

**The “Roundtable” Roundup**

**Membership Information**:

The updated contact information for Roundtable Participants can be found at [www.pasfaa.org/wpacsr](http://www.pasfaa.org/wpacsr).

Attendance:

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here were 28 folks in attendance at the March 6, 2017, Roundtable meeting at La Roche College. Kimberly Aland, La Roche College; Danielle Ball, La Roche College; Jasmine Berena, Seneca Valley HS; Wendy Dunlap, PHEAA; Amy Davis, AIU3; Linda Ebel, Citizens School of Nursing; Heather Guidi, Pittsburgh Technical College; Manjri Gupta, Axios Tutoring; Joe Fraas, Gateway HS; Mike Hambrick, North Allegheny HS; Stephanie Hendershot, Robert Morris University; Sherryl Lisco, La Roche College; Ben Martin, STEM Premier; Phil McCaffrey, 3RPrep; Kim McCurdy, PHEAA; Tashawn Nichols, Pittsburgh Public Schools; Melony Ohalek, Sallie Mae; Shari Payne, Waynesburg College; Sam Rapp, Manchester Craftmen’s Guild; Leslie Raymore-Watson, Watson College Counseling; Sean Riffle, Pittsburgh JobCorps; Morgan Rizzardi, Butler County Community College; Michael Schleiden, Pittsburgh JobCorps; Peggy Schmiedecke, La Roche College; Maureen Shaw, Clairton HS; Debra Smallwood, Neighborhood Learning Alliance; John Welch, STEM Premier, and Dan Wray, PHEAA.

# Activity: In case anyone is interested in the activity I handed out at the beginning, please find the number sheet PDF attached. Essentially, you ask the participants to hold their papers, face down, set a timer for 30 seconds, and ask them to cross of the numbers when you say go, in order, from 1-100. At the end of 30 seconds, the person with the most numbers crossed off wins. Then you instruct them to fold their paper in half, then half again. Now you have 4 quadrants and if you follow the pattern clockwise, you will see the numbers are sequential that way. The point: Perspective is important, and with a little knowledge, you can change the outcome of anything. Enjoy!

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# Old Business:

**Committee Reports**

**Adult Learner**: Linda Ebel reported that the session at the CSF was well attended and her committee is looking at next steps. She also mentioned a representative from PDE attended the session and was glad to see it offered as this is an important population to consider and effectively communicate with, as they are growing in number.

**Financial Literacy**: There is nothing new to report on this committee; however, The Missing Semester program at the AIU3 was held this past Thursday. There were many great presentations and information for counselors and teachers. Here are some of the highlights for your information:

Kristen Ramser, Propel Braddock Hills High School - [http://bit.ly/2lVtcKQ](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__bit.ly_2lVtcKQ&d=CwMFAg&c=9ut6RcAKs8AF_YMM4QH5hA&r=UbHm0wZSN3iOEFFaHBCEazfRMJm2-0apq8rgdJogWnk&m=b6dWpg_5Kk3FadY_pblq9zwIV0x7qYR-zrgDFeXt398&s=LcOjfxqSITXi96gd95m8z-vWimflzEjg1KJkBLfLB3w&e=)

Hilary Hunt - [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Uh3Ps1CODeH3q1zurIa\_h0qpIny66ZP6xB5PlU24hnI/edit#slide=id.p](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__docs.google.com_presentation_d_1Uh3Ps1CODeH3q1zurIa-5Fh0qpIny66ZP6xB5PlU24hnI_edit-23slide-3Did.p&d=CwMFAg&c=9ut6RcAKs8AF_YMM4QH5hA&r=UbHm0wZSN3iOEFFaHBCEazfRMJm2-0apq8rgdJogWnk&m=b6dWpg_5Kk3FadY_pblq9zwIV0x7qYR-zrgDFeXt398&s=1Mn0LhnXwy5PsjfkfFcEbvUi_x434pLwO7jTLZGAn5A&e=)

