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David Brooks, Gloria Steinem and George Mitchell to Speak at Annual Meeting

NEASC President Jay Stroud, headmaster of Tabor Academy, Marion, Massachusetts, will open the 126th Annual Meeting at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston on December 8, 2011 at 1:00 PM. The focus of the two day meeting will center on the theme, *Learning That Transforms*. Workshops and activities specific to local, national and international interest will enable educators to experience thoughts and ideas and participate in discussions with their K-16 colleagues.



David Brooks

The keynote speaker is David Brooks, political and social analyst, author, New York Times OpEd columnist and PBS NewsHour commentator. Brooks has a gift for bringing audiences face to face with the spirit of our times with humor, insight, and quiet passion. He is a keen observer of the American way of life and a penetrating analyst of present-day politics and foreign affairs.

A graduate of the University of Chicago, he has been a senior editor for *The Weekly Standard*, joining the magazine at its inception in 1995, after having worked at *The Wall Street Journal* for the preceding nine years. His last post at the Journal was as op-ed editor. Prior to that, he was posted in Brussels, covering Russia, the Middle East, South Africa, and European affairs. He has written for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Forbes*, *The Washington Post* and many other periodicals.

In addition to his work as Bi-weekly Op-Ed columnist for the *New York Times*, political commentator on both the *PBS NewsHour* and NPR's *All Things Consid-*

ered, Brooks is the best-selling author of *Bobos In Paradise: The Upper Class and How They Got There* and *On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (And Always Have) in the Future Tense*. His most recent book is *The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement*.



Gloria Steinem

Gloria Steinem, writer, editor and international organizer for social justice will deliver the Thursday evening banquet speech. Steinem is, perhaps the most recognizable face of the international women's movement, having had a lasting impact on women's rights in the workplace. A feminist icon, she has made a lifelong career of writing and organizing around social and political causes. She is particularly interested in gender roles, race caste systems and child abuse as roots of violence; nonviolent conflict resolution; the plight of indigenous peoples; and international organizing for justice and peace.

After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Smith College in 1956, Steinem spent two years on a Chester Bowles Fellowship in India. In 1972, she co-founded *Ms. Magazine*, and remained one of its editors for fifteen years. She helped to found the National Women's Political Caucus; Choice USA; the Women's Action Alliance; and the *Ms. Foundation for Women*, where she was instrumental in establishing its "Take Our Daughters to Work Day."

A prolific writer, Steinem is the author of the best-selling *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions*, *Moving Beyond Words*, *Revolution from Within: A Book of Self-Esteem*, and *Marilyn: Norma Jean*, a book on the life

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Cam Staples Begins Tenure as NEASC Executive Director

Cameron Staples, an attorney and former Connecticut State Representative, was selected as the new Chief Executive Officer of New England Association of Schools and Colleges. The announcement came following a nation-wide search for an Executive Director/CEO to succeed Jacob Ludes III, who retired in June 2011 after leading the organization since 1999.

Mr. Staples brings to NEASC a breadth of educational and legislative experience. As a State Representative for the 96th Assembly District of Connecticut, which included New Haven and

Hamden, Staples served as House Chairman of both the Education Committee and the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. In 2010, he was appointed by the United States Senate, and later elected Chair, to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality



Cameron Staples,
CEO NEASC

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of Marilyn Monroe. Her writing has appeared in numerous anthologies and textbooks. She is currently at work on *Road to the Heart: America As if Everyone Mattered*, a book about her more than thirty years on the road as a feminist organizer.

The luncheon speaker on Friday is George Mitchell, who has held the positions of U.S. Envoy to the Middle East, United States Senator from Maine and United States Senate Majority Leader. He has also been a Nobel peace prize nominee.



George Mitchell

Senator Mitchell served as U. S. Special Envoy for Middle East Peace under the Obama Administration from January 2009 to May 2011, the culmination of his distinguished career in public service. He was appointed to the United States Senate in 1980 to complete the un-expired term of Maine Senator, Edmund S. Muskie. Elected to a full term in 1982, Senator Mitchell went on to an illustrious Senate career spanning 15 years. He left the

Senate in 1995 as the Senate Majority Leader, a position he had held for six years. During his tenure as majority leader, he enjoyed bipartisan respect. It has been said “there is not a man, woman or child in the Capitol who does not trust George Mitchell.” For six consecutive

years he was voted “the most respected member” of the Senate.

Sen. Mitchell received an undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College and a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. He was an officer in the U.S. Army Counter-Intelligence Corps, stationed in Berlin, Germany, and a trial lawyer in the Justice Department in Washington D.C. before returning to Maine where he engaged in the private practice of law. He served as U.S. District Judge for Maine before accepting the Senate appointment. In 2008, Time Magazine named Senator Mitchell one of the 100 most influential persons in the world.

