

MNADE NEWSLETTER

Fall 2006

A Word from our President

--Mary Thurow

I'm writing this at the end of Thanksgiving weekend, reflecting on the things in my life for which I am grateful. Topping my list are family and friends; below those are the opportunities I have had to teach. Being an educator for most of the past 33 years has been a very gratifying experience. For the past 16 years I have had the good fortune of working at Minneapolis Community and Technical College as a Learning Center coordinator and mathematics instructor. Over the last several years my involvement with MNADE has enriched my professional and personal lives in ways that I could never have imagined. Being your president brings new learning and friendships into my life. I look forward to the year(s) ahead. Thank you.

Several professional issues continue to challenge us. The recently published scores of Minnesota students on the MCA II speak to the struggles that secondary school students and teachers face. The constraints and demands of "No Child Left Behind" are perplexing at best. Those educational pressures definitely impact our students.

Thus MNADE's College Readiness brochures are still in demand. Those brochures offer succinct statements regarding the differences between high school and college. Anyone wishing to print copies may download them from the www.mnade.org website.

The Assessment for College Placement Committee (ACPC) will be determining cut scores for entry into college level

courses in English, mathematics, and reading. This past year the committee chose the Accuplacer placement test for use throughout the MnSCU system. Efforts to make sense of those decisions will continue to occupy our thoughts and work.

We can look ahead to several opportunities to refine our expectations and our priorities. The Realizing Student Potential and ITeach conferences will be jointly held March 1-3, 2007. Our MNADE spring regional conferences are scheduled for April 12 and 13, 2007 in Brainerd, Mankato, and St. Paul. And the MNADE Fall Conference 2007 is planned for next September 27-28. Watch for more details about all of these events in the upcoming months.

I wish all of you a successful end to fall semester and an enjoyable, restful winter break!

Remembering Carol Steimer Bailey

--Lynda Milne, Director, Center for Teaching and Learning

Carol Steimer Bailey worked at the Center for Teaching and Learning in the Office of the Chancellor from 2003 until her retirement in May of this year. In this office we were privileged and pleased daily to work with her. Carol was a faculty member who brought 30 years of teaching experience (in graphics and multimedia at Hennepin Technical College) to her work in faculty development. Those of you who knew her as director of statewide discipline workshops, as coordinator of

CTL Campus Leadership programs, as workshop leader, consultant, or friend, know what an incomparably thoughtful, kind, and ardent professional Carol was. We will find it hard to absorb her loss.

Carol's battle with cancer began several years ago, but while her energy (very occasionally) flagged, her enthusiasm, hard work, and dedication to her colleagues never did. Her summer months continued to include weeks at the racetrack as one of the country's few women motor sports photographers.

I hope you will join me in holding the memory of Carol's smiling face in your minds and hearts.



Realizing Student Potential and ITEACH Conferences

This year the MnSCU Center for Teaching and Learning is combining two popular faculty development conferences into one. Realizing Student Potential grew out of the "Metro Alliance" which used to bring together only colleagues in the twin cities area. It has grown to be a state conference which attracts faculty from all over the state. It is an excellent conference on teaching,

as well as an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues far and wide. ITEACH has been a technology oriented conference which has attracted mostly faculty who either teach online or incorporate technology extensively in their courses. Combining the two conferences means that we'll have a broader range of topics to learn about, more time to spend, and more people to meet and learn from. It will be held at Minneapolis Community and Technical College on **March 1-3, 2007**. The two keynote speakers will be Mark Taylor and Betsy Barefoot. You may find out more information and register at www.ctl.mnscu.edu.

Spring Regional Meetings

Once again this spring MNADE will sponsor three regional meetings to provide our members a second chance to get together and discuss their work. These meetings will take place on either April 12 or 13. The three conveners will be Vicky Williams from St. Cloud State for the North, Patty Wheeler Andrews from Anoka Ramsey CC for the Metro area and Diane Morken from Mankato State for the South. Their contact information is vwilliams@stcloudstate.edu, patty.wheeler-andrews@anokaramsey.edu and diane.morken@southcentral.edu

Last year these regional meetings were very successful, so we are expecting a good turnout again. Mark your calendars! Locations, times and directions for these meetings will be published in a future newsletter. This year we will be recommending a common book, based on suggestions we

get from YOU. See the following article.



Common Book

You have probably heard of the Common Book idea. Several of our institutions have made arrangements for students, staff, and faculty to all read the same book which becomes the basis for a campus conference, convocation, or discussion in a variety of classrooms, public forums, or professional development. MNADE would like to follow suit by suggesting a common book that we could read prior to the Spring Regional Meetings. This book could provide the basis for discussion, suggestions for curriculum development, further reading, or collaboration. **What books can you recommend for consideration?** Please send your ideas to Patty Wheeler Andrews at patty.wheeler-andrews@anokaramsey.edu.

