

# Executive Director's Notepad . . .

## Staff Development a Priority for PAESSP



From the desk of  
**William R.  
Hartman Jr.,  
Ed.D., PAESSP  
Executive  
Director**

PAESSP is defined by our four signature services – **Legal Advice and Consultation, Legislative Action, Act 93 Consultation and Staff Development**. Our goal is to excel in these areas for our members.

During 2008, Staff Development has been of particular importance. In January 2008, the state legislature changed the requirements for continuing education for school principals. The new legislation called for providers of training to meet more rigorous standards.

In April 2008, the Pennsylvania Department of Education issued guidelines and requirements all providers need to meet in order to have their training qualify for continuing education certification requirements for principals.

We have worked diligently to meet the new standards and offer principals Act 45 PIL credits for certification purposes. To date, we have had three 25-hour Act 45 PIL programs approved.

The approved programs are: **Using Data to Improve Instruction, Creating a School Culture for Student Success** and **Creating Learning Communities for Improved Student Achievement**.

We offered **Using Data to Improve Instruction** and **Creating a School Culture for Student Success** at our state conference in Pittsburgh and both were well received.

**It is our plan to offer these two programs again at our 2009 conference at The Penn Stater Hotel in State College, Oct. 4-6. You will be receiving information on how to register.**

Additionally, we will be offering **Creating Learning Communities for Improved Student Achievement as a summer institute in Gettysburg on July 27-29, 2009**. More than 200 principals have expressed interest in attending, so if you are interested, please get your reservations in early – we will have to limit attendance.

You should have received information on this already, but if you haven't, please check our web site, [www.paessp.org](http://www.paessp.org). We plan to rotate this opportunity throughout the state in the future.

Many school superintendents and school boards like our offerings because they require less time out of school than the

current state programs. We see our programs as a supplemental alternative to the excellent state training that exists and we encourage you to attend.

Our staff development is not limited to PIL offerings. Each year, we offer an outstanding conference with a wide range of networking and training opportunities. Last year's conference in Pittsburgh featured numerous national and state

presenters.

We have a commitment to programs of the highest quality and this year's conference met those standards. **We had our highest attendance ever with more than 500 principals attending and a total participation exceeding 700.**

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Our survey results indicate a rating of good or excellent from approximately 94 percent of the participants in all presentation categories. We are currently working on this year's conference, **Oct. 4-6 at The Penn Stater in State College. Keynote and workshop speakers Dr. Douglas Reeves, Charlotte Danielson and Neila Connors** (*"If You Don't Feed the Teachers, They Eat the Students"*) have been confirmed, and we're working on additional speakers.

We also provide local staff development programs related to the principalship. We frequently travel to intermediate units, universities and local meetings and provide a wide range of professional development opportunities. These include Act 93 discussions, legal issues for principals, general updates on principal issues and other timely topics. If you would like us to

come to your area, please contact our office and we will be happy to work with you (**717-732-4999**).

Finally, we are looking for ways to help you become more involved in our staff development efforts. We are considering conducting training sessions for those of you who would like to write and offer PIL-approved training programs. During these sessions, we would provide sample formats and illustrate how to design and file applications. We also hope to set some program stipends aside so that you might be rewarded for designing and offering a PIL-approved training program for principals in the state. If you might be interested in this opportunity, please notify me at **hartman@paessp.org**.

*We look forward to working with you to make Pennsylvania principal training the best in the nation.*