



PTPC ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter 2013

History of the Commission

In 1966 the Professional Teaching Practices Act (AS14.20) was passed to provide a means of addressing ethics and for improving the standards and practices within the education profession. The act created a nine-member commission consisting of five classroom teachers, one principal, one superintendent, one representative from the Department of Education and Early Development, and one rep-

resentative from higher education, all of whom are appointed by the governor. Commissioners serve two, three-year terms. Since 1973, an Executive Director has been employed to implement the policies and responsibilities of the Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC).

A code of ethics for Alaska Educators was adopted by the Commission and promulgated as state

regulations. The code, which was written in 2000, provides a framework of ethical standards for members of the profession.

The Commission deals with matters of professional conduct and certification. It has the responsibility and the power to discipline members of the teaching profession and may issue reprimands, suspensions, and/or revocations of educators' certificates.

Professionalism & Ethics in Teaching

Teachers are not only masters of the content they teach, but they also instill values for success such as responsibility, respectfulness, and conscientiousness. Professionalism and ethics in the classroom involves impartial and relevant teaching of all students, regardless of ethnicity, academic performance, or personality. The professional teacher provides an equitable classroom environment in which all students learn. Teachers are a primary influence in students' lives. For this reason, professionalism and ethics are important topics to address not only with teachers but within the school community at large.

The relationship between professionalism and ethics is significant. Professionalism in any discipline is defined by the responsibility to society of that discipline as determined by the society in which it is practiced. The responsibility of teachers is profound, and the professional standard is high. Similarly, the ethics of teaching are derived from societal values and the importance placed on education. Teachers, as professionals, who serve society, should abide with integrity by the expectations of professionalism and ethics set by that society. (www.eHow.com; "Advancing High Ethical Standards and Practices")

The Professional Teaching Practices Commission will meet in general session **January 28 and April 23-24, 2013**. Commission meetings are held in the Willawa conference room of the Alaska State Library, 344 West 3rd Avenue in Anchorage. Meetings are open to the public.

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Commission Members

- **Mike Husa (Chair)**
Teacher Representative
- **Jill Exe (Vice Chair)**
Teacher Representative
- **Cindy Aillaud (Secretary)**
Teacher Representative
- **Dr. Steve Atwater**
Superintendent Representative
- **Eric Fry**
DEED Representative
- **Jeff Hebard**
Teacher Representative
- **Dr. Martin Laster**
Higher Ed Representative
- **Richard Lum**
Teacher Representative
- **Lou Pondolfino**
Principal Representative
- **Patricia Truman**
Executive Director
- **Atiya Barlow**
Administrative Assistant



A teacher is like a candle—It consumes itself to light the way for others.
~ Author Unknown~

COMMISSION ACTION

During its January 2012 meeting:

- the Commission accepted the surrender of the teacher and administrative certificates of William C. James.
- the Commission suspended the professional teacher certificate of Jeffrey Anenson for one year.
- the Commission suspended the type C certificate of Carol M. Johnson for one year.

During its April 2012 meeting:

- the Commission suspended the initial teacher certificate of Toni C. Smith for one year.
- the Commission suspended the type C certificate of Wendy C. Nebbia for one year.
- the Commission issued a formal reprimand to Steven Pine.
- the Commission conducted an administrative review of staff's decision to dismiss one (1) case. Staff's decision to dismiss was upheld.

During its September 2012 meeting:

- the Commission suspended the professional teacher certificate of Richard J. Trombley for one year with conditions.
- the Commission suspended the professional teacher certificate of Thomas S. Kozak for one year.
- the Commission suspended the initial teacher certificate of Adrena Wheeler for one year.
- the Commission issued a formal reprimand to Steven Pine.
- the Commission accepted an agreement for the revocation for life of the professional certificate of David B. Bowen.



*****ATTENTION*****

It is each certificate holder's responsibility to keep a current address on file with the Office of Certification. If your address has changed since your last certificate was issued, please visit <http://www.education.alaska.gov/TeacherCertification/>, download the form, and mail it to the Office of Certification.

*****NOTICE*****

Commission staff is available to provide presentations on the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession and the role of the Commission. The presentation includes discussions regarding professionalism and professional responsibilities. Contact the Professional Teaching Practices Commission to arrange presentations in your district.

MANDATORY REPORTING



IMPORTANT: What violations **MUST** be reported to the Commission?

The Code of Ethics of the Education Profession **requires** that knowledge of physical abuse of a student or sexual conduct with a student by an educator **must** be reported to the Commission.

