



## Tri-Association Bulletin- Fall 2019

Warm greetings! I hope the new school year is off to a successful start in each of your school communities. This is an exciting time for the Tri-Association Team with our Annual Educators' Conference coming up at the end of the month. With attendance topping eight hundred participants, a stellar lineup of speakers and school presenters, and a progressive city and host school, we are very much looking forward to a rich learning experience. Thank you American School Foundation of Monterrey for your hospitality and work on behalf of our most important event of the year.

This year we have several new schools joining our regular membership, and some Directors that are returning or new to their post. We extend our warmest welcome to all of you! You will find the listing of all our new members at the end of this message.

We are looking forward to launching our first Threshold Design Institute in Monterrey. You will find an article about this new initiative in this edition.

## Paul G. Orr Award Recipient for 2019

We are honored to present the 2019 Paul G. Orr Award to the Office of Overseas Schools, U.S. Department of State. The Office of Overseas Schools was established in 1964 under the Presidency of the late John F. Kennedy, and for more than 55 years has been working to ensure that the best possible educational opportunities are available for dependents of U.S. Government personnel while stationed abroad. While the Department's primary motivation in supporting schools abroad is to promote quality U.S. educational opportunities, these schools also serve as a means to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those from other countries through the daily demonstration of American educational ideals, principles, and methods.

In following these ideals, the Office of Overseas Schools has not only benefited U.S. government dependents, but has also provided students from the host country and third country nationals with the opportunity to learn English and be schooled in outstanding educational methodologies. In doing this, the Office of Overseas Schools serves globally as one of the best ambassadors of American values and good will. Through this award, the members of the Tri-Association recognize and express their deep gratitude to the leadership team and staff of the Office of Overseas Schools for their ongoing support and commitment to the schools in our region.

Mr. Tom Shearer, Director of the Office of Overseas Schools, and Dr. Robin Heslip, Regional Education Officer will receive this award in the name of all those who have served in the Office of Overseas Schools over the years. The ceremony will take place during the Annual Educators' Conference in Monterrey, Mexico.

## At a glance

### Regional News

- New Regular Member Schools
- Announcing the launch of the Threshold Design Institute

### School Articles

- ASF Unveils its new Makerspace  
*A Conversation with Tracey Bryan,  
Digital Literacy Coach*
- Problem solving in the  
Mathematics Curriculum

The funding received from The Office of Overseas Schools is allowing us to expand on our support of regional professional development initiatives across the three regions of the Tri-Association. This year we are funding many professional development opportunities, which are open to any Tri-Association School that is part of our membership. Informational flyers with registration links will be sent to you shortly.

**Please note the following information:**

- **ISS Partnership** – This year International Schools Services is once again offering a unique membership agreement to Tri-Association regular member schools. If you are interested in learning more about this please reach out to Laura Light at ISS.
- **Updating Association Distribution Lists** – Once again be reminded that we must have an updated list of contacts for your school in order for you to access the benefits from NAIS, EBSCO and NAESP. All regular member schools pay for these services through their Tri-Association dues so please check to ensure that someone in your organization responded to the directory template updates

<https://www.tri-association.org/directoryupdate>

- **The Latin American Directors' Conference & Tri-Association Business Meeting** – Be aware that the start-up date for the Latin American Directors' Conference may change from Tuesday December 3, 2019 to Monday December 2, 2019. The opening activities will take place in the afternoon. I was told that their conference website would be going up shortly confirming this information. The Tri-Association Business Meeting will be held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on the day conference opens between 10:30 - 11:30 AM. You are all cordially invited to attend.

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are now



In closing I want to invite you to send me articles about events taking place in your school. This regional bulletin is an excellent way to share and celebrate the important work you, your teachers, and students are doing. The deadline to receive information for the Winter Bulletin is November 1, 2019.

*All the best,*  
**Sonia Keller, Ed. D.**  
Executive Director

38th Annual Educators' Conference  
**September 24 - 28, 2019**  
*Monterrey, Mexico*

**Tri Association presents:**

## **Building the Empathetic School**



## New Regular Member Schools

### AASCA

- **The Metropolitan School** / *Panama*
- **Seran School** / *Honduras*

### ACCAS

- **Colegio Bilingue de Valledupar** / *Colombia*
- **La Sierra International School** / *Valledupar, Colombia*
- **The Community for Learning** / *Dominican Republic*

