



Mind the GGAP (Gifted Growth and Performance) with Heart (High Empathy for Affective Results Too) is this year's focus for gifted education. .



Jean Peterson, Ph.D. from Purdue University speaks at the directors' meeting on Helping ALL Gifted Kids Deal with the Asset-Burden Paradox of High Ability.



## OFFICE OF GIFTED EDUCATION

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*Gifted students' learning and  
growth ensured by needed  
provisions and advocacy*

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## Fall Directors' Meeting

The theme for the 2012 Fall Gifted Directors' Meeting was Mind the GGAP (Gifted Growth and Performance) with Heart (High Empathy for Affective Results Too). Directors reflected on the need for balance in gifted education between the heavy emphasis on achievement outcomes and the social-emotional dimension of gifted child and adolescent development. That dimension includes self image, behavior, motivation, peer relationships, emotional adjustment, stress management, perfectionism and sensitivity.

During one of the work sessions on Thursday, Sept. 13, directors analyzed the National Association for Gifted Children Learning Environments Standard 4 and Colorado Academic Health Standard 4: Emotional and Social Wellness and Social Studies Standard 4: Civics to determine any similarities and overlap between the two. The crosswalk provided valuable information on what types of gifted student social-emotional outcomes are addressed within State standards and where additional support in that area is needed.



### 4: Learning Environments

- 4.1 Personal Competence
- 4.2 Social Competence
- 4.3 Leadership
- 4.4 Cultural Competence
- 4.5 Communication Competence

**Dr. Jean Peterson**, educator, counselor and researcher, was the keynote speaker for the second day of the directors' meeting. Dr. Peterson spoke about the social-emotional aspect of gifted education, and its relationship to underachievement.

The gifted student population is highly idiosyncratic making students uniquely at risk for :

- poor educational outcomes
- despair
- depression/suicide, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, bullying and other harassment, loneliness, exclusion and self-consciousness associated with being different, debilitating perfectionism
- poor career outcomes
- developmental "stuckness" (Continued on page 3)

## Lighthouse Projects

Each year at the fall directors' meeting districts and AUs across the state are highlighted for exemplary and replicable programming and practices in gifted education. These "Lighthouse Projects" are posted on the CDE website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/resources.htm>

This year's presenters were

- Eric Rippeth, Eagle County, Secondary gifted Programming
- Gail Stine, Englewood: Math Mentoring
- Debra Breazzano, Monument: Independent Studies for High School
- Molly Worner and Michael Chamberlain, District 11: Making Mentorships: Bridges to Hope
- Michelle Fae, St. Vrain: Academic Games League of America:
- Cindi Seidel, South Central BOCES: A Professional Development BOCES Approach



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Eric Rippeth from Eagle County, Debra Breazzano from Monument, and Cindi Seidel from South Central BOCES receive their certificates of achievement for Lighthouse Projects at the state Gifted Education Directors' Meeting Sept. 13, 2012.

*Gifted students, especially highly gifted, often need specialized attention or counseling to deal with problems related to their giftedness and to actualize their potential.*

Colangelo, Kerr, Shore, Moon, Hall...

## Dr. Jean Peterson

(Continued from page 1)

- enduring relationship concerns
- heightened sensitivity: rapid information-processing—therefore responding to many stimuli, feelings, thought (more areas of the brain are "firing" in brains of gifted persons)

Dr. Peterson found that approximately 1/3 of the gifted middle school students in her qualitative research had experienced depression and suicidal ideation.

While there is no magic bullet to "fix" gifted underachievement, Dr. Peterson said that stereotypes go away and the playing field is leveled by discussion of social-emotional strategies with gifted students grouped by age. If teachers and counselors "can do only one thing for gifted kids, go for the social-emotional" because it will address the needs of more students, and help find what is contributing to underachievement.



The Office of Gifted Education welcomes Tara Rolfe to her position as Program Assistant II  
 Rolfe\_T@cde.state.co.us



## Looking for a Peak Experience?

### Register today for the NAGC Convention

The National Association of Gifted Children conference will be held in Denver November 15-18. This is an amazing professional development opportunity for educators and parents of gifted students to learn from gifted education experts across the country. Registration deadlines are fast approaching, so don't delay—register today!

- **Educators and counselors** can view [workshop topics and speakers](#), and [register online](#).
- **Parents** can [register](#) for [Parent Day at the National](#) Saturday, November 17, 2012.
- **Administrators** can [register](#) for the *2012 Leadership Forum at the National – Unleashing Potential*. The event is November 15 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Gifted students often need early programming for self-understanding and identity, self efficacy, well-being and positive goal setting.*

• Hébert, Peterson, Webb, Neihart, VanTassel-Baska

# The Challenger

## Calendar

### State Advisory Committee (SAC)

December 13

March 7

May 16

Location to be announced.

### Director's Meeting

April 25-26

Location to be announced

### Conventions

NAGC November 15-18, Denver

### Twice Exceptional Trainings

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/trainend.htm>

### Level I Online Training

October 15-December 7, 2012

January 21-March 3, 2013

March 25-May 5, 2013

[Register](#)

### Addressing the Needs of Gifted Learners Online Modules (formerly Javits Modules)

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/trainend.htm>

Course Name	Course Start/End Dates	Adams State Credit
Raising Thinking Skills for Gifted Learners	Sept. 24-Nov. 30, 2012	1.5
Differentiating for Gifted Learners	Oct. 16-Dec. 14, 2012	1
The Gifted Reader	Oct. 15-Dec. 14, 2012	1
Raising Thinking Skills for Gifted Learners	Jan. 7-March 22, 2013	1.5
Affective Guidance: Addressing the Social/Emotional Needs of Gifted Learners	Jan. 7-March 22, 2013	1.5
Creativity	Jan. 22-March 22, 2013	1
Developing Mathematical Thinking in Gifted Learners	March 1-April 26, 2013	1.5
The Gifted Learner	March 4-April 26, 2013	1