NCSA 2020 PLANNING CONTINUES FOR BOSTON DECEMBER 4-6, 2020

We are all aware of COVID-19 and the great challenges faced by our nation and certainly the schools of our country. In less than seven months from now we are due to meet in Boston for the 48th NCSA/NAWD Conference. None of us knows what conditions will be in the fall and early winter of 2020, even as several states take steps to reopen some businesses and services.

The NAWD Board of Directors continues to monitor events and work with our Massachusetts 2020 hosting team. We are considering a mid-summer survey of all recent attendees of National Conference on Student Activities to ascertain personal views on attending in December as well as what plans various school districts are considering while approving staff travel in the first half of the 2020-2021 school year.

Despite these concerns, in this edition of Reumors we will share with you some of the plans that our hosting and NAWD BOD are planning. Specifically, we will share the workshop strands that have been established that will provide the framework for the breakout workshop applications which will be posted on the NAWD website in mid-June. The typical deadline for workshop application is September 10. Secondly, on page 3 of this Reumors is the list of Focus Groups from which registrants will be asked to select when conference registration opens.

At this time, we will not be announcing the potential pre-conference workshops or off-site pre-conference excursion to be held on Friday, December 4. We want to remain flexible in providing the greatest resources and opportunities. These options will be provided just prior to the opening of conference registration.

It is with the greatest appreciation that we thank our 2020 conference host, Paul Branagan and his entire Massachusetts Team for the tremendous work they have done so far and continue to do in planning for NCSA 2020 under the most difficult of circumstances of teaching online classes, managing student activities organizations in their schools, and confronting the virus among people they know.

We look forward to involving a variety of activity advisors (student council, class government, NHS, service clubs, etc.) from high schools and middle schools; faculty members on School Climate Committees, and planners/presenters from student leadership workshops from most of the states.

The 2020 National Conference on Student Activities (NCSA) program will include:

- Three general session keynote speakers
- Three 45-minute workshop sessions with 27 choices of topics
- A 50-minute session with 15 different groups focusing on in-depth discussion and ideas and resource sharing on a varied area of leadership development topics and topics regarding critical issues and leadership in our schools today.
- “Meet the Pros” – five 12-minute roundtable sharing sessions where you will learn about new materials, methods, projects that can be successfully implemented in middle schools and high school across the nation.
- Mixers, social activities and meals that promote networking and fun

Date: Fri. December 4 to Sun. December 6, 2020
Location: The Westin Boston Waterfront
425 Summer Street
Boston, Massachusetts
(617) 532-4600
Hotel Rate: $159 plus taxes for all rooms
Reference Group for Rate: NAWD
Registration Cost:
$335 Program/materials, two breakfasts, one lunch, one dinner, and NAWD membership dues by 10/31/2020
$315 Reduced rate when registering as a group of 5 or more or $295 as an NASSCED member by 10/31/2020
$355 After 10/31/2020
$390 After 11/15/2020 & On-Site Registration
Go to our website at https://nawd.com and click on the NCSA Conference tab, then on the 2020 Boston sub menu for more information, city sites, airport information, and on-site transportation. You will also find information on the Westin Boston Waterfront as well as how to book rooms now. Please share this information with colleagues in your schools. A goal of NAWD is to provide an annual conference that brings together different groups of like-minded leadership educators and newly-minted activity advisors for a weekend of learning, networking, and fun so that they are inspired to return to their homes and communities to make the most significant differences possible in the lives of their students, colleagues, and community members.

WELCOME TO THE NAWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JAMES LAYMAN!

James Layman has been involved in student leadership with the Association of Washington School Leaders (AWSL) since 2001; he currently serves as Director of Mission Peak Leadership Camp. James attended Eastern Washington University with focuses in Music Education, Psychology and African American History. James taught band and marching band throughout the Spokane area for many years and is still an active marching band show designer. James, through AWSL, is a keynote speaker and program facilitator throughout Washington State. He was a member of the Washington association’s hosting team for NCSA-2017 held in Spokane and served on the NAWD Strategic Plan Committee. James has been appointed to fill the reminder of the term held by Harry Bettencourt who passed away on April 1, 2020 due to the Coronavirus. James will represent the states of the Western Region on the NAWD Board of Directors, and we look forward to working with him!