## New Invitational School

- **Colegio Hebreo Union** / *Barranquilla, Colombia*

## New Directors

### ACCAS

- **Joseph Levno** / Interim Director, Colegio Karl C. Parrish / *Colombia*
- **Cecilia Restrepo** / Colegio Bilingue de Valledupar / *Colombia*
- **Daniel Garvey** / Cap Cana Heritage School / *Dominican Republic*
- **Michael Thompson** / Hillel Academy / *Jamaica*
- **Carla Meyrink** / The Community for Learning / *Dominican Republic*
- **Laura Horbal** / La Sierra International School / *Valledupar, Colombia*
- **Robert Van der Eyken** / Academia Cotopaxi / *Ecuador*

### AASCA

- **Dan McKee** / Metropolitan School / *Panama*
- **Steve Mancuso** / American Nicaraguan School / *Nicaragua*
- **Katty Alvarado** / American International School / *Costa Rica*
- **Alan Wrafter** / Panamerican School / *Costa Rica*
- **Hudek Hendrix** / Colegio Internacional de San Salvador / *El Salvador*
- **Polly Parker** / American School / *El Salvador*

### ASOMEX

- **Gerald Selitzer** / Westhill Academy / *Mexico*
- **David Brown** / American School of Durango / *Mexico*
- **Donna Swenson** / Fundacion Colegio Americano de Puebla / *Mexico*

Congratulations to **Dr. Francisco Galicia** who was recently designated as  
**Director Emeritus** at the **The American School of Puebla**

*I appreciate you reaching out if I failed to mention you or your school!*

# Announcing the launch of the Threshold Design Institute



There has never been more opportunity to create unique and compelling teaching and learning environments and experiences. At the same time, there are significant challenges that schools face on an everyday basis that challenge this opportunity. How can a school negotiate this landscape to maximize the opportunity of these possibilities?

We can begin with questions: How might we...

- Build the future now?
- Be the orchestrators of tomorrow, today?
- Transform "school" into an irresistible canvas for learning?
- Be the heart, home, and head of our school communities?
- Pivot to becoming purpose-seekers, passion-finders, and potential-realizers.?
- Honor traditions, amplify strengths, address constraints, and solve for X?
- And accomplish all of this through a strategic human-centered approach to change and improvement?

***We are proud to announce the launch of the Threshold Design Institute at the 38th Annual Educators Conference in Monterrey, Mexico.***

The Institute is a year-long opportunity for member schools to learn the design thinking process, work collaboratively together, and engage their school communities with the design process to answer a question that has high value for them. The experience will be composed of two face-to-face events, with our project launch at this year's pre-conference and culminating with a two-day pre-conference session at the conference next year. Between this time, and throughout the year, the cohort will have the opportunity to engage in monthly webinars to deepen their understanding of the design thinking process, assess and gauge their progress as they work through their design challenge, and engage with each other to support the range of projects of the participating schools. The Institute is led by David Jakes and Brian Hamm.

During the experience, participants will learn the process of design by doing design.

Participants will learn how to develop community inclusive engagement opportunities to gather data and information, develop design directions based on this information, create design solutions through ideation and prototyping, and learn how to test and improve their designs.



Going beyond the concept of a traditional cohort experience, we imagine the Threshold Design Institute as a dynamic community of innovative educators and school leaders across Latin America who are seeking to engage in multi-disciplinary collaboration to push their professional and school boundaries forward.

At this year's event in Monterrey, we are launching the first cohort of schools that is composed of five schools from El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Mexico. The Institute is an opportunity for schools to learn a human-centered

process that can support their ability to become more strategic and innovative in what they do. It is also an opportunity to do this as a community and learn from each other.

John Seely Brown and Ann Pendleton Julian say that design is a process that *"operationalizes the imagination."* The Institute is committed to providing an opportunity for schools to develop their imagination while at the same time creating strategic solutions to their opportunities through pragmatic action.

The Institute would like to sincerely thank Sonia Keller for her tremendous support of this idea and experience. If you would like to learn more about the Threshold Design Institute, please visit our web site at [www.threshold.design](http://www.threshold.design). And, if you are interested in the design thinking process, please join us for sessions during the regular conference on Friday and Saturday.

**See you in Monterrey!**

## >>> school articles

### ASF Unveils its new Makerspace

*A Conversation with Tracey Bryan, Digital Literacy Coach*

As educational practices have evolved over time, we have gained insight supporting what great teachers have known for centuries: we learn better by doing and by applying our understanding in meaningful, engaging ways.

<http://www.tri-association.org/asfmakerspace>



### Problem solving in the Mathematics Curriculum

"Students should be allowed to make the subject problematic. ... Allowing the subject to be problematic means allowing students to wonder why things are, to inquire, to search for solutions, and to resolve incongruities. It means that both curriculum and instruction should begin with problems, dilemmas, and questions for students."

