Tri-Association Highlights

I hope the New Year is off to a great start in your respective school communities.

At the Tri-Association we are looking forward to another excellent cycle as we continue with the push for a larger footprint in the area of professional learning throughout the region. Our Annual Conference will once again be our most important event, and this year we go back to San José, Costa Rica the week of October 2-6, 2017. This year's theme, *What Matters Most? Leading Learning in an Era of Change*, will be led by Michael Fullan, one of the most respected educational thought leaders and researchers in our field. The call for school presentations opened last week, and you should have received an email with this information. The links to the presentation template can also be found on the Association page **www.tri-association.org**. The venue for the conference is the Intercontinental Hotel/Plaza Mall in Escazú, and early reservations can be made through the following link, **36th Annual Educators' Conference**.

The initiative to increase our social media presence through the expert guidance and leadership provided by Silvia Tolisano, Media Specialist and Consultant is beginning to give excellent results. In this edition Silvia addresses the issue of "fake news", a topic that has continued to gain in relevance since last year's U.S. Presidential Campaign. Silvia is also sharing curated resources on media literacy and the important role that schools must play.

Two additional professional resources featured in this edition include:

1). A roadmap written by Learning Forward trainers on a systemic approach to teacher leadership.

http://www.tri-association.org/uploaded/newsletters/ learning_forward.pdf

Citation for this work: Killion, J., Harrison, C., Colton, A., Bryan, C., Delehant, A., & Cooke, D. (2016).

A systemic approach to elevating teacher leadership. Oxford, OH: Learning Forward.

 A blog by Michael Fullan in response to a study citing Finland's educational success and what other school systems need to consider if they wish to achieve similar outcomes: "Find Your Own Finland"

blog.google/topics/education/find-your-own-finland

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Winter 2017

At a glance

- Margaret Sanders
 Scholarship Nominee
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- CDS Opens LEED Campus
- Media and Network
 Literacies
 by Silvia Tolisano
- Memories from Triconf16 Guadalajara, Mexico

At the end you can enjoy the gallery of pictures from our amazing 35th Anniversary Conference in Guadalajara. It was truly a memorable experience, and once again, we are indebted to the American School Foundation of Guadalajara for their hospitality and organizational support.

Please send us your news and pictures of activities in your school by March 15, 2017 to include in the Spring/ Summer Newsletter.

> Sincerely, **Sonia Keller, Ed. D.** Executive Director

Margaret Sanders Scholarship Nominee

Juan Erik Pelayo is this year's nominee for the Margaret Sanders Foundation Scholarship. Juan is a Senior at the American School of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, where he has distinguished himself through his leadership, academic performance and commitment to service learning projects. Among other accomplishments, Juan is the co-founder of CREA, which works with local orphanages and senior homes to bring joy and resources to these communities. With a French-Canadian background, proficiency in three languages, and Mexican upbringing, Juan is an excellent example of multiculturalism. Congratulations to Juan and to ASPV!



>> regional news

Change in REO

Dr. William Scotti who served as the A/OS Regional Education Officer since 1997 retired this past December 31, 2016. Dr. Scotti was a loyal friend and unconditional advocate for the schools in the Tri–Association. During his tenure Dr. Scotti supported countless projects and staff development opportunities that enhanced teaching and learning in our schools. Dr. Scotti's commitment and dedication to our region is much appreciated and will long be remembered. Dr. Scotti was honored with the Paul G. Orr Award. Below is a picture of Dr. Scotti with the second Paul G. Orr recipient, Mr. Beau Wilson, and with Mary Virginia Sanchez, former Executive Director.

Mr. Thomas Shearer was recently named REO for our region. Mr. Shearer has been serving as the REO for Eastern Europe, Russia and South Central Asia since he joined the Office of Overseas Schools in 2013, and will continue to cover this region in addition to the Tri-Association.

The new REO is no stranger to international education. Before coming to A/OS he was the Superintendent of the American International School of Lagos and President of the Executive



Board of the Association of International Schools of Africa. He has served as a consultant to international schools as a expert on Board Governance training, new director training and has also chaired several accreditation team visits to both international schools and public schools in the United States.

Mr. Shearer has vast administrative experience in the different levels of the Principalship in schools in the greater Seattle area, where he served on the State Board of Education for the state of Washington. Mr. Shearer will start visiting schools in our region in the Spring and will attend the Annual Educators' Conference in October 2017.



CDS Opens LEED Campus

Country Day School opened the doors of their new LEED certified campus this school year. The school is located in San Rafael de Olejuela. Congratulations to the entire Country Day School Community on this important milestone in the history of the school. A visit to the campus will be planned as part of the conference program in October 2017.











Media and Network Literacies

by Silvia Tolisano

We are at a moment in history when there is more information being produced, circulated and thrown at us than at any other moment in time.

Traditional skills such as learning to read, write, find, analyze, evaluate, archive and share information are no longer sufficient for our students and in dire need of upgrading in order to be relevant for our 21st century reality and beyond.

We have just recently started to hear more and more about the issue of Fake News in mainstream media, an issue that educators have known about for a while. The lack of preparation in discerning fake news from accurate news sources on the part of the general population is a growing cause for concern that needs to be addressed in school.

We are genuinely lacking skills in the area of information, media and networking literacies. Now is the time to dive into and support these critical literacies. "The fake news issue" is not going to go away but will most likely just continue to grow.

