



NAEA

A Historical Timeline

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

The National Alternative Education Association was developed to support the disenfranchised youth and to re-engage these students back into the education environment. The innovative thinking of the founders decided to develop an association to help meet the needs of these students. The NAEA is, in effect, a byproduct of the Safe Schools Coalition (SSC). The SSC organized and supported the initial alternative education conferences in Kissimmee, FL then Orlando, FL. The founders of the SSC were Ruth and Edsel Erickson. Ruth and Edsel are now deceased.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FOUNDERS OF THE NAEA:

Fritz J. Erickson, EdD
President
Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI
(Founding NAEA President)

Alan W. McEvoy, PhD
Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI
Professor
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
(Founding NAEA Vice President)

John Vonk, PhD
University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO
Professor Emeritus
Department of Sociology
College of Humanities & Social Sciences
(Founding NAEA Secretary/Treasurer)



THE FOLLOWING IS A TIMELINE OF EVENTS THAT HAVE SHAPED THE ASSOCIATION INTO THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT IT IS TODAY.

1995

- ✓ Development of the Association – The Association was an affiliation of the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay until 2008 at which time the affiliation was with Ferris University in Michigan

2002

- ✓ The Association was incorporated in the State of Florida

2009

- ✓ NAEA dissolved its affiliation with the University and became an independent Association under the Presidency of Lori Lamb, Arkansas

2009

- ✓ Adopted the Exemplary Practices for Alternative Education Program – Document created by Dr. James Witty, Esq., Tennessee

2010

- ✓ Hosted first National Conference as an independent association in Nashville, TN under the Presidency of Lori Lamb, Arkansas
- ✓ Development of Exemplary Practices Evaluation Rubric – Ms. Denise Riley, Oklahoma and Dr. Edward Lowther, Virginia

2013

- ✓ Developed social media presence & technology tools for state association use under the Presidency of Robert Eichorn, Virginia
- ✓ Development and implementation of social media – website, Facebook, Twitter
- ✓ Development of the NAEA App for state use – Richard Thompson, Michigan

2015

- ✓ Established partnerships & piloted Exemplary Practices & Rubric under the Presidency of Kay Davenport, Tennessee
- ✓ Pilot school program – Selected school from around the United States to pilot the Exemplary Practices and Rubric to determine their reliability and usefulness and to provide feedback to enhance the current documents, Ms. Denise Riley, Oklahoma and Dr. Edward Lowther, Virginia
- ✓ Developed a partnership with National Dropout Prevention Center, Clemson University
- ✓ Developed a partnership with New England College. New England College offers a Graduate certificate in Alternative Education. The courses are taught by NAEA Board Members
- ✓ Providing professional development to our constituents - Dr. Edward Lowther and Dr. Marie Sober, both from Virginia traveled to Ohio and Maryland to present on the topic of Alternative Education Plan and Transition Services, Dr. Lowther, Virginia and Ms. Denise Riley, Oklahoma traveled to Hagerstown, MD to provide a day long training on the Exemplary Practices and the Rubric and how to use them within the educational environment. In addition to district and state education department trainings, many NAEA board members have presented at conferences on the topic of Alternative Education
- ✓ Visited Washington, DC to meet with Congressmen and Senators as well as members of the Department of Education to discuss Alternative Education

2017-2019

- ✓ Expanded partnerships, increased outreach, & established processes to allow for further growth under the Presidency of Dr. Pamela Bruening, Georgia
- ✓ Developed a partnership with Kennesaw State University, Georgia
- ✓ Hired its first Executive Director, Jackie Whitt, Georgia for conference planning & increased sponsorships
- ✓ Updated Exemplary Practices & Rubric language
- ✓ Increased state associations & started seed money application process for new state associations
- ✓ Increased NAEA Board with establishment of Regional Directors residing within their regions to improve networking & connectivity
- ✓ Updated association branding, newsletters, membership database, & conference registration system
- ✓ Started annotated alternative schools research collection & advocacy tool sections on NAEA website
- ✓ New NAEA website is under construction to be launched in January of 2020

TODAY

NAEA affiliates throughout the United States, Canada, Bermuda, and New Zealand Europe, and the Caribbean to promote alternative education. NAEA continues to be the premier organization advocating and providing professional development on behalf of professionals working with or on behalf of students in alternative education.

At least 30 states have established formal state associations to support professionals working with or on behalf of students in alternative or non-traditional programs in their states.

The Annual NAEA Conference draws more than 550 attendees representing 46 states and 3 countries every year.

The Exemplary Practices & Rubric have become a standard tool of guidance for many alternative & non-traditional schools. Numerous state departments have utilized the Exemplary Practices as a guide in developing their own state standards. Many alternative schools across the country have been established and evaluated with the guidance of the Exemplary Practices & the Rubric. The Exemplary Practices & the Rubric are being used in current dissertation research. In addition, the Rubric has been made electronic (Tim Morrow, Maryland) & one district is in the process of norming the standards (Robert Eichorn, Virginia).



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

NAEA is looking to...

- ✓ Develop a process for accrediting alternative programs/schools.
- ✓ Continue to support state associations by helping to develop associations and provide guidance to exiting associations.
- ✓ Increase advocacy efforts at the state and national level.
- ✓ Increase partnerships with several universities around the country.
- ✓ Increase the visibility of student stories.

