



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ESEA

STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

Ensuring Student Equity & Access

Conference Planning Committee April 2019 Meeting Notes

The Conference Planning Committee (CPC) met via telephone on April 18, 2019 at **1:00PM EDT**, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.

Those in attendance were: Jonas Zuckerman (Committee Chair – WI); Tara Rodriguez (KY); Julie Cowell (MO); Kathryn (Joey) Nichol (NH); Ken Banter (GA); Theresa Villmer (MO); Dean Zajic (KS); Jack O' Connor (MT); Paula Daniels (MI), Pat Kaiser (MO), Bernell Cook (LA).

A+ Events Staff: Bob Harmon (NAESPA CEO–WA), Marcus Cheeks (NAESPA CPO–MS), Monica Kemper, (A+ Events Event Director–CA.)

Meeting Agenda

Follow up items from March meeting:

After the March CPC meeting, committee members were asked to review items 1-5 below, and submit comments, which were captured on the [Summary of Comments](#) document and referenced during the April meeting.

1. Review Conference "terms and conditions" for the following groups:

- [Standard Proposals](#)
- [Invited Proposals](#)
- [Attendees](#)
- [Exhibitors](#)
- [Members](#)

Prior to the meeting, the committee was provided the various types of Conference terms and conditions documents to review and ensure they are comfortable with them as written. Only two minor changes were suggested. (1) To include a cancellation policy for invited speakers, and (2) to remove the erroneous reference to the “Kansas City Convention Center” and replace with “Georgia World Congress Center” under the Facilities section of the exhibitor terms and

conditions. The committee agreed to the incorporation of the two changes and otherwise approved the terms and conditions as written.

2. Decide on any final edits to the 2020 Theme: *"Together for Equity."*

The original draft text of the theme description:

As we integrate, innovate, and collaborate, we must make sure that this work is being done with the goal of equity, making sure that "every student has access to the educational resources and rigor they need at the right moment in their education across race, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, sexual orientation, family background and/ or family income." (CCSSO, Leading for Equity). Programs funded by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) are designed for equity and we must all work together to make this goal a reality, and ensure that all students have access to and receive the education and resources they need and deserve. The 2020 National ESEA Conference will focus on how our combined efforts will lead us to this goal of equity.

The following revised theme description is a result of ideas, suggestions, and edits from a few CPC members.

Revised Theme Description: *"Together for Equity"*

As we integrate, innovate, and collaborate, it must be done toward the goal of equity, ensuring that every student has timely access to high quality education regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, language, ability, sexual orientation, or income. Programs funded by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) are designed for equity. It is essential that we combine our efforts to move this goal from dream to reality. The 2020 National ESEA Conference keynotes and breakout sessions will focus on "Together for Equity."

The revised theme was approved by the committee with no further changes.

3. Review and add to the list below of organizations that should be encouraged to have presenters submit proposals through the general submission grading process.

This is a list of groups that have not presented sessions at the Conference before. A committee member suggested adding the National Center for Homeless Education to the list, and the committee agreed to the addition. The final list is:

- National Association for State Directors of Migrant Education (NASDME)
- National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)
- National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (National Alliance)
- NCHE (National Center for Homeless Education)

4. Review and add to the list below of associations, groups, or individuals that will be invited as presenters—outside the general proposal submission process.

For the most part, this list is of groups that have presented at conferences in the past and with whom the Association and/or A+ Events has a relationship with.

- U.S. Department of Education (various offices)
- Brustein & Manasevit, PLLC
- SchoolHouse Connection (Homeless Education)
- National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)
- State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth (NAEHCY)
- International Literacy Association (ILA)
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
- IDEA Data Center
- National Council of State Title III Directors (NCSTIID)
- National Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent or At Risk (NDTAC)
- Evidence for ESSA Website – Johns Hopkins University – Bob Slavin and staff
- MLK Jr Center speaker (TBD) & Carter Center speaker (TBD)

A committee member suggested CCSSO as an addition to this list – but Bob explained that CCSSO will at the upcoming Summer Meeting to work with state level folks, rather than being invited to the Conference. Jonas recommended reaching out to current NAESPA members from the state where the Conference is held (Georgia) to see if they know of any other local organizations or speakers who should be invited to present.

The committee agreed to add the MLK Jr Center speaker (TBD) & Carter Center speaker (TBD) to the list of invited speakers, if they are not sought after as keynotes.

5. Review the current list of Keynote speaker ideas. (Specific names are important, but better to have general themes and types of presentations.)

