# NCHE News

Vol. XXV No. 1 National Council for Higher Education November 2011

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: *YIKES*!

We are little more than a year out from the 2012 elections. "Occupy Wall Street," "Tea Party," "Rick Perry," "Global Collapse," "Obama Care" are only a sampling of the rhetoric of our day. We have a long way to go in time and perception. There will be many more legitimate surprises and more outrageous and inflammatory rhetoric in the coming year. I urge you to stay focused. Do not conclude that the current political situation is hopeless; do not conclude all is lost. Despite the current congressional dysfunction, reality continues. Most importantly, the reality a year from January is interesting in its potential. Choosing to do nothing, although still an action, is not where we can collectively afford to be. Stay informed and stay active!

## CAUTION, CASH, AND THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

NCHE has at least three targets to monitor within the NEA.

- The National Governors Association released a report as part of the Complete to Compete initiative that urges states to increase their capacity to graduate students and produce workers, produce outcome measures, and allocate state funds based on these outcomes.
- Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, plans to fold the $110 million into theTEACH Grant Program to a proposed $185 million Presidential Teaching Fellows Program with new outcomes and performance measures. http://www.2ed.gov/inits/ed/index/htm
- The US Department of Labor in partnership with the US Department of Education under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program is promoting training to eligible low-skill workers requiring improved retention and completion rates, reducing time to completion for degrees and certificates, meeting industry needs, developing career pathways and using technology to improve learning.

All three of these policy initiatives contain money, programs, and challenges. The devil is in the details. Check NEA's Websites for its talking points and the FAQs for the Presidential Teaching Fellows Program. Please let us know what is going on in your state.

## OHIO AND NEA ROLL OUT HUGE VICTORY

It was an exciting night for the OEA and its members. By a 61-39 percent margin, the ballot initiative failed Ohio. *We are Ohio*, a citizen-driven, community-based, bipartisan coalition stopped Senate Bill 5. OEA/NEA members played a critical role--pounding the streets, knocking on doors, and phone banking their way to repeal of SB5. NEA deployed 177 staff members and resources from 22 states. The OEA, NEA's state affiliate, fielded the largest number of volunteers of any group or organization working on the campaign--one out of every four volunteers who hit the streets to campaign against Issue 2 belonged to the Ohio Education Association.

NEA Higher Education Conference
Palmer House
Chicago, IL
March 2-4, 2012

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NCHE Regular Annual Meeting
March 1 7-9 p.m.
March 2, 8 a.m.-noon

## EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL, 6TH WORLD CONFERENCE, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

NEA higher education was represented by Jim Rice, NCHE President, Gilda Bloom-Leiva, Leslie Richards, Ann Shadwick, Stan West, Maury Koffman, and Mary Hatwood Futrell. Two measures important to higher education faculty and staff were considered: increased monitoring of new international copyright agreements, which tend to restrict faculty access to materials for teaching or research, and a comprehensive education policy to guide the views of its 30-million strong global membership was approved. This policy is supported by the belief that quality public education is essential for healthy communities and must become a global priority for all governments. The full document is located at www.ei-ie.org or http://www.ei-ie.org/congress6/en/index.php .

The Higher Education Caucus provided updates from countries on a wide range of topics and policies: governmental defunding of public higher education, restricting student support thereby restricting access, minimizing higher education as a public good and substituting higher education as a lightly regulated private market in which the consumer demands dictates. Congress delegates were anxious to hear about the United States particularly Wisconsin and Ohio, and they generally perceived dysfunction of our government system.

L-R: Maury Koffman, MI; Gilda Bloom-Leiva, CA, Jim Rice, MA, Mary Hatwood Furtrell, former NEA President and founder of Education International; Ann Shadwick, CA

The afternoon session was focused on the casualization of the profession mainly by limiting tenured positions thereby blocking adjuncts from an upward career path and creating a growing body of fixed term workers subject to low wages and no benefits. EI was requested to address this problem.

Other items discussed were: loss of professional autonomy and concentration of authority vested in the hands of administrators; increased accountability requirements; attacks on academic freedom and civil liberties; and assaults on collective bargaining and union organizing.

The 7th World Congress will be in the summer of 2015.

