

# The "Roundtable" Roundup



[www.pasfaa.org/wpacsr](http://www.pasfaa.org/wpacsr)

## 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 September 12, 2017, Roundtable meeting at Robert Morris University. Patrick Bendel, New Century Careers; Jasmine Berena, Seneca Valley HS; Joanne Borgesi, AAUW; Gina Carl, Summerbridge Pittsburgh (soon to be Breakthrough Pittsburgh); Amy Davis, AIU3; Wendy Dunlap, PHEAA; Denise Fisher, Pittsburgh Technical College; Joe Fraas, Gateway HS; Vanessa Garcia, Homewood Children's Village; Manjri Gupta, Axios Tutoring; LaTrina Hall, The Leaders Project; Stephanie Hendershot, Robert Morris University; Lorie Johnson-Osho, Grove City College; Kammy Kemmer, Pittsburgh JobCorps; Lisa Lenhart, Jewish Family and Children's Services; Patti McCarthy, IUP; Kim McCurdy, PHEAA; Kim Nemeec, West Liberty University; Melony Ohalek, Sallie Mae; Dean Richards, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh; Peggy Schmiedecke, LaRoche College; Debra Smallwood, Homeless Children's Education Fund; Maureen Shaw, Clairton HS; and Michael White, Slippery Rock University.

## Old Business:

### Committee Reports

**MCG Transition Program:** MCG pilot program was a success and featured several speakers, SAT prep sessions, mock admission interviews/ applications.

- a. Should this be expanded and opened to all Allegheny County residents?
- b. Should there be an earlier session? January, February, March?

There was a call for the committee to be established. So far, volunteers are Amy, LaTrina, Michael, Debra, Antonietta, Gina, Vanessa, and Sam. If you would like to join the transition committee, please let Kim McCurdy know at [kmccurdy@pheaa.org](mailto:kmccurdy@pheaa.org) and we can get you connected to the group.

**Roundtable Retreat:** Executive Council officers for the WPACSR were established for 2017-18. They are as follows:

- President – Kimberly McCurdy, PHEAA
- President-Elect - vacant
- Past-President - vacant
- Secretary – Denise Fisher, Pittsburgh Technical College
- Treasurer – Melony Ohalek, Sallie Mae
- Site Coordinator – Peggy Schmiedecke, La Roche College
- Speakers/Training Coordinator – Samantha Rapp, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild
- Committee Coordinator – Antonietta Riley, City Charter High School
- Conference (CSF) Coordinator – Stephanie Hendershot, Robert Morris University
- PACAC Liaison – vacant
- Ad Hoc Executive Council Member – Ian Harkness, Malvern Preparatory School
- Constitution and By-Laws – Michael White, Slippery Rock University

Michael is currently working on the Constitution and we will be adopting it at a future meeting. If you would like to volunteer for the President-Elect position or the PACAC Liaison, please let Kim know.

## **New Business:**

**Speaker – Mr. Patrick Bendel – New Century Careers** – Patrick talked about the free manufacturing training program that is offered by New Century Careers. They are located on the South Side in Pittsburgh near Station Square. The program offers a class start every 8-10 weeks depending on enrollment and students can attend for free (they just need to get transportation to the school). In 6-8 months, they are ready to be placed in a career. If you would like more information, please contact Patrick at [bendel@ncsquared.com](mailto:bendel@ncsquared.com). The next class begins Sept. 25. Please see the attachment for more information.



4. NCC Programs  
Flyer- 2017.compress



M2K FLYER -  
2017.pdf

**Speaker – Ms. Joanne Borgesi, President of AAUW Pittsburgh Chapter:** Joanne discussed some of the things that AAUW is working on including working with legislators to support Title IX, gender bias, and against human trafficking. She provided copies of reports recently made available including *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership* and *Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans*. You can download the reports and factsheets from <http://www.aauw.org/resources/by-type/reports/> If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact Joanne at [aauwpgh.president@gmail.com](mailto:aauwpgh.president@gmail.com).

