



National Network for Educational Renewal

Time to Re-energize!

The 2010 NNER Conference, to be held October 7-9, 2010, hosted by the *Illinois State University Partnership*, promises timely and critical conversations and action around democratic practices and policies. A panel of NNER leaders from throughout the network will address federal education policy in the Obama Administration – implications for the states and NNER institutions – with time reserved for Q&A. Keynote speakers **Greg Michie** and **Bill Ayers** will address critical issues related to our partnership work to advance quality education for all. And Dean **Deborah Curtis**' message will set the tone for what promises to be a re-energizing session. ♦

Message from Deborah J. Curtis, Dean ~ Illinois State University

What a distinct honor it is to welcome you to Illinois State University and our beautiful campus here in Normal, Illinois! The conference planning committee has been working very hard to provide you with a lively experience here in the heart of the Midwest. The committee's goal is to engage us all in abundant opportunities to stretch our thinking about what it means to immerse ourselves in stimulating and productive partnerships.

School, university and community partnerships are the most effective pathways to serving all children and their families in the pursuit of a great public education. This great public education must be accessible to each child without exception. In order to accomplish this tall goal, it is our hope that during this conference we can enlist everyone to link arms to create and sustain these vibrant partnerships for the sake of an exceptional American public education for all.

Let us be determined to create and sustain schools where teachers, parents and community members come together to steadily set children's feet on the path to "Realizing the Democratic Ideal!" That is what we are about at Illinois State University, and we owe a debt of gratitude to the National Network for Educational Renewal for continuing to motivate us all to be better than we thought we could be.

Have a great conference, and once again welcome to Normal!

~ Deborah

Meetings to Note

AED Scholars session – Oct. 6, 6:00-9:00 pm

Tripartite council meeting – Oct. 7, 9:00-noon

Governing Council meeting – Oct. 7, 1:15-4:00 pm

Newcomers session – Oct. 7, 1:00-4:00 pm

Literary Café Returns

Supported by the Goodlad Institute for Educational Renewal, the **literary café** will allow conference participants and sponsors to see and appreciate settings' scholarly contributions and their impact. Books presented will support cross-setting sharing of ideas that the annual meeting always encourages. As a whole, the display will serve as memorable visual evidence of the network's scholarly and professional work to advance the Agenda for Education in a Democracy. This year we have added a forum to meet the authors, a casual "**literary café coffee talk**" on Saturday morning before conference sessions begin. Participation in the coffee talk, while optional, would be greatly appreciated and provide an opportunity to talk about your work with colleagues. ♦

2010 Summer Seminar: Learning and Growing under the Seattle Sun

Thirty participants from diverse roles and backgrounds from 10 NNER settings convened in Seattle, July 19-22, with NNER executive board members and the executive director of the annual summer symposium. During the week of intense conversation, reading, and activity, the group studied the AED and NNER mission, conditions necessary for implementation, and promising strategies to advance the work. The Democracy Walk inquiry activity provided opportunities to study social democracy in public places beyond education institutions. Time for informal interaction with colleagues and the NNER executive board members served as a forum for participants to raise questions and share strategies from their experiences to advance the NNER mission.

Francisco Rios, an AED Scholar, facilitated a Socratic Seminar using *Teaching for Social Justice: Voices from the Front Lines*. Participants cited the

(continued on p. 2)



Delighted to gather for the **2010 Summer Symposium: Lisa Johnson, Beth Costner, Carolyn Jordan, Debra Boyd, Cindy Langley, Jennie Rakestraw, Harriet Jaworowski, Patrice Robinson** with **John Goodlad**. ♦

(Seattle Sun ~ continued from p. 1)

book as important to their endeavors and noted that the process modeled pedagogy that would transfer to their work. **Dennis Potthoff** facilitated the online portion of the session, providing background on the NNER mission and building community prior to the meeting. **Nick Michelli** and **Deb Shanley** led a session on teaching for democracy and social justice and simultaneous renewal. **Jean Eagle** facilitated focused conversations and activities for reflection on and connections between the concepts; **Greg Bernhardt** and **Ann Foster** facilitated activities on providing access to knowledge for all; **Ann** also facilitated the Democracy Walk inquiry work and conditions necessary for a healthy democracy. **Leslie Wilson** used charter school policies to advance the concept of stewardship.

