



# Arizona NCA CASI Report

Arizona - NCA CASI Volume 1 - Issue 1

## Arizona State Council Members

The Arizona State Council Members are active players in NCA CASI’s century-old tradition of holding the education profession to even higher standards. They assist the organization in pursuing its vision to become the professional leaders in delivering quality accreditation and related services to education entities worldwide. They assist Arizona in taking an active role in the accreditation process by meeting three times a year to take action on the accreditation of schools in Arizona.

### Chairman - MaryBeth Mueller – Diocese of Phoenix – Catholic Schools

- \* Anna Battle – Principal, Desert Vista High School
- \* Karen Butterfield – Arizona State Department of Education
- \* Donald Covey – Special Purpose / Maricopa County Superintendent
- \* Gary Damore – Southwestern College / Christian Schools
- \* Debra Duvall – Governor’s Office
- \* Gary Emanuel – Northern Arizona University (NAU)
- \* Daisy Flores – Gila County Attorney / College Preparatory Board
- \* Connie Harris – Deer Valley School District / Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Association (AIA)
- \* Kay Hartwell-Hunnicutt – Arizona State University (ASU)
- \* JoAnne Hilde – Education Coalition
- \* Joann Mortensen – Education Coalition
- \* Randy O’Donnell – Principal, Antelope Union High School
- \* John Pedicone – University of Arizona (U of A)
- \* Roger Short – Arizona School Administrators (ASA)



## Did you know . . .

The AdvancED Corporate Office has moved. It is now located in Alpharetta, Georgia. The mailing address is:

AdvancED  
2520 Northwinds Parkway  
Two Northwinds Center- Suite 600  
Alpharetta, GA 30009  
1-888-41EDNOW (888-413-3669) AdvancED

The Arizona AdvancED NCA office remains in the ASU Research Park

7665 S. Research Dr. – Tempe, AZ 85284  
480-773-6923  
1-866-837-2229 – Toll Free  
480-773-6901 – Fax

For assistance, you can contact:

**Don Enz**, Arizona State Director

**Herman Serignese**, Associate Director

**Ann Burnes** Admin. Assistant

Field Consultants: **Nancy Alexander** – Northwest Area

**Sue Bradley** – Northeast Area

**Lee McKenzie** – Southeast Area

**Ken Salas** – Rural Areas

**Tom Scarborough** – Tucson Area

**Warren Jacobson, Jane McGlothlin, LaVern Tarkington**

Central Area



NCA CASI is an accreditation division of



# AdvancED Study Shows the Impact of Accreditation

Does accreditation make a difference? Does it have an impact on schools and help them change? Does it contribute to a school's efforts to improve itself? The answer is **yes!**

As an accredited school, you can attest to the value of accreditation, but now AdvancED has tangible data to support that assertion. AdvancED recently commissioned a team of outside researchers to study the value of accreditation. The results are contained in a report entitled *re: Learning From Accreditation*.

The researchers examined Standards Assessment Review and Quality Assurance Review data from 2,171 schools that completed accreditation in 2007 or 2008. Phone interviews and additional follow-up survey data were collected as well as more detailed case study information.

In summary, the researchers found that accreditation influences school improvement by:

- Prompting reflection on the school as a whole.
- Creating the opportunity for the school to function as a professional learning community.
- Generating unique data about the school, for use in school improvement.
- Clarifying and focusing the school's improvement efforts around specific, targeted, measurable objectives.
- Encouraging "ownership" of the resulting school improvement plans.

The study also showed:

- Schools rated themselves highest in the areas of *Governance and Leadership* and *Resources and Support Systems*.
- Schools rated themselves the lowest on *Documenting and Using Results* and *Commitment to Continuous Improvement*.

Subsequently, researchers asked nearly 700 schools that completed the accreditation process to rate the extent to which they felt the accreditation experience had produced a change in their progress on the standards. The same two standards – *Documenting and Using Results* and *Commitment to Continuous Improvement* – rose to the top, as survey respondents described them as showing the most change.

"This study shows a strong relationship between areas of growth identified by schools and improvement in these same areas as a result of accreditation," said Dr. Mark A. Elgart, president and CEO of AdvancED. "This comparison strongly reinforces the benefits and impact of accreditation on schools."

The research report clearly supports that accreditation makes a difference in helping schools improve. The external review (QAR) is particularly helpful in allowing schools to see themselves through a "different set of eyes". Through both the Standards Assessment Review and Quality Assurance Review processes, a school is guided to focus on both its areas of strength and weakness, enabling the school to set clear, targeted, measurable improvement goals that become not just the basis for maintaining accreditation but also become a continuous improvement process.



