



## *Looking back with appreciation. . .*

### The 2009 NNER Annual Conference: Celebrating *In Praise of Education*

With approximately 370 attendees, the 2009 NNER Conference – *In Praise of Education: the new three Rs, reflection, responsibility, renewal* – was a fitting culmination to a milestone year for the NNER. The conference celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *In Praise of Education* with a panel conversation among four education visionaries: **James Comer, John Goodlad, Henry Levin, and Deborah Meier**, all major presenters at the original *In Praise* gathering. The extensive and often ground-breaking work accomplished during the intervening 10-year period came to life in the presentation of the Clark Award for Exemplary Partner School Work, the Michelli Award for Promoting Social Justice, and the John I. Goodlad award to individuals whose daily work advances the AED. And through the “expert panels,” the conference provided a forum for studying and advancing our work in critical areas. ♦

*See pages 2-4 for conference-related articles.*

## *Looking forward with anticipation. . .*

### The 2010 NNER Annual Conference: See you in Normal, Illinois!

*A message from Deborah Curtis, dean of the College of Education at Illinois State University, and Molly Munson-Dryer, conference planning chair and associate director of Clinical Experiences for the ISU Teacher Education Center:*

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to welcome you to Normal, Illinois, for the national NNER Conference, October 6-9, 2010! This year’s conference will be held at the brand-new Marriott Convention Center located directly across the street from Illinois State University campus in the heart of uptown Normal. As we like to say about our 153-year history at Illinois State University, “It started with education!” ISU was founded as a nor-

mal school with a mission to prepare public school teachers to serve in the state of Illinois; and we continue today to hold firm to that vision. ISU is consistently ranked among the top ten U.S. institutions preparing teachers. We invite you to see how we, along with our partnership schools, have brought the Agenda for Education in a Democracy into the heart of Illinois.

We look forward to providing you with friendly Midwestern



*from*  
**John**  
**Goodlad**

In early summer 1999, the Institute for Educational Inquiry rather bravely held a conference that brought to Bellevue, Washington, representatives of twenty-one education renewing enterprises scattered across the United States.

We had very few speakers outside of these initiatives; and the conference also featured sessions on music and the arts. In a panel discussion, made up primarily of invitees, there came from the audience a question directed to former astronaut George “Pinky” Nelson. He turned it aside by suggesting that the topic in the question might well be on the program of next year’s conference. I happened to be sitting about six feet in front of Pinky, and I whispered to him “Maybe a decade from now.” That decade is now behind us, and we recently had a

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hospitality as we consider the really big challenges facing our public schools and democratic way of life. We hope that you will join us in October. As we don’t have a lot of convention travel in our neck of the woods, you can be sure that the whole town and campus community are eager to welcome you! ♦

# ***NNER AWARDS, 2009~Advancing the NNER Mission Building Partnerships, Promoting Social Justice***

## **The newly established Goodlad Awards**

The first-ever Goodlad Awards, created to acknowledge exceptional work to advance the NNER's mission, were presented at the 2009 conference. The first Goodlad Award recipients are two outstanding school leaders: **Nicholas Mazzarella**, principal of Brooklyn College Academy, a high school located on the Brooklyn College Campus, and **Chuck Birkholtz**, superintendent of RULH Local Schools, Ripley, Ohio. Although working in very different settings, both have demonstrated ongoing commitment to the AED and the NNER. Their efforts to increase opportunities and quality learning for all students especially affect students from isolated rural poverty and urban centers — populations of students too often underserved. In their acceptance comments Nick and Chuck each spoke about how their work is influenced by the NNER mission and how their involvement with their partner universities results in broader and richer opportunities for students and faculty. ♦



Goodlad Award recipients: (left of John Goodlad) **Nicholas Mazzarella**, principal of Brooklyn College Academy and (right of John) **Chuck Birkholtz**, superintendent of RULH Local Schools, Ripley, Ohio.

