

CCASTD President's Message

9 June 2010

ICE is over – now what?!



I hope you had the opportunity to attend the ASTD International Conference & Exposition (ICE) a few weeks ago. As you know by now, this was the first time Chicago's hosted ICE in 32 years! And what an opportunity it was – one that allowed each of us the luxury of devoting time to our own learning and development, to meeting new and old friends, to long conversations on topics about which we are passionate.

So what will you do now that ICE is over? Are you going to file those handouts – or actually DO SOMETHING with them? You had all sorts of wonderful ideas that you shared, revamped, and shared some more... will you act on those? You talked to countless other professionals about topics of interest that you share – will you continue those conversations?

It's sooo easy to get back into the daily grind and lose touch with those ideas and conversations that excite us. But it doesn't have to be that way! CCASTD wants to support you in your learning, and help you keep that excited feeling you had a few weeks ago. How? We will continue to provide you with the programming, networking, and learning opportunities that we've always provided. But we can also support you by providing a platform or grounding point for you to pursue your own interests. Consider resuming those passionate conversations on LinkedIn. Alan Montague has started a dialogue – “Did you go to ICE? What was your highlight?” I've enjoyed reading the many responses, and I'm sorry I missed so much good stuff! Whatever your topic, I'm fairly sure you'll find someone on our LinkedIn site who shares it. A Professional Development Network is another option you might like to consider. I talked to several of you at ICE who are interested in starting a PDN around a particular topic. Go for it! Talk to our director of PDNs, Laura Bunte, and she'll get you on your way. If you think the topic about which you are passionate may have even broader appeal, you might be interested in starting a new forum. Forum leadership gives you the opportunity to develop many skills, and contribute to chapter revenue. Laura Bunte also oversees forums and can provide you with additional information.

Interested in following up on all that networking you did? Become a chapter volunteer! There are numerous opportunities to volunteer within CCASTD, and each one will help you develop skills and allow you to network with other professionals. See the “volunteer opportunities” on the website or contact our director of volunteers, Chris Franzen. He will work with you to find the volunteer opportunity that's right for you.

Looking to make a bigger commitment to learning, professional development, and networking? Consider running for the CCASTD board. We will begin the nominating process for the 2011 board soon. It's a big time commitment, but the rewards are great. Watch the website and and eblasts

for more information, and if there's an area in which you're interested, feel free to contact the current board member for more information. Even if you aren't interested in a board position, you may be interested in serving on a board committee. Again, another rich learning opportunity, and one that enables you to give back to the wlp community. I'm sure there are countless other ways to use CCASTD as a starting point for your learning and development. If you think of one, and can't figure out how to launch it yourself, contact any of the board members for help. We're eager to help you grow professionally.

Attending ICE also reminded me that we limit our effectiveness in our organizations if we limit ourselves to learning *only* about what's going on in the WLP field. There is much we can learn from economics, science, technology, politics, etc, etc, that is applicable to our organizations. I believe it's vitally important for us to be looking *outside* our field as well as within for ways to truly help our organizations. To that end, I am sponsoring a contest that I'm calling "Think Outside the Field." You will find the details elsewhere on the CCASTD website. I hope you'll consider sharing how you've applied learnings from outside the WLP field to your work.

And finally, a BIG **THANK YOU!!!** to the many volunteers who helped make the CCASTD ICE experience successful. We welcomed more than 30 new members to CCASTD at ICE, and visited with many more of you. Ken Phillips did an OUTSTANDING job of coordinating **all** the ICE volunteers, and received many kudos for his work. Please thank Ken the next time you see him.

Warm regards,
Deb Pastors

3 March 2010

Happy Spring! (Meteorologically speaking, at least.) While the weather may be dreary now, I'm sure it will be sunny and warm on May 16-19, when CCASTD is the host chapter for the ASTD International Conference and Exposition (ICE). You know about ICE, right? You know that... for every day that you serve as a volunteer, you get to attend one day for free! Volunteer two days, get two days free. Do you also know that, if you register for ICE through CCASTD, and use our ChIPS (chapter incentive program) code **CH5009**, you will get the team discount on your registration? (As long as four or more other CCASTD members also register that way.) Visit the CCASTD homepage for more details. The bottom line: there's no reason not to go to ICE!

ICE starts 10 weeks from Sunday. To lead up to the big event, we're planning webinars and special programs – visit the website often for detailed information. We're also planning some drawings for members who have attended (or will attend before ICE) any of our program meetings this year. If that's you, you could win a free registration to ICE!

