



News from NNER

National Network for Educational Renewal

2006 NNER Conference Highlights

Michelli and Clark Awards Recognize Settings

A special highlight of the conference was the presentation of the second annual Michelli and Clark awards. The recipients are exemplary programs making a genuine difference for students, schools, and our society. They remind us of the high-quality work taking place across the NNER settings. We hope that the award process stimulates cross-setting conversations and idea sharing and lets others know about the outstanding efforts underway to advance our simultaneous renewal.



Omowale Akintude, a symposium co-founder and currently a professor in the Department of Teacher Education, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, and Audrey Kleinsasser, Wyoming Partnership Director, receive the Michelli Award from Nick Michelli.

The **Wyoming Partnership** received the Michelli Award for Promoting Social Justice in recognition of its collaborative and long-standing work in support of social justice through the Shepard Symposium for Social Justice. The Brown sisters participated in the symposium during the 50th anniversary year of the historic Brown vs.

Topeka decision. Students were mesmerized by Rueben "Hurricane" Carter; and Sherman Alexei (*The Lone Ranger* and *Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*) gave an astounding talk/performance. It was gratifying to see busloads of kids, teachers, and parents travel to Laramie from the Wind River Reservation for this event. Carmelita "Rosie" Castaneda,

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 2007 annual NNER conference will be held in Charleston, West VA, Oct. 3-6!

A Note of Appreciation to:

Ada Beth Cutler and **Van Dempsey**, who have served the governing council and NNER as thoughtful leaders committed to the Agenda for Education in a Democracy and as representatives at-large to the executive board.

John Anderson and **Vern Henshaw**, who served as the first co-chairs of the tripartite council. In those roles they provided leadership to the A&S and to the school representatives; and they have been effective representatives of those groups on the governing council and executive board.

The NNER is grateful to each of these individuals for their wise leadership always rooted in thoughtful and strategic guidance. ♦

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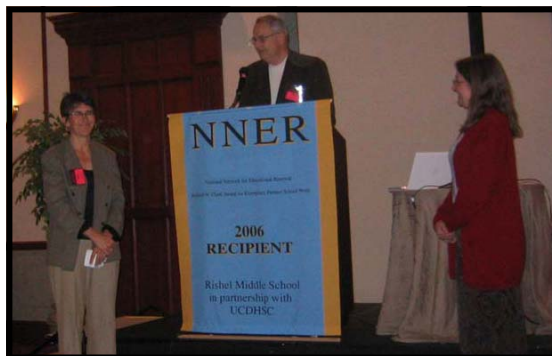
CALL FOR PROPOSALS!

The **Shepard Symposium on Social Justice**, a major national conference sponsored by the University of Wyoming, is requesting proposals for presentations at the March 2007 symposium. Proposals must be received by Jan. 8, 2007. For more information go to the NNER Website: <http://depts.washington.edu/cedren/>

2006 NNER Highlights (continued)

chair of the 2007 symposium, and Christi Boggs developed the DVD for the conference presentation. For more information, you can contact at 307.766.3126, carmelit@uwyo.

Rishel Middle School in Denver, Colorado, received the Clark Award as an Exemplary Partner School. Rishel MS is a member of Colorado Partnership for Educational Renewal in partnership with the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Science Center. The school and its university partners have engaged in school-wide inquiry processes for six years. Co-developed by teachers and university faculty, the inquiry process transformed professional development for teachers, university faculty, and teacher candidates who focus each study on student needs. ♦



Dick Clark presents the Clark Award to Sally Bishop (left), site coordinator at Rishel Middle School, and Elizabeth Parmelee, Executive Director of the Colorado Partnership.

Tripartite Council Advances NNER Goals

Fifty-eight members of the NNER tripartite council met in an extended meeting to address annual reports of review settings, provide feedback on the strategic planning group's proposed changes to the mission, and to further the work related to equity.

