



The 62nd Annual Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies Conference

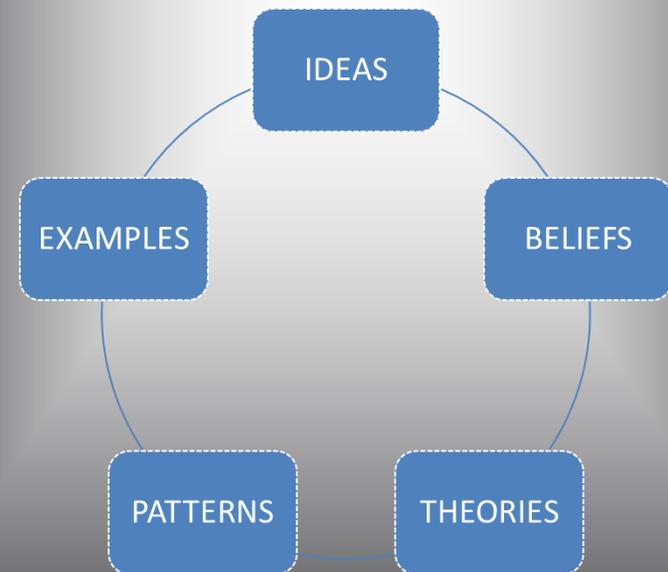


October 15—October 17, 2015

Red Lion Hotel
4751 Lindle Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Conference Theme:

Conceptual Teaching and Learning for the 21st Century Social Studies Classroom



2016 PCSS Conference



October 20—October 22, 2016

Red Lion Hotel - Harrisburg East

4751 Lindle Road

Harrisburg, PA 17111



THE GOVERNOR

GREETINGS:

I am delighted to unite with the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies (PCSS) in welcoming everyone to the 62nd Annual Conference.

Since its inception, PCSS has been dedicated to analysis, dissemination, and evaluation of instructional materials and programs for effective social studies education in the commonwealth. Not only has PCSS promoted professional excellence, it has sponsored social studies development among schools, intermediate units, and social studies counsels to further the educational enhancement of instructors throughout Pennsylvania. I applaud PCSS for their efforts and I am certain that the theme of *Conceptual Teaching and Learning for the 21st Century Social Studies Classroom* will be a valuable learning experience for all educators.

As Governor, and on behalf of all the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the City of Harrisburg for this conference and extend my wishes for an enjoyable and informative event.



Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor
October 15-17, 2015



October 2015

Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies,

Congratulations on this occasion of your 62nd Annual Conference!

As a former teacher and now as Secretary of Education, I have a strong appreciation for the critical role that the social studies have on building a robust educational foundation. Social studies' impact on Pennsylvania's students cannot be overstated, as their broad scope and unique appeal extend far into students' lives.

Most importantly social studies not only inform us about our past, but also teach us how to live in our world – not simply where we've been, but where we're going.

The Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies continues to be a respected partner in ensuring our students have access to quality instruction, as well as providing a valuable service in furthering the reach of social studies into our classrooms.

Again, I applaud you on this notable occasion, and thank you for your advocacy as well as your continued commitment to improving education for Pennsylvania's students.

Sincerely,

Pedro A. Rivera
Secretary of Education

Office of the Secretary
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PCSS Mission



The PCSS promotes quality Social Studies education from kindergarten to higher learning by:

1. Advocating the Social Studies at all levels of education in Pennsylvania.
2. Promoting the analysis, dissemination and evaluation of Social Studies materials.
3. Examining and recommending certification requirements for teachers.
4. Assisting educators in organizing local Social Studies councils for professional development.
5. Cooperating with schools, districts, intermediate units and other interested parties on Social Studies projects.

2015 PCSS Awards

President's Awards by PCSS President David Trevaskis

Sharon Silver - Ridley Middle School (Retired) - Revolution of the Spirit
Robert Slamp - Lancaster School District - Elementary Social Studies Day Program
David Thornburgh - Committee of Seventy

Teacher of Year (Co-Recipients)

(Secondary) Janet Bassett - Quakertown Community School District
(Elementary) Joan Carter Williams - Edwin M. Stanton School

Student Teacher (Co-Recipients)

Katlyn Becker - David Williams Middle School
Steven Hall - North Star Middle School

Outstanding Project

Dennis Henderson - Manchester Academic Charter School - Youth Court Implementation

Program of Excellence

Joshua Tobin - Homer-Center School District - World History 10th Grade

Outstanding Commitment to Social Studies Education

Roberta West - Temple University Beasley School of Law (Retired)- Law Education and Participation Project

Rendell Friend of Social Studies

Sally Flaherty - Pennsylvania Department of Education

Future Leader

Alexis Werner - Temple University

Leo West Award (Co-Recipients)

