



NEACAC

NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Along with autumn leaves and the new school year comes NACAC's National Conference. By the time you receive this newsletter, the conference will be history, but as I write, I am getting ready to travel to Salt Lake City and reflecting on NEACAC's national connection. New England is the largest of NACAC's state and regional affiliates. As such it has the largest number of assembly delegates. This position gives our membership the opportunity to participate in debate on issues important to our profession and also to bring up issues, stimulate thoughtful discussion, and perhaps work toward meaningful change.

This year our delegation is bringing two motions to the floor of the assembly. The first has to do with early decision and early action programs. While for most of the country these programs are used more rarely, in our region and in several other areas of the country, these programs, meant to allow students to indicate that a specific college is their first choice, have become an imperative rather than an option. Students, under enormous pressure, feel they must apply early. They often apply to one early decision college and a number of early action schools. Instead of being a vehicle to express preference for one school, these programs have become just another strategy in the increasingly bizarre admissions game. We are proposing that students be held to one early plan, one school, whether it be early action or early decision. It is hoped that this change would encourage students to think more carefully about who they are and what they want in a college. It might also help colleges and universities which are flooded with "first choices" and relieve the pressure on high school counselors who are often overwhelmed by large numbers of these applications early in the school year when they most need time to work with students. It is hoped that during this year the Admission Practices Committee will explore this idea and other possible solutions to lessen the stress and pressure of the admissions process for some of our most talented students.

Our second motion concerns counselor recommendations. In some schools counselors have small caseloads and deal exclusively with college admissions. They have the time to get to know their students well, to talk about them with their teachers, parents, and coaches, and to write vivid and insightful portraits of these young people. However in many other schools, counselors may have up to 800 students. They work with all four grades on issues that run the gamut from career and college choices to pregnancy, drugs, family problems, and every other adolescent issue. Some of their more successful students, they may know the least, because these students need less help and are seen more rarely or not at all. Counselors in this situation try their best to comply with the requirements of the Counselor Statement, but the result may not be the thorough and unique picture the student deserves. Colleges are very much aware of the differences in quality and specificity in the recommendations they receive and often respond by providing workshops on how to write recommendations. While well meant and often helpful, they do not deal with the primary problems. Students have unequal resources, and colleges are not getting the specific information they need to make informed decisions. Our motion suggests that instead of asking for a "counselor statement", colleges ask for a recommendation from "your counselor or someone such as a coach, employer, or clergy person who knows you well". Most students are known well by some adult who, in many cases, could furnish a more personal and specific picture than could the counselor. If the student is well known to the counselor, of course the counselor should do the recommendation. This change might give counselors more time to counsel and give colleges a clearer view of the student.

It is through being a part of NACAC and NEACAC that we get to raise these issues and perhaps influence the college admission process. I can't wait for the Conference to begin.

Linda Shapiro
President

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Individual committee chairs are busy working on behalf of members to make our association the best professional exchange it can be. A complete listing of committee chairs and their contact information can be found online at www.neacac.org or in the Summer 2002 issue of the NEACAC newsletter.

Thanks to the following collegiate members who have chosen to sponsor a secondary school for membership in 2002-03:

- Albertus Magnus College
- Babson College
- Bay State College
- Curry College
- Hobart & William Smith College
- Keene State College
- Salve Regina University
- Sierra Nevada University
- Southern CT State University
- University of Denver
- University of Maine
- University of Southern Maine

ETOOLBOX: TECHCOUNSELOR TOOLS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION

The National Technology Institute for School Counselors, sponsored by NACAC, will be available in New England this fall. Scheduled for December at Community College of Rhode Island, the one-day workshop will help counselors sharpen their admission tools, including information on building and updating a guidance website, creating multimedia presentations for student/parent forums, and internet privacy/ethical concerns. Registration information is available online at www.nacac.com/prof.html

NEACAC NEWSLETTER

Published five times per year, the newsletter strives to keep members informed and provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. All members are welcome to submit news or commentary for an upcoming issue of the newsletter. Submissions should be no longer than 500 words and should include your name and current position. They can be submitted to the Communication Services Chair, Judy Dobai, at jdobai@mail.fairfield.edu by the following deadlines:

Issue	Deadline
Late Fall 2002	November 1
Winter 2003	January 1
Spring 2003	March 15
Summer 2003	June 15

NEACAC 2003 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE, ORONO...

“Save the Date” The 2003 Annual Meeting will be held on May 28-30, 2003 at the University of Maine, Orono. The planning committee held its first meeting on the UMaine campus in August. However, we are still in need of committee members to help organize our primary professional development event. If you are interested in serving on the planning committee, please contact one of the co-chairs, Laura Brink at lbrink@endicott.edu or Heather Dudek at heather.dudek@uconn.edu.

SO just as this is the first word of the title, you will need to read on to get the full message. As an Outreach Advisor in a TRIO program, I like a lot of you drive a lot of miles, and often ponder the **WHY** of what I am a member of, and what that means, and how it came about, and of course why you should keep reading.