Working in groups of three, the settings and tripartite council members reviewed annual reports, using critical-friend feedback to edit or modify reports and to learn from one another. The group also heard from a panel that discussed the equity task-force work. The panel included Ken Jones, Southern Maine University Partnership; Steven Baugh, BYU Public School Partnership; and Leslie Wilson, Montclair State University Partnership for Educational Renewal. Each provided an overview of the setting's process to date, challenges to the work, and preliminary findings. Paul Chaplin joined the panel as a representative of the equity task force, and Nick Michelli moderated the conversation.

The group recommended that the process continue to be refined and that settings begin to engage in the critical friends' phase of the work. Each setting approached the work differently but all agreed that their beginning efforts are a work in progress. Some examples of their experiences included: additional time to include school partners, refinement of the continuum, more conversations to ensure agreed-upon understanding of the vocabulary, and time to delve more deeply into issues. ♦

Governing Council Meets

Addressing the recommendations of the tripartite council, the governing council agreed to have all settings pilot the equity self-study as part of the annual reporting process. The settings' annual report formats will remain as they have for the past two years—the reports provide rich information and focus for the NNER. The NNER leaders discussed the wide range of possible work in regards to the equity self-study and agreed that each setting should begin using the process to examine strengths and areas that need to be

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Congratulations. •

- **Dennis Potthoff**, University of Nebraska at Kearney, was elected to serve on the NNER executive board for a two-year term as representative at-large from the governing council.
- **Deb Shanley**, Brooklyn College, was elected to serve a three-year term as representative at-large from the governing council.
- **Jean Eagle**, Talawanda School District, was elected tripartite council co-chair representing schools.
- **Gary Callahan**, Benedict College, was elected as tripartite council co-chair representing A&S.
- **Leslie Wilson**, Montclair State University, was elected as the A&S representative to the governing council. ♦

2006 NNER Highlights (continued)

(Governing Council Meets—cont'd from p. 2) addressed to provide quality learning and a nurturing environment for all. Each setting's unique characteristics will determine how the process is structured. Settings will report on the process in the annual report section that addresses progress toward and challenges to equity for all.

The governing council also endorsed the NNER strategic planning group's recommendation to move forward on becoming a 501(c)(3). The executive director will report to the executive board during its December meeting on progress and next steps.

Van Dempsey, representing the research committee, gave an update on progress with the NNER research agenda. The report included a series of proposed action-steps to advance the research agenda, including: creating leadership for the research efforts and an advisory board to support the research; drafting and submitting funding proposals; and creating a process for technical assistance for settings that would like to participate in the research. The research agenda will focus on three major areas of inquiry: (1) documenting the work of NNER and the settings; (2) providing critique and examination of the work; and, (3) engaging in efforts to evaluate the impact of the work on the various constituents and stakeholders in the settings. ♦

Over 50 Attend Successful Pre-Session for New Participants!

The half-day introductory session for participants new to the NNER conference occurred immediately prior to the opening keynote. Over 50 participants gathered for the session, more than double the number attending in 2005.

The half-day was designed to provide background information for new participants as well as individuals learning more about NNER work. **Stephanie Kenney** and **Barry Graff** co-facilitated this session for the second year, which included activities to introduce the Agenda for Education in a Democracy and walk participants through the conference strands and organization. Important goals of this session were to provide new conference participants with a network of colleagues, impart information that would help newcomers get the most out of the conference, and provide background on the mission that unites the NNER members. ♦



Session co-facilitators — Greg Bernhardt, Barry Graff, Stephanie Kenney — greet the new participants.

Take Note

Ann Foster
Executive Director

The NNER executive board will sponsor a summer symposium to be held in Seattle, July 16-20, 2007. Building on this year's format, the symposium will include interactive sessions to deepen understanding of the four-part mission and our responsibility for applying the Agenda for Education in a Democracy to our local roles in the settings. The session can accommodate 30 participants, and settings are encouraged to send tripartite teams. The cost will remain \$1000 per participant, with participants responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses. Now is the time to plan for participation and reserve spaces! Please contact me (fosteraw@u.washington.edu) for more information or to reserve places for members of your setting.