On Wednesday, December 7th, Assessment Forum speakers and sessions will be sponsored by the Commission on Institutions on Higher Education beginning at 8:30 AM. Session speakers will include Robert Feldman, Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; Jane Wellman, Executive Director, Delta Cost Project, Washington, DC; Cathy Davidson, Ruth F. Devarney Professor of English, Duke University, Durham, NC; Christopher Chabris, Department of Psychology, Union College, Schenectady, NY; and Judith Eaton, Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

CPSS Chairs’ Summer Workshop A Success

The CPSS held its annual workshop for the chairs of visiting committees on July 28-29 at Roger Williams College in Bristol, RI. The program for the workshop was designed by Teaching and Learning Solutions, and was entitled, “Making Connections: Core Values, Beliefs, 21st Century Expectations, and Assessment.” Workshop sessions were designed to help visiting committee chairs understand the inter-relatedness of these two important Standards.

The workshop featured a welcome by the President/CEO of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Cam Staples. The visiting committee chairs participated in six sessions during the two day workshop. The sessions included: *Increasing Chairs’ Familiarity with the Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations*, *Student Shadowing*, *Electronic Editing of the Evaluation Report*, *Thoughts from Spring 2011 Chairs*, *21st Century Learning Expectations: Connections to Other Standards*, and *Using Analytic Rubrics to Assess 21st Century Expectations*. There was also a pre-session program on *Using Technology to Support the Work of the Visiting Committee*.

Val Gardner, former Commission member and retired Vermont principal, led the workshop which was designed with input from the Commission’s Leadership Council and the Commission staff. Workshop sessions were presented by Ted Hall, Principal Yarmouth High School, Yarmouth ME; Patrick Larkin, Principal, Burlington High School, Burlington MA; Christine Woodman, Department Head, Montville High School, Oakdale, CT; Tony Gasper, Assistant Superintendent, Ansonia School District, Ansonia, CT; Francis Kennedy, Principal, Berlin High School, Berlin CT; Ann Ashworth, Associate Director, NEASC/CPSS; Don Gainey, Program Professor, Nova Southwest University, North Scituate, RI; Pam Burke, Special



Ted Hall Presents at CPSS Summer Workshop



Dave Flaherty, Annemarie Flaherty and Paul McMillan pay attention at CPSS Summer Workshop

Assistant to the Superintendent, Penacook, NH; Mary Conway, Superintendent, Vernon Public Schools, Vernon CT; Joe Damplo, Retired Director of Media Services, Wellesley, MA; George Edwards, Associate Director, NEASC/CPSS; and Ned Gallagher, Associate Director, NEASC/CPSS.

President Obama Visits NEASC School

President Obama, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and Melinda Gates visited TechBoston Academy on March 7 to discuss the shared responsibility that government, businesses, philanthropists, and communities have to promote innovative education strategies that will prepare American students to compete in a 21st century economy. The President spent two hours at the school visiting students in Biochemistry and Advanced Placement Government classrooms, as well as giving a policy address in the school's gymnasium outlining key points of his "Winning the Future" education initiative.

Begun as one of Boston's first pilot schools with initial grant funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, TechBoston Academy has become one of the city's most successful public high schools in preparing its students for the future with a college preparatory education based in cutting-edge technology. In 2009, TechBoston expanded from grades 9 through 12 to offer classes

beginning in grade 6. Every student gets a laptop beginning in 8th grade and partnerships with UMass-Boston and Harvard University help teachers get extra training to learn how to use data to improve student achievement.

Nearly nine out of ten students at TechBoston qualify for free or reduced lunch programs – nearly 30% more than the rest of Boston Public Schools (BPS) – and yet, TechBoston's graduation rate of 83% far exceeds the district average. Led by Headmaster Mary Skipper, TechBoston Academy serves 975 students in the Codman Square area of Dorchester. Students are chosen by lottery, with more than half coming from a two-mile radius of the school.



President Obama and Melinda Gates at TechBoston

"TechBoston is a model of what public education should be," said Obama. The President applauded the school's "21st century curriculum" which offers classes in forensic science, web development, and entrepreneurship amongst its general offerings. Obama stressed in his address that what makes TechBoston outstanding is that students are challenged to develop the skills necessary to create new industries in a highly globalized economy.

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and Integrity (NACIQI), a committee that advises the Secretary of Education on higher education accreditation and other policy matters. Staples' other appointive offices included Commissioner of the Education Commission of the States, Co-Chairman of the Connecticut International Education Advisory Committee, Vice-Chairman of the New England Board of Higher Education, and member of the Budget and Review Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

"We are pleased to have welcomed Cameron Staples as the new Executive Director/CEO of NEASC," stated Jay Stroud, President of the Association and Headmaster of Tabor Academy. "He is deeply passionate and knowledgeable about education and accreditation. There were many candidates but ultimately, we couldn't think of anyone more suitable for such an important role."

Staples is familiar with regional accreditation having been a member of NEASC's Commission on American and International Schools Abroad (CAISA) from 2000 to 2010. He has participated on international accreditation team visits to China, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Thailand and Germany.