Looking for Coursework?

-Melissa O'Connor

If you are looking for in-field graduate credits in reading, check out the following link. California State University-Fullerton offers a certificate in post-secondary reading and learning. The first course in the sequence is taught by Dr. Carter-Wells. Many of you may know her through CRLA. I have taken the first two courses and

found them to be very valuable. Read more about the certificate from the link below.

<http://www.csufextension.org/programs/prl/>

Update on the MNADE Oral History Project

--Patty Wheeler Andrews and Dana Lundell

At our fall conference session on September 29, 2006, we presented a list of preliminary themes that had emerged from our 90-minute interviews with past presidents and leaders of MNADE. The participants at our session were invited to indicate their three top choices of themes for us to continue to investigate for our organization. After tallying the results of participant responses, seven themes clearly garnered more votes than the others. In the area of Personal Experiences, the preferred themes are (1) philosophy or approach to developmental education and (2) social or cultural issues related to work in developmental education (DE). In the field of Issues and Organizations, the vote-getters are (3) state (Minnesota) issues in DE and (4) changes or catalysts (turning points in DE). In the arena of Campus Initiatives (DE or related), the top choices are (5) curricular initiatives and institutional efforts, (6) research and assessment, and (7) models of DE on campus. Although other themes received votes, we have determined to investigate these seven themes for the history of MNADE.

As a result of this vote from MNADE members, we will create a report to the organization about how those themes have appeared in our interviews and how they have informed the work of the past leaders of our

organization. We appreciate your involvement in this on-going project and look forward to providing more information and insights in future newsletters and conferences.

Review of Creating a New Vision for the Future: A Report from the Blue Ribbon Commission

--Linda Russell

The Blue Ribbon Commission is an ad hoc task force created to analyze the field of developmental education and learning assistance. It consists of delegates who represent all of the organizations in the American Council of Developmental Education Associations (ACDEA). [NADE](#), [CRLA](#), [NCLCA](#), [ATP](#), [NCDE](#), and [NTA](#) are the member associations. (Please click on the links for more information about each.)

In order to fully appreciate the need for this study, you must be aware that there have been conversations among the above associations for several years about duplication of efforts, competition to gain membership, and the importance of our field presenting a united front to legislators and other stakeholders. The Blue Ribbon Commission conducted an analysis called a SWOT Analysis, which stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. They first took a global perspective of the field of developmental education, and then looked more closely at the six associations. To keep this brief, I've excerpted only the summarizing statements. The following paragraphs are directly out of the report.

Strengths

The groups are unique but have overlapping components. As a whole, they offer members services in the areas of recognition, professional development, networking, publications, forums for collaboration/exchange, conferences, interest groups, and websites. Within the organizations there is a focus on professionalism through advancing standards and seeking certifications. The organizations are well organized with governing boards, constitutions, and bylaws based upon an ethical foundation. Scholarship has grown over time through the research and publications generated.

Weaknesses

As a weakness, the demographic picture of the personnel within the organizations is largely aging, mostly white females. Few younger people are becoming members of the professional associations...At present, only a small number of individuals are involved in the organizations compared to the potentially large number of professionals in the field who could be active members...This concern leads into a broader and more significant weakness of the present structure of organizations. The organizations often duplicate activities and actions including conference topics, organization services and leadership positions. As a result, competition is created among the organizations... All in all, there is a mixed image that is presented to the members and to related political entities...In summary, the current arrangement of organizations lacks the proactive approach that is critical for meeting the needs of the membership, the changing cultural climate at colleges

and universities, the exploding technological trends in the society, and projecting a unifying, powerful political stand.

Threats

There is a concern that the organizations either develop a “conquering” attitude, or “take my ball and going home” attitude. Either would further fragment the field and/or encourage formation of new, additional organizations... On the national level, many grants formerly available to support learning assistance projects have been eliminated or curtailed. At the state level there is a smaller percentage of money budgeted for higher education. On the institutional level, there is frequently an identity crisis as to whether learning support services should be housed in Student or Academic Affairs. Some federal/state laws limit or prohibit developmental education courses... There is also confusion about the terminology relating to the services of learning support and developmental education... Under the current structure, the organizations’ hands are tied to present a united, powerful front to the threats that face them. Perhaps one of the greatest threats is the fear of change (or fear of the unknown) which is expressed in many ways by members and leaders of the professional organizations.

