ASCD has a new vision, one that supports educators who develop and support their students!

The ASCD ecosystem defines, supports, and engages learning systems through five **Communities of Excellence**. By connecting with educators worldwide to provide examples of how to collaborate strategically to create effective and equitable learning systems and solutions, ASCD enables success for students and for staff. In short, ASCD envisions a North Star.

The New Jersey affiliate of ASCD embraces the ecosystem and the five Communities of Excellence through its programs, products, and services.

### The ASCD Ecosystem

**The Whole Child at the Center**

Our collective and individual purpose is to educate students, to develop minds, and to support learning in comprehensive ways that contribute to long-term student success. In other words, schooling is responsible for educating the whole child.

**Five Communities of Excellence**

ASCD provides a framework for educators to use as the basis to connect, shape, and deliver learning in new and effective ways. The framework or ecosystem consists of the following communities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching and Learning</td>
<td>The impact of effective instruction. Research supports that the most important factor in student achievement and success is effective instruction. Ongoing professional learning provides the avenue for continuous growth as teachers and leaders to plan and deliver high quality learning experiences for children/students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformational Leadership</td>
<td>The demands of education leaders are multi-faceted and extensive. The range of responsibilities includes having a vision, leading implementation, and modeling collaboration for results. Change is the constant. Developing the capacity to lead in an unprecedented time of change is to know and understand the many dimensions of one’s leadership role.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Engagement</td>
<td>The impact of technology is a connectedness to the world. The knowledge and skillset required to become and participate on a global scale necessitates staff and students to be engaged learners both in and out of school. Continuous updates in curriculum, policy, and materials to reflect these advancements are essential components.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty and Equity</td>
<td>Issues in equity and the impact of poverty in learning situations cause educators to address and to create responsive learning environments in schools through supports, personalized instruction, and programs that enable staff and students to reach their potential.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redefining Student Success</td>
<td>The ultimate goal of schooling is an educated population. Success can be measured in many forms that lead to accomplishment. Assessment that emphasizes understanding (what students have learned) in an ongoing fashion throughout a school year yields the best results for academic growth and social-emotional development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These five Communities of Excellence represent the challenges and responsibilities of educators in classrooms and in leadership positions today – their North Star.
New Jersey ASCD, a trusted source for professional learning, offers several opportunities for your journey as practitioners this year. Each offering addresses one or more of the five Communities of Excellence and is indicated as such. NJASCD invites you to Learn. Teach. Lead!

**Fall 2016**

1. **The Third Annual Leadership Summit**
   - **Date:** September 27, 2016
   - **Location:** Forsgate Country Club, Monroe Township, NJ
   - **Theme:** Powerful Practices in Leadership: From Compliance to Commitment
   - **Keynote Presentation topics:**
     - *Reaching Today’s Learner: Moving Beyond the Book*
       - Scott Kinney, Vice President, Discovery Education
     - *Educational Excellence through Equity*
       - Alan Blankstein, Founder, Solution Tree and The Hope Foundation
   - **Sessions:**
     - Transformational Leadership ~ Real Student Empowerment
     - Building Teacher Leadership Capacity through the Arts
     - The Importance & Impact of Educating the Whole Child
     - Maximizing PLCs for Continuous School Improvement
     - Genius Hour
   - This event addresses all five Communities of Excellence.

2. **Achieving Next Generation Literacy: Using the Tests (You Think) You Hate to Help the Students You Love**
   - **Date:** October 13, 2016
   - **Location:** FEA Conference Center, Monroe Township, NJ
   - This offering addresses the Teaching & Learning and Redefining Student Success Communities of Excellence.

3. **The NJPSA/FEA/NJASCD Fall Conference**
   - **Dates:** October 20 & 21, 2016
   - **Location:** Ocean Place Resort, Long Branch, NJ
   - **Theme:** IMAGINE!
   - **Opening Keynote:** Deborah Delisle, CEO/Executive Director, ASCD
   - **Friday Keynote:** Tony Wagner, Director of Innovation, Harvard University
   - **Sessions:**
     - Two days of break-out sessions are offered on current issues and topics
   - This event addresses all five Communities of Excellence.

4. **PARCC: Aligning Standards, Instruction, & Assessment**
   - **Dates:**
     - October 26, 2016 ~ A Toolbox for Success: Creating a School Action Plan with Literacy Skills
     - November 14, 2016 ~ Bridging Standards to Enhance Student Learning and Performance in History/Social Studies Gr. 9-12
     - November 16, 2016 ~ Bridging Standards to Enhance Student Learning and Performance in Science Gr. 6-12
   - **Location:** FEA Conference Center
   - These institutes address the Teaching & Learning and Redefining Student Success Communities of Excellence.

5. **Google Certification Training**
   - **Dates:** October 11 and 12, 2016
   - **Location:** FEA Conference Center
   - Google certification information provided by a Google representative is the program offered at this two day event. Limit: 40 seats
   - This training addresses the Transformational Leadership, Global Engagement, and Teaching & Learning Communities of Excellence.
   - All offerings are posted on our website at: [www.njascd.org](http://www.njascd.org) where descriptions, presenters, and registration forms are provided. Register now!