NCSA 2020 WORKSHOP STRANDS: “SETTING THE SAILS OF LEADERSHIP”

The focus of the National Conference on Student Activities is to provide all attendees with the skills they need to “Set the Sails of Leadership”. An essential element of the NCSA is the wonderful and cutting-edge workshops that are presented by leadership experts from around the country. Presenters are asked to use the strands below in guiding them in the development of the 45-minute workshop sessions.

In keeping with the conference theme, the Workshop Strands for the conference are as follows:

- **Charting the Course**
  - Ideas for taking your student activities program to a new level. Creating a plan for success with new and fresh ideas.

- **The Essentials for a Successful Voyage**
  - Help for advisers to create sustainable positive culture and empower students to do the same.

- **The Beacon of Light**
  - The challenges of student activities. Advisers working through difficult challenges and knowing the lighthouse will guide you through uncharted waters...especially now.

- **Navigating New Destinations**
  - Exploring: vision planning and allowing your student activities program to enter a new port with confidence and achieving success once you arrive.

We encourage all attendees to consider increasing their level of involvement in NCSA 2020 by presenting a Workshop session to share their expertise and ideas.

The workshop presenter application for NCSA 2020 will be posted on our website at https://nawd.com by mid-June. Workshop applications will be due to NAWD Executive Director Jim Finnemeyer by September 10th.
NCSA 2020 FOCUSED SHARING SESSIONS
Interactive idea and material exchanges

Format: 50-minute session for groups of 15 to 20 individuals

Facilitator: Each group will have a pre-determined facilitator with experience in the specific topic area, but participants are expected to share ideas and/or materials

Participants: Participants will be asked to indicate their top 2 choices as part of the online conference registration beginning on August 15th. This process is designed so that we know if we need to offer two groups of the same topic. Participants will be notified in advance of the focus group session to which they are assigned to attend so that they prepare questions and bring materials and ideas to share.

1. Middle Level & Upper Elementary Leadership Development and Activity Programs
   Sharing of leadership training models and resources, effective meeting planning and implementation, examples of basic activity design, sources for low cost materials, developing a year-long plan, goal setting and evaluation.
   (Designed for middle school and elementary school educators)

2. High School Leadership Development and Building Effective Activity Organizations
   Sharing of leadership training models and resources, effective meeting planning and implementation, examples of basic activity design, sources for low cost materials, developing a year-long plan, goal setting and evaluation.
   (Designed for Directors of Activities, Student Council, Class Government, NHS, DECA, FBLA, Key Club and other club advisors)

3. Managing the Momentum of Student-Led Social Movements
   Civil discourse may often lead to action. This group will share tips and experiences for meeting the needs of students as well as the demands of district or local school leaders.
   (Designed for anyone interested in increasing critical conversations in schools)

4. Adult Wellness & Mindfulness
   The wellness and self-care of educators and all who work with students is essential to a successful Activity Program. This group will focus on ways for ensure proper self-care, mindfulness and wellness for you and your colleagues. Sharing ideas about how we care for ourselves and manage the stress of our responsibilities.
   (Designed for all educators and those who consult in our nation’s schools)

5. Technology in Leadership
   With the overload of engagement with social media and technology platforms to engage our students…it can be overwhelming. This focus group will engage participants of the engagement of the most effective ways to engage the teaching of leadership through the lens of technology.
   (Designed for club/activity advisors, student government advisors, and classroom teachers)

6. Working with Community Stakeholders
   Communities and local businesses want to support and assist our schools, but they often do not know how. By providing a think-tank atmosphere, advisers can walk away with multiple ideas on how to get the community to financially support student activities and advertise the community good that is often not recognized.
   (Designed for all educators)

7. Branding and Marketing Your Programs
   This focus group will engage participants in the essential elements of branding your leadership and/or activities program. Additionally, how to keep your branding and marketing capabilities fresh and engaging to keep your membership high and your support even higher.
   (Designed for all educators and state executive directors)
NCSA 2020 FOCUSED SHARING SESSIONS (Continued):

8. Importance of Grit and Resilience
   Exploring times when we have an event has failed and how to process that with our students. Acknowledging
   that it is okay to let an event fail. We are here to advise, not to do it for them. The process of evaluating a failure
   can lead to extreme growth both personally and within the council. If there is ever a time where grit and
   resilience has been paramount…it is now!
   *(Designed for all educators and those who consult in our nation’s schools)*

