

# NEWS UPDATE 4

## November 2015

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### Message From The IACESA President



~ Mary Grosser ~

Dear IACESA Members

The composer and lyricist, Irving Berlin, said *“our attitudes control our lives. Attitudes are a secret power working twenty-four hours a day, for good or bad. It is of paramount importance that we know how to harness and control this great force”*. The recent mass protest action regarding study fees at the different universities in the country, often resulting in destructive behaviour, mirrored the lack of, and foregrounded the importance of, cultivating good attitudes, dispositions or Habits of Mind among our students at school. The protest actions made me realize how important the work is that IACESA still has to carry out and how far away we seemingly are in South Africa from equipping students with the competencies to become smarter at thinking and smarter at behaving. There are good reasons for enhancing competencies to both think and behave smarter. This can help to contain violence and aggression in favour of behaviour based on reducing impulsivity, respect for others, problem-solving guided by self-control and creative and critical thinking, and listening with understanding and empathy. The history of humankind will always involve conflict, and schools cannot ignore the fact that competencies to think and behave more smartly should be reinforced in order to benefit human and societal flourishing. Parents and schools in South Africa are seemingly struggling alone with this complex and important task. We as IACESA members and supporters should therefore promote and support the intentional teaching of competencies to think and behave more smartly with vigour and rigour, to prevent bad behavioural habits from infecting an entire group of people. Let us strive to make this one of our aims for 2016!

In this edition of the News Update, we structure our contributions under four headings, namely Special Interest Topics, Practical Strategies to Teach Thinking, Research Articles and IACESA Activities/Events. As Topics of Special Interest we include contributions related to Language and Cognition for the elderly, how to effect High Performance Learning, a continuation of a discussion about Dyslexia and a reflection of Cognitive Education in Nigeria. The section on Practical Strategies to Nurture Thinking, focuses on the importance of including design thinking principles into teaching, the

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value of enquiry-based learning for nurturing thinking and how the use of a computer game could provide an informal learning opportunity that stimulates thinking.

As part of our regular features, we report on the successful discussions that took place at the CogEd seminars held in Cape Town and Gauteng, respectively. We also announce a number of new training opportunities and events for 2016. Please diarise these exciting events!

We want to urge all our members again to visit our IACESA Facebook group, and take part in the discussions, or watch some of the informative video clips we have uploaded there. We recently uploaded video clips documenting the interesting views of UK-based Prof. Deborah Eyre on how to achieve High Performance for all learners, as well as feedback from two schools that have been part of the Schools as Thinking Communities Project at the NWU, Vaal Triangle Campus.

I wish you all a relaxed and blessed holiday, and look forward to receiving feedback and suggestions for our next News Update, which will be available during March 2016.

Please feel free to submit any comment or contribution for the News Update to [mary.grosser@nwu.ac.za](mailto:mary.grosser@nwu.ac.za)

Happy reading and cognitive greetings!

*Mary Grosser (PhD)*

IACESA President (2015-2017)

*The IACESA News Update aims  
to update readers about current IACESA activities,  
draw attention to relevant research and generate debate.  
Please note that the opinions expressed by contributing  
authors do not necessarily reflect the views of IACESA.*

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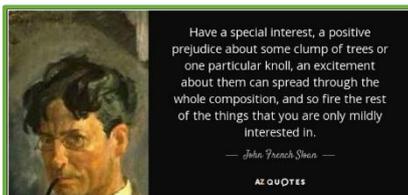
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## SPECIAL INTEREST TOPICS



### Is Language Key to maintaining Cognition for the elderly?

Maureen Archer

The Elderly accept the normal decline of mind and body as we age but, as so aptly expressed by Drs. Kalula and Hoffman, we do agonise about sliding into dementia (Kalula & Hoffman, 2015).

[Read more ...](#)



### Dyslexia Part II : Dyslexics are gifted individuals who think multidimensional and they are extremely creative!

Sandra Stark

Dysnemesia (dys = bac, nem = memory, kines = movement, ia = condition) means bad memory of movement in writing of linguistic symbols, ie. Numbers and letters

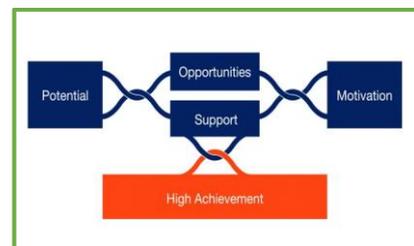
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### Dyslexia awareness campaign: There is Hope - Beating reading difficulties through brain building

Susan Du Plessis

October is international dyslexia awareness month.