## **The Clark Award for Exemplary Partner-School Work**



Representing Franklin Elementary, from left to right: **Cheryl Hopper, Dorothy Heard, Jennifer Robinson, Marisol Quinones-Diaz, Ada Beth Cutler, Sue Taylor, and Nancy Lauter.**

Franklin Elementary School, a long-term partner with Montclair State University in New Jersey, was recognized for its deep commitment to partner school work and the positive results it's achieved for students and teachers. Providing a living example of

simultaneous renewal, partnership activities have been many and ongoing, and always with student well-being at their core. In a community greatly affected by poverty, the school continues to meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) standards and enriches stu-

dents beyond the basics. Art, music, student community activity, combined with authentic school engagement in the community, ongoing study of practice and policy, and innovative grant funding have produced a tapestry of options for students, an effective learning environment for university students, and a wonderful example of what can be accomplished through sustained and trusting collaboration. Teacher turnover is low, a rare occurrence in schools that serve urban communities with high numbers of people living in poverty; and university presence is integrated into the school culture. For more information on the school, its partner work, or other initiatives, contact principal **Susan Taylor** at [staylor@nps.k12.nj.us](mailto:staylor@nps.k12.nj.us). ♦



## The Michelli Award for Promoting Social Justice

**D**onna Michaels, Brandon School Division superintendent, along with colleagues from the school division and Brandon University, Manitoba, Canada, accepted the 2009 Michelli Award for Social Justice. They dedicated their award to John I. Goodlad as the inspiration for the work and as a fellow Canadian. The Brandon setting earned this recognition for its long-term, multifaceted, and collaborative work aimed at providing access to quality learning for all students. The school division made a deliberate effort to learn from students in order to develop policies and practices that would better serve those students. The process included a “graduation study” of both graduating and early-exit students. Interviews were conducted with 85 of the 270 total early-exit students and with 206 of the total sample of 1042 graduating students.

As a result of this study Brandon School Division opened an off-site campus location in the downtown area of Brandon in September 2007. For students who have been out of school, this alternative campus offers them the opportunity to complete their education in a more flexible setting. The Neelin High School Off-Site Campus (NHSOC) is staffed by three full-time teachers and a guidance counselor. To date, 106 students have graduated from this program. You can access their Website at <http://www.brandonsd.mb.ca/neelin/ferguson/index.html>. ♦



from left to right: **Mathew Gustafson**, principal, Vincent Massey High School, Brandon School Division; **Jerry Storie**, dean, Faculty of Education, Brandon University; **Donna Michaels**, Superintendent of Schools/Chief Executive Officer, Brandon School Division; **Adrian Kuryliw**, Coordinator of Assessment, Evaluation and Research, Brandon School Division.

## Literary Café Celebrates NNER Members' Work



The Literary Café, a new conference tradition, testified to a decade of accomplishment with an extensive display of publications by NNER members. ♦

**T**he Goodlad Institute sponsored the very first NNER *Literary Café*, a welcoming exhibit of books relevant to the NNER's mission and the Agenda for Education in a Democracy, all written and/or edited by NNER members. With over 100 titles displayed, the café was a gathering place for conference attendees. Authors talked to colleagues about their work, and connections were made by people working on similar

topics and research. Browsing the materials, one could see the impact of the NNER's mission on the profession. The Goodlad Institute is setting up its Website and the annotated bibliographies for all the publications will be posted there. It also will be linked to the NNER Website. ♦

## Expert Panels Address Issues, Generate Recommendations

**P**utting into action the 2009 conference themes of renewal and responsibility, eight expert panels met over the three-day session to study and offer recommendations for the NNER and local settings on key areas that advance the application of the NNER mission. Organized by **Dick Clark**, the planning committee developed topics by examining the NNER goals and meeting with the executive board. Two

distinct topic strands emerged: role-alike support and engagement, and critical issues. Role-alike groups grappled with how to effectively engage leaders, make the most of their unique skills and areas of interest, and support them as they advance the AED in their work. Role-alike panels included NNER superintendents facilitated by **Jim Lowham**; education deans, facilitated by **Ada Beth Cutler**; and A&S deans, facilitated by **Ron Cambra**. Other panels developed recommendations on critical issues for the NNER. These included:

- How to advance equity for GLBT students and faculty, and students in special education. Facilitators: **Tina Jacobowitz** and **Elizabeth Kozleski**.
- Building community engagement, a central focus for the organization. Co-facilitators: **Dennis Potthoff**, **Mona Bailey**, and **Cori Mantle-Bromley**.

