."

"The textbook is a 'resource,' but **you** are the teacher!"

"**You** are the one who makes the difference in the classroom!"



"Teaching is a unique profession because you have to start over every year, indeed every day."

A+PEL's literature promoting Annette Breaux's appearance at the conference said, "She leaves her audiences with practical techniques teachers can implement in their classrooms immediately. Administrators say they see results from their teachers the very next day."

After her talk, the promotional materials seemed more than justified. Ms. Breaux was surrounded by happy, smiling teachers who thanked her for her guidance and inspiration.

Breaux says she hopes teachers will add practicality and personality to their teaching. She wants teachers to touch their students' lives and use common sense and creative teaching techniques.

For more on Ms. Breaux's philosophy, see her books, including *101 Answers for New Teachers and Their Mentors*, *Seven Simple Secrets: What the Best Teachers Know and Do*, and *50 Ways to Improve Student Behavior*.

10th Year of Gov. J. Y. Sanders American Studies Conference

Continued from Page 3

tory at Nicholls State University, spoke on the Siege of Port Hudson and the Louisiana Native Guards.

Roger Busbice, the program coordinator, former director of legal services for A+PEL, a retired teacher, and adjunct instructor of history

at Nicholls State University and the LSU OLLI Program, presented Baton Rouge, the Teche, and Bayou Lafourche: A Brief Overview.

Finally, Andrew Capone, the founder and president of the Fort Butler Foundation, spoke on Francis T. Nicholls: Soldier and States-

man.

One participant said she will use the presented information "to enrich my students' studies of the Civil War with a local connection." Another participant said she will use Louisiana history to get students motivated." Educators

earned continuing education credit hours for their participation in the conference.

In addition, one participant from the conference was awarded a J.Y. Sanders Scholarship to use in enhancing her professional career.

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J.Y. Sanders American Studies Conference
— The 10th annual conference was held at the offices of Louisiana Association of Business & Industry. The event included a video message from U.S. Sen. David Vitter.



On the Frontlines | North Live Oak

Science, Math, English Immersion

Karen Parrino's Kindergartners Soar Higher with New Curriculum

Kelli Bottger
Governmental Relations, A+PEL

WATSON — Step into a new world of discovery in Mrs. Karen Parrino's Kindergarten Science Immersion Classroom at North Live Oak Elementary in Livingston Parish. The curriculum is centered on integrated science inquiry, reading, and math activities because she feels young students learn best when using their senses and actively touching objects in their environment.

Three years ago, she came to the realization that her students were much more motivated and excited when she integrated science, reading, and math. This realization plus her love of science led her to create units based on students' interests.

As she went through the National Board process, she continued thinking how wonderful it would be to create a Kindergarten Science Immersion Curriculum. She went to her principal who was very supportive of the idea. The principal allowed her to teach the class the way she had envisioned it.

She said, "I've always loved teaching, and it is exciting for me to teach this way. It's a wonderful journey, and I am adding to my curriculum constantly."

Last year, Mrs. Parrino aligned her Science Immersion Curriculum with the Common Core State Standards. She said, "It is easy to meet the rigor of the Common Core State Standards by integrating science and focusing on critical thinking and problem solving skills. I love to find the best literature possible to captivate students and allow for project-based learning. I am still developing new units of study and revising others."

Mrs. Parrino said it is rewarding when she sees the excitement on her students' faces and they tell her how much they love school. She said, "I am constantly amazed at how much they retain!"

What is it like to be a student in Mrs. Parrino's Science Immersion Classroom? Animals such as hamsters, guinea pigs, turtles, and fish are scattered throughout the room, so



KAREN PARRINO — A kindergarten teacher at North Live Oak School in Livingston Parish, Karen Parrino has developed a Science Immersion Curriculum for kindergartners that includes science, reading, and math, all to Common Core State Standards.