Opportunities

The recommendations generated through this SWOT report are placed in these three categories:

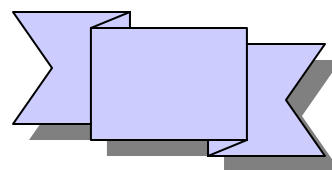
*Increased **coordination** among organizations*

*Increased **collaboration** among organizations:*

*Vision to **create** a new professional organization:*

This report does not attempt to identify a structure for such a new organization. There are a number of examples within the higher education community (e.g., *American Psychological Association, American Education Research Association*). In these large organizations, they have carefully designed themselves to serve the needs of a diverse membership. For example, these organizations (APA, AERA) have major operating divisions based on the occupational and professional interests of the members. The divisions have considerable autonomy regarding conference program strands, approval of concurrent presentations, election of officers by its division members, publication of professional journals and newsletters, development of services to meet specialized needs, creation of special interest networks, etc. These organizations have found a way to create an environment where individuals do not feel lost, but rather find a comfortable home that meets their specific needs within a larger umbrella structure. The BRC has a website where additional information is available. Reports such as this one are available there for the general public. Also, there is a public discussion board for you to express your thoughts about the issues raised in the report. For details, consult

<http://www.blueribboncommission.org>



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Assessment for Course Placement Committee Report

Several of our MNADE members are serving on a committee that MnSCU has created to identify a system-wide set of policies regarding the assessment and course placement of new students at our institutions. You may read the entire policy at <http://www.mnscu.edu/board/policy/303.html>

Briefly, the goal of this work has been to identify a system-endorsed assessment instrument AND to determine minimum scores defining the line between developmental coursework and college coursework.

The Accuplacer has been chosen as the system-endorsed instrument, although an institution may use additional measures in reading, writing, or mathematics to place students in levels of coursework that are higher than freshman level (if the Accuplacer cannot do that). An institution may also require additional assessments for other purposes (e.g., measure computer literacy, occupational aptitude, or other areas not assessed by Accuplacer).

The work to determine the minimum scores will be finished by March 1, 2007 and the policy will be fully implemented by July 1, 2007.

Because this policy will apply to all MnSCU institutions, we feel it is in the best interests of all of us in developmental education in Minnesota to be knowledgeable about its requirements. Many thanks to the following members of MNADE who

have been serving on this committee: Paul Kess (Vermillion), Mary Kuldane (Rainy River), Kathy Matel (Century), Gretchen Starks-Martin (St. Cloud State) and Mary Thuro (Minneapolis).

MNADE Listserv

Do you want to communicate more regularly with your colleagues across the state? We do! MNADE has a Listserv that provides an easy way to ask a question, share your ideas, and stay current in the developmental education activities in our region.

To join the listserv, simply follow these instructions. Send an email to LISTSERV@tc.umn.edu. Leave the subject line blank and turn off the signature if you use one. In the message type SUB MN-NADE FIRSTNAME LASTNAME.

To unsubscribe, send a message to the same address, and type the message: signoff MN-NADE.

To post a message, use this email address: MN-NADE@umn.edu. Remember when you reply to a listserv message, you are replying to the entire group. If you only want to reply to the person who posted, be sure to send an email directly to him or her, rather than using "reply."

That's it! We'll look for you on the Listserv!

Reading Listserv

We have a listserv available for our reading faculty which was created by request of our reading discipline meeting participants at last year's Realizing

Student Potential conference. Melissa O'Connor set it up for us. If you would like to be added to it, please email Melissa at Melissa.oconnor@minneapolis.edu. Just tell her you'd like to join the Reading Listserv.



CRLA Award

We have a celebrity in our midst! Former MNADE President and current Newsletter editor, Linda Russell, received the **Karen G. Smith Special Recognition Award** at the College Reading and Learning Association conference in October 2006. Her dedication to developmental education and her leadership as a CRLA conference chair and officer in our state-wide organization were rewarded during a ceremony at the awards banquet. The names of the recipients are kept a secret and revealed at the awards banquet. Mary Thurow and Gretchen Starks-Martin were delighted when her name was called...Linda was speechless! However, she regained her composure before she got to the podium and graciously accepted the award.

Linda is currently the exhibits chair for CRLA and is active in the States and Regions Chapter as a representative for Minnesota. Our hats off to Linda!

NADE Conference in Nashville

This year's NADE conference is in Nashville, March 21-24, 2007. The theme is "Developmental Education: Piecing It Together," focusing on the way we educators put together the best methods and practices for our students, who are "piecing together" their lives and educational goals. The NADE website reports "Conference attendees will experience Gaylord Opryland's world-renown majestic, climate-controlled glass atriums, nine acres of lush indoor gardens, winding rivers and pathways, sparkling waterfalls, and tours aboard the Delta Flatboats, all inside the hotel. Attendees can also experience the legendary Grand Ole Opry, Gaylord Springs golf course, General Jackson Showboat, Opry Mills, and many other local sites, shops, malls, and places of interest." That would be in between concurrent sessions, of course! See www.nade.net for more information.