During his days as a Partner at the law firm Neubert, Pepe & Monteith, Staples specialized in health care law and handled several nationwide class-action lawsuits involving insurance companies. His role as General Counsel for the Connecticut State Medical Society, in which he provided representation and counsel to an association of 7,000 physicians, earned him the Society's Legislator of the Year Award in 2010.

Staples legislative and educational advocacy work earned him several awards throughout his career, including: the 2002 Legislative Appreciation Award from the Education Commission of the States; the 2006 Youth Advocate of the Year Award from Youth Continuum; the 2001 Mary B. Ives Award from the New Haven Public Library for legislative leadership in improving literacy programs for New Haven schoolchildren; the 2000 Legislative Achievement Award from the Connecticut Education Association for support of public education; the 1996 Legislative Award for advancing social change; the 1996 Legislative Appreciation Award from the New Haven Board of Education; and the 1995 Public Education Leadership Recognition Award from the Connecticut State Board of Education.

He has been a guest lecturer at Yale University, Yale Law School, the University of Connecticut School of Law, Southern Connecticut State University and Wesleyan University. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Connecticut School of Law, his Masters in Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania where he was named the Samuel A. Fels Scholar, and his Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University where he was awarded the Frank Ryder Scholarship for Public Service.

At the time of Staples' appointment, Jacob Ludes, the outgoing NEASC Executive Director, said, "Mr. Staples will be an excellent Executive Director/CEO for NEASC. He brings to the post extensive expertise and experience in accreditation, education, and policy leadership. He has a demonstrated record of success and I am confident in his ability to lead NEASC in the years ahead."

George Mitchell to Receive Charles Eliot Award

George Mitchell, former United States Senator from Maine and luncheon speaker for the NEASC 126th Annual Meeting, will be presented the Charles W. Eliot Award. The Eliot Award is the highest award given by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and it is named after Charles W. Eliot, a principal founder of our Association and the longest term president in Harvard University history.

The award is conferred on a person who consistently demonstrates the deepest commitment to improving the world in which we live. Senator Mitchell has served his state and country from the woods of Maine to the Pacific Ocean and beyond to the far reaches of our world community.

While in the Senate, he served on the Finance, Veterans Affairs, and Environment and Public Works Committees. He was instrumental in the successful reauthorization of the Clean Air Act and authored the first national oil spill prevention and clean up law. He led the Senate to passage of the nation's first child care bill, was principal author of the low-income housing tax credit program, and a major force in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, landmark legislation extending civil rights protections to the disabled. Senate Mitchell's efforts led to the passage of a higher education bill that expanded opportunities for millions

of Americans. He was a leader in opening markets to trade and led the Senate to ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement and creation of the World Trade Organization.

In 1995, Mitchell was appointed Special Advisor on Ireland to President Clinton, and from 1996 to 2000 he served as the Independent Chairman of the Northern Ireland Peace Talks. Under his leadership the Good Friday Agreement, an historic accord ending decades of conflict, was agreed to by the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom and the political parties of Northern Ireland. For his service in Northern Ireland Senator Mitchell received numerous awards and honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor given by the U.S. Government; the Philadelphia Liberty Medal; the Truman Institute Peace Prize; and the United Nations (UNESCO) Peace Prize.

In 2000 and 2001, at the request of President Clinton, Prime Minister Barak, and Chairman Arafat, Senator Mitchell served as Chairman of an International Fact-Finding Committee on violence in the Middle East. The Committee's recommendation, widely known as The Mitchell Report, was endorsed by the Bush Administration, the European Union, and many other governments.

He led the investigation into the use of performance enhancing drugs in Major League Baseball in 2006 and 2007. He also served as Chairman of the Special Commission



Senator Mitchell

Investigating Allegations of Impropriety in the Bidding Process for the Olympic Games; and was the Independent Overseer of the American Red Cross Liberty Fund, which provided relief for September 11 attack victims and their families.

Mitchell served as Chairman of the Global Board of the international law firm DLA Piper; Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Walt Disney Company; and member of the Board of the Boston Red Sox. For ten years, he was Chancellor of Queen's University of Northern Ireland.

Mitchell is the author of four books: Men of Zeal, with his colleague, Sen. Bill Cohen of Maine, on the Iran-Contra investigation; World on Fire, describing the threat of the greenhouse effect and recommending steps to curb it; Not For America Alone: The Triumph of Democracy and The Fall of Communism; and Making Peace, an account of his experience in Northern Ireland.

CPSS Principals Receive National Recognition

The Commission on Public Secondary Schools and the Commission staff are pleased to congratulate principals from member schools who have been recognized by their respective states and the National Association of Secondary School Principals for their outstanding accomplishments as educational leaders.

Michael Foran, principal of New Britain High School in Connecticut, has been named NASSP's National High School Principal of the Year.