Participants had the opportunity to meet informally with **John Goodlad** who signed copies of *Education for All* and conversed with individuals about their NNER roles and tasks. Participants included **Donna Hanby, Jane Rafal, Mike Kennedy, Susan Owens, Roger Nyffeler, Debra Ehara, Linda Nobel, Latisha Smith, Deborah Thomas, Mayida Zaal, James Earle, Kevin Roxas, Paige Fenton-Hughes, Francisco Rios, Lorraine Mondesir, Ken Estey, Debra Boyd, Cindy Langley, Harriet Jaworowski, Patrice Robinson, Jennie Rakestraw, Beth Costner, Lisa Johnson, James Aquavia, Bill Robertson, Charlotte Harris, Barbara O'Neill, Mike Schoenfeld, and Carolyn Jordan**. ♦

Winthrop, NC, Partnership Initiates NetSCOPE Activities

University-school district partnerships promote simultaneous renewal of schools with a focus on student learning and teacher preparation. Engagement in collaborative learning communities takes place in a three-tiered network: professional development schools, partner schools, and satellite schools.

On June 27-29, more than 80 school district representatives – classroom teachers, curriculum specialists, district administrators, and superintendents – met in Charlotte, NC, to initiate the NetSCOPE work. Sixteen Winthrop University faculty and administrators supported the efforts, including **Tom Moore**, vice president for academic affairs. NNER governing council chair **Deb Shanley** and NNER executive director **Ann Foster** gave keynote comments that connected the local work to the NNER mission. Interactive breakout and general sessions established the foundation for authentic, collaborative work across the schools and university. The extensive partnership network is supported by a federal grant. Dean **Jennie Rakestraw** noted that this is an opportunity to revitalize partner school initiatives with an expanded mission of cross-school support as well university collaboration, where all can learn from and with one another. The network's overarching goals include:

(continued on p. 3)



Teachers and administrators from Great Falls Elementary School (one of Winthrop's professional development schools) and Winthrop faculty-in-residence, **Carol Shields**, with NNER governing council chair, **Deb Shanley**. Teachers are: **Mary Ann Weir, Stephanie Barber, and Jean Lawson**, with **Robin Taylor**, assistant principal, and **Wendell Sumter**, principal.

update

✍ This spring **Ann Foster** was invited to participate in a UNESCO conference on teacher education and sustainability. Educators from more than 50 countries gathered to talk about how to extend the role of teacher education in distributing the global, economic, educational, health, and environmental resources that sustain the earth and its people. UNESCO has the lead role in the DESD (Decade of Education for Sustainability Development). In this role, UNESCO seeks to:

- catalyze new partnerships with the private sector, with youth and media groups
- foster monitoring and evaluation
- support a research agenda and provide a forum for research on education for sustainability development (ESD)
- bring together important stakeholders such as representatives of the private sector, faith-based institutions, youth associations, indigenous people
- share good ESD practices
- link member states that have implemented ESD curricula, policies, and research with member states requesting help
- convene flexible working groups on particular topics

ESD, teacher education institutions (TEI) and teacher educators are key change agents in reorienting education to address sustainability. TEIs fulfill vital roles in the global education community. They have the potential to institute changes within educational systems that will shape the knowledge and skills of future generations. Teacher education institutions:

- educate new teachers
- provide professional development for in-service teachers by updating their knowledge and skills
- create teacher education curricula
- carry out research
- contribute to textbooks
- provide expert advice to local schools upon request
- provide expert opinion to provincial and national ministries of education
- educate and certify headmasters, principals, and other school administrators

More information on this initiative will be presented at the tripartite council meeting and at a breakout session at the 2010 conference.

Goal 1 (overarching): Improve student academic achievement in our high-need schools

Goal 2: Improve professional learning for school-university faculty and teacher candidates

Goal 3: Strengthen the pre-baccalaureate preparation of teacher candidates

Goal 4: Increase support for new teachers in our high-need districts

Using the goals and accompanying strategies, participants worked to build a strong foundation for the partnership. Participants' comments reflect the energy and excitement for this collaboration:

I'm so excited about the collaboration. It will be great to give new teachers resources that I didn't receive 10 years ago when I began teaching.

I find WU's openness to our needs and the honoring of our knowledge exciting and refreshing.

We will be able to collaborate and share ideas with other teachers in and around our district, learn about current research-based and best practices.

Networking with Winthrop and other schools, having a Winthrop faculty member at our school, mentoring and the support that comes with this, how excited I am that Winthrop is making sure this partnership works.

For more information on NetSCOPE:

<http://www2.winthrop.edu/netscope/>

✍ **Dick Clark** has started a blog, Community and Education <http://www.communityandeducation.org/>, which offers updates, articles, opinions, and research related to the NNER's work. Log on and get involved in the conversation.

✍ The NNER continues its partnership with **Rethink Learning Now**, an online source of information on policy issues and information on quality learning. Go to: <http://rethinklearningnow.com/> for news, action steps, and an education advocacy tool.

2010 NNER Conference,
October 7-9, 2010,

Illinois State University Partnership

Log on to the NNER website for registration information for the 2010 conference.