As important as it is, ICE isn't the only thing going on with CCASTD. The spring Workplace Learning and Performance Institute starts this Saturday. Are you looking to brush up your skills? Make good on your professional development goals for the year? Learn about what's new in our field? Then the WLPI may be for you. You'll find more info right above this message on the homepage. You've already attended, or the program's not right for you? Then recommend a friend! If you're a member, and you recommend a friend who attends the entire seven week program of WLPI, YOU will receive a \$25 Visa gift card. Extra spending money for ICE!

It's also great to see many more of you joining us on LinkedIn. If you haven't visited CCASTD on LinkedIn, I invite you to join us. This is a great place to ask questions, share your knowledge, and engage in conversation. Also, CCASTD often receives invitations to events sponsored by other organizations – often at a discount to you. I've started posting these in the "news" section on LinkedIn. We're not promoting or recommending these events, we're just passing along the information. Check this section out to see what might be of interest to you.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate the following individuals on significant anniversaries with CCASTD. We're glad you're a member.

Terri Cramer, MS and John G. Schehl – 5 years Leigha Kinnear and John Ludwig – 10 years
Betsy Alma and Stan Piskorski – 15 years

Kind regards,
Deb Pastors

18 January 2010

Happy new year! I don't make new year's resolutions anymore, but I do think about the coming year, the goals I want to set, and what I want to accomplish. What are you going to do with YOUR year? I hope you'll devote some of the 8760 hours you have in 2010 to your professional growth. CCASTD is committed to being your partner on that journey.

We all know that the world is changing. The nature of work itself, what it means to be a "trainer," even our individual jobs have changed significantly in the very recent past. If we want to continue to be relevant and respected as learning and performance professionals, we too, need to keep changing and growing. That's why CCASTD's theme for this year is *Creating Our Future*. If we don't create the future for ourselves, someone else may create it for us. And we may not like what they give us.

How are we going to create the future? For one, we're going to more closely tie our programming to the ASTD Competency Model. Not familiar with the model yet? Go to <http://www.astd.org/content/research/competency/AreasofExpertise.htm> to learn more. Network with Certified Professionals in Learning and Performance. Read *Mapping the Future*, ASTD's guide to their competency model. Tracking your professional development against the ASTD Competency Model should help you acquire the skills and knowledge you'll need to be successful. In 2010 and beyond, when you attend a CCASTD program meeting, we'll let you know which competencies, areas of expertise (AOEs), or roles that program will be targeting. You'll be able to map your development goals to the programs we'll be offering.

We've also tweaked the CCASTD vision, mission, and strategic initiatives. (You'll find these at <http://www.ccastd.org/About.aspx>.) The 2010 CCASTD Board thought the vision and mission as written were pretty solid. But we decided that we need to find **new, innovative, and integrated ways to deliver on that vision and mission**. We want to help you keep pace with continued change, AND continue to be effective and successful as a WLP professional. We hope you'll see the "new and innovative" parts. The "integrated" piece is behind-the-scenes. We're working to integrate our policies and processes, so we can better, and more quickly, meet your needs.

What will we be doing that's new and innovative? We'll be looking beyond the borders of our own profession for insight. What's going on in economics, medicine, psychology, and science that we can learn from? We'll be looking at what we can learn from successful leaders anywhere we find them. We're looking to tap into some new markets – industries, locations, people who haven't been active in CCASTD in the past. The more diverse our community, the better off we all are. We'll be looking at new ways to use technology – so we can better connect with you, and so you can more easily connect with each other. The 2010 Board has lots of ideas, and we're just getting started. We'll be sharing those ideas with you in the coming months.

I mentioned earlier that CCASTD wants to partner with you for your development. "Partnership" means that **you have an active role to play**.

This organization is all about its members. So it's a two-way street. You have to communicate with us about what you need, what you want, what's working for you, and what isn't. You need to get involved to make the most of your membership!

I hope many of you will consider becoming a volunteer. As the year goes on, and the 2010 Board really gets into working its plan, there will be lots to do. We will be making every effort to tie our volunteer opportunities to the ASTD Competency Model as well, so you can find just the right opportunity to grow and stretch your skills. Check the website often for current opportunities. Even if you don't have time to volunteer, we hope you'll take advantage of the growing opportunities to connect with and learn from each other.

And please... feel free to contact any of the 2010 Board members! You'll find our contact information at <http://www.ccastd.org/Contact.aspx>. We want to hear from you. Any of us will be happy to talk with you about your questions or concerns, what's new at CCASTD, and how you can get involved. You can also call me at 708.848.9508. I look forward to meeting many of you throughout the year.

To a year filled with all good things!

Warmly,
Deb Pastors

PS- Don't forget to kick off your year with an investment in your future – join us this Thursday evening to talk about **Creating Our Future – What Does it Look Like for WLP Professionals?** Follow the link for more information! <http://www.ccastd.org/calendar/2010/January.aspx#0121>