Hilary Hunt handouts - [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0ByHH3JYxVkBkUXFvUzk1cTIwNU0](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__drive.google.com_drive_u_0_folders_0ByHH3JYxVkBkUXFvUzk1cTIwNU0&d=CwMFAg&c=9ut6RcAKs8AF_YMM4QH5hA&r=UbHm0wZSN3iOEFFaHBCEazfRMJm2-0apq8rgdJogWnk&m=b6dWpg_5Kk3FadY_pblq9zwIV0x7qYR-zrgDFeXt398&s=cwDNmIq_DwO1KMeQAMjPr6SQSsH67eH6P8gfTnHQ-F8&e=)

CFA Society Money 10a Talk:  [https://www.cfasociety.org/pittsburgh/Pages/Financial-Literacy-High-School-Efforts.aspx](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.cfasociety.org_pittsburgh_Pages_Financial-2DLiteracy-2DHigh-2DSchool-2DEfforts.aspx&d=CwMFAg&c=9ut6RcAKs8AF_YMM4QH5hA&r=UbHm0wZSN3iOEFFaHBCEazfRMJm2-0apq8rgdJogWnk&m=b6dWpg_5Kk3FadY_pblq9zwIV0x7qYR-zrgDFeXt398&s=60JeSwYdo6gExfZB0ZCLg4sSK2RoqN-N-CFCRiR7Z0g&e=)

Roth IRA 101 Talk: [https://www.cfasociety.org/pittsburgh/Pages/Financial-Literacy-High-School-Efforts.aspx](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.cfasociety.org_pittsburgh_Pages_Financial-2DLiteracy-2DHigh-2DSchool-2DEfforts.aspx&d=CwMFAg&c=9ut6RcAKs8AF_YMM4QH5hA&r=UbHm0wZSN3iOEFFaHBCEazfRMJm2-0apq8rgdJogWnk&m=b6dWpg_5Kk3FadY_pblq9zwIV0x7qYR-zrgDFeXt398&s=60JeSwYdo6gExfZB0ZCLg4sSK2RoqN-N-CFCRiR7Z0g&e=)

**CSF 2017**: We had 183 attendees at the College Success Forum on January 31 at Robert Morris University. There were a lot of positive comments. A survey was sent out afterward, and there were 87 respondents. Please find the highlights (which were shared at the meeting) here:



**Service Project 2017:** We are still collecting items for the Service Project. Please bring your donations to our May meeting so Rachael and committee can identify students and distribute the resources. Please consider donating any of the following:

* Bedding/sheets
* Towels
* Bed Risers
* School Supplies (pens, notebooks, backpacks)
* B&N gift cards

# New Business:

Speaker – Ben Martin – STEM Premier.

STEM Premier is the first online solution that assists students in designing educational and career pathways, colleges in recruiting talent to their schools, and employers and communities in developing a stable, continuous workforce pipeline all within one digital ecosystem. The presentation focused on how local students, high schools, and post-secondary schools can benefit from engaging within the ecosystem.  There are just over 6,900 students in PA and OH who have created profiles on STEM Premier to connect with colleges. Attached is Ben’s presentation, and if you would like more information, please contact him at [bmartin@stempremier.com](mailto:bmartin@stempremier.com).



**PACAC Update:** Loren could not be at the meeting but was able to provide a few updates:

Camp College West will be July 18 – 20 at Allegheny College. Student applications will be available soon, and I will send the link along to the group as soon as I receive the email. If you are a PACAC member, you will automatically receive it. Mentor applications will be released soon as well.

St. PACAC’s Day gathering is on Thursday, March 16 at The Abbey on Butler Street in Pittsburgh starting at 4 p.m. Please RSVP via PACAC’s Facebook page if you will be joining us.

Western PA College Counseling Workshop is Friday, April 21 at Chatham University from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. Agenda information and registration is available at <https://pacac.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mc&view=mc&mcid=8>.

The College Access Forum and Legislative Action Day is May 8 and 9 in Harrisburg. More information can be found at [www.pacac.org/government-relations](http://www.pacac.org/government-relations). This is a good opportunity to gain more knowledge of advocacy, and how you can use your voice as we fight for students.

