

PTRA Director Report, July 2018. Submitted by Karen Jo Matsler

I attended the **STAR Workshop Leaders Conference**, April 13-15, 2018 in San Luis Obispo, CA at the invitation of Stamatis Vokos, director of STAR. The session “Aligning Instruction to NGSS” provided by Aneesha Badrinarayan (from Achieve), was very informative and led to a discussion about how we can revise and align the PTRA resources. I invited Ms. Badrinarayan to come to the PTRA leadership institute and share the same information with the PTRAs and then stay to have some specific instructions. Thursday of the Leadership Institute was devoted to these discussions. In addition to NGSS, the conference addressed Growth Mindset, Research, and Practice.

Jan Mader flew to TX for a week in June and we worked on designing learning cycles with the quantum/Perimeter materials and attended the FWMSH STEM academy for grades K-2. I have helped with this workshop and the one for grades 3-8 for several years and feel it might be something PTRAs could consider doing in their states. The format is similar to what we did with the TX quantum workshops in 2016 where the teachers come for 2.5 days and then the teachers work with students for the last 2 days. The museum provides this free of charge due to donations from funders. Jan Mader and I also spent a whole day at the Dallas Public Library culling through their list of nonprofit organizations seeking potential funders for the PTRA efforts.

The 2018 PTRA Leadership Institute was held at Loyola University in conjunction with the ALPHA/PIRA conference. The PTRAs are appreciative of the efforts of David Sturm and Randy Peterson for making this collaboration possible. Part of the PTRA Leadership Conference was set aside to provide time for the 3 groups to interact and discuss potential venues for using the expertise of each group collaboratively. There were 3 new attendees who received \$500 from AAPT for travel expenses. Upon the completion of 6 hours of training to peers, they will get an additional \$500. PTRAs attending the 2018 institute were reimbursed up to \$500 for their travel expenses based on the contributions they made in providing workshops to section meetings, conferences, and peers during the past 2 years.

Feedback/Discussion

1. Suggest we develop a PTRA Point/recognition system for service based on years, contributions, etc. (Pat Callahan was drafting some ideas). Just attending the PTRA institute does not make you a PTRA and if we open up the leadership conference to anyone wanting to attend, we need to distinguish between attendees and PTRAs. It is possible attendees would want to become PTRAs after attending several conferences just as we had several teachers want to be a PTRA after the Rural Project.
2. House Science Committee Chair Lamar Smith (R-TX) is proposing a bill to create a 10-year National Quantum Initiative with the goal to “accelerate development of quantum information science and technology applications in the US” and improve federal coordination for quantum research and technology development. The bill would authorize \$255 million annually for quantum R&D across NSF, DoE, and NIST. Although this is R&D, we need to find a way to be at the forefront of this movement. There needs to be some resources allocated to help teachers at the K-12 levels.