   The focus of this session will explore the “new normal” of engaging student activities and programming with
   Covid-19 and social distancing in mind. This session will allow participants to share ideas and what has
   worked…and what was a flop.
   *(Designed for all educators and those who consult in our nation’s schools)*

10. Leadership Camp/Workshop Planning, Logistics and Curriculum
   Sharing of camp schedules, arrival & closing activities, staff development, evaluation
   *(Designed for camp/workshop directors, staff members, and state executive directors)*

11. Leadership Camps/Workshops for Advanced Students
   Sharing of schedules and curriculum components and hands-on activities for students who have previously
   attended a Camp/Workshop. Training opportunities for attendees returning for year 2 and for year 3.
   *(Designed for camp/workshop directors, staff members, and state executive directors)*

12. Hosting a State or Regional Conference
   Sharing of essential elements for successfully hosting a major conference, guides for conference hosts,
   schedules, program ideas, selecting student-led workshops, and financing.
   *(Designed for state executive directors and those anticipating hosting future state or regional events)*

13. Exploring Our WHY?
   This focus group will mobilize a collective resolve of the WHY of Student Activities. As we enter the new
   decade…what do activities look like? How do we define our why? Our sense of purpose? How will this
   collective WHY translate to our daily practice?
   *(Designed for any club/activity advisors, administrators, and state executive directors)*

14. Promoting and Celebrating Student Body Diversity and Inclusion
   Sharing ideas for how to reach a wider variety of students on your campus and build more inclusive activities as
   well as promoting inclusive policies and practices that meet the needs of underserved populations at your
   school.
   *(Designed for club/activity advisors, student government advisors, and administrators)*

15. Creating a Leadership Class
   Sharing the scope and sequence for Leadership Class Curriculum, sample syllabi, projects and activities,
   evaluation and grading policies, and target groups for enrollment.
   *(Designed for administrators, Leadership class educators, those seeking to create a Leadership class)*

16. Leadership Class Curriculum and Hands-On Class Activities
   Leadership Class lessons, hands-on activities, and class assignments that focus leadership development.
   *(Designed for veteran leadership class educators and administrators)*

17. Critical Conversations around School Culture
   Sharing of ideas about how we and our organizations can be influencers to build positive culture and climate
   capacity in Middle Schools and High schools.
   *(Designed for high school and middle school educators and administrators)*
NAWD ZOOM SESSIONS

NAWD has reacted to the Covid-19 pandemic by utilizing Zoom Video Conferencing to connect NAWD members and guests that members have invited for four 45-minute sessions held on Tuesday April 28 and Tuesday May 5. The topics focused on Senior Activities, Graduation and Recognition, Student Elections, Planning Leadership Transition and Leadership Training, without School and Summer Camps.

E-mail blasts have been sent to all NAWD members which contain links to videos of each session along with the chat log and notes taken during the session by one or two observers. We will also be placing links to these resources on our website at https://nawd.com. Below are a few comments from each session:

WE ARE IN A TIME OF TRIAGE-TRANSITION-TRANSFORMATION...WE CAN DO THIS!

Senior Activities, Awards, Honors, Graduation
- Senior Spotlights – seniors send in pics, info on what they are doing after graduation and a reflection of a memory from school. Put together in video for YouTube with music.
- Senior Goody Bags given out when they come to pick up cap and gowns.
- Yard signs delivered by teachers to each senior.
- Encourage parents to do Senior doors about their grad at their home.
- As seniors, come to pick up cap and gown, teachers line driveway of school to wave and see them off.
- The Grateful Grad – ways for seniors to recognize and thank staff and teachers.
- Social Media Week for Seniors – every day there is a different theme for Seniors to respond to
- Letters to seniors from their Principal.
- Banners for each senior on driveway in front of schools.
- Set up a photographer the day of cap/gown pickup and have senior pics taken in front of the school.
- Drive-In Graduation and then a fun movie night after.
- Teachers put names of all students on football field and then created a drone video of the scene.
- Car parade thru town after students get their diplomas. Check out car clubs or new cars sale places for help with cars and senior holding signs etc.
- Senior Reflections – some type of closure program. It could be done over a couple nights of showcasing talent by Zoom or some other media providing seniors involved or not involved in drama events, musical talent, poetry/writing, already existing appropriate readings (Oh the Places You’ll Go), Selected Class Member wishes to Faculty including elementary and middle schools, and collectively their parents and friends, Class Advisors, Administrators remarks, Class Officers and Cabinet send-off wishes.

