

# NCHE NEWS

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## Highlights from NEA Board Meeting May 2005

NEA Board of Directors began with a pre-meeting briefing from NEA staff; then they met with members of Congress and/or educational aides from their respective states to lobby issues, two of which impact higher education: opposition to the so-called "nuclear option" which is designed to end the historic filibuster in the senate; and support for career and technical education funding.

Formal Board action items were as follows:

### **Support for California**

The NEA Board unanimously approved \$2.5 million from the NEA Ballot/Legislative Crisis Fund to support the California Teachers Association (CTA) in their battle against Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and his attack on education, public employee rights and benefits.

An additional motion was passed to publish a list of the Governor's contributors, especially companies, so members know where not to shop. The Governor is proposing merit pay, changes in due process rights and elimination of Prop 98, a mechanism for funding public education in California.

### **Legal Issues Update**

Bob Chanin, NEA'S Chief Counsel, reviewed the NEA

lawsuit to compel the federal government to pay the costs of "No Child Left Behind Act" (NCLB). The principle argument rests on Section 9527 of the NCLB Act which states "nothing in this Act shall be construed to...mandate a state or any subdivision there of to spend any funding or incur any costs not paid for under this act."

The gap between appropriations and costs is between \$30 and \$70 billion dollars depending on the definition of cost. This definition might be the basis of a future court decision, if this current case prevails. For more information on the case, go to [www.nea.org/lawsuit](http://www.nea.org/lawsuit).

Chanin also reported that the Department of Labor has finished three years investigating NEA'S reporting of political activity and expenditures. The DOL found "no failure to disclose" only technical errors such as an item typed on the wrong line.

The DOL also failed in its effort to bring all state affiliates under the Landrum Griffin Act.

### **Legislative Update**

The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act has been reauthorized by both houses of Congress. NEA efforts to retain the Tech Programs, which link secondary to post secondary career and technical programs, were successful.

The Higher Education Reauthorization Act received a one year extension. The contentious issues remain: proprietary schools, lending institutions, definitions of online courses, access, financial accountability, student support services, diversity, academic freedom and professional development. For detailed information and the NEA/AFT'S *Joint Statement of Priorities for Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act* visit [www](http://www).

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**NCHE Summer Meeting**  
**Friday, July 1, 4-6 PM, Convention Center**  
**ROOM 405**

**See page 2 for details of the NEA RA Schedule**



- Greene, FL, is seeking re-election.
- Nancy O'Brien, Governmental Relations, is now a full-time employee of NEA, much to the approval of this body which has recognized and respected her work of the past.
  - The NEA/AFT Joint Statement on Higher Education Reauthorization is ready for print and electronic distribution, as well as joint lobbying initiatives. Check [www.nea.org/he.joint.statement](http://www.nea.org/he.joint.statement) for more information.
  - Bill Raabe announced the creation of the NEA Salary Initiative which seeks to be an advocacy program to improve salaries and benefits for NEA members. He is seeking guidance to include higher education in the initiative.
  - Nancy O'Brien, NEA Governmental Relations, reviewed the Perkins Act and Higher Education Reauthorization noting the intricacies of her lobbying activities.
  - NEA internal reorganization continues. Currently there is a listed vacancy in Higher Education as Rachel Hendrickson has moved to Membership. An explanation of the six national regions and the horizontal cross functional teams is beyond the scope of this report. However, the NCHE leadership, along with many alliances, is struggling to maintain and

improve the current level of service within this reorganization scheme.

- Con Lehane, NEA Communication, reviewed the changes to **Thought and Action**. These changes include an expansion of the Editorial Board to 47 members, the inclusion of a solicited article, an interview section, with Noam Chomsky being the first interviewee, and the usual array of refereed articles.
- Valerie Wilk, Higher Education staff, reported on the status of organizing in Washington, Michigan, and New Jersey. For details, go to [www.2.nea.org/he/advnew/](http://www.2.nea.org/he/advnew/). The status of the next year's Emerging Leaders Academy was also reviewed.

#### **NCHE RAM SUMMARY NCHE Election Results**

Incumbent President Kathy Sproles (CA) and Vice President, pro temp, Jim Rice (MA) were both re-elected by acclamation for two year terms. Everett Ford (KS) and Carla Naccarato-Sinclair (WA) were elected by acclamation, each for two year terms for the At-Large Executive Committee positions. Bill Ricketts (IW) was elected Membership Chair for a one year term.

#### **NEA Endorsements**

The NEA candidates, Reg Weaver, President; Dennis Van Roedel, Vice President, and Executive Committee candidates Mike Billirakis and Marsha Smith were all endorsed by NCHE.

#### **Action Items:**

##### **COCAL**

NCHE members unanimously endorsed a resolution in support of The Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor (COCAL) to encourage NEA to continue to support COCAL through sending representatives to COCAL activities; to provide resources for the fall and spring COCAL conferences; to continue to publish contingent faculty issues and the impact on higher education; to encourage local and state organizations within NEA to offer support and leadership in COCAL planning and activities.

##### **Honolulu**

A motion in support of requesting Honolulu as the 2008 NEA Higher Education Conference also passed unanimously.

##### **Study Committee**

Finally, a resolution was passed to urge NEA to create a committee to study the delivery of higher education programs, services, and communication with members. This committee is further urged to review alternative models of service delivery including the feasibility of a separate and autonomous higher education unit.

NCHE members received NEA Hearing updates from Roy Weatherford, FL, and Len Paolillo, MA, of the Legislation Committee, and Jim Rice MA, Gloria Green-Ridley, DC, and Leo Kirchhoff, CA, of the Resolutions Committee. Kathy Sproles referenced the NCHE Budget Talking Points document in support of higher education interests and urged attendance at the Budget Hearing.

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nea.org/HE/Joint Statement .NEA initiatives remain with respect to Social Security: no privatization, no mandatory coverage and no Government Pension Offset/WEP. The Board approved \$200,000 from contingency fund to Americans United to Protect Social Security, an alliance combating Social Security Privatization.

#### **Standing Rules and Bylaw Amendments**

The Board moved support for **Standing Rule Amendment 1** which deletes the prohibition of state booths remaining open during the business sessions of the RA . The Board moved opposition to **Standing Rule Amendments 5** which moves the deadline for submission of new resolutions, amendments and requests to set aside resolutions to no later than 12:00 noon of the second day.

**Standing Rule Amendment 6**, which would require a petition with (50) signatures to submit a new resolution or to set aside resolutions for consideration by the RA, was also opposed. Finally, the Board moved opposition to **Bylaw Amendment 1**, which would exempt NEA ESP'S from the \$1.00 annual dues increase between membership years 2005-2010.

#### **Davenport Awardees**

A special event at the NEA 23rd Annual higher Education Conference , March 4-6, 2005, was the James Davenport Award, given each year at the opening plenary session to recognize an NEA member, group, or organization for outstanding contributions to higher education.

Since 1990, the Davenport Award recipients have numbered eighteen and this year's awardees bring the total to twenty in the past fifteen years

This year's recipients were M. Alice Peters (NJ) and Gloria Green-Ridley (DC). Both Alice and Gloria brought extensive local and state organizational skills to leadership positions NEA and NCHE. Both have served on numerous NEA committees and as executive committee members of NCHE.

We congratulate them for their long history of contributions and welcome them to a long list of distinguished honorees.

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### **NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HIGH EDUCATION**

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