Planning Ahead

We are seeking settings to host the 2008-2009 NNER annual conferences. The 2005, 2006, and 2007 conferences have been held in the eastern region of the network; and the executive board is requesting volunteer settings from the western region to host these conferences. The 2006 conference was an example of a particularly successful co-sponsoring model. Settings working together may make this more feasible in some geographic areas. Please contact Ann Foster if you are interested in hosting the conference. ♦



"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?"

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Commentary from the Governing Chair

~ Greg Bernhardt

Co-hosted by Miami University and Wright State University partnerships, the 2006 annual NNER Conference explored the theme, "Leadership for Simultaneous Renewal: Changing Roles for Changing Times." The planning committee decided on five keynote addresses with the overall goal of encouraging NNER members to consider opportunities for new roles in the midst of the challenging educational landscape in which all of us must currently work.

Nancy Zimpher, president of the University of Cincinnati, kicked off the conference with a dynamic talk on "boundary spanners," as she explained how working with others outside of the normal confines of our work can make a huge difference to institutions, communities, and the schools. She described how partnerships in Milwaukee and Cincinnati have developed and been sustained in recent years. And she issued a challenge to all of us to reach beyond institutional boundaries and effect change through collaborative civic engagement. Her talk was followed by a reception and a chance to engage in conversations with old and new friends.

Friday morning. **Cile Chavez** invited us to explore the personal, spiritual, and introspective dimensions that will help us advance our efforts to integrate professional and personal renewal. Her call for a contemplative approach to our work was refreshing and just the right way to start a full day of conference conversations with colleagues from around the NNER. Breakout sessions explored Social Justice, Blended/Hybrid Roles, Engaging the Arts and Sciences in Educator Preparation, Creating Democratic, Ethical Leaders in P-16 Settings, and Integrating Democracy in P-16 Education.

Luncheon. Civil rights legend and current president of the Algebra Project, **Bob Moses**, gave the keynote address. His moving and beautifully delivered call to face our past and create a better future was a powerful way to begin the Friday evening visit to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati where the National Underground Railroad Museum is located on the Ohio River.

Freedom Center. Museum Director **Spencer Crew** provided NNER members with an overview, and attendees were then free to tour the museum on their own after dinner. The artifacts and interactive exhibits demonstrated the unimaginable injustices those within this democracy have had to overcome to obtain freedom and civil rights. Slaves longed for freedom and many free citizens could not condone slavery; these groups risked their lives and liberty to help make others free. It reminds us all that democracy – always in flux – is made stronger only through the efforts of its participants.

Saturday morning. This day began early, but conference attendees were wide-awake to the inspirational address given by **Michael Dantley**, professor and associate dean of the School of Education and Allied Programs at Miami University. His message was that moral and ethical leadership is a spiritual necessity for democratic education and to the future efforts of NNER.

Final Kenote. Revered NNER founder, **John Goodlad** shared his perspectives on a holistic view of education in what he called the *ecology of mind*. This concept came to life as he reflected on the path he has traveled during his many decades as an educator. The conference concluded with an invitation to renew our efforts to actualize our Agenda for Education in a Democracy and to meet again in 2007 and share what we learn during the year ahead.

As Governing Council chair and member of the conference planning committee, I found the collegial planning sessions provided a focus for all involved to reflect on the NNER mission and the conference's role in advancing our work.

Like the other conference planners, I hope that the conference established a positive tone for the work ahead, that the organization generated opportunities for participants to network with each other, and that the sessions resulted in new learning and strengthened our inter-setting connections. ♦



Around the NNER



Conference for Novice Teachers ~ University of Texas at El Paso

UTEP's College of Education held its 2nd Annual Conference for Novice Teachers (ABC, A Better Beginning Conference) on Sept. 16. More than 200 novice elementary, middle, and high-school teachers in El Paso and surrounding areas attended the day-long event.

Dr. Josie Tinajero, dean of the College of Education, extended a warm welcome to all the new teachers attending the conference and reminded them of the great importance of the role of the new generation of teachers. Faculty members from the colleges of Education, Liberal Arts, and Science, as well as experienced K-12 school teachers presented sessions on topics ranging from classroom management to technology integration and conceptual understanding of physical science (inquiry-based techniques for teaching science in the K-8 classroom).