Student Elections
- We’ve been doing Google Forms for 3+ years at our school for elections. Speeches posted on a private link on YouTube, and all students verified. Important to limit votes to one per student in settings
- Several Nevada schools use https://voting4schools.com/ to vote but are working on how to campaign.
- Our school is in the middle of using Google Forms to conduct our elections. We have also developed a format where students have to submit campaign videos are interviewed by staff members on top of being voted upon by the student body. Videos will be highlighted on social media and emailed to students.
- Prior to elections, we have set up a Google Classroom that we would invite students into once they met criteria and deadlines (faculty recommendations and applications). ○ Google Forms (in settings) can be set to only one vote per email address.
- For our recent state association elections, we posted a 2-page candidate info sheet, speeches, did a "newsletter" of responses to 5 "personality revealing" questions. We used school e-mails for the Google Forms. We are allowing social media, but have a clause that they cannot be negative, etc. and no one can be negative on their behalf. The second clause where someone who is negative on their behalf gets them to rat out people.
- In our past 2 elections, we kept ballots open for 4 days due to absences/technology issues.
- We do freshman elections during fish camp (Freshman camp) or first few weeks of school.
- Amending the Constitution to deal with an Emergency Situation:

    Extreme Circumstances Voting Election Part 1: Proposed Amendment Wording "If extreme circumstances, as voted by the executive board and approved by advisors, occur that disable the student
council’s ability to run a traditional election, the executive board members of the current term will develop and vote (2/3 majority) on a new system that enables a proper election in the face of their circumstances.

Part 2: Voting System aka the “New System” Applying for the position Microsoft Consent Form with behavior contract, Letter of intent to executive board advisors (200-300 words) Speeches: 30 sec - 2 minutes video, in one take (no editing) Script to be approved by the board advisor. Any major changes from the script will be an automatic disqualification. Board advisors will post videos and poll link on Schoology Recommendations.

- Speech ideas – Officer candidates submit a one-minute speech and they are edited and put together for YouTube viewing on an unlisted link that is shared with students in an email that goes out with an attached Google form Ballot.
- Instagram Account for whole school and each grade level has their own page for speeches to be approved by assigned managers who check out speeches and monitor social media accounts because no social media advertising is allowed.

Transitioning Leaders

- Training manual made by veteran officers each year of info needed for next year (see a copy at the online NAWD resource library).
- Scavenger Hunt through the manual before a training meeting to get students to read and understand procedures included a legacy and history of school and council. It saves lots of time for review and kids have fun.
- Upperclassmen officers plan agenda for training meeting and divide up responsibilities for presentation. Needs to include active participation.
- Breakout rooms for training and manual and then do “Pub Trivia” about the organization. Gets group involved.
- Have TikTok Challenges during training meeting for fun.
- Do a “Vision for the Year” using Simon Synek exercise mentioned in chat to find out WHY your organization exists. Do as individuals selecting the most important of the 40 reasons given, take to 20 top reasons to 10 top reasons to 5 top reasons.
- Hold a 24-hour lock-in during August to transition the officers. Whenever we have the chance to do this, we will. Otherwise, it will be a Zoom meeting with all of them.

Plan a Virtual Summer Camp for District Schools

Ideas from Xenia Santiago of Florida...

- 3 days long for 2 hours each day
- Senior staff are creating 20-minute lessons on various topics with a handout for each lesson
- Story time done by special guests on various stories with lessons
- JCs will make small group connections with campers in fun activities
- JCs will do processing of the day’s information and activities
- Ending of day is blogging on chat
- A vault will be created as a toolbox for the year of all the sessions and handouts
- Deciding on an online meeting platform to be used (probably, Zoom) and would be willing to share information if site allows. Will keep NAWD informed.

Look at the web sites of State Student Council Associations for Virtual Summer Leadership Camps they are planning for June or July.