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# NNER Conference 2009: Taking care of business, talkin', listenin', having fun

## Governing Council

The **governing council meeting** included elections for the chair and executive board member-at-large from the governing council. **Deb Shanley**, dean of the School of Education at Brooklyn College, was elected to assume the chair role from **Greg Bernhardt** who has served two terms. **Ada Beth Cutler**, dean of the College of Education at Montclair State University, was elected executive board member-at-large. In other actions, the group approved exploration of new membership options. **Carol Wilson** chaired a task force that is working on different types of memberships while ensuring that the NNER supports and provides leadership development to new settings and new members in current settings.

**John Skillings**, chief worrier and leader for the NNER journal, provided an update on the journal, the first edition of which is now available on the NNER Website; hard copies were made available for conference attendees. He asked that the governing council consider long-term financial support for the journal. He also asked that editorial board membership be expanded. Nominations for editorial board members will be given to John and acted on at the February meeting. ♦

## Hearing Student Voices

Always needed, yet often unheard, student voices filled the air at the 2009 conference. Graduate students from across the country were active participants on two expert panels—groups that grappled with questions critical to the NNER. The expert panel on doctoral programs for future teacher educators, reflecting AED's central theme of the discussion, moved towards "intentionality" in preparing teacher educators strong not just in content but also in understanding AED issues.

The expert panel on serving GLBT students in schools and universities included graduate students and local high school students who contribute to the work. Graduate students also presented break-out sessions on how to influence policy.

Brooklyn College Academy (BCA) principal, **Nicholas Mazzarella** (recipient of the 2010 Goodlad Award) brought six high school stu-

dents to the conference to talk about their exchange-program experiences with the Nebraska NNER setting. That experience allowed them to meet Native American youth and spend time in rural Nebraska communities. The students, members of the World Ensemble—an award-winning program at BCA, along with their teacher **Laurie Friedman-Adler**, came to the conference with instruments in hand. When a keynote speaker had to cancel an appearance at a conference luncheon, the students smoothly stepped in and performed for conference attendees. Displaying talent, skill, and infectious energy, they were a conference highlight. ♦



Standing from left to right: teacher **Debra Ehara** and students, **Tadia Toussaint**, **Wayne Williams**, **Dana Regis**; then **Laurie Friedman-Adler**, **Hannah Moon** (student), and principal, **Nick Mazzarella**. Students in the front: **Kevin Adena** and **Sapphire Duveau**.

## Tripartite Council

Several format changes helped to re-energize the work of the Tripartite Council when it met prior to the 2009 annual conference. Representatives from P-12 schools, arts and sciences, and colleges of education worked in large and small groups to share information about their settings and provide input to the emerging expert study panels.

During the Wednesday evening session, members self-selected for discussions of key issues, ranging from special education to GLBT, in order to offer written suggestions to the expert study panels that met twice during the conference. On Thursday morning, the Council revisited these proposals during a large-group discussion.

This year, setting annual reports focused on successes and challenges. Working in small groups, participants assumed the role of critical friends, offering ideas for implementation in respective settings. The meeting concluded with role-alike conversations on issues of particular interest to each group.

