



January 12, 2009

Dear ASE Community,

On behalf of the Executive Board, we are pleased to announce the Program for the March 6, 2009 ASE Statewide Winter Conference. The conference will be held at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center, Marlborough, Massachusetts. Directions are included on the registration form (attached).

As leaders in school systems, special education administrators are continuously faced with increasing responsibilities in meeting mandates to serve students with disabilities, coupled with the increasing realities of significantly declining fiscal resources. There has never been a time in our recent history in serving the public interests necessitating more informed understanding of National issues and trends, federal and state requirements, collaboration and promising practices to ensure the success of the students in our charge. Time is of the essence in moving our state's school districts forward in meeting and supporting the needs of all students - to do that, new pathways are essential to producing positive outcomes. New efforts must have component elements that are doable, effective, produce joint decision making between general education and special education, and that have the potential for continuous quality improvement. Schools can use challenges as opportunities in moving forward and, together, we can be resourceful. We can continue to make a positive difference for our students.

The ASE March 6th Conference, *"Collaboration and Promising Practices; National Trends - State Implications,"* will offer new and exciting presenters. Please join us as we welcome to Massachusetts, National Keynote Speaker: Dr. Steve Kukic, Vice President of Strategic Education Initiatives at Sopris West (a Cambian Learning Company), former President of the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDE), and former State Special Education Director of Utah, as well as our highly regarded Break Out Speakers: Dr. MaryAnn Byrnes, Atty. Mary Joann Reedy, and Dr. James Earley. All will be presenting on timely, relevant and informative Collaborative and Promising Practices.

Attached for your convenience is the ASE March 6, 2009 Statewide Winter Conference Program and Registration Form. Additionally, these materials can be accessed by Wednesday, January 14 at the ASE website (www.asepage.org). NOTE: Each conference participant must have a completed registration form, including a purchase order or payment faxed to the ASE Office prior to the conference. We encourage early registration. We may not be able to honor registrations received after February 16, 2009.

We look forward to seeing you for this important, timely and most relevant conference.

Best regards,

Paul Stracco

President, ASE Executive Board

Carla B. Jentz

Executive Director

