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.