

NCHE News

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National Council for Higher Education

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NEA Prepares for Higher Ed Reauthorization

NEA President Reg Weaver has appointed seventeen higher education members from across the United States to serve on the NEA Higher Education Reauthorization Advisory Committee. This committee is charged with providing input and guidance to NEA Government Relations regarding recommendations for the Higher Education Act reauthorization.

According to President Weaver, this reauthorization will address a number of issues that are of paramount importance to all NEA members. These issues include teacher preparation programs; loan forgiveness for those entering the teaching profession; financial assistance, mentoring programs, and other avenues for increasing student access to higher education; and distance education.

Last March the Bush administration released a report through the U.S. Department of Education that outlined its goals for postsecondary education. Among the goals, for example, was the suggestion that colleges be held accountable for retaining and graduating students in a "timely fashion."

As a result of this recommenda-

tion, some higher education leaders fear that during reauthorization Bush Administration advocates will try to link federal student aid dollars with graduation rates in public colleges and universities, thus penalizing public universities and community colleges for educating high risk students.

As the NCHE News reported last year, there continues to be great interest in distance education. As a result, the 50% rule and the 12-credit rule will likely be challenged during this reauthorization round.

The 50% rule states that at least 50% of a student's credits must be taken in traditional face-to-face classes to qualify for financial aid. Similarly, the 12-credit rule defines a full load as 12 credits in order to receive full financial aid.

In the last reauthorization debate, when proposals surfaced to remove the 50% rule and provide instant accreditation to virtual universities, NEA and NCHE worked to defeat the proposals. The result was that a number of demonstration projects for distance education were put in place, and the 50% rule remained.

Diane Shust, NEA Director of Government Relations, says that

Congress will likely begin deliberations on these and other important higher education issues in September, 2003.

By convening NEA's Reauthorization Advisory Committee in December, 2002, NEA hopes to incorporate member input into the legislative process from the outset of the reauthorization process.

ESEA and Higher Education

In September a number of NCHE members met in Washington to discuss higher education's role in the implementation of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Although this reauthorization legislation is primarily aimed at K-12, many of the accountability requirements stipulated in this federal act may directly affect higher education, especially in the assessment of teacher training programs and in accreditation/certification of teachers.

Hazel Loucks, former Deputy Governor of Education in Illinois, will join the staff of NEA to direct programmatic activities that will help state affiliates to implement ESEA.

Speaking Out:

ESEA and Higher Education

“Privatizing is wrong for our members whether they are K-12, higher education, or ESP.”

In October I attended NEA’s Profession Builders Conference, and what a great experience it was. This conference jointly focused on the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, (NCATE), the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and State Boards of Teaching. Although the Conference primarily stressed K–12 teaching, higher education was in the middle of every discussion. How do we impact teacher education and make it better? How do we promote on-going professional development for teachers? How do we meet the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)? In answering each of these questions, conference participants discussed how higher education should play a significant role.

Many of our K-12 colleagues are not fully aware that we, as higher education members of NEA, should be the first place to look when they seek professional development. Members of our higher education affiliates routinely develop curriculum and devise technology to deliver that curriculum as part of their daily jobs. Even so, we often find that NEA and our state affiliates turn to non-union colleges or, worse yet, to private for-profit groups when seeking professional development for NEA members. This takes jobs away from our higher education members and outsources them to private corporations.

I need your help! For the past two years I have failed to convince our leaders in NEA that our own higher education members can provide the necessary quality professional development and course work that is needed for our entire NEA family. I hope the new NEA officers will be more receptive and work with us to accomplish this goal. I need you to impact your state organizations and help them to understand the issues. Privatizing is wrong for our members whether they are K-12, higher education, or ESP. But the message must also be that our higher ed affiliates can produce the quality instruction that is needed. We need to show them.