At the luncheon awards were presented to both outstanding novice and mentor teachers in our local schools. Awardees received plaques and cash awards in recognition of their excellent work in support of our schools.

The Annual ABC Conference is one way that UTEP demonstrates its continuing and active support for novice teachers. With our partners, concentrated work on the teacher-preparation continuum (recruitment, preparation, and retention of new teachers) connects the College of Education with our students *before* enrollment, during coursework, and continuing after

graduation. Events such as UTEP's ABC Conference bring together K-12 schools, the university, and the community to demonstrate our collective responsibility and pledge to the local community and schools.

National Youth-At-Risk Conference Planned

Georgia Southern University's College of Education and the Division of Continuing Education, in collaboration with the NNER, will sponsor a National Youth-At-Risk Conference. "High-Flying Schools" will be recognized and describe their successes. Schools can be nominated through the National Youth-At-Risk Web site, www.nationalyouthatrisk.com. Nominations must be received

by Dec. 15, 2006. Criteria for selection stipulate that schools in high-need communities engage in community collaboration, develop citizenship, and follow curricula that promote successful participation in a democratic society.

Thinking about Contemplative Curricula

David Lee Keiser from Montclair State University attended the second annual faculty curriculum workshop sponsored by The Center for Contemplative Mind in Society, held this summer. Thirty professors from various sites and disciplines gathered to develop contemplative curricula and courses for higher education. For more information about the center: www.contemplativemind.org. ♦

Celebrating a 20-Year NNER Anniversary!

Wyoming Partnership and **Colorado Partnership for Educational Renewal** celebrated 20 years in the NNER with a conference held Oct. 12-13 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Over 130 participants attended breakout sessions and large-group activities reflecting the many years of successful partner work dedicated to advancing the Agenda for Education in a Democracy.

Larry Cuban gave the keynote address and led an informal talk on his latest book, *The Blackboard and the Bottom Line*. **Lynn Simons** and **Wayne Porter**, founding leaders of the Wyoming Partnership, offered reflections on the history of the partnership and inspiration for continued partnership work. Breakout sessions highlighting a wide range of collaborative work were facilitated by school and university partners from the two settings. Looking to the future, the session included interactive whole-group sessions on engaging community in our renewal efforts. **Audrey Kleinsasser** and **Elizabeth Parmelee** coordinated the planning and overall facilitation for the conference. ♦



Pat McClurg, Allen Trent, Audrey Kleinsasser, Wyoming Partnership leaders at the 20th anniversary celebration of the partnership.

National Network for Educational Renewal



SETTING	STATE/PROVINCE
California State University, Chico	California
Colorado Partnership for Educational Renewal*	Colorado
University of Connecticut	Connecticut
Georgia Partnership for Educational Renewal	Georgia
University of Hawai'i and Hawai'i Institute for Educational Partnerships	Hawai'i
Illinois State University	Illinois
University of Southern Maine and Southern Maine Partnership	Maine
The Brandon School-University Partnership (The Brandon School Division and Brandon University)	Manitoba
St. Cloud University and the St. Cloud School District	Minnesota
Metropolitan St. Louis Consortium for Educational Renewal* MU Partnership for Educational Renewal	Missouri
Nebraska Network for Educational Renewal*	Nebraska
Montclair State University Network for Educational Renewal	New Jersey
University of New Mexico—Albuquerque Partnership	New Mexico
The City University of New York and the New York Public Schools*	New York
Miami University Partnership	Ohio
Wright State University	
South Carolina Network for Educational Renewal*	South Carolina
Arlington University-School Network for Educational Renewal (AUSNER)	Texas
University of Texas at El Paso	
Brigham Young University and BYU-Public School Partnership	Utah
University of Washington	Washington
Benedum Collaborative at West Virginia University	West Virginia
University of Wyoming and Wyoming School-University Partnership	Wyoming

*denotes multiple IHE site settings

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Please submit suggestions for articles, information about people, and events in NNER settings to Ann Foster at fosteraw@u.washington.edu.