## NEA 2012 REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

The 2012 Regional Conferences' focus will be on ways to: develop strategies and programs to advance a broad-based understanding and commitment to NEA's Strategic Plan; encourage members to become more involved in leadership roles of the Association by expanding their knowledge of the NEA, its programs and activities; develop and enhance personal leadership skills; and provide opportunities to participate in NEA's budget, legislative program and resolutions hearings.

## NEA WOMEN'S TRAINING PROGRAM (WTLP)

Thousands of women across the country have participated in this unique program. State presidents select candidates from each state in the region to attend one of six regional trainings, held just prior to NEA's Regional Leadership Conferences. Over the course of three days, participants gain knowledge and skills that will help them evolve into effective and dynamic leaders. WLTP's proven success is personified by its graduates. This exceptional training ground has launched numerous leaders at all levels of the Association—including an NEA Secretary-Treasurer.

*For dates and times, see pages 3 and 4*

## NCHE Retreat Highlights

For two days in Boston, MA, the NCHE Executive Committee evaluated the past year and prepared its goals for the 20011-2012 year.

Immediate Goals:

- Update and improve Web pages.
- Update NCHE brochure.
- For once and for all, get the database straightened.
- Resolve communications around financial statements.

Global Goals:

What can we do to be better within NEA?

- Clarify role of Higher Education Subcommittee of Advisory Committee on Membership role in planning Higher Ed Conference.
- Develop a national theme within the Office of Higher Education (OHE).
- Work with the OHE Team to build a higher education strategic plan for 2012-2014 budget cycle.
- Continue working to make higher education more of a priority within NEA.
- Develop a detailed snapshot of our higher education members state by state.

NCHE Executive Committee and NEA staff: L-R: Andrew Sako, NY; Cynthia Schneider, MI; Cathy Boudreau, MA; Frances Beard, NEA; Ron Norton Reel, CA; Jim Rice, MA; Beverly Stewart, IL; Valerie Wilk, NEA

## Deadlines to Note

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| Davenport Nominations | January 18, 2012 |
| Constitution and Bylaws | January 2, 2012 |
| Emerging Leadership Academy | February 20, 2012 |
| Request for Labels for NCHE Elections | February 3, 2012 |

## Davenport Award Nominations

NCHE presents an award at its Regular Annual Meeting that honors James Davenport (1938–1989), the first president of the National Council for Higher Education. A faculty member at Washtenaw Community College, Michigan, he worked tirelessly for over two decades for higher education members and programs within the NEA and internationally. His dedication to the higher education community and belief that all educators must work together as one family (preK–G) are memorialized in this award. For nominations go to http://www.nea.org/home/33427.htm and scroll to the end of the page to access the Davenport Award information.

## Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules amendments due

Proposed amendments need to be filed by January 2, 2012. For details, go to http://www.nea.org/home/33427.htm.

## NEA Women's Leadership Program Dates and Locations

Midwest Region, January 13-15 2012, Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, 301 East North Water Street, Chicago, IL
Western Region, January 18-20, 2012, Renaissance Oklahoma City, 10 N Broadway, Oklahoma City, OK
Northeast Region, February 1-3, 2012, Boston Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA
Mid-Atlantic Region, January 25-27, 2012, Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA
Southeast Region, February 1-3, 2012, JW Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC
Pacific Region, February 22-24, 2012, Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego, CA

## Regional Leadership Conference Dates and Locations

Midwest Region, January 13-15, 2012, Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, 301 East North Water Street, Chicago, IL
Western Region, January 20-22, 2012, Renaissance Oklahoma City Hotel, 10 North Broadway Ave., Oklahoma City, OK
Mid-Atlantic Region, January 27-29, 2012, Marriott Crystal Gateway, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA
Northeast Region, February 3-5, 2012, Boston Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA
Southeast Region, February 3-5, 2012, JW Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC
Pacific Region, February 24-26, 2012, Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina. 1380 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego, CA

## NEA Higher Education Conference: Chicago, IL

The 30th NEA Higher Education Conference will be held March 2-4, 2012, at the Palmer House hotel in Chicago. Its theme, "Defining Our Values, Affirming our Ideas," promises to offer specialized information and training in the areas of higher-education policy, organizing, and professional development to faculty, staff, academic, and support professionals alike. Stay tuned for more information about registration.

**Palmer House, Chicago, IL**

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Watch for Higher Education Conference E-Registration in early December, 2011