Membership and its accompanying responsibilities began innocently enough in the early 70's when my supervisor at NHC (New Hampshire College) asked me to go to the NEACAC annual meeting and man a table at the reverse college day. Reluctantly I went to this first conference, not knowing that the people I met, the conversations I had, and the opportunity to become part of the process of change would still be a focus of mine some 30 years later. I came from an institution that was definitely shaking the tree. NHC was market driven, already doing Rolling Admissions, had done away with the application fee, and was sending out bills for deposits 30 days after acceptance. Radical policies that **ARE** now commonplace admissions practices. I was in, I was a member, but I was just kind of hanging out with my membership.

When I left NHC, I became the regional representative for Thomas College, and now not only was Membership in NEACAC expected, but taking an active role was encouraged. I joined a com-

mittee, HRC, and to this day am active. It is always hard to balance the time, and we all are often "to busy", but **YOU** can do it if you want to make the commitment. We all have phones, and now e-mail has let a lot of the work be done on-line. Leaving Thomas College was hard; Joining Educational Talent Search in New Hampshire **A**TRIO program has been wonderful. When I began at ETS there was no knowledge of NEACAC, of the Admissions industry, [Yes I said industry, as we use raw materials, and assemble them to produce a product, a class that graduates]. I was able to get all of our staff to join as members, one of the first TRIO programs in the country to do so. I am blessed with a Director, who along with the other staff realize that we need a voice at the table in order to have a say in the trends that are driving our industry, and that we can advocate for change best from within.

My goals as a member this year are to get at least one new member into NEACAC and NACAC, to nominate at least one person for the Margaret Addis Scholarship, to nominate a Guidance Counselor from New Hampshire as counselor of the Year, to attend The NACAC conference as your delegate, and to see you, and the new member that you bring in at Orono for the annual meeting. I am keeping my membership out of the hanging out arena, and in the active mode. I want to be a

MEMBER, and not just one of the membership. What do you want to be?

Stephen McGrath
Educational Talent Search, NH

Q: HOW DO YOU GET 200 GUIDANCE COUNSELORS ON YOUR CAMPUS FOR THREE DAYS?

A: HOST THE NEACAC ANNUAL MEETING.

Proposal forms to host site the NEACAC Annual Meeting as well as the Association's Summer Institute for Secondary School and College Admission Counselors, have been mailed to the principal representative of member institutions. The forms are also available online at www.neacac.org.

Join the over thirty institutions that have hosted the Association's professional development events and provide a memorable experience for your NEACAC colleagues. Proposals are due to the Meetings and Conferences Committee by December 1. For more information, contact Ronn Beck, Committee Chair at: conferences@neacac.org.

***Tell us WHAT'S NEWS,
please clip and mail this form to the NEACAC Office***



A new job or new staff member to your office

Name _____
To (new position) _____
From (former position) _____

An Award

Name of Award _____
Your name and institution _____

WHAT'S NEWS

Priscilla Alicea to Associate Director of Admission at Bryant College (RI) from Assistant Director of Admission at Florida Atlantic University.

Gayle Barrett to Assistant Director of Admission at Teikyo Post University (CT) from Admission Counselor.

James Dewey-Rosenfeld to Admission Counselor at Anna Maria College (MA) from Retirement Specialist with Fidelity Investments.

Sandra Fernandez to Assistant Director of Admission at Teikyo Post University (CT) from Transfer Coordinator.

Sydney Flowers to Admissions Counselor at Sterling College (VT) from Americorps VISTA.

Timothy Hayes to Assistant Director of Admission at Saint Joseph's College of Maine from Admission Counselor.

Sean Ireland to Admission Counselor at Saint Joseph's College of Maine from

attorney with the law firm of Skelton, Taintor and Abbott (ME).

John McLaughlin to Admissions Counselor at Merrimack College (MA).

Julie Mitchell to Admission Counselor at Anna Maria College (MA) from Merchandise Asst. at TJX Company.

Kristen Neary to Assistant Director of Admission at Plymouth State College (NH) from Asst. Director at Lasell College (MA).

Jennifer O'Leary to Admission Counselor at the University of Southern Maine.

Lisa Partridge to Director of College Counseling at Tilton School (MH) from Director of Admissions at New England College (NH).

Brad Poznanski to Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management at Southern New Hampshire University from Director of Admission.

Jarrett Roke to Assistant Director of Admission at Teikyo Post University (CT) from Admission Counselor.

Sharon Smiledge to Director of Admission at Mount Wachusett Community College (MA) from Director of Specialized Recruitment

Steven Soba to Director of Admission at Southern New Hampshire University from Dean of Admission at the College of St. Joseph in Vermont.

Tom Walsh, Director of College Guidance at The Roxbury Latin School (MA) from Associate Director of College Counseling at The Rivers School (MA).

Lisa Williams to Admissions Representative at Mount Wachusett Community College (MA) from Administrative Asst. in the Foundation Office at MWCC.

Donna Yamanis to Director of Enrollment Management at Briarwood College (CT) from Dean of Admission & Financial Aid at College of St. Elizabeth (NJ).

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