This revised meeting format was praised by the membership. In a follow-up survey, comments reflected appreciation for a more action-oriented agenda, as well as increased time for deeper conversation with colleagues on issues of importance to the NNER. ♦



## Take Note

Ann Foster

Executive Director

**NNER's 2010 Summer Symposium** will be held in Seattle, July 19-22. Preregistration is open now. To reserve your places at the session, please contact Ann at : [annfoster@nnerpartnerships.org](mailto:annfoster@nnerpartnerships.org).

The **Wyoming School-University Partnership** will host a January 28-29, state-wide conference to build on NNER's 2009 meeting held in Bellevue, Washington. Three outcomes guide conference planners. First, showcase Wyoming's NNER conference sessions, including those supported by Partnership scholarships. Second, illustrate the partnership's simultaneous renewal change strategy involving school, community college, university, and the wider community around issues of access and excellence, the stewardship of schools, and nurturing pedagogy. And third, invite post-conference book studies. A panel discussion about Hugh Hecl's *On Thinking Institutionally* will be featured. Conference participants will be invited to participate in a follow-up book study.

**The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Shepard Symposium on Social Justice** will be held April 7-9, 2010, in Laramie, Wyoming. The 2010 conference will focus on environmental justice and proposals are currently being accepted. Deadline is January 16. Details about the electronic submission process are available at: [www.shepardsymposium.org](http://www.shepardsymposium.org). Planners invite sessions ranging from workshops and panel

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Plan now to spend October 6-9, in Normal, Illinois, site of the 2010 NNER Annual Conference, hosted by the Illinois State University College of Education

The 2010 NNER conference theme is *Realizing the Democratic Ideal*, designed to continue essential connections with the NNER's areas of focus. Strands will include realizing the democratic ideal in our work with community, in our classrooms and institutions, and in policy. ♦



following is an excerpt from the Illinois State University, College of Education Website:: [www.teachereducation.ilstu.edu/councilforteacher/democratic-ideal.shtml](http://www.teachereducation.ilstu.edu/councilforteacher/democratic-ideal.shtml)

*Realizing the Democratic Ideal*, based on the core values that drive [Educating Illinois](#), is the conceptual framework for all teacher education programs at Illinois State University. Through the emphasis on intellectual and moral virtues, candidates at Illinois State University are prepared to take leadership roles as educators in our democratic society. Read the original full text document, [Realizing the Democratic Ideal: Teacher Education at Illinois State University](#) drafted in 1997 and revised in 2002 in accord with National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education Standards.

Illinois State University has a historic and enduring commitment to educate teachers who will be responsive to the moral and intellectual demands a democratic society places upon them. To teach in a democracy is self-consciously to take up the burden of improving the moral and intellectual quality of our societal dialogue by including in it as many educated voices as possible. ♦

### Honors & Recognition

**Ada Beth Cutler**, dean of the College of Education and Human Services, Montclair State University, has been appointed to the New Jersey governor-elect's education transition committee in charge of P-12 education policy. Montclair State's president is the chair of this committee.

**Vi Florez**, former dean of the College of Education and interim provost at the University of New Mexico, has been appointed to the New Mexico cabinet as Secretary of Higher Education.

**Patrick Eckelmann**, lead teacher of the Fours/Universal PreK class at Brooklyn College, recently received the Excellence in Teaching Recognition Award from NYC Professional Development Institute (PDI) of CUNY. Each recipient's profile is highlighted on NYC PDI's Website for one month. Viewers post their thoughts in response to the teacher's work, and the teacher in turn can respond. ♦

## More “Take Note” . . . Ann Foster

discussions to more formal research paper presentations. In addition to environmental justice, planners welcome topics on ethnicity/race, sexual orientation, disability, gender, class, and other related areas. The symposium has been an annual event since 1997. Initially titled the Symposium for the Eradication of Social Inequality, it has evolved into a major national conference. In 2003, the symposium was renamed the Shepard Symposium, honoring the work of the Shepard family and the memory of their son, Matthew Shepard, a University of Wyoming student and social activist. The symposium serves as a living reminder of the need for information and dialogue about social justice concerns in the U.S. and beyond. More than almost any other such gathering, the Shepard Symposium is committed to providing an unfettered forum for those whose voices continue to be marginalized. One feature of the symposium is the teacher tea for K-12 educators, which, this year, also focuses on environmental justice. For more information about the April 7-9 symposium, contact Kate Muir Welsh at [kmuir@uwyo.edu](mailto:kmuir@uwyo.edu) or 307.766.2013.