Susan Etter, Esq. - PBA Education/Special Projects Coordinator - LRE
Philip Yoon, Esq. - PBA Law Related Education Committee Chair - LRE

Ruth Stas Award

Hempfield Area High School and Project 18

Kay Atman Award

William Switala - Selinsgrove Area School District - High School AP European History

President's Awards by PCSS President David Trevaskis

Sharon Silver - Ridley Middle School (Retired)

Sharon Silver is a passionate educator who has traveled throughout the world exploring different cultures and philosophies and has a particular interest in justice and peace. She is a retired social studies teacher from Ridley Middle School in Delaware County who worked with her late cousin, Grammy award winning songwriter Daniel Sembello, to produce an incredible CD on heroes, "Revolution of the Spirit", that has inspired historical study, anti-bullying education and social activism among a generation of young people. Silver is working with PCSS to create a social justice curriculum to share across the Commonwealth.



Robert Slamp - Lancaster School District

Initially a music teacher, this veteran educator switched after 17 years to become an award winning social studies teacher!

He is being honored by PCSS for running an incredible social studies day at his school each year that brings the field alive to his students.

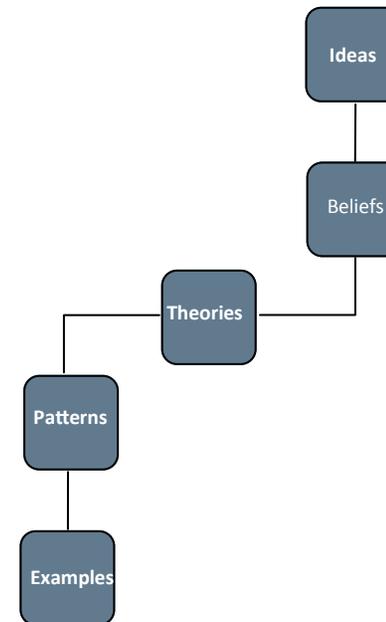
Slamp, a PCSS Board member and a 5th Grade teacher at Carter & MacRae Elementary School in the School District of Lancaster, is always bringing guests into his school to highlight the work of his students and showcasing for the world the importance of our field.

2015 PCSS AWARDS

Kay Atman Award

William Switala - Selinsgrove Area School District - High School AP European History

William J. Switala, Jr. is a former PCSS Board Member and has been teaching at Selinsgrove Area High School since 1992. His current course load includes AP European History, Civics, and Freshman History. He also team-teaches a cross curricular course with the English department covering American and European history and literature from the Renaissance through the end of the 19th century. Additionally, "Bill" is the Adviser for the National Honor Society, Grove Gazette Student Newspaper, and is a member his school district's Curriculum Committee. He has also worked for the College Board as an AP European History reader for the past seven years. He is the proud father of three children (Gabrielle 21, Will 15, and Madison 13) and a loving husband to his wife Jennifer.



2015 PCSS AWARDS

Ruth Stas Award

Hempfield Area High School and Project 18

Current and former teachers and students of Project 18 have been honored at this conference with the 2015 PCSS Ruth Stas Award for Social Studies Sustainability and those newer and older educators and students will present this session to provide an overview of the more than 40 years of the class offering at Hempfield Area School District as a way for high school seniors to gain a practical understanding of civics and the role of local government while taking part in campaign work, community service and a field trip to Harrisburg. Students routinely hear from local elected officials, some of whom previously took the class. Following the Tip O'Neill lead that all politics is local, the course gives its students insight into local politics--all candidates who are running for Hempfield supervisor and Westmoreland County commissioner, register of wills, recorder of deeds, treasurer, controller, judge and sheriff have agreed to meet with the students. But the class also brings in leaders from further away; a then Senator Barack Obama met with students in the class in 2008. Founding teacher Rich Redmerski is working with the Rendell Center for Civics and Civic Engagement to create a manual to help others replicate Project 18.



President's Awards by PCSS President David Trevaskis

David Thornburgh - Committee of Seventy

David Thornburgh, a former social studies teacher, is President and CEO of the Committee of Seventy, an influential independent government reform group in Philadelphia, PA. Prior to joining Seventy in December, 2014 he served as Executive Director of the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government. He is a frequent commentator on regional development, public policy and civic affairs. He has been recognized by Leadership Philadelphia as one of the most trusted and respected civic "connectors" in the Philadelphia area. Thornburgh is exploring ways to engage young people in the civic experience of Philadelphia elections and government and he is being honored by PCSS for that work as his career comes full circle in many ways back to his social studies roots.