NEA has entered into partnerships with Sylvan (On-line Learning), Teachscape, Skylight and other non-union, for-profit providers instead of turning to our own members. It is incumbent upon us to demonstrate our ability and capacity to provide on-line professional services. I believe you can impact the leaders in your state while I pledge the leadership of NCHE to carry the message to NEA during my last nine months of office. Let me know what you think. Email me at NCHE@NEA.ORG

Barry Stearns

NCHE News is published four times a year by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE). NCHE is an independent association of higher education organizations affiliated with, and higher education employee members of, the National Education Association. Permission is granted to reproduce original material from this newsletter. Questions or suggestions should be addressed to Barry Stearns, President, or Kathy Sproles, Vice President and Editor, NCHE, c/o NEA Affiliate Capacity Building, 1201 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036, (202) 822-7910 or 7162, or nche@nea.org.

Dates and Deadlines for Annual Meeting

Members of the National Council for Higher Education will meet on February 27–28 at the Omni-Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, for our 2003 Regular Annual Meeting (RAM).

Business meetings of the Council will take place on February 27 from 7–10 PM, immediately following Leadership Day, and on February 28, 8 AM–12 PM, immediately preceding the NEA Higher Education Conference.

NCHE Elections

Delegates to the 2003 RAM will elect a President and Vice President to lead the National Council for Higher Education. These executive officers will serve two-year terms.

Delegates will also elect two at-large members to serve on the NCHE Executive Committee for two-year terms.

Candidates declaring for Executive Committee positions may request one set of mailing labels to be used for campaigning. However, the request for labels must be received in the NCHE office no later than January 27, 2003.

As stated in the NCHE Bylaws, if no ESP, minority or part-time member is elected to our Executive Committee through the regular elections process, an additional election will be held to achieve at-large representation of these groups.

Davenport Award Nominees

Annually NCHE recognizes a colleague for distinguished national service to higher education through presentation of the James

Davenport Memorial Award. This award is presented at the NEA Higher Education Conference.

NCHE members may nominate a candidate for the Davenport Award by completing the form that is included as an insert in this newsletter.

Nominators should be sure to include detailed information about the nominee's accomplishments as they relate to the Award Criteria published on the back of the nomination form. Please do not submit a nomination without including supporting materials for your candidate. Members of the Davenport Award Committee may not be aware of your nominee's background.

Return the Award application, together with no more than ten pages of supporting documentation for your nominee, to the NCHE Office by January 6, 2003. Late applications will not be considered.

Amendments to NCHE Constitution and Bylaws

Any proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of NCHE must be received in our Washington office no later than December 27, 2003. These recommendations will be considered at the first business session of the RAM.

A copy of our current Constitution/Bylaws may be found on the NCHE website.

Membership Renewals

Remember, NCHE's membership year begins on September 1, 2002, and ends on August 31, 2003. Please use the membership form on page 4 to send us your 2002-03 Individual, Associate or Organizational memberships.

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NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2002-03 NCHE MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT.

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Is this address your home? _____ office? _____

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION: _____

LOCAL ASSOCIATION: _____

INTERNET ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: Office _____ Fax _____ Home _____

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION (Please check the appropriate box:)

Renewing Member OR New Member

\$24 Individual (Voting) Membership is open to any NEA member employed at an institution of higher education, on leave from or actively seeking employment at such an institution, and NEA-Retired whose primary employment was in higher education.

\$10 Associate (Non-Voting) Membership is open to any NEA K-12, Student, or NEA-Retired member, or NEA or affiliate staff member who supports the purposes and activities of NCHE.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP (Please check the appropriate box:)

Any higher education local or statewide affiliate may join NCHE.

- Over 500 members, \$600.00
- 201 - 500 members, \$420.00
- 101 - 200 members, \$240.00
- 11 - 100 members, \$120.00

Join Now!

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "NCHE" AND MAIL WITH THIS FORM TO:

NCHE Secretary/Treasurer
NEA Membership & Affiliates
1201 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-3290

NEA 2003 Conference Dates

Participants are encouraged to register online for NEA's Higher Education Conference that will take place on February 28–March 2, 2002, at the Omni–Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC.

Access NEA's higher education website at www.nea.org/he to find detailed descriptions of conference sessions as they are developed.