State principals of the year included: Robert Manseau, principal of Campbell High School in Litchfield, NH; Brian McCann, principal of Joseph Case High School in Swansea, MA; Theodore Moccia, principal of Oxford Hills Comprehensive/Technical High School in South Paris, ME; and Dennis Mullen, principal of Pilgrim High School, Warwick, RI.

Congratulations to them all!



Michael Foran

By Law Changes on Annual Business Meeting Agenda

At the Annual Business Meeting of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, by-law changes will be presented to the membership for consideration and, hopefully, approval. Documentation concerning the changes were forwarded to all member schools for reaction; the various commissions reviewed them at their most recent meetings as well.

Cam Staples, Executive Director and CEO of NEASC, explained that while the changes are numerous, many are repetitious to ensure consistency throughout the document. "It seems that when a word change is made, that same terminology appears many times in other places in the document, so each has to be addressed separately."

Although the majority of changes are for clarification and correction, there are some specific modifications which require the delegates' consideration. They include::

- Title changes for President, President –elect and Chief Executive Officer
- Term of office for Chair of the Board
- Authority and Responsibilities of the Board
- Authority of the Commissions to grant candidacy and initial accreditation
- Authority to make appointments

The following is a summary of the proposed changes:

ARTICLE I - Name and Purpose, The By Law change clarifies the use of the word "Association" throughout the by-laws.

ARTICLE II – Membership, Section 3. The By-Law change identifies the institutions that are eligible to become members of the Association and shifts the authority for conferring that membership from the Board of Trustees to the individual Commissions. The By-Law change also states that newly accredited members be announced by the Board of Trustees and emphasizes the responsibility for the institution to appoint delegates to the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE III - Officers and Board of Trustees, Sections 1, 2, 2A, 3, 4, 5 The by-law changes in these sections initially alter the titles of the officers of the Board of Trustees. The titles of President and President-elect will become Chair and Chair-Elect. It separates the position of Secretary/Treasurer creating two individual positions - a Secretary and a Treasurer. It also changes the title of the Executive Director/CEO to that of President/Chief Executive Officer and establishes the chain of command.

ARTICLE III - Officers and Board of Trustees, Sections 6, 7, 8 The By Law changes are slightly different in each of these sections. In **Section 6**, the changes in officer titles, resulting from previous by-law changes, are reflected appropriately. The President (formerly the Executive Director) is declared a member of the Board of Trustees without the right to vote. In **Section 7** (formerly Section 5), the proposed word changes are for clarification purposes only. In **Section 8** (formerly Section 6), language changes reflect the new officer titles. In addition, there is a statement which allows the two positions of secretary and treasurer to be held by the same person.

ARTICLE III - Officers and Board of Trustees, Sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. The By-Law changes for these sections are significantly different. **Section 9** (formerly Section 7) reflects a title change as well as a newly developed statement authorizing the Board of Trustees to monitor the work of all components of the Association to ensure compliance with the

Association's purposes. **Section 10** (formerly Section 8) maintains the Board of Trustees' authority to appoint and hire a President who will be the Chief Executive Officer and shifts the authority for hiring Commission Directors to the President in collaboration with the Commission itself. It also authorizes the president, in collaboration with the Commission Director, to appoint other commission staff. **Section 11** (formerly Section 9), **Section 12** (formerly Section 9a) and **Section 13** (formerly Section 10) call for numbering changes only.

ARTICLE III - Officers and Board of Trustees, Sections 14, 15, 16, 17 The by-law changes in **Section 14** (formerly Section 11) require the Commissions to provide quarterly presentations of information about their accreditation decisions, positive and negative, to the Board of Trustees. Changes in **Section 15** (formerly Section 12) state how meetings of the Board of Trustees are called and by whom. In **Sections 16 and 17** (formerly Sections 13 and 14) there are clarifications based on new titles and numbering.

ARTICLE IV - Commissions, Sections 2, 3, 3a, 4, 5, 7 The By-Law changes for **Section 2** are, for the most part, name changes from "member institutions" to "Members". There is an additional change at the end of the paragraph which allows members of governing boards (trustees, Directors, Committee persons, Board members) to serve as Commission members. **Section 3** authorizes the Commissions to determine their size and composition. **Section 3a** shifts the authority to extend a Commissioner's term beyond six years from the Board of Trustees to the Commission up to a maximum of four years. **Section 4** reflects name and title changes only. **Section 5** shifts the authority to fill a Commission vacancy from the Board of Trustees to the Commission itself. **Section 7** delineates the responsibilities and authority of the Commissions and clarifies the independence of the commissions in making those decisions.

ARTICLE V - Annual Meeting, Sections 1, 2. The By Law changes for **Section 1** identify who is responsible for calling a special meeting of the Corporation, and **Section 2** reflects name and/or title change.

ARTICLE VI - Notices, By Law changes in **Article VI** reflect word changes to previous By Law changes.