***CONGRATULATIONS to all of the award winners
please visit our website***

***For more information on our award winners, please
visit our website:***

<http://pcssonline.org/>

2015 PCSS AWARDS

Teacher of Year (Co-Recipients)

(Secondary) Janet Bassett - Quakertown Community School District

Janet Bassett has been a secondary Social Studies teacher in the Quakertown Community School District since 1999. She is a second-career teacher. After studying psychology at Susquehanna University, she earned an MA in American History with a concentration in museum studies at the University of Delaware. She worked as a museum curator for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. After taking time off to rear her children, Janet went back to school to earn her teaching certificate at DeSales University. Janet has taught middle and high school history courses ranging from prehistory to the twentieth century. She is currently teaching US History in Quakertown's Online Academy, AP Human Geography and the new AP Seminar course, which is part of the College Board's Capstone Program. Teaching these new AP courses has reinvigorated her teaching career. She credits her museum experience with inspiring her teaching style, which focuses on inquiry, hands-on experiences, and primary source research. The classroom environment exists both in class and online; Edmodo and Canvas provide additional places for students to collaborate and communicate.

(Elementary) Joan Carter Williams - Edwin M. Stanton School

Joan Carter Williams has been teaching in The Philadelphia School District for the past 16 years. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Shippensburg University, and her Masters of Education from Cheyney University.

She currently teaches at the Edwin M. Stanton School in Philadelphia, PA. Her innovative, hands on Civics lessons have ignited a spirit of learning in her class. As a result, her students were the only public school students to

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Leo West Award (Co-Recipients)

Susan Etter, Esq. - PBA Education/Special Projects Coordinator - LRE

Susan Etter serves as the Education and Special Projects Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Bar Association, PBA. The PBA promotes law related education programs to help ensure that students learn about our Constitution, rights and responsibilities of citizens and have a better understanding of our laws, judicial branch and government. Many of the PBA's civic and law related education programs and resources are funded through the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation. Ms. Etter is a graduate of the Dickinson School of Law and has focused her career on programs that educate and improve the lives of youth, families and communities.

Philip Yoon, Esq. - PBA Law Related Education Committee Chair - LRE

Philip H. Yoon, Esquire, is Chair of the Law-Related Education, or "LRE," Committee in the Pennsylvania Bar Association. The LRE is comprised of attorneys who work with schools throughout the Commonwealth to promote law-related and civics education. As Chair, Yoon is responsible for creating, arranging, and coordinating programs to further these educational goals. Yoon is also active with the Mock Trial Program at both the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Bar Associations, and participates in or judges several civics competitions throughout Pennsylvania each year.

Yoon is Chief Staff Attorney of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, one of the busiest appellate courts in the United States. He hails originally from Hazleton, Pennsylvania, and lives currently in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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Future Leader

Alexis Werner - Temple University

Alexis Werner, a graduate of Shaler Area High School, is currently a sophomore at Temple University. During her freshman year of high school, her stepfather, Greg, came home from his 12-month tour in Afghanistan. This time it was different; he was different. He was a casualty of the war, coming home with Post Traumatic Stress. Alexis created "Seeds of Hope" as a way to help her, her stepfather, and others deal with this real injury of war. Starting with planting gardens, her project now is producing "Our Way Home", a student-made documentary that follows the homecoming stories of nine veterans from WW2 to present day. "Our Way Home" focuses on the psychological effects of war, specifically Post Traumatic Stress. The film will directly show how the nation's culture affects Veteran's homecomings. The film will premier at the Soldiers and Sailors Museum in Pittsburgh on November 12th.

2015 PCSS AWARDS

participate in The Citizenship Challenge essay contest in 2013 where they received third place honors. In 2015 they were awarded first place among over 150 entries. Furthermore, her students entered poems in The American Poetry Contest and several of her students were among the finalists for 2015-2016.

In addition, her 4th grade students have maintained an award-winning garden for the past 5 years promoting sustainability.

Joan resides in Philadelphia with her husband Kevin. She has 2 sons, Kevin, an engineering graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, and Marcus who proudly serves in the United States Air Force.

Joan would like to thank the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies for this amazing honor of awarding her "Elementary Teacher of the Year". It is truly an honor.

Student Teacher (Co-Recipients)

Katlyn Becker - David Williams Middle School

Katlyn Becker completed her studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and graduated with a 4.0 GPA. While attending IUP, she was an active member of the History Club and held a position as the secretary for the Future Social Studies Educators Association. Katlyn completed her student teaching at David E. William's Middle School in Coraopolis. During her time at Montour, Katlyn taught an 8th grade Early U.S. History course with several classes of diverse learners. Her cooperating teacher and university supervisor nominated her for this award because of her creativity and innovation in the classroom. Katlyn is currently teaching English and Economics at Serra Catholic High School in McKeesport.