**Resources:** One of the discussion points that came out of the presentation was the need for students with children to have childcare to attend class and complete their degree. Vanessa from Homewood Children's Village indicated she has seen students who are unable to take a final class and have to postpone completion of degrees because of the lack of childcare. It was

mentioned that Angel's Place might be a resource in the city to assist students.

**Homeless Students:** From the prior discussion, there was mention there is still a need for homeless students to secure housing over breaks and during the summer. Please be sure to sign up for the Collegiate Basic Needs Dialogue at the University of Pittsburgh to be held on October 2. You can register at <http://bit.ly/cbndialogue>. There is a \$30 requested donation as they will serve breakfast and lunch that day, as well as provide a keynote speaker.



Make College Happen Challenge<sup>SM</sup>  
by Sallie Mae<sup>®</sup>

Melony mentioned Sallie Mae's Make College Happen Challenge Scholarship will open October 15. This is an opportunity for students to describe, creatively, how they are going to pay for college and make it through. More information to follow shortly.

**Consortium for Public Education** - They are looking for middle school mentors to help students in Clairton, McKeesport, or Woodland Hills. Collaborating with United Way of Southwestern PA, if you're interested, please contact the Consortium Program Director, Gina Barrett at 412-352-3635 or register at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BAMSM?utm\\_source=Be+a+Middle+School+Mentor+Sept.+2017&utm\\_campaign=Be+a+Middle+School+Mentor+Sept.+2017&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BAMSM?utm_source=Be+a+Middle+School+Mentor+Sept.+2017&utm_campaign=Be+a+Middle+School+Mentor+Sept.+2017&utm_medium=email)

**Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh** – Dean Richards mentioned there are two upcoming programs for students – Digital Connect and Techno Team starting Sept. 25. Additionally, he mentioned they are looking for mentors for the AAAT program at Westinghouse HS and UPrep. For more information, please contact Dean at [drichards@ulpgh.org](mailto:drichards@ulpgh.org).



**PHEAA Counselor Workshops** are underway. If you are a secondary school or community agency that will be working with students on applying for financial aid this fall, please consider registering at <http://www.pheaa.org/partner-access/training/workshops.shtml>

**PA ABLE Conference in Pittsburgh** – This program will be held on September 28 from 4:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. This **free** event will allow people with disabilities and their families, advocates, and community members to learn more about the new PA ABLE savings program, hear a panel of account owners explain what PA ABLE means to them, get their questions answered by PA ABLE experts, and enjoy a Resource Fair. Visit <http://www.paable.gov/pittsburgh/> for more information.

**Consortium for Public Education – Bridges to College Success** – On October 9, at the University of Pittsburgh – Greensburg Campus from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$25. Please see the attached brochure for more information.



Bridges to College  
Success brochure.pdf

**College Success Forum** will be held on January 30 or February 6. More information to come on call for proposals and committee formation to plan the professional development event.

**North Pittsburgh College Fair** – October 2 at La Roche College. Peggy said there are still a few tables if your organization would like to participate. Please contact Peggy at [peggy.schmiedecke@laroche.edu](mailto:peggy.schmiedecke@laroche.edu) if you need more information.

Peggy also mentioned La Roche is planning a President's Day Digital Design Program. More information will be available soon. Contact Peggy for more details.

### **Future Roundtable Meetings**

- **Tuesday, November 14, 2017; 10 a.m. – noon; IUP – Northpointe, 167 Northpointe Blvd., Freeport, PA 16229 (off of Exit 18 on Rt. 28)**
- Tuesday, January 9, 2018; 10 a.m. – noon; TBD
- Tuesday, January 30, 2018 – Tentative CSF – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – RMU
- Tuesday, March 13, 2018; 10 a.m. – noon; TBD
- Tuesday, May 15, 2018; 10 a.m. – noon; TBD

**If your group or organization can host a meeting (must be able to provide free parking) please let Peggy Schmiedecke know as we finalize the locations for this year.** [peggy.schmiedecke@laroche.edu](mailto:peggy.schmiedecke@laroche.edu)

**Thanks so much to Stephanie Hendershot and Robert Morris University for hosting our group. We appreciate your support and willingness to provide us with meeting space!**