<http://www.tri-association.org/problemsolvingmath>

## CONFERENCE PATRONS

The Association of American Schools of Central America, Colombia-Caribbean & Mexico expresses its gratitude to the following institutions and companies for their sponsorship of the different events and speakers for our annual conference:

- Office of Overseas School, U.S. State Department
- Curriculum Associates
- Follett
- International School Services
- NAESP
- Search Associates
- TieCare International

## CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

The Association of American Schools of Central America, Colombia-Caribbean & Mexico expresses its gratitude to the companies and organizations that are part of our membership.

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## Information Page

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Dr. Francisco Galicia

Director Emeritus, The American School of Puebla

#### Regional Education Officer

Dr. Robin Heslip

#### Executive Director

Sonia Keller

#### Layout / Design

ZTR / Monterrey, Mexico

Send all inquiries and suggestions to the Executive Director at

Sonia Keller

[skeller@tri-association.org](mailto:skeller@tri-association.org)

#### Association Information

##### Mailing Address

Ms. Sonia Keller  
Executive Director  
2637 Ascot Drive  
Florence, SC 29501

#### Home Office Contact Numbers

1 (843) 799 5754 (Vonage)

#### ► From the Executive Director

Please send me articles featuring the important work and events taking place in your school!

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

- Winter 2019-2020:  
November 15, 2019
- Spring-Summer 2020:  
April 15, 2020

# Corporate Members



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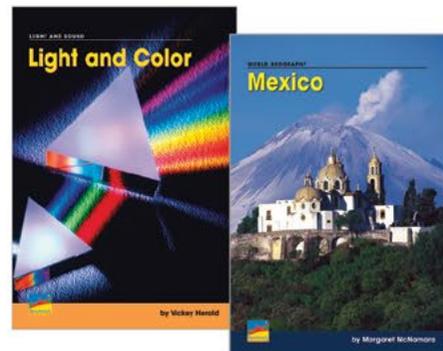
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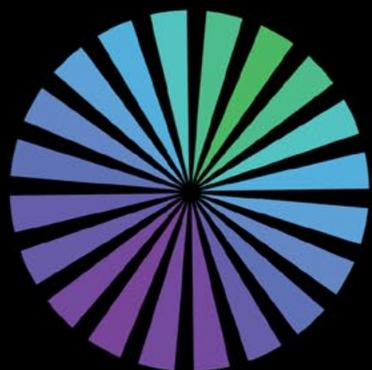
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# 2019-20 Changes to AP: A Path to Success for All Students



AP<sup>®</sup> students do college-level work in high school. And if they score a 3 or higher on the exam, they can earn college credit. To help them make the most of this opportunity, we're supporting their teachers with a suite of online tools and introducing new policies for the 2019-20 school year.

## More Students Succeed When They Register in the Fall

More than half of schools that offer AP ask students to commit to taking the exam in the fall, boosting their chance of earning a score that translates to college credit. We've seen the benefits firsthand.

## New Resources

Students will get personalized feedback through new digital tools that provide daily support for every AP classroom. Their teachers will be able to track their performance throughout the year using an online bank of real AP practice questions and monthly personal progress checks.

## Your Student's To-Do List

Here is what students need to do to prepare for the 2019-20 AP school year.

### THIS SPRING

- Students sign up for AP classes at school.

### BEFORE THE SCHOOL YEAR

- Students visit [apstudent.collegeboard.org](http://apstudent.collegeboard.org) to learn more about AP courses and exams.
- Students without a College Board account should create one and set their password. They'll need their username and password when their AP classes start in the fall.
- Students who already have an account should make sure they know their username and password.

### FALL 2019

- **First week of class:** Teachers will give students a join code for each of their AP classes. Students use their College Board username and password and join code to enroll in their class section.
- **October/November:** Schools submit exam orders.

### SPRING 2020

- **March:** Schools submit any changes to their exam order and order exams for students in spring courses.
- **May:** Students take AP Exams.

### SUMMER 2020

- **July:** AP Exam scores are released.

Questions? Contact your AP coordinator or AP services for students, or email us at [apexams@info.collegeboard.org](mailto:apexams@info.collegeboard.org)



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**Dr. Jack McGourty**  
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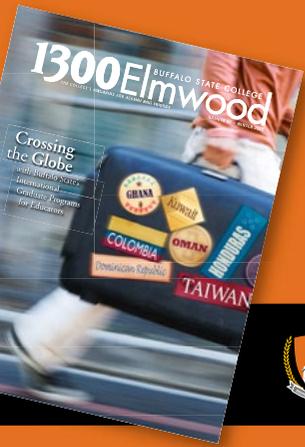
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