(20 ACC 10.020 (b)(4))



NEW COMMISSIONER

Governor Parnell appointed a new Commissioner to serve on the Professional Teaching Practices Commission. **Dr. Martin Laster** will sit as the representative of Higher Education. Dr. Laster is currently the Director of the Educational Leadership Program at the University of Alaska Southeast. He began his teaching career in Ohio and came to the Anchorage School District as a reading specialist. He also worked with gifted students and as a principal of Finger Lake Elementary in the Mat-Su School District. Other positions Dr. Laster has held include: Director of Instructional Services in the Northwest Arctic School District, principal in Ambler, principal/teacher in Skwentna. He has also served as a superintendent for almost two decades in Washington and Alaska. Dr. Laster states, "I love Alaska and public education; I believe it is one of the greatest gifts that America provides to its citizens."

Governor Parnell also reappointed **Mr. Lou Pondolino**, principal representative, and **Ms. Jill Exe**, teacher representative, to serve a second term on the Commission. By regulation, Commissioners may serve two, three-year terms.

Commission members are appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. Appointments are subject to approval by the Legislatures. Commissioners are allowed to serve two, three-year terms. The Professional Teaching Practices Commission is comprised of nine members, i.e., one superintendent, one principal, five classroom teachers, one representative from higher education, and one representative from the Department of Education and Early Development.

In The News

TEACHER'S CELL SWIPED, RISQUE PICTURE POSTED TO FACEBOOK...

If you have the Facebook mobile app on your cell phone, it's a good idea to log out when you're not using it.

A school teacher learned the hard way because someone stole his cell phone and uploaded provocative photos to his Facebook page for all his friends to see. Police are trying to find out who is responsible. They were able to track that cell phone, and it was turned into the School Resource officer. Police have a person of interest they want to talk to about the cell phone theft, but in the meantime, it's important to remember to always log out of your social networking sites on your phone.

Facebook friends of the teacher got a little more than they bargained for when provocative pictures showed up on the high school teacher's Facebook page Monday night. The pictures were of a 19-year-old who had recently graduated from the high school. In the pictures she had revealing clothing on and was posed provocatively.

Not only is the posting embarrassing, it is potentially career damaging for an educator. The teacher has been teaching for nine years and also coaches on the side. However, he is the victim of a crime and an embarrassing situation created by the person who committed that crime.

Now police are trying to figure out where the pictures came from and who uploaded them from the teacher's page. All of that should be cleared up by the police investigation. Also, police are investigating whether this cell phone theft is connected to a recent rash of cell phone thefts at the high school.

Simply closing an application does not mean you are logged out. If your phone is stolen, change your Facebook password right away. You also may want to change your email password in addition to any other applications a thief may be able to access on your phone.

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Spotlight

ALASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR:

Christopher Benshoof, a math teacher at Lathrop High School was named Alaska Teacher of the Year 2013 by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development at a presentation during the annual conference of the Association of Alaska School Boards in Anchorage.

Brandy Bishop, a teacher of English and reading at Houston Middle School in the Mat-Su School District, was named Alternate Teacher of the Year 2013.



ALASKA PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR:

Greg Wohlam, principal of George Morgan Jr./Sr. High School in the Kuspuk School District, was selected as the 2012 Alaska Middle School Principal of the Year by The Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals.

Cheryl Huber, principal of S.A.V.E. High School in the Anchorage School District, was chosen as Alaska High School Principal of the Year by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals.

Barbara Nagengast, principal of Denali Elementary School in the Fairbanks School District, was named a National Distinguished Principal 2012 by the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals.

Lou Pondolfino, principal of King Career Center in the Anchorage School District, was named Administrator of the Year by the Career and Technical Education Group.

"I have come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather. I possess tremendous power to make a life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated and a person humanized or dehumanized. If we treat people as they are, we make them worse. If we treat people as they ought to be, we help them become what they are capable of becoming."

~ Goethe ~

My life changed forever ...

...on November 6th, 2011 as Commissioner Hanley announced I had been chosen to represent the teachers of our state. In January 2012, I started my official term.

Thus began a whirlwind of opportunities. A few of the highlights were: a trip to Dallas to meet 52 other Teachers of the Year, participation in The Alaska Association for School Boards fly-in in Juneau to address Digital Learning, going to Washington D.C. to meet the President and to attend a reception in the Rose Garden, a day of learning at the Smithsonian, and attending Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

Since the University of Phoenix donates a full \$60,000 scholarship to each teacher of the year to award to a recipient of choice, I honored a future teacher from Metlakatla with the scholarship. I cannot think of a more amazing gift to give.

The year flew by quickly. The purpose of the final trip to Pearson Education was to reflect on our year of growth and to look to the future. We each produced a video entitled *5 Things I Have Learned*. Thinking about my 5 things made me realize how much I had absorbed and learned during my time as Alaska Teacher of the Year. From the countless speakers, to the variety of leaders and my TOY peers, I have gained a lifetime of knowledge that I have yet to process. ~ Cara Heitz (AKTOY12) ~

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Newsletters are published on the PTPC website:

<http://education.alaska.gov/ptpc/>