### National Youth-At-Risk Conference, Feb. 28-March 3, 2010

In collaboration with The National Network for Educational Renewal, the National Youth-At-Risk Conference annually recognizes the High-Flying Schools. Out of 55 applications for the 2010 awards, five schools will be recognized as High-Flying Schools at the conference to be held in Savannah, Georgia, at the Hyatt Regency. Information about the conference and High-Flying Schools can be found at <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/yarregister.html>.

### New online education community.

The **Colorado Partnership for Educational Renewal** has developed *my-Etalk* (<http://www.my-etalk.com/index.php>), a new Website that offers an online, education-focused community with a variety of conversational formats and support services for educators and educational programs and institutions working to advance the Agenda for Education in a Democracy. You are invited to sign up (it's free!) and explore the new possibilities for engagement and expanded conversations. If you are unable to access the site, please contact **Bob Hoffert**, [mbhof-fert@comcast.net](mailto:mbhof-fert@comcast.net). Bob is especially interested in hearing about your difficulties, questions, and/or suggestions for refining the site. He would also welcome suggestions on who might benefit from this tool and how we can effectively bring it to a broad spectrum of educators. Note: In the site's pre-release form, you will notice that there are “dummy” postings unrelated to education or the Agenda. Their sole purpose is to test and demonstrate functional capabilities. They will be deleted upon formal release of the site.

### NNER Today

Thanks to the BYU setting, we have copies of the *NNER Today* booklets that were distributed at our fall conference. There has been an enthusiastic response to this publication, with settings requesting additional copies for local leadership work and as a way of introducing the NNER's work to those new to the settings. The publication is posted on the NNER Website for downloading, but a few hard copies are available from the NNER office (contact Ann Foster if you are interested). ♦

**Goodlad**, continued from p. 1

wonderful conference: the annual gathering of the National Network for Educational Renewal hosted by the University of Washington. I know better than to say it was better than its predecessor, but it was equally superb.

I thank all of you who participated in the planning and conduct of one of the best conferences I have ever attended – and I have attended a great many. Although music was not emphasized this time, we had a stunning musical performance by a group of young people already accomplished enough that they could go on tour and be well received. They captured our intense interest and appreciation over an enchanting hour. My gratitude goes out to these young musicians and to their teacher, and congratulations to the settings and individuals who received the 2010 NNER awards.

Warmest regards,  
John

### Expert Panels, continued from p. 3

- Ensuring that teacher educators have the background to embed the AED in their course work and institutions is a long-term need for the NNER. Facilitator: **Nick Michelli**.
- New-setting recruitment was explored. Facilitators: **Randy Hitz** and **Carol Wilson**.

The executive board studied the committees' reports at its December meeting. It will bring summaries to the governing council meeting in February for review and recommendations for action. Several groups indicated that they hope to reconvene at the 2010 conference, continuing discussion of their topics and ensuring that actions follow. ♦

# National Network for Educational Renewal



SETTING	STATE/PROVINCE
California State University, Chico	California
Colorado Partnership for Educational Renewal*	Colorado
Colorado State University and the Poudre School District Partnership	Colorado
University of Connecticut	Connecticut
Georgia Center for Educational Renewal at Georgia Southern University	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*	Missouri
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
CUNY and the New York City Department of Education	New York
Miami University Partnership	Ohio
Wright State University	Ohio
South Carolina Network for Educational Renewal*	South Carolina
Arlington University-School Network for Educational Renewal (AUSNER)	Texas
University of Texas at El Paso	Texas
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

## National Network for Educational Renewal

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