



Highlights of Upcoming Events

Beyond the Three R's: Teaching for the 21st Century

April 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 26, and June 2, 2009

National Board Pre-Candidacy Class

June 8-12, 2009

Camp Plug and Play 4.0

June 8-11, 2009 and November 14, 2009

PASS[®] 2009 - SCOTTSDALE Community

June 14-17, 2009

Fourth Annual Teacher Leadership Institute: Leadership and 21st Century Skills

June 17-19, 2009

Second Annual Beginning Teacher Institute: Building Teacher-Student Relationships: A Work of Heart

For the last 100 years, school education has looked more or less the same. But our world has changed to such a degree and with such rapidity, that K-12 pedagogy must fundamentally alter to keep up. As one teacher was heard commenting in passing: "We are trying to prepare kids for jobs that don't even exist yet."

The confluence of extreme technological advancement with global cultural integration and trade has redefined the dynamics of employment and professional success. In the simplest terms, the tools of the past no longer support our students to be high performers today. Delivering the skill sets that do empower our students to achieve their goals is the mission of the 21st Century Skills movement, of which the Arizona K-12 Center is a major proponent in Arizona.

According to the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (www.21stcenturyskills.org), these capabilities include:

- Information and communication skills (information and media literacy skills; communication skills)
- Thinking and problem-solving (critical thinking and systems thinking; problem identification, formulation and solution; creativity and intellectual curiosity)
- Interpersonal and self-direction skills (interpersonal and collaborative skills; self-direction; accountability and adaptability; social responsibility)
- Global awareness
- Financial, economic and business literacy, and developing entrepreneurial skills to enhance workplace productivity and career options
- Civic literacy

"This is a new world," says Penny Kotterman, Arizona K-12 Center Associate Director for Policy & New Programs. "This is not just a new topic or curriculum, it's a whole new call to action about preparing our kids to be successful in life."

At the heart of the 21st Century Skills agenda is the urgent need for greater economic competitiveness in this country. Over the last



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several decades, our economy has shifted from one based on industrial manufacturing to a service economy driven by information, knowledge and innovation. In this new employment environment, skills such as collaboration, problem solving and creativity are at a premium. Since trade and business are now global, it's essential that students gain a more global awareness as well.

Teachers seeking resources for their classrooms should visit the Partnership for 21st Century Skills web site and go to the section called Route 21. Route 21 is a one-stop shop loaded with relevant information and tools teachers can use to enhance their practice.

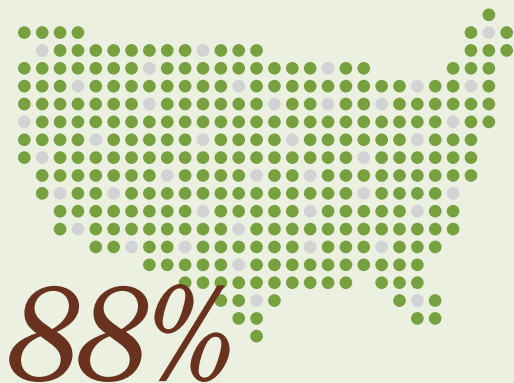
TECHNOLOGY AS A TOOL

It's important not to confuse 21st Century Skills with technological fluency. The fact is that most kids today grow up with technological devices playing a major role in their daily lives. The challenge for teachers is how to leverage technology as a vehicle for knowledge, rather than making it the subject itself.

Did You Know ? ?

It's unanimous!

In a rare show of *near universal agreement*, a nation-wide poll of registered voters found that *almost nine in 10 voters* (88 percent) believe *21st century skills* can and should be part of the curriculum.



Source: Public Opinion Strategies and Peter D. Hart Research Associates

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Beyond the Three R's: Teaching for the 21st Century

Continued from front

"We want teachers to understand that these skills are not an add-on," says Kotterman. "This is about a new way of teaching, about being adaptable and flexible in how you teach content in order to maximize learning."

To help teachers gain a greater understanding of how to integrate 21st Century Skills into their curriculums, the Center is dedicating the Teacher Leadership Institute this summer to the topic.

"We're really excited about bringing top thinkers in the field of 21st Century Skills to meet and work with Arizona teachers," says Kathy Wiebke, Executive Director. "This will give teacher leaders the opportunity to explore strategies and how they align with Arizona Academic Content Standards, which they can implement and share with colleagues."

The Institute will include a presentation by the KnowledgeWorks Foundation on scenario building and what K-12 education will look like in the future. The Institute will also address crafting 21st century learning environments, a critical piece of the puzzle. These are environments that enable students

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to learn in relevant, real world contexts, and which support both team and individual learning. Perhaps just as important is the need for an environment that supports educators in collaborating and sharing best practices throughout their learning community.

In addition to the conference, the Arizona K-12 Center is consciously embedding 21st Century Skills principles throughout its professional development offering, including candidate support for National Board Certification, and Camp Plug and Play, the technology training program.

"This touches all the workshops we do," notes Penny Kotterman. "We want to raise consciousness so that teachers are aware of how important it is to integrate these skills throughout their curricula."

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Let the Arizona K-12 Center help prepare you for the 21st Century at azk12.org.

TEACHER LEADER PROFILE

Dana Mulay

Dana Mulay teaches kindergarten at Sunrise Drive Elementary School, in the Catalina Foothills School District, the same school she herself attended as a child growing up. She relates her becoming a teacher to her positive experiences there. She also acknowledges a very tactile attraction to all things related to the profession.

"I like teachery things," she says, "like sticky notes, pens and makers."

In her 14 years in the profession, she has taught grades K-3, but kindergarten is her favorite. "You see the most growth," she says, "and it's fun. You can still be silly with your students."

Mulay achieved National Board Certification in 2003, and now provides candidate support in her district. "Cultivating accomplished teachers in the district is important, because that's the kind of environment I want to work in," she says. "It's also part of growing yourself and seeing different perspectives."

She's also a proponent of 21st Century Skills, a focus in her district. "It's not just about teaching technology. Kids are attracted to technology. It's part of their world. We have to be able to incorporate it to really get them tuned in."

In her school, Mulay is often called upon to help other teachers use technology in their classrooms. If they become intimidated by a particular application, she reassures them, "If my kindergartners can do it, you can too."

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EVENT SPOTLIGHT: Fourth Annual Teacher Leadership Institute: Leadership and 21st Century Skills

Dates	June 14-17, 2009
Location	Westward Look Resort 245 E. Ina Rd Tucson
Times	June 14th (Registration from 11:00am-12:00pm)
Cost	\$300
Deadline	5/22/2009

Explore strategies for building and maintaining quality education that prepares students to meet the challenges of the 21st century workplace. This event is designed for all educators who share a vision for systemic change in the way we educate students. During this three-day seminar, the KnowledgeWorks Foundation will present information about scenarios for education in the future. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the outcomes and support systems provided by the Partnership for

21st Century Skills in their framework, examine and analyze the 21st Century Skills and their alignment with the Arizona standards, and identify implications and create solutions for educator practice using systems, thinking tools and habits.



Go to azk12.org for more information.