

Executive Director Thoughts: Happy New Year! I hope my note finds you healthy and glad to see 2021. While I know we are not done with the challenges of last year and have gained some new challenges in 2021, I am seeing bright lights wherever I go. Teachers are beginning to get vaccinated, schools are going back to in-person learning and wow, think of all we have learned this past year. AASPA too is embracing the new year with new opportunities and benefits. Be sure to check out all of the events and upcoming opportunities below and please let me know how AASPA can help you in 2021.

Update to pHCLE: I want to give you a quick update on the status of the pHCLE certification and training. With the loss of Battelle for Kids as our partner in pHCLE professional development, we are currently in the process of updating and redesigning the program. For 2021, we will be offering pHCLE exam study groups. These are not meant to be a replacement to the in-depth professional development. Instead they are designed to provide those who have either already gone through the program or who are heavily involved in other professional development, as additional support to take the pHCLE exam. Be on the lookout for new in-depth professional development opportunities both in person and virtually for 2022.

Leon Bradley Scholarship – The 2021 Leon Bradley Scholarship application will be released next month. This scholarship was established to encourage more minorities and people of color to enter the field of teaching. Our goal is to award two scholarships each year in the amount of \$3,500 each. Funding in 2021 will be a challenge. Your support for this important endeavor is cruceal. Please consider donating to this amazing cause. You can view the 2019-2020 scholarship winner video and donate through our GoFundMe account at: https://www.aaspa.org/leon-bradleyscholarship. AASPA is asking each of our state affiliates to both help promote the scholarship, as well as to assist in fundraising efforts. Any assistance in putting out the information on funding and the application would be very much appreciated.

Get Involved – 2021 is a great time to get involved with AASPA. Volunteers are a driving force in the development of new programs and services for members and for school personnel administrators. Please consider helping us shape the future of school HR administration. I want to encourage you to make 2021 the year to get involved in your national association. Participating on a national AASPA Committee or volunteering to share your expertise and knowledge is a great way to connect and network. We are currently taking names for individuals who not only want to join a committee, but write a book review, write a blog or present at an event or on a webinar. Please take time to complete our form at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwXbSKAEIwoW3bB8-URwDXyXPBkW1Fc7CbSvHyWiSOrXIy9g/viewform?gxids=7757

It's not too late to join us for the Virtual Personnel Administrator Boot Camp scheduled for January 28-29, 2021. There are three

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sponsors and 115 registrants for this event. AASPA's Boot Camp is an unrivaled opportunity for PK-12 HR School System Leaders to collaborate across all levels and gather valuable resources you can use to help your teachers, employees and school district. View the agenda and sign up now at https://www.aaspa.org/boot-camp. You won't want to miss it!

AASPA's Diversity Equity & Inclusion Summit is scheduled for April 22-23, 2021 in Orlando, FL at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Entrance to Universal Hotel. The DEI Summit is a two-day event developed for those who are seeking to increase their knowledge in the areas of leadership, recruitment, selection and retention of diverse individuals in PK-12. If you are interested in presenting at this year's event, please contact sandy@aaspa.org. Registration is now open at https://www.aaspa.org/aaspa-deis. Register today!

"Books of the Month" – We are offering the following books at a special discount for the month of January. Check out these great offerings on "Recruitment and Hiring":

- 10 Steps for Hiring Effective Teachers
- Hiring for Attitude...
- Hire Better Teachers Now

Don't delay and pick up your discounted copy today at: https://www.aaspa.org/products/featured-books.

Webinars for January – Please be sure to join us for one of our upcoming webinars in November/December. Feel free to share this information and join us for more great professional development in 2021. Webinars are always FREE for AASPA members and \$25 for nonmembers.

- **Recruitment Strategies During COVID** January 19th /11:00 am CDT
- **Substitute Teacher Education & Preparation** Program: – January 21st/11:00 am CDT
- Bring Back the Substitute Teacher: Examining substitute teacher pay and retention during the pandemic and beyond – January 26th/1:00 pm CDT

To register for any of these webinars go to: https://www.aaspa.org/upcoming-webinars

Membership Update as of 1/15/21:

32 - Retired
42 - Business
26 - Complimentary
32 - Honorary

Total: 2,370