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Steven Hall - North Star Middle School

As an education major at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Steven Hall graduated Magna Cum Laude with a 3.64 GPA in April, 2015. Steven served as the Secretary and President of the P.C.S.S. chapter at UPJ. One of his initiatives as President was to organize and present an hour long assembly at local elementary schools with the P.C.S.S. officers and team. This "Social Studies Awareness Project" (SSAP) introduced third graders to core Social Studies concepts through four cross-curricular stations (art, music, reading, and writing), and he was one of the P.C.S.S. members to present a panel on this elementary school assembly at the 2014 P.C.S.S. conference held in Johnstown. Steven completed his student teaching experience under the supervision of Mrs. Kathy Shaffer at North Star Middle School. He created an immersive learning experience for his students through a variety of activities, projects, and assessments that engaged and challenged his 6th grade Pennsylvania history and 8th grade Civics students. One lesson that stands out occurred when each student had a specific part in a role-play-activity that taught the process of a "Bill" becoming a Law. Steven would like to thank his family and friends for their support, especially his parents Robert and Karen Hall of Greensburg who are in attendance this evening. He also acknowledges the many model teachers at Hempfield Area School District who impressed their educational values on him. Finally, Steven would like to thank Dr. Mark Previte, Education Division Chair at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and former P.C.S.S. President, for his teaching and mentorship over the past four years at UPJ. Steven is currently substituting a variety of subjects and grade levels at multiple Greensburg area school districts as he continues his journey to obtain his own Social Studies classroom where he can "put the pieces of the puzzle together" and teach the next generation of students.

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trial finals, participates in the Advancing Civic Education efforts of the Philadelphia Bar Association and volunteers frequently with LEAP-Kids, an offshoot of Temple-LEAP that dates back to 2001. West is a local host for the American Bar Association's Law-Related Education Leadership Conference which will be in Philadelphia at the end of October 2015 and she is part of the team trying to bring NCSS to Philadelphia in 2022.

Rendell Friend of Social Studies

Sally Flaherty - Pennsylvania Department of Education

Sally M. Flaherty has been an educator for 38 years in many different venues and geographic areas in the state. In high school, she applied to colleges to be a Social Studies teacher, but was denied because she couldn't coach any high school sports. She was accepted to be a Speech and Language Pathologist, graduating and certified nationally. Continuing her education in curriculum and administration, she became an Educational Consultant working with school districts in educational reform to be student focused for success. Throughout it all her love of Social Studies never diminished, so she became a Social Studies teacher (and still can't coach any high school sports). She is currently the Social Studies Advisor with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. She is actively creating partnerships with government and private agencies to make the best educational resources available to every student and educator in the Commonwealth. Sally is an inspirational and motivational speaker for education and a voice for bringing social studies to life and its relevance for today.

2015 PCSS AWARDS

Program of Excellence

Joshua Tobin - Homer-Center School District - World History 10th Grade

Joshua Tobin was raised in Indiana, Pennsylvania. After completing his Secondary Social Studies degree from Grove City, Joshua found himself teaching school at Homer-Center Junior/Senior High. Currently teaching 7th grade World History and 10th grade European History, Mr. Tobin is not just a classroom teacher. Joshua serves the district as a Data Team and SAP Team member. Joshua also involves himself outside the classroom with his students. He is the 10th grade class advisor, SAT Prep teacher, and a coach for both soccer and track. One interesting fact is that for two summers, Joshua Tobin travelled to India to teach English.



Outstanding Commitment to Social Studies Education

Roberta West - Temple University Beasley School of Law (Retired)- Law Education and Participation Project

Roberta West is a lawyer and educator who spent a quarter century promoting law-related and civic education with the Temple-LEAP (Law, Education and Participation Program) of the Temple University Beasley School of Law until her retirement in the fall of 2014. West is best known for her work with the John S. Bradway Philadelphia High School Mock Trial Program but she has trained students and educators on issues as diverse as current Supreme Court cases to rules for the elementary classroom across both the Commonwealth and the nation during her long career. West's retirement from LEAP has not slowed down her work with both young people and educators as she continues to score the statewide mock

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Outstanding Project

Dennis Henderson - Manchester Academic Charter School - Youth Court Implementation

Dennis Henderson is renowned as an innovator in education and advocate for social justice. As a lead educator at Manchester Academic Charter School, Mr. Henderson has collaborated with various individuals, businesses and organizations throughout the Pittsburgh region and beyond to develop numerous successful programs with a focus on law related education, entrepreneurship and environmental sustainability. His work with youth has gained him local and national recognition.

This year Dennis has been appointed to serve as the Educational Director of Manchester Academic Charter School Junior High where he has the privilege of ushering in their new project based learning environment focused on social justice, equity and sustainability.

Mr. Henderson has served on a variety of panels focused on education within the urban setting and actively serves on the executive boards of the Venture Outdoors and the Alliance for Police Accountability.

Dennis Henderson resides in Pittsburgh with his wife, Dr. Monica Henderson and their two daughters Denia and Jacey.