I encourage you to read the following articles to gain perspective of the urgency we, as educators, need to feel to address the issues of a new information reality and take action in our classrooms and schools. Also follow us on Twitter **https://twitter.com/triassociation** for a curated feed of relevant resources in this area.

- Alan November's latest article: Mission Critical: How Educators Can Save Democracy https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/mission-critical-how-educators-can-savedemocracy-alan-november
- Joyce Valenza- Truth, truthiness, triangulation: A news literacy toolkit for a "post-truth" world http://blogs.slj.com/neverendingsearch/2016/11/26/truth-truthinesstriangulation-and-the-librarian-way-a-news-literacy-toolkit-for-a-post-truthworld/
- John Spencer- Fake News is a Real Problem. Here's How Students Can Solve It. http://www.spencerauthor.com/2016/12/fake-news-is-a-real-problem-hereshow-students-can-solve-it.html/

Social Media Consulting & Coaching

Silvia Rosenthal Tolisano is available for onsite or virtual "Social Media for Schools" (including information, media and network literacy) consulting and coaching sessions for you and your faculty. You can contact her for a preliminary info call via her consulting site http://www.globallyconnectedlearning.com or via email silvia@globallyconnectedlearning.com

MEMORIES FROM TRICONF 16 Guadalajara, Mexico







A raffle winner!

Michael Johnston's Keynote, Director Colegio Maya



ASFG Honor Guard



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Jennie Maguiera's Keynote set the audience on fire!









Lincoln & Pan-American School Administrators/Costa Rica invite audience to Triconf17

Thank you ASFG Team!

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Send all inquiries and suggestions to the Executive Director at Sonia Keller **skeller@tri-association.org**

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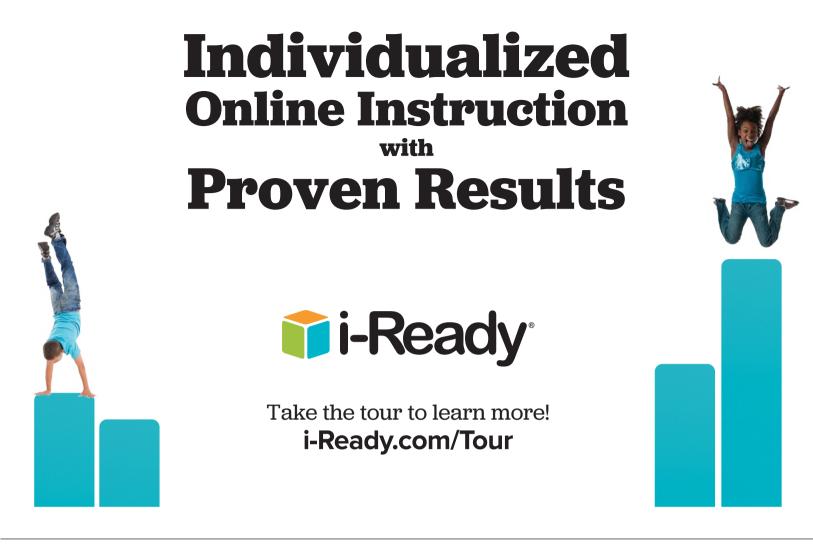
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• From the Executive Director Please send me articles featuring the important work and events taking place in your school!

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• Spring/Summer 2017: March 15, 2017





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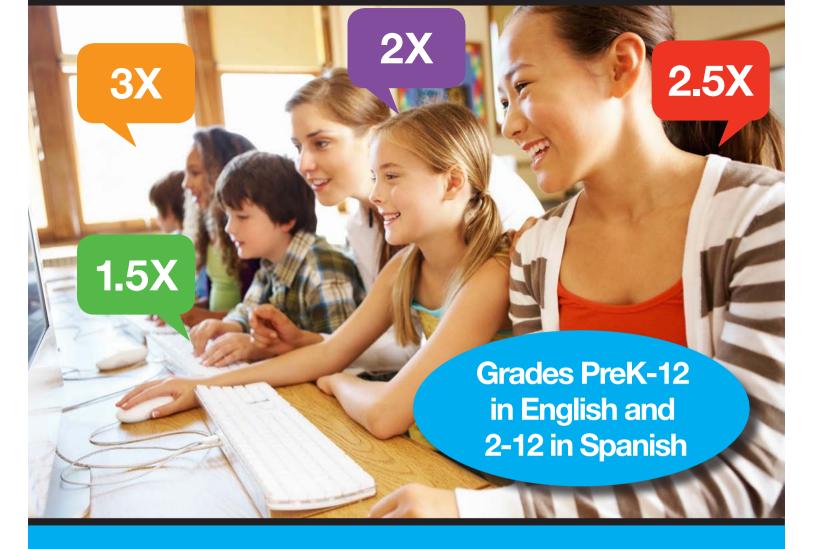
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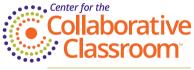
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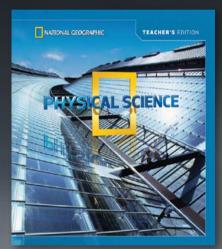
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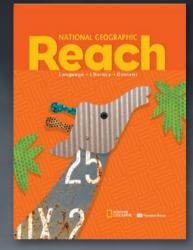


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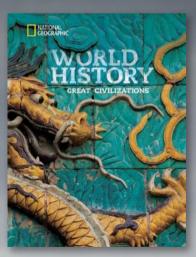




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