In one experiment, the students created their own "Silly Putty" to discover the concept of sinking or floating. Some of the mixtures became solids rather quickly while other solutions remained a runny liquid. Students said, "Mine's not working!" Eventually all of the mixtures did solidify. Mrs. Parrino said to the class, "It was a liquid and now it is..." The students loudly and quickly answered, "A solid!"

her students can practice using their senses when observing the animals daily. In addition to the observation of animals, the students participate in various science experiments in which they make predictions of the outcomes, observe the experiment to interpret the data, write about the results, and then read related texts to develop a better conceptual understanding of the experiment.

Mrs. Parrino said, "The curriculum will allow students the time needed to explore topics in depth and be engaged in meaningful, hands-on learning experiences reflecting the students' interests."



In one experiment, the students created their own "Silly Putty" to discover the concept of sinking or floating. Each student was given a plastic bowl filled with water and Borax dissolved in it. Different colored glue was added to each student's water solution. The students immediately began exploring the mixture and manipulating the glue in the water with their phalanges, as students in Mrs. Parrino's class call them, to thoroughly mix the glue in the solution. At the beginning of the experiment, Mrs. Parrino asked the students if the mixture was sinking or floating.

Throughout the experiment, Mrs. Parrino constantly asked the students, "What does it feel like? What do you see? Can you use other senses to explore it?" The students worked with their partners to explore using their senses. Some of the mixtures became solids rather quickly while other solutions remained a runny liquid. Students whose solutions did not solidify

quickly said, "Mine's not working!" Eventually all of the mixtures did solidify. At that point in the experiment, Mrs. Parrino said to the class, "It was a liquid and now it is ...?" The majority of the students loudly and quickly answered, "A solid!"

At one point, a student leaped from his seat and began dropping his "Silly Putty." When Mrs. Parrino asked him what force was causing his "Silly Putty" to fall, he quickly replied, "Gravity is pulling it back to the ground!" His answer was impressive for a kindergartner!

"Monkey See, Monkey Do" occurred, and other students began experimenting with their "Silly Putty" by bouncing it around the room.

It was evident to an observer the students were motivated and excited to participate in the experiment. Mrs. Parrino explained that it is about tapping into her students' "inner scientist" and encouraging the attitudes, process skills, and content knowledge that are central to scientific thinking.

All of Mrs. Parrino's students enjoyed investigating whether this new substance would sink or float. At the conclusion of the experiment, the students were allowed to bag up their "Silly Putty" to bring home, so they could share their experiences with their parents. Mrs. Parrino had the students synthesize their understanding of the experiment by completing a brief writing task that included both words and pictures. Then the students read a related text on objects that sink and float while sitting with Mrs. Parrino on their classroom carpet.

Educational research at several major universities has shown positive results for students participating in integrated science, math, and reading activities in kindergarten. Students in the studies developed skills related to asking questions, conducting experiments, drawing conclusions, and sharing their findings. All while having fun along the way!

Karen Parrino has 24 years' experience in early childhood education. She holds a Master's Degree Plus Thirty in curriculum and instruction with a teacher leader endorsement and professional teaching standards certification. She earned National Board Certification in 2010 as an Early Childhood Generalist. In addition, she was lead instructor for ten summers at the LSU Lab School in K-2 reading and mathematics enrichment. She was instrumental in developing a very successful summer science institute for grades K-2 at the lab school. She recently completed her reading specialist degree.



SILLY PUTTY — Kindergartners in Karen Parrino's class make their own Silly Putty and use it to demonstrate important scientific principles, while integrating reading and math.

Annual Teacher of the Year Awards

A+PEL Members Among Top Teachers

BATON ROUGE — The Louisiana Department of Education honored Louisiana’s Teachers of the Year in August, and several A+PEL members were among the winners and finalists.

Louisiana Supt. of Education John White presented the awards at the Crowne Plaza.

A+PEL president-elect Mitzi Murray was also on hand to congratulate those who competed.