ARTICLE VII - Voting and Proxies By Law changes in **Article VII** reflect word changes to reflect previous By Law changes.

ARTICLE VIII - Income, Gifts, and Bequests, By Law changes in **Article VIII** reflect word changes to reflect previous By Law changes. In addition, some words have been altered for clarification purposes.

ARTICLE IX – Amendments, By-Law changes found in Article IX reflect a title change. In addition, it authorizes the Board of Trustees to amend the By-Laws prior to the convening of the next Annual meeting if the recognition of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education by the US Department of Education or other recognition agency requires it.

ARTICLE X - Indemnification of Members of the Board of Trustees, Officers, the Chief Executive Officer, Members of the Several Commissions, Members of Visiting Committees and Employees and Other Agents, Sections 1, 2 By Law changes for Sections 1 and 2 are simply title changes based on previously discussed By Law changes.

Gregory Prince Named Bradley Award Winner 2010

At the September 22, 2011, meeting of the Board of Trustees of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Executive Director/CEO Cam Staples announced that Gregory Prince had been named as this year's winner of the Richard J. Bradley Award.

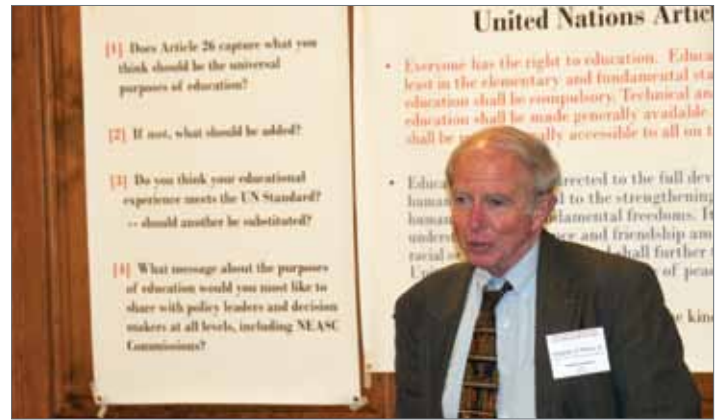
The Richard J. Bradley Award, named for the longtime Executive Director of the Association, is presented annually to an active New England educator who has made significant contributions to the work and purpose of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and whose exemplary work maintains and advocates high standards of excellence in education.

Greg Prince has been a longstanding participant in and contributor to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Most recently, he served the Association as Chair of the NEASC 125th Anniversary Committee which was formed in 2008 to plan, develop and undertake the activities and events recognizing NEASC's formation. In addition, he was a Trustee Member-at-Large (CIHE), NEASC Board of Trustees, from 2000 to 2003. He has also participated on visiting committees for the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, both as a committee member and a chairperson.

Beginning in 2008, Greg Prince guided the Anniversary Committee celebrating NEASC's past 125 years in 'expected ways' such as selection of speakers and initiating research to compose a history of the past 25 years. His insight and his willingness to think "out of the box" were instrumental in laying the groundwork for raising an awareness of the influence of the Association on its membership and its broader educational constituency. For the launch of the 125th Anniversary year, the Committee, under Greg Prince's leadership, had established an over-arching theme and concept that recognized 125 years of NEASC's significant impact on the region, the nation and beyond: NEASC@125 Demanding Excellence, Honoring Difference. The theme identified NEASC's enduring purpose, while, at the same time, highlighting NEASC's singularity in serving a broad and diverse constituency—unique in the world-wide education community.

Insistent on the inclusion of students in the celebration of the Association's anniversary, Prince and the Committee expanded the framework and launched the "Listening to Students" Initiative involving consideration by over 100 member institutions and resulting in the formation of a series of forums, discussions and panels. The NEASC membership, both local and international, participated through student-led activities of which a number were documented either in film/media, class, campus and Skype discussions at all educational levels. Students and their institutions celebrated NEASC's origins, current and projected impact on education.

Greg Prince, in the midst of the planning and implementation of the celebration, also assumed the responsibility for authoring companion piece to the centennial history, NEASC@125. The dual nature of what has been, together with what may be envisioned for the



Gregory Prince, Bradley Award Winner

Association's next 25, is at the heart of this work. This publication chronicles more than the NEASC timeline; it also interprets and presents the NEASC story from 1985 to 2010 as Prince and the Committee saw it both as participant and witness.

Jake Ludes, Executive Director and CEO at the time, noted that when NEASC began to think about the 125th experience early in the new millennium, Greg stood out as an experienced hand who had the capacity to see things others failed to grasp and, at the same time, point accurately to the future. Ludes predicted that, "NEASC and others who are interested in the ways in which NEASC has played a unique role in the history of education, will be well served to learn the lessons that Prince presents."

