

NCHE News

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October 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

TIME FOR FOCUSED GROWTH IN HIGHER EDUCATION!



The NEA structural revision of the new Office of Higher Education is nearly complete. We welcomed Dan Rivera as the new Director of Constituent Relations at the beginning of the summer. We now welcome Frances Beard as the new Associate Director of Constituent Relations and wish her the best. We look forward to the hiring of the NEA Higher Education Editor, hopefully, in early 2011.

Higher education continues to grow new membership, the only active membership category to continue the growth trend within NEA. This growth and new Office of Higher Education are anchored in concepts embodied in the Voice of Higher Education document ratified by the Advisory Committee on Membership three years ago.

Some of the hot button issues percolating into our field of attention are as follows: common core curriculum standards for higher education, assessment standards and outcomes, the completion and persistence agenda, balancing the full-time and contingent employment, challenges to academic freedom and textbook selection.

We continue our efforts, which at times appear very difficult; however, we look to you for your help and contributions to add meaning and solutions to these and other dilemmas. Continue to keep us informed by phone 508-854-4336 or email NCHE@nea.org.

The NEA Higher Education Conference, NEA Leadership Day, and the NCHE Regular Annual Meeting will be Boston, MA, March 25-27, 2011. This year's theme is *Radical Transformation in Higher Education*. Registration online should be up and running at the beginning of November.

NEA Joins 33 Countries in Vancouver for EI Higher Education Conference

The Seventh International Higher Education and Research Conference (under the auspices of Education International) was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, with 33 countries represented. The Conference focused on corporatization of higher education through privatization, commercialization, "contingent workforce," as well as threats to academic freedom, the decrease in public funding, and the attempts to "measure" higher education like a commodity. Breakout and plenary sessions examined these and other topics of interest and concern.

The emphasis on the self and the de-emphasis on others must be countered with the recognition that education is the equalizer; the link between education and politics, for solidarity is the road out of the morass.

NEA stands in opposition to privatization, commercialization, the exploitation of fixed-contract employees, and the shift away from full-time employment. **NEA Vice President Lily Eskelsen** spoke about attacks on the public sector and crude rankings of outcome measures. She affirmed NEA's opposition to these trends.

In Jim Rice's report to NEA President Van Roekel, Rice wrote, "Organizing, conference planning, publications, e-communication, and policy development occupy an already crowded agenda for NEA higher education. However, privatization, gender equity, outcomes and assessment, public-private-partnerships, threats to academic freedom, issues in university research, and funding are continually in the forefront globally. NEA and NEA members will benefit by participating in discussions and being aware of these major concerns and how different countries handle them. Conversely, other countries are interested in how we in the United States grapple with these issues." (Go to Page 2 top)



L-R Mark Smith, NEA Staff, Bill Lyne, Western Washington Univ., Theresa Montañó CA, Jim Rice, NCHE President, Jill Christianson, NEA International Relations, and Cathy Boudreau, MA

David Robinson, from the Canadian Association of University Teachers, reported on international copyright and intellectual property rights agreements and the challenges in the digital age at the global and regional levels outside the USA. Academics are both users and owners of copyright material, so NEA must stay on top of this area of concern.

NEA needs to be vigilant on public-private-partnerships (PPPs) which are presented as a panacea. European and Canadian sectors have more experience with PPPs, and locals need to know exactly what is happening with these PPPs. So often, faculty and staff are not aware of them until they appear on campus as a fait d'accompli.

NCHE would like NEA to continue the NEA EI Higher Education Group site, have a regular EI column in the *Advocate*, and have an EI presence on the higher education website. We need frequency and visibility about the issues and events of EI.



ILLINOIS HOSTS ANNUAL HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE



Back Row: Len Paolillo, NEA Exec. Comm.; Ken Swanson, IEA President; Marie Dawson; Jeff Beaulieu; Arvis Averette; Frank Brooks

Front Row, Cinda Klickna, IEA Treasurer; Ann Esarco; Vivian Zimmerman; Beverly Stewart, NCHE Exec. Comm.; Joanne Barsanti; Kristi Brownfield; Alan Shiller; Bob Blade, IEA Vice President

NCHE SUMMER RETREAT

This year's retreat focused on many issues and concerns around higher education. The NCHE is encouraged by NEA's commitment to create an Office of Higher Education and is looking forward to a full complement of staff, including the hiring of a higher education editor.

NEA has targeted higher education for growth, and NCHE is certainly aware of the potential for this growth. Organizing in higher education, however, presents its own set of challenges, as it is very different from traditional organizing in the K-12 sector. NCHE recognizes that many barriers exist, such as a lack of organizing staff in state affiliates, workload issues for staff, and working where laws prohibit the organizing of higher education members.

Other items discussed, in addition to the normal business of NCHE, centered on the increase in public private partnerships (PPPs), the "selling" of credits and degrees for profit, the ongoing attacks on academic freedom, and the declining number of full-time faculty (tenure and non tenure).