Among the A+PEL members honored were:

- Bobby Blanchard, District Teacher of the Year from Livingston Parish
- Christie Spohn, Ascension’s District Teacher of the Year

The Louisiana Teacher of the Year Program is co-sponsored by the Department of Education, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and Dream Teachers. State law mandates that public schools in Louisiana participate in this recognition program. The statewide competition is part of the National Teacher of the Year Program.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR HONOREES — The Louisiana Department of Education honored this year’s Louisiana Teachers of the Year, including several A+PEL members. Shown at the awards ceremonies are (left to right) Bobby Blanchard, Kayla McKay, Donata Haley, State Supt. John White, Christie Spohn, and Mitzi Murray, president-elect of Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana.

JOIN THE DREAM TEAM

“I want to be an actress, an attaché, and hopefully one day Secretary of Defense. Yeah, I’ve got big dreams.”

Every child in Louisiana has a dream, but 77% of Louisiana’s 4th graders and 79% of our 8th graders are unable to read at grade level.

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ACT Whiz Kid Has Turned His Perfect Scores Into a Business

BATON ROUGE — Louisiana scholar Craig Gehring has turned his perfect ACT and SAT scores into a program to help students raise their ACT scores. Baton Rouge High student Gehring attracted national attention when he won the “Super Bowl” of high stakes testing by earning a perfect score on both the ACT and the SAT.

That was 2003. Fast forward 10 years and he’s combined a love of learning with a desire to teach students a new program to help all students do what he did – master the skills tested on the ACT. Results have been impressive. Over 92 percent of students in ACT Mastery have increased their scores an average of three points.

ACT scores are important for students and parents when it comes to qualifying for TOPS and traditional scholarships. And because of the new role that ACT results play in schools’ performance scores, many districts and schools will be paying closer attention to their students’ scores.

The ACT Mastery program was designed with teachers in mind and is geared towards a classroom setting. It is available as a full semester credit, interactive video lectures, bell ringers, or any combination of the three. The program has innovative test taking concepts and tips, but the primary focus is on helping students master the key concepts covered by the ACT. The program centers around workbooks on each core subject tested by the ACT.

More information is available at ACTMastery.org or from Craig Gehring at 888-950-3976.



Craig Gehring
ACT, SAT Whiz

Laying the Foundation for Achievement



NATIONAL MATH AND SCIENCE INITIATIVE Teacher Training Program sponsored by A+PEL for Richland and Franklin parishes at Richland Parish School Board Sept. 12-13.



MODEL LESSONS — English Language Arts teachers in grades 6-12 worked through model lessons and discussed strategies for engaging students.

Winners in Monthly Membership Recruitment Drive



Louisa Breau



Kasey Linder



Paul McHenry



Stacey Wise

BATON ROUGE — A+PEL conducted its recruitment campaign on Aug. 1 to Sept. 30, 2013, and a host of new members joined the organization. A+PEL members were eligible to win prizes for recruiting new Professional, Associate, First Year Teachers, or Prac-

itioner Professional members. The top weekly recruiter received a gift basket valued at \$75 dollars. Weekly winners included Louisa Breau, Paul McHenry, Rosalind Ruckstuhl, Kasey Linder, Stacey Wise, and Juanita Hall. The monthly top recruiter re-

ceived a 42-inch flat screen TV worth more than \$500 or a weekend getaway to New Orleans at the Crowne Plaza on Canal Street along with \$175 gift card. Paul McHenry was the monthly top recruiter in August. He selected the television.

For more details, visit www.apeleducators.org.

Congratulations to all A+PEL members who participated in the recruitment campaign and especially to the weekly and monthly winners. A+PEL's membership numbers greatly increased.



