

# 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:

There were 25 folks in attendance at the May 16, 2017, Roundtable meeting at Penn State Greater Allegheny. Rachael Banks, PSU Greater Allegheny; Judy Bookhamer, PSCA; Karina Chavez, PCHE; Sophia Duck, Youthworks; Wendy Dunlap, PHEAA; Linda Ebel, Citizens School of Nursing; Denise Fisher, Pittsburgh Technical College; Joe Fraas, Gateway HS; Manjri Gupta, Axios Tutoring; David Heavner, Gateway HS; Stephanie Hendershot, Robert Morris University; Lorie Johnson-Osho, Grove City College; Joe Lagana, Homeless Children's Education Fund; Patti McCarthy, IUP; Megan McCue, IUP; Kim McCurdy, PHEAA; Matt McNeill, Waynesburg College; Kim Nemeck, West Liberty University; Sam Rapp, Manchester Craftmen's Guild; Antonietta Riley, City Charter HS; Ryan Scott, Urban League; Maureen Shaw, Clairton HS; Marcia Sturdivant, NEED; Michael White, Slippery Rock University; and Mike Wire, Pittsburgh Catholic Publishing Association.

## Old Business:

### Committee Reports

**Transition:** Antonietta Riley said the committee is still updating the transition resource document at this time. No additional information to report.

**Adult Learner:** Linda Ebel mentioned that she was just involved with PASFAA's GRC Committee in Washington DC where they presented 2 papers to legislators asking they support funding for higher education. She said the legislature seems to be in a holding pattern at this time and is not sure where things will go as far as FAFSA simplification or funding for Perkins, SEOG, or other programs like loans.

There was also a question about the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA – at this time, the DRT is not scheduled to come back up for the 2017-18 FAFSA completion; however, it is supposed to be available for the 2018-19 FAFSA cycle which begins on Oct. 1, 2017.

**Financial Literacy:** Gene Natali provided a link to some short instructional videos for teachers in the classroom around opportunity costs of our financial choices and specifically the ROTH IRA. There are 9 short videos in the series. Feel free to use them and share them with colleagues, students, and parents. [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPBDRZat-haDHq3K9s\\_paLsOa2tbD6EA3](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPBDRZat-haDHq3K9s_paLsOa2tbD6EA3)

**Service Project:** Rachael said she has enough resources to assist at least 5 students as they transition to college next year. The committee was to meet after the Roundtable to put together the baskets and decide how to identify students. We will ask Rachael to provide an update at the opening Roundtable meeting next year. Thank you to all who contributed. If anyone would still like to donate anything or provide the following, please contact Rachael and she can arrange to have you drop off the items or coordinate a pick up. Please email her at [rjb54@psu.edu](mailto:rjb54@psu.edu).

**MCG Student Transition Forum** – Sam Rapp provided a brief update on the planning of this event. The event will be held on Tuesday, August 15 and space is limited to 40 rising senior students from Pittsburgh Public Schools or the surrounding area. The program is free and lunch and transportation will be provided. The event will include a keynote kick-off student speaker, networking, career information, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, Financial Aid Affordability information and much more. If you have students at PPS or a school close by, please have them register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mcgaug15>.

### **New Business:**

**Speakers – Ms. Karina Chavez, PCHE, and Mr. Joe Lagana – Homeless Children’s Education Fund.**

Joe Lagana, who started the Homeless Children’s Education Fund 20 years ago, spoke about the homeless population of children in the city of Pittsburgh. He said there are over 4000 homeless children in southwestern PA and about 3000 in Allegheny County. In conjunction with Pittsburgh Police, HCEF is working to provide an app to all service providers in Pittsburgh who identify homelessness so they can get resources to them. Using the bigburgh.com app (which is still in a testing phase with Pittsburgh Police) once a homeless student is identified, the responder can use the app to get the student what they need, whether food, shelter, a shower, etc.

Karina said they are working with HCEF in conjunction with the PCHE schools here in western PA to find out what services are already provided on campuses, and how campuses might be able to work together to combat the homeless issues that our postsecondary students face such as hunger and not having a place to go when school is not in session. She referenced a report from Cal State that said 1 in 10 students experience homelessness on campus and 1 in 4 experience food insecurities. This is definitely a topic that will continue to be at the forefront of discussions. If you’re interested in getting involved, please contact Karina at

[kchavez@pointpark.edu](mailto:kchavez@pointpark.edu). There is a conference being planned at the University of Pittsburgh for Oct. 1 and 2, 2017. More information will be forthcoming.

**PACAC Update:** Loren Morgan 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 and Mentor applications are available and the deadline was extended so if you have interested rising juniors or seniors, please have them register asap. [https://pacac.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com\\_mc&view=mc&mcid=8](https://pacac.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mc&view=mc&mcid=8)

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](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 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference will be held on November 30 – December 1 at the Hershey Lodge. Visit [www.pasca-web.org](http://www.pasca-web.org) for more information.

**PA Reach Higher Initiative:** Judy Bookhamer mentioned that the committee is still working, in conjunction with PDE, on some counselor workshops for fall. More information will be provided as soon as details are available.

**Learn and Earn Program:** Sophia Duck from Youthworks/Goodwill mentioned that they are a provider for the Learn and Earn Program. Applications close on May 20. Students have to be 14-21 years old. She said they don’t have a lot of applications at this point, so if a student applies there is a good chance they will be selected for placement. Students must apply online at <http://www.jobsforsummer.org/>. Youthworks can assist students with their applications as well. Contact Sophia if you have any questions at [Sophia.duck@goodwillswpa.org](mailto:Sophia.duck@goodwillswpa.org).



Sallie Mae is once again providing scholarships to students. The scholarship nomination window will be August 10 through September 7, 2017. Please mark your calendars and visit [www.scholarsapply.org/bridgingthedream](http://www.scholarsapply.org/bridgingthedream).



**Roundtable Summer Retreat** – We will once again hold the Summer Retreat at Pittsburgh Theological Seminar on **Tuesday, July 11, 2017, from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m.** Lunch will be provided if the cafeteria is open or we will order pizza. We are planning some professional development information as well as some activities around what our group wants to work on moving forward.

College Board Counselor Workshops for fall: Registration is available at <https://counselorworkshops.collegeboard.org/registration/all-workshops>

### **Future Meetings**

-Tuesday, September 12, 2017; 10 a.m. – noon; Robert Morris University, 6001 University Drive, Moon Township, PA 15108

-Tuesday, November 14, 2017

-Tuesday, January 9, 2018

-Tuesday, January 30, 2018 (tentative) – College Success Forum

-Tuesday, March 13, 2018

-Tuesday, May 15, 2018

**Thanks so much to Rachael Banks and Penn State Greater Allegheny for hosting our group. We appreciate your support and willingness to provide us with meeting space!**

Have a great summer!