

## Welcome to 2018!

So far, it has been a very exciting, very busy New Year here at Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana! We know that your students ended last year with a bang, and that 2018 has swung into full gear. We hope that these last few months of the school year provide an opportunity for each of your classrooms to grow and be set for success. Read on to find out what we have been up and what we have on the horizon.

### **A+PEL Awards Professional Instructional Resource Grants**

A+PEL recently awarded our Professional Instructional Resource Grants. This grant is aimed at deferring the costs of instructional resources and classroom supplies for teachers. A+PEL realizes that teachers are personally paying for an increasing number of classroom expenses which were once covered by school, district, or state funds. This grant has an upper limit of 500 dollars.

Please join us in congratulating our IRG Recipients!

Debbie Johnson – Livingston Parish

Emily Jackson – EBR Parish

James Shoff – EBR Parish

Ann Soileau – Evangeline Parish

Amy Andrus – Evangeline Parish

## **Set Sail with the 2018 A+PEL Summer Conference**

Mark your calendars for the 2018 A+PEL Summer Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the beautiful, newly remodeled Marriott hotel. We will *Set SAIL – Succeed. Achieve. Innovate. Lead.* from July 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> with 60 top-notch professional development sessions led by teacher leaders from across Louisiana. This conference has something for everyone, so grab a friend and register before June 1<sup>st</sup> to take advantage of the early bird discount of \$125 (non-members) or \$100 (A+PEL members).

If you would like to share an exciting new strategy or if you have information that teachers need to know, the A+PEL Summer Conference is a fun way to reach over 200 educators! We're looking for math, science, ELA, social studies, technology, classroom management, literacy, and general classroom topic presentations that are engaging and exciting. Submit your online application to present by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Presenters will be notified of acceptance by March 31<sup>st</sup> and will be required to register for the conference. Check out the online presenter portal for all the details.

## **A+PEL Awards First Year Teacher Grants**

A+PEL recently awarded First Year Teacher Grants. This grant is aimed at deferring the costs of instructional resources and classroom supplies for first year teachers. A+PEL realizes that an increasing number of classroom expenses, which were once covered by school, district, or state funds, are being personally paid for by teachers. As first year teachers, these educators may be in particular need of assistance in setting up their classroom. The grant has an upper limit of 500 dollars.

Please join us in congratulating our FYTG Recipients!

Kristi Robert – Assumption Parish

Jumana Al-Bassisi – Jefferson Parish

# **A+PEL Supports Teachers' Voices**

Like you, A+PEL was alerted to the shocking and horrible video of our fellow educator in Vermilion Parish being physically silenced for asking a pertinent question at a meeting. By now, you have also seen the appalling acts of intimidation.

As we announced in our [January 9th statement](#), we want you to know that A+PEL stands with all educators who want to have their voices heard. A+PEL supports educators in voicing their concerns over what happens in their classrooms, in their district, and at the state and national Level. Part of A+PEL's Professional Creed, developed by Louisiana educators over thirty five years ago, includes the notion that educators' foremost responsibility is the education and welfare of students. We applaud Ms. Hargrave for her actions in upholding that responsibility.

We ask that you join us in standing with Ms Hargrave, and know that A+PEL is here to support all educators with voicing their concerns about local, state, and national educational concerns. If you, our member, are ever in a similar situation, call our legal team immediately. In the last five years, we've vastly expanded our legal team to include a legal director, a general counsel on our staff, and network attorneys in every region. We are here for Louisiana's educators.

## **A+PEL Awards Professional and Associate Member Scholarships**

A+PEL recently awarded both the Professional Educator Scholarship and the Associate Member Scholarship. These awards are designed to provide tuition assistance to professional educators who are taking graduate coursework

(Master, Ed Specialist, PhD) or seeking alternative certification from an accredited university or alternative certification program, or to assist A+PEL associate members in achieving certification as professional educators through university coursework or alternative certification program. Join us in congratulating the following members:

Professional:

- Taylor Adams of West Feliciana Parish
- Katrin Smith of East Baton Rouge Parish

Associate:

- Karolyn LaCour of Calcasieu Parish
- Penny Chavis of Acadia Parish

## **A+PEL's Teacher Voice Initiative**

Your VOICE is important and policymakers are ready to listen. A+PEL is ready to support your voice, so we've created an opportunity for you to work with A+PEL to affect positive change in our state, get connected with local and state policymakers, and make a difference. Email our Executive Director, Dr. Keith Courville and identify an issue in your teaching career that you are PASSIONATE about. Your story may result in a feature in future newsletters, a session at one of our conferences, an opportunity to serve on state commissions, a connection with a legislator, or an actual policy change impacting the lives of Louisiana's students and teachers.