Prince has a lengthy listing of numerous leadership roles in civic and community activities, in addition to a range of 'established' roles as academic administrator and faculty. Most recently, from 1989 to 2005, he served as President of Hampshire College. His holding that position was preceded by his work at Dartmouth College as associate dean of the faculty for curriculum planning and resource development. He also led two programs in Hong Kong (1961-1963), together with a broad and varied range of service focused on diversity, student leadership, conflict resolution, and racial and ethnic justice. His 2008 book, *Teach Them to Challenge Authority: Educating for Healthy Societies*, chronicles, only in part, the many ways in which Prince has exemplified NEASC's mission and objectives (Demanding Excellence, Honoring Difference) through providing example and assistance to others worldwide to improve the learning culture of the schools in which they work.

He also serves as Senior Consultant to the national organization, Pathways to College, on the boards of European Humanities University, the American University in Bulgaria and special counsel to the American Bar Association's Council on Racial & Ethnic Justice.

Prince has provided a new and powerful lens to reflect on education now and in the future for educators, policy leaders or the generation likely to attend NEASC's 150th anniversary.

CPSS Showcase 2011

The Commission on Public Secondary Schools presented its Fifth Annual Showcase of Model School Programs on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center in Westford, Massachusetts. Participants were welcomed by NEASC President/CEO, Cameron Staples and George Edwards, Associate Director of the Commission.

Those in attendance had the opportunity to hear presentations from twelve member schools that have model programs addressing the CPSS Standards of Accreditation.

The schools presenting included: Burlington High School, Massachusetts; City on a Hill Public Charter School, Boston, Massachusetts; Joel Barlow High School, Redding, Connecticut; Joseph Case High School, Swansea, Massachusetts; Maranacook Community High School, Readfield, Maine; Milton High School, Vermont; Nashua High School – North and Nashua High School – South, New Hampshire; Portsmouth High School, Rhode Island; Plymouth South High School, Massachusetts; Sandwich High School, Massachusetts; Shepaug Valley High School, Connecticut; and Wheeler High School, Stonington, Connecticut.

Presentation topics included: Heterogeneous Grouping and Personalizing Instruction; Creating and Implementing a 21st Century Mission Statement: A Hands-On Approach for Your Learning Community; The Fresh-

man Experience: Building a Culture through Teacher and Student Collaboration; Advisor/Advisee: Personalization, Program Support, and Sustainability; Building a Safe and Productive High School Climate; Demonstrating Success through Senior Project; Communicating Achievement of 21st Century Learning Expectations; If You're Not Teaching Digital Citizenship, Then You're Not Teaching Citizenship; Engaging Students with Technology in the Classroom; Kick Start – A Freshman Transition Program; Expanding 21st Century Learning through Shared Leadership; and Common Planning Time for Teachers.

Dr. Larry Myatt, the co-founder and director of Educational Resources Consortium, offered the keynote address. Dr. Myatt was the Founder of Fenway High School in Boston, a pioneer in the small schools movement, and was its Headmaster for twenty years before accepting an assignment to advise Boston's High School Renewal Initiative. He most recently served as Senior Fellow for Leadership and Education Ventures at the School of Education/CPS

at Northeastern University. He is a former Coalition of Essential Schools National Faculty member at Brown University and consultant at the Annenberg Institute for School Reform. He has led and consulted to school re-design efforts in numerous cities and states. Dr Myatt's address focused on the need for schools to personalize instruction.

For more information on the Showcase of Model School Program, call or write George Edwards, Associate Director, Commission on Public Secondary Schools, at 781-541-5435 or gedwards@neasc.org.



Sandwich High School student presenters prepare for Showcase



Showcase registrants sign in



Showcase Keynote Speaker Larry Myatt

Saying Farewell

Associate Director of the Commission **Louise Zak** retired from NEASC at the end of October, 2011. Louise joined the Commission staff in 2006 and has had principal responsibility for overseeing the self-study process, along with a host of other projects, initiatives, processes, and tasks. We'll miss Louise, who after November 1 can be found in Dummerston, Vermont, or visiting her children and grandchildren in Indonesia and Montana. A search is underway for a new Associate Director.



Louise Zak

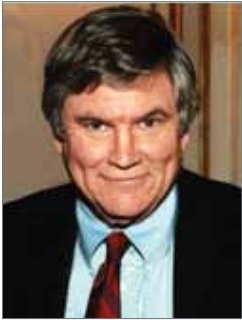
Julie Alig, Assistant Director of the Commission has resigned to take a position of Director of Institutional Research at University of Lowell in Lowell, MA. Julie was responsible for overseeing the annual report and provided help to institutions completing the Commission's Data First and Student Achievement and Success data forms.



Julie Alig

Both Louise and Julie were acknowledged by their colleagues for their many contributions to the NEASC community.

Pete Woodward Stepping Down



Pete Woodward

Brinton “Pete” Webb Woodward, Jr., Director of the Commission on American and International Schools Abroad (CAISA), will retire in June 2012, after leading the Commission through its most significant phase of growth this last decade. Woodward joined NEASC as Director of the Committee on Overseas Schools in 2001. Under his visionary leadership and strategic guidance, the Committee on Overseas Schools evolved into a full-fledged Commission in 2004 that today

serves a diverse membership of more than 180 international schools in 70 nations across five continents.