## Facts to Remember About Staying Connected



AdvancED creates the world's largest education community, serving 27,000 public and private schools and districts across the United States in 65 countries worldwide, and educating 15 million students. The Arizona NCA /AdvancED Office coordinates the accreditation activities of our member schools, and the majority of correspondence with the schools and districts is done via e-mail. Current e-mail addresses are a necessity to keep you informed of workshop dates, changes in the accreditation process, conferences, and other news of interest.

### To update your demographics:

- Go to the AdvancED website at [www.advanc-ed.org](http://www.advanc-ed.org)
- Click on "Accreditation/Accreditation Tasks"
- Find "Demographic Update" to update information (You may have to call to get your Access Code)
- Explore to find additional useful information and resources!

If you have any questions when making updates, please contact our office at 480-773-6923 or Toll Free 866-837-2229.

## Benefits of District Accreditation

AdvancED District Accreditation is a powerful systems approach to improving student performance results and organizational effectiveness over time. District Accreditation recognizes that increasing student achievement involves more than improving instruction. It is a result of how well all the parts of the education system – the district, school, and classroom – work together to meet the needs of students.

District Accreditation applies the three pillars of accreditation – high standards, continuous improvement, and quality assurance – to the entire district to ensure alignment and support between and among the district and its schools. The District Accreditation process provides the district and all of its schools with a comprehensive framework for continually improving student achievement and district performance.

For the purposes of District Accreditation, a district may include school districts or systems, school corporations, diocesan school systems, or tribal school coalitions. Coalitions of unrelated schools joined together for the purpose of school improvement may be considered districts based on review by AdvancED.

Please contact Dr. Don Enz, Arizona State Director for information on how your school can apply for District Accreditation. 480-773-6923 or **Toll Free** 1-866-837-2229



## Upcoming Professional Development

QAR Chair Training – September 1-2, 2009

SAR Training – September 8, 2009

New Schools Training – 10/1/2009

SAR Training – October 12, 2009

SAR Training – November 10, 2009

SAR Training – February 9, 2010

SAR Training – March 9, 2010

SAR Training – April 27, 2010

SAR Training – May 11, 2010

SAR Training – September 7, 2010

SAR Training – October 12, 2010

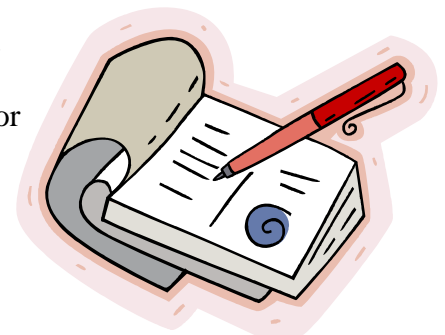
SAR Training – November 9, 2010

## Your Communications Kit Awaits You

AdvancED recently unveiled a *Communications Kit* tailored for schools and districts to promote their accreditation in their community. If you have not viewed your Communications Kit, what are you waiting for! It so easy, just open your Web browser and type in –

[www.advanc-ed.org/communicationskit](http://www.advanc-ed.org/communicationskit) and viola! Once there, you will have access to accredited seals, press release templates, and accreditation brochures. These tools will help you spread the word in your community and beyond about your commitment and dedication to student achievement. **Do not** delay! Get started spreading the news today.

Contact Call Ann Burnes at 480-773-6923 or Toll Free 866-837-2229 to Register for Professional Development Training.



## Minor Changes to the Standard Assessment Report (SAR)

Two minor changes to the Standard Assessment Report (SAR) became effective September 10, 2009.

- Peer-To-Peer submission is now optional! We would love for you to brag about something that has gone well for you during your cycle, but it is no longer required.
- Each standard will have a very handy drop-down box for schools to click what evidence you have available for that standard. This will provide evidence available to stakeholders and QAR Team members prior to the visit.

## AZ NCA Council Chair Recognition MaryBeth Mueller



There is no higher philanthropy than service to one's community.

MaryBeth Mueller, Superintendent of Schools for the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix and chair for the NCA State Council for Accreditation, will receive the Al Brooks Community Leadership Award. The award was established to pay tribute to people who, in the course of their daily lives, give back more than can be measured.

Because of MaryBeth's vision, Arizona was the first Anti-Defamation League region to conduct the Bearing Witness program for Catholic School Teachers on a regional level.



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