

NCHE News

Vol. XXIV No. 3 National Council for Higher Education

June 2011



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: *FORMIDABLE TIMES AHEAD!*

Despite a tough fiscal landscape within NEA and an unprecedented loss of membership resulting in \$17 million cuts in the proposed NEA budget, the newly minted NEA Office of Higher Education is working to foster a team model to meet the challenges of day-to-day operations. The recently ratified Higher Education Strategic Organizing plan is in the process of being converted to an action plan.

Our higher education conference in Boston was very successful. We tackled many of the challenges, including the role of technology in the classroom, the role of private sector philanthropy, outcome and assessment measures, contingent worker growth and decline of full time positions, growth of the for profit industry and impact of the gainful employment regulations on students..

The national scene continues an unprecedented attack on American labor and in particular on education unions and employees. In addition to legislative threats to eliminate bargaining rights, we experience coordinated attacks with vouchers, charter schools, tenure and seniority, alternative certification, teacher evaluation and freedom of speech.

This year's RA offers tools for the opportunities ahead. Next year is an election year. This is an unparalleled opportunity to prepare our members for activism and engagement.

This summer, the NCHE will have its retreat. Once again, higher education has much on its plate as we continue our work on the for-profit moratorium, increased organizing efforts, working with the new Office of Higher Education structure, and confronting the dangers lurking at what seems to be every corner, trying to negate our rights and our worth.

I look forward to seeing all the higher education delegates at our NCHE meetings beginning on June 30.

CONGRATULATIONS: ADJUNCTS WIN UNION VOTE AT EAST-WEST U.

Adjunct faculty members at East-West University, in Chicago, voted to unionize and to be represented by a chapter of the National Education Association. The vote follows numerous disputes in which the organizers accused the University of eliminating adjunct jobs to avoid a vote. The university released a statement after the vote in which it said: "All faculty and staff should be aware that this election will not affect anyone. Nor will this affect the current operations of the university. Although the university will bargain in good faith with the union representatives, this does not change our mission focusing on excellence and service. *Inside Higher Education*

NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY—CHICAGO

We expect a very active RA in Chicago. As NEA grapples with a loss in membership, a dramatically scaled-back, a second-year budget, a proposed bylaw amendment to increase contributions to the Ballot and Legislative Initiative Fund by \$10 for five years, a policy proposal around accountability, and, probably biggest of all, a proposal to endorse President Obama at this year's RA, delegates can expect lively caucus meetings and, no doubt, livelier floor debate.

Higher education will also have two at-large vacancies to fill, along with at large ESPs and an administrator, all to be elected by the RA delegates. We will also be working hard to renew NCHE memberships.

NCHE RA Meeting Schedule

June 30, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Room N128, Convention Center

July 2, Official Lunch Break

Room N128, Convention Center

July 3-5, Lunch Breaks (only if 45 minutes or longer)

Room N128, Convention Center

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS, PRESENTERS, AND PARTICIPANTS



Congressman John F. Tierney (D-MA) has a national reputation as an effective legislator fighting for middle-class workers and families. He serves on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning and Competitiveness, and the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions in the 111th Congress. He spoke about the shift in focus post the 2010 elections. He has been a vocal advocate for NEA members and for public education with a particular focus on public higher education.

NCHE President Jim Rice and MTA President Paul Toner applaud **Kim Anderson, NEA Director of GR**, after her excellent presentation.



NEA Secretary/Treasurer Becky Pringle talked about NEA's Commission on Effective Teachers and Teaching



Joe LeBlanc, president, Mass. Community College Council and chair, MTA Higher Ed. Leadership Council brought greetings from MTA higher education.



Diversity: Students, Faculty And The Path To Inclusive Excellence panelists: Christine Stanley, Texas A&M; Maria Salazar, University of Denver; Gabriella Bedoyan, Bellevue College WA; Patricia Gándara, UCLA/Los Angeles



Organizing Victories and Lessons Learned Panel: Terry Garrett, TX; Michael Hoover, FL; Ben Rutherford, OH; Mollie Beth Jarrell, WA; Curtis Keyes, IL; William Lyne, WA; Frank Brooks, IL, moderator



Joyce Powell, NEA Executive Committee recognizes

Left: **Kirsten Dierking**, Anoka-Ramsey Community College (MN), received **The Art of Teaching Award** for her article "From Whitehall Palace to Burger King: Teaching the Humanities," in *Thought & Action*, Fall 2010.

Right: William R. L. Anderegg, Stanford University received **The New Scholar Award** for his article "Diagnosis Earth: The Climate Change Debate," in *Thought & Action*, Fall 2010.

Unable to attend were **Sandra K. Soto** and **Miranda Joseph**, Arizona State University, recipients of the **Democracy in Higher Education Award** for their article "Neoliberalism and the Battle Over Ethnic Studies in Arizona," in *Thought & Action*, Fall 2010



Left **Greg Johnson**, NEA Executive Committee, greeting ELA graduates

Above right: Class of 2011 NEA Emerging Leaders Program with their fearless leader, **Dr. Phadra Williams Tuitt**

Bottom left: **Len Paolillo**, NEA Executive Committee handing out ELA certificates here with **Janelle Quarles**, Steward, Classified Staff Union, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Bottom: **Congressman Tierney** with higher education participants from Massachusetts





NCHE WELCOMES NEW HIGHER EDUCATION EDITOR

At the Conference in March, NCHE welcomed the new Higher Education Editor, **Mary Ellen Flannery**. She joined NEA's Interactive Media department in 2004, where she wrote mostly for its print magazines (*NEA Today*, *Tomorrow's Teachers*, etc.), but she also assisted in the NEA in its development of the new web-based platforms and social media outlets. Before coming to NEA, Mary Ellen worked as a newspaper reporter in Florida at both the Miami Herald and the Palm Beach Post. She has a B.A. in English from Georgetown and a M.A. in journalism from Northwestern.

NCHE OFFICERS AND AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2011-2012



NCHE Officers

Officers: Jim Rice, MA, NCHE President, re-elected; Cathy Boudreau, MA, NCHE Vice President, re-elected; Christine Domhoff, OH, Secretary/Treasurer; Andrew Sako, NY, Membership Chair;

At-large Executive Committee:

Cynthia Schneider, MI; Beverly Stewart, IL

Re-elected: Catherine Leisek, FL; **newly elected:** Ron Norton-Reel, CA



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