



March 20, 2008

Dear Colleague,

On June 24-26, 2008, we will convene the **6th Annual Ford PAS National Networking Conference** in Palm Springs, CA. We are hosting the event at the Rancho Las Palmas Resort and Spa. The conference agenda, session descriptions, hotel and logistical information are available at www.organizational-services.com/fordpas. If you haven't registered yet - visit the conference website today and register online.

If you are new to Ford PAS—we welcome you into this wonderful community committed to students and engaging them in meaningful learning. We are extremely honored to have such an amazing Ford PAS community. As a result of the community's efforts, we are thrilled to share that Ford PAS is operating in 25 states across the country.

The conference is a great opportunity to network and learn more about the program components, implementation models, curriculum, and much more directly from the Ford PAS community. This year, per your recommendations, we have made changes that will enhance your experience during the conference. You will feel inspired and experience hands-on learning, movement, laughter, and even some dancing and singing with the Ford PAS Karaoke Idol at the opening reception. We hope both returning and new members of the Ford PAS community will find this year's conference even more beneficial. Highlights for this year's conference include the following:

- **New Curriculum Sessions:** We're unveiling A New Science Course: *Working Toward Sustainability* and a New Module—*Calculating Your Future: Personal Finance*. Participants who attend these sessions will be the first to experience and learn about the new Ford PAS curriculum from the teachers who are piloting the material and the curriculum developers.
- **Themed Sessions:** We're offering several curriculum theme-based sessions—Data, Decisions, and Design; Foundations in 21st Century Skills; Getting Smart About Business and Living in a Global Economy. At these sessions, participants will experience a Ford PAS activity, hear from a variety of partners and teachers who have implemented these Ford PAS theme modules in diverse ways with different student populations, and learn about making connections to Ford PAS coordinated learning experiences (CLEs). Students participating in the Ford PAS Conference student track will also share their experiences and one of their student projects.
- **Program Sessions:** People who have implemented and contributed to the program will share their experiences with different aspects of Ford PAS, from implementation models to developing a parent engagement plan. Practitioners and experts in particular fields will also facilitate sessions on such topics as the Ford PAS national evaluation and strategies to market Ford PAS and create a message matrix. This year, participants will also have an opportunity to engage in a Coordinated Learning Experience (CLE) with business representatives, the Ford PAS Forum and website, and a dialogue with Ford PAS students and alumni. The content of these sessions will inform teams' planning for the upcoming school year.

- **Planning Sessions:** Teams are invited to come and work together to plan their community-wide implementation of Ford PAS for the coming year. This year we have modified the sessions to provide participants an opportunity to receive an overview of all modules and to connect with others who share the same specialty area and/or interest to identify an activity and a new element that they will commit to trying. For those sites that are currently running the program, there will be opportunities to assess the current program, discuss improvements and taking it to the next level. Those attendees new to Ford PAS will also have a chance to learn from experienced community members about effective implementation.
- **General Sessions:** Participants will learn about national trends as they relate to education, millennials in the workplace, the updated Ford PAS theme implementation models, upcoming national Ford PAS Professional Development opportunities and the experiences from the participants of the first Ford PAS online course. Participants will also hear from Ford PAS students throughout the general sessions and will engage in a special closing presentation by the students.
- **Poster Session:** Participants will network in a poster session on Wednesday, June 25 immediately following the opening plenary, where you will learn about Ford PAS implementation throughout the country and opportunities available to those in the community. If you would like to have a table to share opportunities available to the Ford PAS network and/or to share your Ford PAS program through videos, posters, student work samples, etc. please contact Angela Polk at apolk6@ford.com by April 25, 2008.

Whether you are a new partner, a site implementing Ford PAS for the first time or you've been involved with Ford PAS for several years, we encourage you to bring your team—teachers, administrators, representatives from higher education, business and community groups—to Palm Springs to plan your strategy for the coming year. While it is up to the discretion of partners and sites to determine which members of the team will participate in this conference, we recommend that representatives include university and business partners, coordinators, teachers, district-wide representatives and principals so that your work and planning will be most effective. We also encourage you to submit student work to provide your students the opportunity to participate in this year's conference student track and the theme sessions.

Each participant will receive a letter indicating the number of hours attended, which can be used to qualify for professional development credits.

The conference is limited to 250 individuals, if you haven't registered yet you'll need to register as soon as possible. If you have already registered you will receive a confirmation letter by May 1st. Registration fees are as follows:

- March 19–April 15: \$160 (early bird special)
- April 16–May 23: \$220 (regular registration fee)
- After May 23: \$320 (late registration fee)

If you register by the early bird special deadline of April 15, your name will be entered in a drawing for one night's free lodging at the conference! Three winners will be notified by April 25th.

Looking ahead, we want to let you know that in July we will offer two new **Professional Development opportunities:**

- Theme Workshop: Global Economics and International Business
July 27-29, 2008 (Sunday afternoon–Tuesday 5 pm)
- Theme Workshop: Business and Personal Finance
July 30-August 2, 2008 (Wednesday 8 am–Saturday 2 pm)

At these institutes, participants will engage in hands-on learning about the Ford PAS program and theme modules, and will explore effective tools and strategies for implementing inquiry, project, and team-based approaches. **Save these dates: Sunday, July 27–Tuesday, July 29, 2008 and Wednesday, July 30–Saturday, August 2, 2008!** More details including the application will follow soon, please visit www.fordpas.org for more information.

We hope you will join us at the 6th Annual Ford PAS National Networking Conference.

Yours sincerely,



Cheryl Carrier
Program Director
21st Century Education Programs
Ford Motor Company Fund