PACAC’s annual conference is June 18-20 at Seven Springs. Registration information is available at <https://pacac.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mc&view=mc&mcid=72&eventId=515658&orgId=pacac>.

**PSCA:** Save the Date: The PA School Counselor’s Association’s 62nd Annual Conference will be held on November 30 – December 1 at the Hershey Lodge. Visit [www.psca-web.org](http://www.psca-web.org) for more information.

**PA Reach Higher Initiative:** PDE, in collaboration with Reach Higher, is currently putting together some counselor workshops around the state for the fall and early spring. There will be data sharing and a program of professional development opportunities available. More details to come.

**Counseling Through the Financial Gap:** As students and families struggle to meet the financial gap to pay for college, the following suggestions were offered to share with your advisees.

\*Make sure students are award of payment plans that colleges and universities offer to families. They can start paying in June or July and make payments all year long instead of borrowing funds.

\*Determine if commuting is an option. We want them on campus, but if they have to reduce costs, this could be one way.

\*Some schools charge per credit. Can the student reduce their course load and then take some classes at the community college to transfer back and make up the difference?

\*Ask about cheaper housing and meal plans. Ask if all the fees are mandatory, and inquire about renting textbooks or determining if there is a lending library for textbooks.

\*Pittsburgh JobCorps is a program for students at CCAC and BC3. Students must be Pell eligible. JobCorps pays the costs to attend one or two years at the community college and their graduates do go on to complete 4 year degrees. Check them out at <http://pittsburgh.jobcorps.gov/home.aspx>.

\*Robert Morris University also offers their Affordability Academy information to schools which includes videos for parents and students. See <http://www.rmu.edu/Undergraduate/Admissions/CollegeAffordabilityAcademy> for more information.

**Summer Student Workshop for Rising HS Seniors:** In collaboration with Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild, we are working to put together a one-day program for Pittsburgh Public School (and surrounding area) students. Topics for the day could include applying to college, financial aid, public speaking, resumes, financial literacy, leadership, and mock interviews. We are putting together a committee to get this program off the ground. It will be held sometime during the summer on a weekday. If you are interested in lending your expertise in planning, please email me at [kmccurdy@pheaa.org](mailto:kmccurdy@pheaa.org). Once the committee is established, we will begin initial planning with a conference call. More to come.



**Mark Your Calendars**

**PACAC Webinars – for more information and registration information, please see** [**www.pacac.org**](http://www.pacac.org)**.**

**- How Important Is My Major? The Many Roads to Career Success;** Wednesday, March 22; 11 a.m. – noon

**- Teacher Recommendation Letters: Developing Great Advocates for Your Students**; Wednesday, April 5; 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Additional Upcoming Events and opportunities:**

- **Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild is accepting submissions from students for a Regional Juried Arts Exhibit**. Students compete for over $200k in scholarships. Deadline to enter is March 19. Please find additional information at <http://mcgyouthandarts.org/mcg-invitational>.

- **CS101 College Fair will be held on May 9 at Carnegie Mellon University**. Additional information and registration will be available soon. Contact Blythe Dolan at [blydolan@cmu.edu](mailto:blydolan@cmu.edu) if you need further information at this time.

- **La Roche College will hold their STEM Savvy program on Saturday, May 13** with both a parent and student track. Additional information and registration will follow soon.

- On **March 16, there will be an Allegheny Co. Legislative Forum on Education at the AIU3**. Registration and program information are available here:



**-Summer Retreat** – we will once again be looking to hold a summer retreat for the Roundtable. Last year’s program included a professional development seminar, as well as networking and brainstorming ideas for this year. If you are interested in hosting our group in the July timeframe, please let me know.

**Future Meetings**

**-Tuesday, May 16, 2017; 10 a.m. – noon; Penn State Greater Allegheny, 4000 University Drive, McKeesport, PA 15132**

**Thanks so much to Peggy Schmiedecke and La Roche College for hosting our group and the wonderful refreshments. We appreciate your support and willingness to provide us with meeting space!**