A champion of cross-cultural cooperation and global educational advancement, Pete’s directorship helped cultivate a vast network of American and international school leaders who volunteer as peer evaluators on international school accreditation visits.

“Pete Woodward has been an invaluable leader for CAISA. His dedication to the work of accreditation and ability to mobilize diverse constituencies have been instrumental for the growth of our international schools membership,” said Cameron C. Staples, President/CEO of NEASC.

Woodward’s involvement with NEASC began prior to his official appointment as Director of CAISA. He was President of the Association in 1994/95 and served on several visiting teams for CIS and CAISA. He chaired various Committees, including the Committee on Schools Serving Special Needs; the Long Range Planning Committee; the Committee on American and International Schools Abroad; and Search Committees for an Independent School Director and President/CEO.

“Pete will be missed by everyone at CAISA,” said Carl Stasio, Headmaster at Thornton Academy and Chair of CAISA. “He has always been a respected leader, taking on challenging and new endeavors with zest, integrity, and a terrific sense of humor.”

Peter Mott, Director of the Zurich International School in Zurich, Switzerland, will succeed Pete Woodward as the CAISA director.

Jake Ludes’ Retirement Party



Jake and Elaine Ludes and their family at Jake’s NEASC Retirement Party



The NEASC staff gathered to honor Jake Ludes on his retirement

CIHE News Notes

Standards Mid-Course Revision. On June 2, 2011, the Commission adopted changes to the 2006 standards, with the new version becoming effective July 1, 2011, for all reports and visits. The revised standards can be found on our website (http://cihe.neasc.org/standards_policies/standards/standards_html_version), along with a version showing the changes. Also on the website is a copy of the Policy on Credits and Degrees.

Meetings for New Presidents and for new Chief Academic Officers and Accreditation Liaison Officers. In late August, the Commission staff held two meetings for new institutional officers involved in the accreditation process. Over 60 people attended the meetings which included an overview of the Commission and its work, as well as a discussion of national issues related to higher education and accreditation.

Shawsheen Valley Technical School Opens New Wing

On September 20, 2011, NEASC member, Shawsheen Valley Technical School, located in Billerica, MA, officially opened its new health and life science wing. The state-of-the-art addition was made possible by an investment of \$4.5 million with 56% of the total state funded. Charles Lyons, superintendent-director of the school said that the new building reflects the district's continued commitment to ensure students are trained for jobs that have excellent employment opportunities in the 21st century economy.

The school's health-care programs have expanded training for health-care technicians, medical and laboratory technicians, as well as dental assisting technicians. The school keeps score of its graduate success, tracking graduates with one-year and five-year follow-up analyses to ensure that its programs are relevant and that students gain employment.

Shawsheen enjoys watching its graduates move through college programs successfully. Before they begin to plan for post secondary education, they gain considerable advantage from their state-of-the-art technical experience, which helps to inform their decision-making. Over 95% of Shawsheen's graduates who enter four-year colleges make steady progress toward baccalaureate degrees three years after graduating from the high school. Our health-care graduates can be found in nursing schools; technical-illustration graduates expand their artisan skills in prestigious art schools; and many electrical and electronics graduates matriculate in engineering schools. Some of Shawsheen's most talented graduates choose to enter the world of work immediately after high school as experienced technicians or creative craftsmen who contribute directly to the local economy in areas that meet local labor market demands.

Mr. Lyons pointed out that the new life-science wing reflects the commitment of the Shawsheen community to provide quality preparation for its student.

Congratulation to CPSS Visiting Committee Chairs

At its Summer Workshop for Chairs, six individuals were honored for their many voluntary years of service to the Commission and its member schools. Janet Allison, Director presented awards of recognition to the following five chairs, each of whom has led over twenty visiting committees: Elaine Bessette, Marie Diamond, Donald Gainey, Dorothy Galo, and Robert Souther. Warren Galway was recognized for having chaired ten visiting committees. All Commission members and the Commission staff are deeply indebted to these educators for their commitment to the accreditation process.

The International School of Zurich

Zurich International School has been selected to be a Pathfinder School as part of the Microsoft Partners in Learning for Schools program. Schools who are invited to collaborate in this program are seen to have the "potential to create scalable and replicable educational transformation that can influence other schools" both locally and across the world.

The Pathfinder Program offers schools a year of "exploration" during which the staff and administration will work with other schools grouped by country and/or region mentor schools will be assigned to provide "guidance and examples of best practice to assist with continuous school improvement." In addition, each school will participate in forums, wikis, and blogs as modes of conversation within their professional learning community.

The outcomes of the project will be shared with school communities across the globe as examples of how a strong vision demands best practices which result in positive learning and teaching environments for students.



