Foreword

by Cornelius Lehane

Welcome to the NEA 1998 Higher Education Almanac! In these pages, you will find a wealth of information on the current status of the profession—a unique contribution to the literature on the higher education enterprise. This year, as in previous years, the Almanac features recent data and analysis on salary, benefits, policy trends, and higher education workload issues, prepared by leading scholars in the field of higher education studies—all of it written with the needs and interests of NEA’s faculty, staff, and graduate student members in mind.

For five years now, since its redesign in 1994, the Almanac has provided both useful statistics and reference material and the kind of analysis that traces and explains the emerging trends in higher education. Unlike other higher education publications that reflect the thinking of boards of trustees and high-level administrators, the Almanac aims to equip faculty and higher education staff with the information they need to carry out their unique role in higher education.

Through the Almanac, and NEA’s other higher education publications, Thought & Action and the NEA Higher Education Advocate, as well as the NEA Higher Education Web site and periodic updates and reports from the NEA Higher Education Research Center, NEA is working to keep higher education members fully informed. We’re striving to offer you the information you need to confront new trends in collective bargaining and changes in fiscal and political conditions in the states and the nation. We hope these resources can help you develop new approaches to teaching and learning, during a time of rapid, dramatic, and far-reaching changes in higher education.

As always, we welcome any comments or suggestions you may have concerning any of the NEA higher education publications. Please send them to Clehane@nea.org.