And it all begins with telling your story. We want to hear from you personally. Email [Keith](#) today!

## **LSU Educator Panel**

Looking to get more involved with the next generation of Louisiana Educators?

We're looking for volunteer teachers AND administrators from the Greater Baton Rouge Area for a Panel Discussion at LSU on April 19th. Email [Miranda](#) to volunteer!

# Volunteer of the Year

It's that time of year again! A+PEL has opened the nominations for School Volunteer of the Year. Each year, we honor those school volunteers who have shown outstanding dedication and commitment to quality education in Louisiana.

Local and/or state A+PEL committees will evaluate each nomination. Each district's honoree will then be submitted to be the State Volunteer of the Year and finalists will be selected. A+PEL will honor State Volunteer of the Year finalists with one State Volunteer of the Year being named at our annual celebration in June. Please complete the online nomination form [here](#). The application deadline is Friday, February 16, 2018.

# Understanding Your Insurance Policies

Do you have so many insurance policies that you don't know what to do? WE ARE HERE TO HELP! Bring your policy paperwork and learn about what coverage you have and what you really need. After the meeting, there will be insurance agents available to go over your policies 1:1 with you to consult with you on your specific situation! You do not want to miss this free, life-changing event. Sponsored by A+PEL and AMBA

It will be on Wednesday, February 28, from 5pm-6pm at Northwestern State University, Russell Hall, David Morgan Room 107 - Auditorium at 125 Central Ave., Natchitoches, LA 71497. Only 50 spots are available so [Register TODAY!](#)

# **A+PEL Member Achievements and Honors**

**Mark Schlatter**, A+PEL Member from Caddo Parish, has been named Region 7 Middle School Teacher of the Year by LACUE!

**Michelle Savoy**, A+PEL Member from Ascension Parish, has been named Teacher of the Year at Galvez Middle School!

**Kimberly LeJeune**, A+PEL Member from Livingston Parish, has been chosen as Teacher of the Year from Livingston Parish!

**Beckie Fritchie**, A+PEL Member from Ascension Parish, was named Region 3 Elementary School Teacher of the Year by LACUE!

**Lauren A. Cesar**, A+PEL Member from Calcasieu Parish, has been chosen as Teacher of the Year for Calcasieu Parish!

**Courtney Dumas**, A+PEL Member from Ascension Parish, was named named State Middle School Teacher of the Year by LACUE!

**Lori Ridgdell**, A+PEL Member from East Baton Rouge Parish, was named Region 2 Secondary School Teacher of the Year by LACUE!

**Angie Hantz**, A+PEL Member from Calcasieu Parish, was named Region 5 Elementary School Teacher of the Year by LACUE!

We are proud of these amazing members!

Have an achievement, honor, or special promotion that you'd like to share?

Email us [here](#).

# Upcoming Events and Deadlines

**January 30 (Tuesday)-** Livingston Parish A+PEL Chapter meeting on Jan. 30th at Live Oak Elementary at 4:30 pm. Current and new members are welcome!

**February 3 (Saturday)-** *Finding the Road to Success with Compass*. Learn about the rubric that administrators use to evaluate teachers and how this tool can help you to become the effective teacher you want to be. In this 3-hour session you will develop a better understanding of the rubric and learn about the expectations required to meet a level 3 or 4 on the rubric. There will be time for dialogue so that you leave feeling knowledgeable about this important tool for educators. University of Holy Cross (Nola) Rm. 1034. 4123 Woodland Dr. New Orleans, Louisiana 70131- Register [here](#).

**February 15 (Thursday)-** Professional Development Grant Deadline- Apply [here](#)!

**February 28 (Wednesday)-** Understanding Your Insurance Policies at Northwestern State University. Russell Hall- Rm 107, from 5pm-6pm. [Register here](#)!

**March 10 (Saturday)-**EdCamp Lafayette 8 a.m.-12:30p.m. Held at Ascension Episcopal. Free! Register [here](#).

**March 15 (Thursday)-** Student Teacher Scholarship Deadline- Apply [here](#)!  
Have an A+PEL event that you want added to our calendar? Let us know [here](#).