



November 2005

NCHE E News Letter Updates

- [Welcome to NCHE E News Letter](#)
- [2006 Annual Higher Ed Conference-Register Now](#)
- [NCHE Annual Membership Drive is Underway](#)
- [Status of Higher Education Commission](#)

Welcome to NCHE E News Letter

In an effort to better serve our members and facilitate distribution of current issues, the NCHE has moved to this format. This format is our first effort, and we hope you like it. We will continue the NCHE NEWS, print version, during our transition. Your responses and comments are encouraged, so let us know what you think.

[Top of Page](#)

2006 Annual Higher Ed Conference - Register Now

The annual NEA Higher Education Conference is scheduled for March 3-5, 2006. This is a joint conference with higher education members of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). The conference theme is "AFT-NEA Higher Education Summit: Sharing Our Successes, Challenges and Strategies" and will be held at the Disney Contemporary Resort, Orlando, Florida. **Register NOW!** [Conference registration](#) and [hotel reservations](#) are available on line.

<http://nea.org/he/conf.html>

[Top of Page](#)

NCHE Membership Drive

It is that time of year. Our three categories of membership - Organizations, Individuals, and Associates are all up for renewal, and of course we welcome new members in all categories. The membership

forms are downloadable @ <http://nea.org/he/nche/index.html>

[Top of Page](#)

Higher Education Commission

Secretary Spellings announced the creation of the Commission on the Future of Higher Education in mid-September at the University of North Carolina. In a prepared release, Spellings characterized this initiative as a “national dialogue” on the best system of higher education in the world. The commission plans to answer the following questions: how we can ensure that college is affordable and accessible? And, how well institutions are preparing students to compete in the new global economy? The tasks are described in the broadest terms and are focused on access, affordability, accountability, and productivity. The commission intends on submitting a final report by August 1, 2006, with specific findings and recommendations which are to serve as a blueprint for the 21st century higher education system in America. The commission consists of four presidents emeritus, three professors, an association president (American Council for Education) and five executives from the private sector. Reactions range from some who fear of federal intrusion to others who welcome the governmental attention. Either way, this commission warrants attention. Check additional details at <http://www.ed.gov/print/speeches/2005/09/09192005.html> <http://insidehighered.com/news/2005/09/20/spellings>

[Top of Page](#)

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