Original Keynote list:

- Tara Brown—school climate, culture
- ~~Cheryl Sandberg—Facebook CFO (Not available for conference dates)~~
- Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT)—2016 National Teacher of the Year (EdWeek)
- Roberto Padilla—Supt. Newburgh (NY) Enlarged City SD, former foster child (EdWeek)
- Rebecca Nagle—Native American Activist, January 2019 Indigenous People’s March, WADC (EdWeek)
- Denise Juneau, Seattle (WA) Public Schools Superintendent (formerly Montana State Superintendent)
- Temple Grandin—Autism Speaker

- Tyler Perry—Actor from Atlanta area
- Ron Clark—Educator from Atlanta area
- Bernice King – the youngest child of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.
- MLK Jr Center speaker (TBD)
- Carter Center speaker (TBD)
- Steve Perry—CNN Education Contributor
- Jada Pinkett Smith—Actress and Education Activist
- Larry Bell—Multicultural Education
- Steve Constantino—Family Engagement
- Baruti Kafele—Author and Speaker
- Robert Jackson—Author, Consultant—No More Excuses Curriculum

Additions to the keynote list suggested by committee members:

- Jordan Rourke – School House Connection (Homeless Education)
- Tyronne Howard – Author, Why Equity Matters, from UCLA
- Dr. Christopher Meade – Motivational Speaker
- Stacy Yvonne Abrams – Author based in Atlanta
- LaVonna Roth – Author, founder of the Ignite Your S.H.I.N.E.® framework
- Rodney Walker –Entrepreneur, Author - The Power of Resilience: From 12 Foster Homes to Yale University
- Dominique Smith – member of ASCD's FIT Teaching (Framework for Intentional and Targeted Teaching®) Cadre
- Kamala Harris – Candidate for US President
- Kenneth B. Morris, Jr – Founder of the Douglas Foundation, Great grandson of Booker T. Washington and the Great-great grandson of Frederick Douglas, Atlanta-based
- Alvin Irby – Founder, Reading Holiday Project, Inc. aka Barbershop Books
- Jeff Duncan-Andrade – effective teaching in schools serving poor and working-class children

A number of additional keynote suggestions were added to the original list. Committee members did not want to remove any names from the keynote list, with the exception of Cheryl Sandberg, Facebook CFO, because she is unavailable during the Conference dates. The committee is encouraged to email any additional keynote speaker suggestions to Bob Harmon by Monday, April 22. Next steps - the entire list of suggested keynotes above, with bios, photos and videos, will be sent to the committee to be rank ordered.

6. Discuss the potential cost of shortening future conferences to 3 days.

Jonas explained to the committee that to shorten any conferences between 2020-2024, would be cost-prohibitive, potentially costing the Association hundreds of thousands of dollars. Therefore, Jonas recommended not pursuing this option, and NAESPA Treasurer, Bernell Cook agreed. Other committee members on the call also agreed and no further action on this matter

will be taken. However, beginning in 2025, future conferences could be shortened to 3 days without costly penalties.

7. Proposal submission process opens on the website May 1, 2019 through June 14, 2019.

8. Discuss the concept of offering Exhibitors the opportunity to sponsor the NAESPA President's Reception.

To raise revenue and help offset the costs of the President's Reception, A+ Events staff suggested offering some exhibitors the option to sponsor the event in some manner, for a fee. Sponsors of the President's Reception would receive tickets for some of their staff to attend, and possibly have their company logo on the ticket or invitation. Jonas expressed some concern as to whether any NAESPA members may have restrictions on attending the President's Reception if it were sponsored by one or more exhibiting companies.

Monica Kemper explained that the President's Reception has been sponsored by an exhibiting company in years past, and that the option for sponsoring the President's Reception has been available for the last couple of years, though it has not sold. Committee members liked the idea of additional revenue that could be brought in through such a sponsorship, but had concerns about how it might affect attendance eligibility. Questions were raised about members potentially having conflicting ethics policies at their state, which might prevent some of them from attending a vendor-sponsored event. Committee members on the call agreed to look into the matter further before making a decision. Jonas suggested running the idea by the Board of Directors for further input (to include the Informal Call on Monday, April 22).

9. Other

A committee member suggested the following changes to the Proposal Grading Rubric:

- Revised Rubric Text to Describe "Well-written Proposal"
- The proposal has a descriptive title
- The proposal makes clear connections to the specific conference topic (in this case, equity)
- The purpose of the presentation is clearly stated
- The content of the presentation is thorough and provides necessary and correct information about the topic.
- The proposal discusses findings (where applicable) and implications for the field
- The proposal uses proper citations

The committee had no objections to incorporating this language (subject to reworking to align with the rubric's format) into the grading rubric.

The next Conference Planning Committee Meeting is a conference call scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 1:00pm Eastern.