This year NEA will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of its Higher Education Conference by exploring the theme *Prologue and Present: Assessing a 20-Year Journey*.

Prior to the Higher Education Conference, NEA will host Leadership Day on February 27 from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM for higher education members who have leadership responsibilities in their local or state associations.

Membership Seminar 2003

Membership Seminar 2003, the fourth annual NEA conference devoted solely to membership building, will take place this year in Nashville, Tennessee, on February 13–15, 2003.

Remember, attendance in state teams is a requirement for this conference. Each state is asked to send a team of 5–8 people.

Encourage your state association to include a higher education leader on its Membership Seminar 2003 team; higher education is often an affiliate's highest potential membership growth area.

If you are interested in being a part of this conference, President Stearns suggests that you call your state's leadership immediately.

NEA Regional Conferences

Annual regional conferences of the NEA occur during January and February. NCHE encourages members to attend their respective regional meetings and to testify at the budget, legislative, and resolutions hearings that occur there.

Any testimony presented at these regional hearings is later reviewed by the appropriate NEA committees; therefore, comments by our Council members can significantly impact next year's NEA strategic planning and budget allocations for higher education.

NEA funds leaders to attend these regional conferences at a rate of three times the number of NEA state directors, so contact your state affiliate about including higher education members as part of their delegation.

For dates and locations of each regional conference, please refer to the chart below.

Critical Issues Seminar

Washington, DC, will be the site of the Critical Issues Seminar in April,

2003. The theme and exact date of the Seminar are yet to be determined.

Emerging Leader Academy

The second class of the NEA Higher Education Emerging Leader Academy will convene in June 2003 in Memphis, TN, at the Peabody Hotel for the first of three training sessions.

This Academy offers a training opportunity for NEA higher education members who are becoming active in their Association but who have not held office or who are newly elected or who are within their first two years in office. Enrollment is limited to 30, and final selection of participants will take into account geographic and diversity factors.

Nomination forms will be available in early 2003 from the NEA Office of Higher Education. The Academy curriculum includes leadership development, communications, organizing, problem solving, planning, and other topics.

2003 NEA Regional Leadership Conferences

Region	Location	Date
Mid-Atlantic	Norfolk, VA	January 24–26
Midwest	Sioux Falls, SD	January 17–19
Northeast	Boston, MA	January 24–26
Pacific	Anchorage, AK	February 21–23
Southeast	Orlando, FL	February 1–2
Western	Salt Lake City, UT	January 17–19

Two Higher Education Members Elected to NEA Board

In July the 2002 NEA Representative Assembly elected Mike Ryan, from Ferris Faculty Association in Michigan, and Tom Green, from Broward Community College in Florida, to the NEA Board of Directors. Welcome Mike and Tom!

Read Across America

On February 28, during NCHE's Regular Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, our organization will help to kick off NEA's annual Read Across America campaign.

President Barry Stearns requests that NCHE members come to the meeting prepared to share part of an hour reading to children. He also requests that each member

bring a children's book to donate to the campaign or plan to donate \$5.00 to Read Across America.

NEA's Political Activities

For many years NEA's political activities have been closely scrutinized by conservative organizations such as Oregon's Taxpayer's United and Washington's Evergreen Freedom Foundation. NEA is now taking active steps against organizations such as these that constantly file groundless lawsuits against NEA and its affiliates.

Recent legal victories against the two groups in Oregon and Washington have resulted in substantial monetary damages being awarded to NEA and the two state affiliates. In

Washington a judge sanctioned the Evergreen Freedom Foundation for "bad faith" in litigation against NEA.

In September NEA won another victory when the Federal Election Commission closed the file on a complaint initiated by the Landmark Legal Foundation over NEA's use of union dues.

On a related note, NEA submitted an affidavit to the Republican National Committee in late August that presented, according to Bob Chanin, a comprehensive picture of what NEA does and does not do in the political arena. This affidavit has become a guide for NEA staff regarding political activity.

**National Council for Higher Education
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