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### High Performance Learning

Deborah Eyre

Some of the most exciting findings from psychology, neuroscience and gifted education in recent years are those that indicate that more people are capable of reaching the levels of advanced cognitive performance (academic performance) we once considered the domain of the very few.

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### Cognitive Education in Nigeria: Present teaching-learning scenario and the need for Cognitive Education in Nigeria

Kingsley Chinaza Nwosu

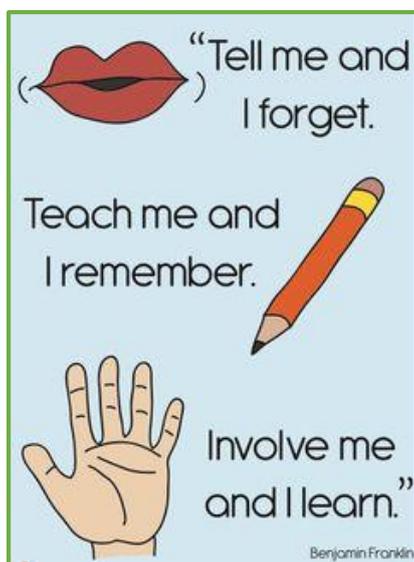
For years now there have been articulated policies to move the nation forward and Nigerian society understands the central



role education plays in achieving the national goals.

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## PRACTICAL STRATEGIES

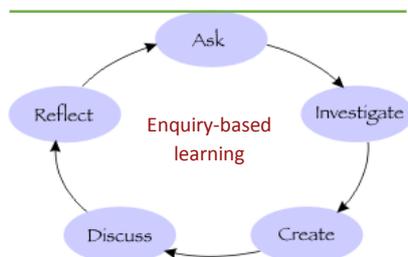


## Design Thinking

**Suné Stassen**

How do we turn around a country that is failing its youth?

[Read more ...](#)



## Enquiry-based learning

**Lena Green**

Enquiry is usually understood as an activity undertaken in order to discover, clarify or check information.

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## 2D version of Portal

**Byron Bunt**

Try the 2D version of Portal by accessing the link below:  
<http://portal.wecreatestuff.com/portal.php>

[Read more ...](#)

## IACESA AND OTHER TRAINING EVENTS



## On the road to holistic education in an innovative thinking vehicle

School Principal's meeting on 19 October 2015 at University of Johannesburg

**Celia Booyse**

Flowing from a first seminar on *Developing standards across sectors* on 3 June 2015, the event on the evening of 19 October was a true example of stakeholder collaboration as a systemic initiative.

[Read more ...](#)



## IACESA Honorary Member, Dr Anita Worrall, receives chancellor's medal

**Susan Coetzee-Van Rooy**

Anita Denise Ianco-Worrall was born in Bucharest, Romania.

[Read more ...](#)



## Gauteng CogEd Seminar 16 October 2015

**Viné Petzer**

On 16 October 2015, Gauteng educators had the opportunity to attend the IACESA Cog-Ed seminar for 2015 at the NWU Vaal campus.

[Read more ...](#)



## Cape Town CogEd Seminar, 21 October 2015

**Elsefie Wranz**

Julia is a learning support specialist who supports learners with learning challenges through the implementation of several approaches, but mainly through the implementation of Feuerstein's mediated learning approach.

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## FUTURE TRAINING EVENTS

- **CogEd Seminar, February 2016**

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The same seminar will be hosted in Cape Town. The venue, date and time for the CogEd seminar in Cape Town will be announced at a later stage via email.

- **SGDT Multidisciplinary Conference**

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- **The Feuerstein-Bassou International Training Academy 37<sup>th</sup> International Summer Workshop – Shoresh**

[Read more ...](#)

- **IAEA (International Association for Educational Assessment) conference, 21-26 August, The Westin Hotel Cape Town to be hosted by Umalusi.**

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**Facebook**

**M Grosser**

The IACESA Facebook page serves as a platform for likeminded people (educators, therapists, practitioners, parents) who believe in optimizing the cognitive (thinking) potential of

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# IACESA



## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR **COGNITIVE EDUCATION** IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

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all learners through purposeful  
teaching to engage in  
discussions.

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