Leadership topics may vary from state to state but examples may include:

- Goal Setting
- Communication Skills
- Personal Leadership Skills and Effective Leadership
- Team Building
- Project Planning
- Problem Solving
- Motivating Yourself and Others
Meeting by Zoom with your Principal this spring…

- Student leaders and advisors are going to have to rapidly re-image what school will be like as the 2020-2021 school year begins. They need to set in motion **NOW** to get guidance from their principal, once the principal has a clearer picture. Many traditional activities done by Student Council and other student organizations may have to beunsetted for new ways of meeting/gathering/socializing.

- This is a perfect opportunity to examine the purpose of the Student Council, Class Government or other student organizations. The talk with the principal about the challenges of the new year, what student leaders can do/focus on and what is our WHY? Find a great activity that can be done separately by the Principal, the Advisor and Student Leaders before they meet virtually or face to face this spring such as “Building a Year of Significance – Starting With Why”, an activity designed by Tom Heethuis of Michigan: https://www.nawd.com/conference/2019/handouts/mtp19-heethuis.pdf

**Link Crew (Planning Freshman Orientation or Mentor Programs for 2020)**

Great Resources for Link Crew
www.boomerangproject.com (800) 688-7578

**What is Your School Doing for Emotional Well Being of Your Students?**

On May 13, Sara Nilles and the Oregon Association of Student Councils will be hosting a three-hour summit called “Work2beWell”. Go to www.oasc.org and register for some great ideas. There will be speakers, a panel of experts and discussion about what is happening across the states. Great opportunity for all.

Find more resources on all these topics on NAWD Website!

Go to the Resource Library at https://nawd.com for many more resources on these and other activities! You can also go to pages from past NCSA Conferences to get links and information from Workshops and Meet the Pros sessions.

**UPCOMING NAWD ZOOM CONFERENCES**

**TUESDAY MAY 19 – 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. (Eastern)**

**TOPIC:** New Advisors (0-3 years)

- What are the challenges for new and recently new (1-3 years) Advisors?
- Do you have a mentor…and if so, what are you looking for from that mentor?
- How do we prevent new advisor burnout and the resulting frequent turnover?
- What can an organization like NAWD provide to assist new Advisors in being successful in their new position?

**TUESDAY MAY 19 – 8:15 to 9:00 p.m. (Eastern)**

**TOPIC:** Middle Level Programs

- What are you doing to keep your Middle School students and community engaged?
- How are you handling elections and transitioning Middle Level student leaders?
- What problems are you dealing with that are unique to the Middle School environment and how are you handling them?
- How are you transitioning in new students and celebrating exiting students?

*(You can join at 8:15 using the link below, or just stay on if attending the 7:30 conference)*

Link to Join:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81488910832?pwd=eHV4WXdFdnFKTzIYQTVObFZFNNkxxZz09

We look forward to seeing you at one or both of our next NAWD Zoom Meetings on Tuesday May 19!
Seeking Nominees for the 2020 EARL REUM AWARD

In order to be eligible for nomination, a candidate for the Earl Reum Award must be a member of NAWD and should be in attendance for the 2020 National Conference on Student Activities in Boston this December.

While other awards are based on services to students, the Earl Reum Award was designed to recognize individuals for their work with adults. While leadership education for students is important, this award recognizes those who train the trainers of those students.

The nominee should also be someone who...

- Encourages and inspires others in the field of student leadership
- Enthusiastically shares their experience and expertise through presentations to adults
- Promotes, facilitates, or creates opportunities for adults to receive information to share with their students
- Is instrumental in student leadership training
- Promotes student leadership within their state and/or at the national level

It is recommended that an applicant/nominee for the Earl Reum Award should have previously attended a NAWD/NCSA Conference.

A past regional Earl Reum Award winner must wait 3 years before applying for the Regional Earl Reum Award again.

A past national Earl Reum winner is no longer eligible for consideration.

Nominations are encouraged from all NAWD members and self-nominations are acceptable. Past national winners and recent regional winners can be found at https://nawd.com under “Past Honorees”.

Please help us reach our goal of having a nominee for the Earl Reum Award from each of the eight regions listed below:

Region 1: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
Region 2: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
Region 3: District of Columbia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia
Region 4: Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming
Region 5: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio, West Virginia
Region 6: Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, New Mexico
Region 7: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington
Region 8: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas

Please go to https://nawd.com, click on a link for the Earl Reum Award in the left sidebar and then the nomination form. In addition to the completed form, one letter of recommendation is necessary.

The application deadline is September 1, 2020.

Reumors

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