Zurich International School

Peter Mott, director of Zurich International School, says that the cornerstones of his school's mission and philosophy are: **Learn, Care, Challenge, Lead ...** He adds, "Collaborating with other schools through Microsoft's Partners in Learning program will enhance those principles and put us in an even better position to succeed."

Commission on Public Schools Transition Nears Completion

Almost a year from its approval at the 2010 NEASC Annual Meeting, the Commission on Public Schools will conduct its first Annual Business Meeting. Since the vote was taken to establish the new Commission, a transition committee, consisting of the three current Commission directors and nine representatives of those Commissions, has worked to blend the philosophies, the protocols and the processes of the three Commissions into one. Janet Allison, current CPSS director, said, “The role of the Transition Committee has been multi-faceted. If I could put their work into a series of action words, they would include: advise, deliberate, initiate, collaborate, monitor, play devil’s advocate, support and recommend.” She continued, “This group has been invaluable because it has been so open to the process and so willing to listen and learn from each other.”

As part of the transition, the committee has accomplished a number of tasks. It has developed an organizational chart and set a timeline. It has reviewed the standards and protocols of each of the Commissions, noting commonalities and marking differences. It is in the midst of establishing a single set of policies which its roots in the policies currently used by the three groups.



Scott Leslie

Scott Leslie, principal of RHAM High School, Hebron, CT, who will be the first chairperson of the new Commission, identified a series of decisions which will guide the first phase of governance for the new Commission. Leslie said that the three current Commissions will continue to function somewhat independently in term of servicing their constituencies, but they will now be known as “Committees” rather than “Commissions”. Each will have a chairperson and will operate its own accreditation protocols.

Leslie said that the actual Commission on Public Schools will be composed of all the current Commissioners from the three committees, and there will be full Commission meetings in a calendar year as the workload is determined. The full Commission will have the authority to establish all policies by which the Commission and its Committees function. These policies will become the operational blueprint for the new commission.

An Executive Council will be formed to serve as the representative authority of the full Commission. The Executive Council will be made up of nine persons, three from each of the Committees and it will act on behalf of the full Commission in accordance with its policies. The chairperson of the Executive Council will also be the chairperson of the full Commission. This position will be held for two years and will rotate among the three Committees. The current Transition Committee will take on the role of Executive Council following the Annual Meeting.

Members of the Transition Committee are: James Brosnan, Superintendent, McCann Technical School, North Adams, MA; Ruth Durkee, Assistant Director for Adult Education, Randolph Technical Career Center, Randolph, VT; Todd Fields Director, Westbrook Regional Vocational Center, Westbrook, ME; David Flaherty, Principal, North Providence Middle School, North Providence, RI; Anne Houle, Principal, Anna Ware Jackson Elementary School, Plainville, MA; Scott Leslie, Principal, RHAM High School, Hebron, CT; Robert Littlefield, Principal, Portsmouth High School, Portsmouth, RI; Mary Lyons, Assistant Superintendent, SAU 50, Greenland, NH; and Kathleen Montagano, Superintendent, Dighton Rehoboth Regional Schools, Rehoboth, MA.

CPSS Hosts Assessment Forum in November



WELCOME to Two New Staff Members

NEASC welcomed two new staff members over the past six months. Donna Coveney joined the Commission on Higher Education as an administrative assistant working closely with the preparation and administration of workshops. Prior to coming to NEASC, she had been employed by Bentley University as an administrator for Academic and Accreditation Services.

Nancy Kerrigan was appointed as Executive Assistant to the Director of the Commission on Independent Schools. Her previous work had been in the employ of the Reading Public Schools.

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Celebrating NEASC's 125th Anniversary 1885-2011

The Association launched its 125th anniversary with a wide range of student activities featured throughout 2008-2010. The 2nd Century Initiative designed to expand resources for those interested in education at all levels, has received support from corporate sponsors including Boston Culinary Group, ERB, Directed Vision and Horton Interpreting Services.

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NEASC is a voluntary, not-for-profit agency serving more than 2,000 member institutions throughout the six-state region and in over seventy countries worldwide.



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Did You Know?

Established in 1885, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges is the oldest regional accrediting agency in the United States and represents every constituency in the profession including pre-schools, K-12 schools, vocational-technical schools, colleges and universities, public, independent, and overseas.

During 2010, NEASC volunteers contributed 165,000 hours of professional services valued at \$35 million in their mission to improve the quality of education.

Further, during 2009, NEASC member institutions in New England had a direct economic impact in excess of \$135 billion. That impact is greater than that of any other industry or multi-national corporation in the region.

The accreditation process connects more than 6,000 educators who volunteer as peer evaluators and nearly 2,000 public and private institutions ranging from the pre-kindergarten to the doctoral level. An additional 180 American/International schools in 70 nations abroad are also members. An advocate of quality assurance and guided educational reform, NEASC accreditation complements the standards set by the states and serves as a resource to the public and to policymakers.



Founded in 1885