Reach Louisiana's Professional Educators and Key Decision-Makers

- 16,000 Leading Educators and Governmental Leaders
- Every State Senator and Representative
- Every School Board Member and Parish Superintendent
- Louisiana Department of Education and BESE
- State Capitol and Governor's Office

**Deadline for January Issue:
Dec. 6, 2013**

To advertise, call Kelli Bottger at 225-769-4005

The Incredible Power of a Teacher Nov. 16

BATON ROUGE — Larry Bell will be the guest speaker at **The Incredible Power of a Teacher** seminar, Saturday, Nov. 16 at Guinn Auditorium on the campus of Louisiana College in Pineville. The cost of the event is \$50 for teachers and \$25 for undergraduate students.

Bell is a 25-year veteran in education. Fifteen of those years were spent as a classroom teacher where he was nominated for the National Agnes Mayer Outstanding Teacher Award.

He has been the keynote speaker at many conferences across the country such as the National ASCD Conference, the National

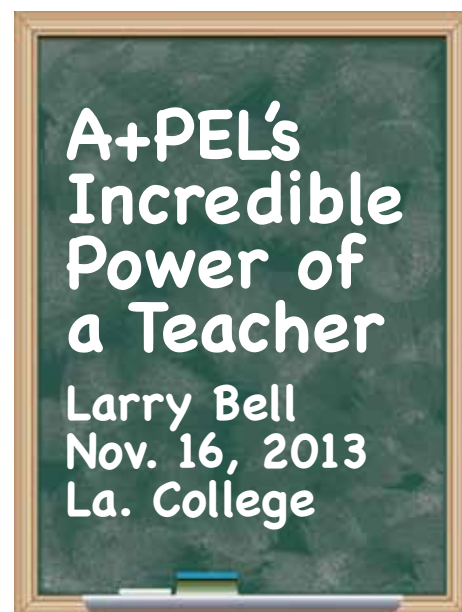


Larry Bell on Power of a Teacher

Association of Multicultural Education Conference, and numerous other conferences.

Bell, who taught at Garfield High School, a school with more than 3,000 students speaking 36 different languages, was recognized for his innovative classroom strategies that allowed his so-called “tough” kids as well as his “gifted and talented” kids to excel!

For seven years, Bell served as the Supervisor of Multicultural Education for Prince William County, which meant providing hands-on workshops for teachers and students in 67 schools with 3,000 teachers and 50,000 students.



Larry's efforts in this position were recognized when he was given a \$550,000 grant by the federal government to pilot his ideas in 1996, and again when he was selected as the Mary Hatwood Futrell Award winner by the Virginia Education Association in 1998. He was also invited and traveled to South Africa to share ideas in 1996.

For information, call 225-769-4005 or 1-800-364-2735 or visit www.apeleducators.org.

Application Deadlines for A+PEL Grants, Scholarships

BATON ROUGE — The following are deadlines for A+PEL's grants and scholarships:

Scholarships

- Professional Educator Scholarship — Dec. 15 — Up to \$750
- Polly Broussard Student Teacher Scholarship — Oct. 15 — Up to \$500
- Associate Member Scholarship — Dec. 15 — Up to \$500

Grants

- Professional Development Grant — Oct. 15 — Up to \$500
- Professional Instructional Grant — Nov. 15 — Up to \$500
- 1st Year Teacher Grant — Nov. 15 — Up to \$500
- Associate Member Instructional Resource Grant — Nov. 15 — Up to \$500

For more information, go to www.apeleducators.org

A+PEL Membership Categories and Dues

BATON ROUGE — The following are Membership Categories and Dues for A+PEL:

Professional (\$175/year)

Holds active certificate and employed full-time by public, charter, or private school or university.

Associate (\$55/year)

Non-certified position related to instruction in a private or public schools.

Retired (\$15/year)

Retired from a public or private school.

Retired Lifetime (\$150/one-time)

Public/Civic (\$175/year)
A person interested in public or private education.

Go to www.apeleducators.org.



Why Join A+PEL



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Learn from Louisiana's top professional educators and speakers who will help you become a World-Class Teacher



Join with us because teaching is a profession where the children should come first — not a labor union where “I” must come first!

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