



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 1, 2017

Teaching and Learning

The Benchmark Review Committee has met three times this year to review and vet the ELA and Math benchmarks. The committee members engage in a review process to ensure the benchmark assessments are aligned to the BT Calendar and expectations of the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards. Thank you to the following committee members for their time and dedication to this valuable process: *Morgan Fulks, Kathryn Londrigan, Teresita Esquibel, Roberta Garcia, Rebecca Lopez, Lori Bowden, Bailey Wilson, Stefanie Bender, Stephanie Kelsey, Kristine Marheine, Samantha Armstrong, Mia De La Rosa, Lindsay Westberg, Johanna Spalding, Sandy Miller*, and *Cassandra Garner*. Thank you also to *Marlene Capristo* for her facilitation of this committee.

Exceptional Student Services

Dr. Jason McIntosh, the Gifted TOSA is the co-chair for the 42nd Annual AAGT Conference on February 2 & 3, 2017. In addition, Dr. McIntosh's poem is printed in the brochure for the conference. To top it all off a student from Littleton Elementary School District had her illustration selected for the cover of the brochure.

Transportation

The Transportation Department is moving ahead with the new *Littleton License to Learn* bus pass program. The department is in the process of issuing one hundred forty-two (142) passes that include new and reissued cards. The majority of the students have been enthusiastic about the process and have been practicing swiping on and off the buses in a timely and orderly fashion.

Transportation would like to welcome a new employee to the department, *Jenni Lucas*, bus monitor, who will be a great asset for our special needs students.

Transportation would like to give a shout out to our administrators who have been working diligently to produce quick turn-a-rounds for our Make Your Day program "Responsibility Slips" and "Referrals".

42nd Annual AAGT Conference

Black Canyon Conference Center
February 2 & 3, 2017



Creating a Bright Future
for Arizona's Gifted Children

Gifted Education 2.0

By Jason McIntosh, Ph.D.

Gifted Education 2.0

Leaving Behind the Status Quo

That is the theme hand-picked for this gathering.

To not know what it means would be simply unflattering.

Status quo in latin means "the state in which",

To proceed as always without a hitch.

The dictionary online says "the way things stand".

A shift in the course brings a swift reprimand.

2.0 in the title means a new iteration,

Letting go of old precepts, hello to innovation.

'Leaving behind' means the turning of your back

On beliefs of the past and the things that you lack.

Does this mean incorporating the latest technology?

Rewriting our mission or changing ideology?

Should we throw out the old, start from scratch?

Or fix what is wrong with the proverbial patch?

The answers to these questions are as personal as can be.

We each have our priorities, modifications we'd like to see.

Just do something different and try something new.

Imagine the possibilities, now what will you choose?

Is it fighting for equity for an underserved population?

Or, acceleration for those ready- the deception of a nation?

Or, twice exceptional learners who need a supporter?

Someone to cater to those with attention deficit disorder?

Is it curriculum development that gets you excited?

Or the funding for programs that seems so short sighted?

Maybe it's the affective needs of the gifted.

Or research on identification that you are committed.

Whatever it is, we can do it together.

The burden, in unison, can be moved like a feather.

So look to your left and now look to your right.

Take courage today and rejoin the fight.

I hope that our theme now is perfectly clear.

And the poem I've written seems truly sincere.

What will you do in this salient hour?

You are the future and you hold the power.