Foreword

by Christine Maitland

Christine Maitland *has worked for the National Education Association for eight years and is currently NEA's higher education coordinator. Her recent work has included expansion of the higher education research center, development of an interactive CD-Rom on the future of higher education, collaborative projects with other higher education unions and associations, and the planning of NEA's annual higher education conference.*

Maitland has worked for education unions for the last 14 years and has experience in organizational development, strategic planning, and negotiations.

Maitland has a doctorate from Claremont Graduate School in higher education and publishes in the field of labor relations. In addition, she taught philosophy for 10 years on a part-time basis at seven different campuses in Southern California.

Welcome to the *NEA* 1997 *Almanac of Higher Education*.

The essays that follow, written by leading scholars from across the nation, profile the status of higher education. The purpose of the *Almanac:* to provide you with the latest statistical and reference materials about working conditions on campuses nationwide.

This is the fourth year NEA has produced the *Almanac* in its current form. We hope that this *Almanac* offers the information you need on the issues that directly affect your working life—changes in compensation and workload, bargaining trends, and the fiscal and political conditions in the states.

The NEA Higher Education Research Center provides much of the data and analysis that appears in the *Almanac*. The Research Center also produces short research reports and updates on current issues in higher education. Recent issues have covered topics such as E-mail and privacy, full-time nontenure-track faculty, and part-time employment in academe. These reports are available on NEA's higher education Web site (see below).

The *Almanac* is just one of three publications available to NEA higher education members. All NEA members working in colleges and universities also receive the *NEA Higher Education Advocate* newsletter, which provides timely information on events that have an impact on higher education at the national, state, and local level, and *Thought & Action*, an interdisciplinary, refereed biannual journal, with articles and book reviews on a wide range of topics of interest to our members.

Over the past year, NEA has also developed a higher education Web site that provides members, leaders, and staff with information about NEA's higher education program and a vehicle for discussing current issues in higher education. This new NEA higher education Web site also provides excellent "online" resources on teaching, learning, and scholarship, including the text of last year's *Almanac*, which is now sold out in the printed edition.

Our Web address: (www.nea.org/he/).

The 1997 *Almanac*, we hope, will help you better understand the complex environment of contemporary higher education.