The goals for the 2010-2011 year will be to continue our work to raise awareness in NEA of higher education's role within NEA and to work with the Office of Higher Education staff to increase cross-divisional conversations so that no matter what



NCHE Executive Committee: R-L: Beverly Stewart, IL; Valerie Wilk, NEA Staff; Andy Sako, NY; Jim Rice, NCHE President; Christine Domhoff, OH; Cynthia Schneider, MI; Catherine Leisek, FL; Bryant Warren, NEA Staff; and Cathy Boudreau, MA

NEA does, higher education is a part of the dialogue. The higher education members at the Board meetings will continue to meet on Friday for lunch, and Jim Rice and Cathy Boudreau will continue their meetings with President Van Roekel.

NCHE Welcomes new Constituent Relations Management

Dan Rivera, Director of Constituent Relations



Dan began his career in education teaching grades 7-12 social studies and K-12 Special Education Emotional/Behavioral Disorders for 14 years in Minnesota (teaching in these two areas during different phases, of course). In addition to his teaching, Dan was very active in his local, including serving as president and bargaining team chair.

In 1999, he was accepted into NEA's Affirmative Action program for UniServ Directors, and Education Minnesota hired him as a UniServ Director. In 2005, the Ohio Education Association (OEA) hired Dan as UniServ Manager, and in 2006, he became Assistant Executive Director of OEA. In August of 2008, Dan was hired as manager of NEA's UniServ Grant program, and this past June, he was named the Director of Constituent Relations.

His vision for Constituent Relations is to meet the goals of the organization in terms of growth. "We need to grow our constituency groups and collaborate with them to align and achieve the goals of the organization and each group. For our higher education members, we need to identify target areas so we can be strategic in our planning. We need to discuss more widely how we represent this category of members from the state to the national levels. We want to organize locals, but we need to show how we can serve them and why NEA is their best choice.

"When I was in Minnesota, another staff person and I would go to the University of Minnesota/Duluth to meet with and work with the local. I know higher education is very different from K-12, the terminology is different, but our goals are the same.

"After being in this job for five months, the biggest challenge is to be able to continue the growth in CR. With higher ed being an organizing focus, we have to ensure that what we do is more than just signing up members. We have to retain members, put strong structures in place, work with state affiliates and the Membership Organizing Department, and proceed one step at a time. We have to recognize what is doable and then plan strategically.

"I look forward to dealing with our challenges, opportunities, and our partnership with NCHE to better serve and represent higher education membership within NEA. In five years, I would like to see a Constituent Relations Department that has the resources, staff, and focus necessary to increase membership and to provide excellent service."

Frances Beard, Associate Director Constituent Relations

Not new to NEA, Frances Beard was recently hired as the Associate Director of Constituent Relations (CR).

Frances has been with NEA for 16 years, 15 of those working as an Organization Development Specialist for the Mid-Atlantic Region. Her responsibilities included working with state affiliates on systemic approaches for change and transformation. Last year, she worked in CR on the Urban and Rural Initiative and managed the Urban Grants program.

Frances believes that her work with state affiliates gives her a good background for this job, especially with the work that needs to be done in higher education growth. She has worked on several membership organizing campaigns, and she worked with the Ohio Education Association (OEA) on a whole-system change process, strategic planning, and leadership and team development. She had an opportunity to work closely with Ohio's largest local, Columbus, on its Board development and a membership survey. For the 2008 elections, she worked on a levy campaign and state and local political campaigns. Working with Chris Maitland (formerly from higher education department), Frances worked with the OEA staff on strategies for strengthening OEA's work with its the higher ed constituency.

"It is a privilege to work with Dan Rivera, the new CR Director. NEA recognizes that higher education is one of the fastest growing areas within NEA. I believe the dialogue within NEA is more in tune with our higher ed department agenda. Dan and I are committed to opening up communication while linking and integrating higher education into the dialogue and initiatives across the NEA.

"In the short term, I would like the CR work to become more explicit—that all members have a fresh and detailed understanding of what each team member is doing and taking that information and exploring the opportunities and challenges that exist so we can see the interconnections.

"For the long term, I envision CR as easily recognized for its accomplishments and contributions and for its productive alignment with initiatives and strategic dialogue across NEA departments in support of NEA's priorities."



NCHE/NEA AT WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT

Jim Rice had the honor of attending the White House Summit on Community Colleges on behalf of the National Council for Higher Education. One of approximately 100 attendees, Jim was the only NEA attendee and only one of four or five higher education faculty in attendance.

Jim was assigned to the breakout session entitled "Community Colleges in the 21st Century." Other topics of discussion included: the concept of broadening the standard definition of student/institutional success to include multiple measures (especially for students who do not seek certificates or degrees from their community college experience); performance-based outcomes; personal goals of students; "in time" math remediation; learning through technology, and stress to the community college culture through the imbalance of the increase in fixed-term employees and decline in full-time faculty. During the course of the day, he had the chance to speak

with Vice President Joe Biden; Dr. Jill Biden; Melinda French Gates; Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis; CEO of Lumina, Jamie Merisotis; and Under Secretary of Education, Martha Kanter. For more detailed information on the Summit, Jim provided the following links:

The opening:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KUfw0Wahx8&feature=channel>

The closing: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zyjk17DOhI>

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2010/10/06/summit>

<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/295820-2>



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Dates to Remember

Davenport Nominations	February 11, 2011
Constitution and Bylaws	January 21, 2011
Emerging Leaders Academy Apps.	February 18, 2011
Request for Labels for NCHE Elections	February 25, 2011