Join Us in Tampa!

25th Annual NAEA National Conference
October 28-30, 2019
Hotel: Tampa Marriott Water Street

Don't Miss the Pre-Conference Offerings!

- Building Strong Brains: Trauma Sensitive Strategies for Alternative Educators
- Thrive More Than Survive: 8 Key Strategies to Achieve Educator
Well-Being
- Inspire Greatness with NAEA Continuous Improvement Tools
- Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA)
- Gallery Walk of Alternative Schools
- 5 Different School Tours

NAEA 2019 Conference KEYNOTE Speakers

Opening Keynote
Kevin Honeycutt

Closing Keynote
Dr. Adolf Brown

2019 NAEA Conference Special Luncheon Keynote Speaker
NAEA is Honored to Present Dr. Curtis Jones
2019 National Superintendent of the Year and Alternative School Advocate
Register Today

Prince William opens state-of-the-art school
for nontraditional students
School combines former New Dominion, New Direction, PACE East

Independence Nontraditional replaces and builds upon county programs formerly at New Dominion, New Directions and PACE East. The philosophy behind its unique approach is called the “equity” model, which can be replicated at any kind of school, according to Eichorn. “And it can be scaled based on the needs of a district.”

The programs have been responsible for 2300 graduates since 2008, he said. “We got away from using the word ‘alternative’ in naming the new school because that word is associated with what some people call ‘the bad kids,’” Eichorn said during a recent tour through the new school.

“The kids [who come into this program] aren’t bad,” he said. They suffer from any number of conditions that require a different approach to educating them. There may be a problem in the family. They might struggle with mental illness or have behavioral or physical challenges. They might be young mothers. They might be homeless. We assess the needs of each child, and we build bonds with them so they feel secure, and supported, and listened to.

“It’s not about [tests]. It’s about relationships,” he said.

According to no few of those who have experienced Eichorn’s version of the equity model, not only does it work, it is a godsend. Unified in one building, with added programs, staff and services, Independence Nontraditional is the county’s best version yet of Eichorn’s vision, putting into practice a philosophy and methods encouraged by the National Alternative Education Association.

Eichorn calls Independence a one-stop shop for best practices in nontraditional education. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday, Aug. 23, Walts called it “equity-cubed.”

Earlier in the day, “Mrs. Newton,” (everyone here is addressed formally), sat in a donut-shaped welcome area, in what reminded one of Captain Kirk’s perch on the StarTrek Enterprise. She buzzed visitors in as she fielded phone calls. The school’s goal and vision was posted prominently behind her.

For the remainder of the article, please go to Prince William School.
Our EPIC Community - involved, engaged and Preparing Students For Life!

I wanted to share this Brandon EPIC success story. We as HCSD employees work with passion to support the positive outcomes for our kids! Community plays an integral role in every part of our success. We as educators and our business community have a shared responsibility to support our kids. As a Tampa Bay region we are truly inspired by the ongoing support of Jennifer Currie with Bill Currie Ford, Bob Conigliaro with Caspers, John Daux with Daux Reality and our local Seffner Wal-Mart store manager Mitchell Hughes. Every year Bill Currie Ford and Caspers funds our PBIS stores at Brandon and North Tampa EPIC. This past fall we launched our “Challenge the Situation” project. We informed the students that they will compete weekly for their PBIS points earning Currie/Casper dollars based on behavior, academics and attendance. After two months of school wide competition which resulted in an incredible display of positive student behavior and effort norm values which we can all celebrate, the top 15% went on to round two of the competition. Round two we had our top 15% students write a 500 word essay making their argument for us to qualify them for this field trip. Students explained about many of their challenges, their dreams, their families and inspiration. Our students asked me personally rubric questions and debated over word count wishing to extend the essay to 1,000 words. The top nine students then moved on to the final round of competition which was a panel interview. All nine students, in business attire, answered high level questions, made incredible appeals and competed at the highest level.

Our effort was to secure funds for seven students to attend a field trip that would create an event beyond their experiences. Most of our students have never left the state, flown in a plane, seen snow, stayed in a hotel or visited a college campus. We understand as an EPIC family our work is to provide possibility, in part, for our kids. Mr. John Daux went out and helped us secure the funds needed to make this event a reality. Zero cost was asked of our families as for many of our student body that would create an obstacle. As the final round of panel interviewing was completed Mr. Daux insisted nobody of the nine be eliminated and he was able to secure funding for all nine students to attend. Our good friend Mitchell from our Seffner Wal-Mart even stepped in to help us with enough gift cards to fund some of the food needed while on this trip. Our nine students flew to Pittsburgh and visited the University of Pitt, paid tribute to the lives lost on Flight 93 on 9/11, toured the city of Pittsburgh and had their first ever snow ball fight.

The young lady seen in the picture by herself will be graduating next week. She came back last week to thank our sponsors for helping send her on a trip that meant so very much to her. She spoke about how she had never seen snow before and how this experience opened her eyes. This trip and the nine students lives were impacted due to the support of Mr. John Daux, Mr. Bob Conigliaro, Mrs. Jennifer Currie, and Mr. Mitchell Hughes. Our community plays such a valued role in our success. I frequently have shired with my community friends that often some of our kids do not have the largest, metaphorically speaking, cheer section in the stands of their lives. However, that section is increased because each of our business partners, are heard loudly and passionately screaming support for our kids and their success! Our community represents pats on the backs, go get em kid, and most importantly help us guide kids towards success. We value, recognize and celebrate each of you for your continued involvement in our kids
lives! We are infinitely stronger as a school district having friends like you working with us to Prepare Students For Life!

Hurry!!!! Submit Your Proposal TODAY!!!

Bring a school team to present!

We have extended the deadline through July 1, 2019!!

Call For Proposals

Board Member Spotlight

Dr. Justin DeMart
Region 1 Director

Dr. Justin DeMart is the Executive Principal for K-12 Instruction at Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES. As part of his supervisory duties he oversees all instructional programs, including special education and career and technical education. Dr. DeMart has always had a passion for working with at-risk and special education students, and ensuring that everyone has a voice. Dr. DeMart has served as a teacher of special education and social studies education. He has been an assistant principal of alternative education, a principal of alternative education, associate director of special education, director of exceptional education, and now serves as executive principal of K-12.

Dr. DeMart is a graduate of Buffalo State College, and has received two Masters of Science in Education from Niagara University. Dr. DeMart recently received his doctorate in educational leadership and management from Capella University with an action research professional curriculum project focused on the improvement of professional development practices for alternative education faculty and staff.

Dr. DeMart has served as a board member for the NY44 health trust, an advisory
member of the Western New York Autism Coalition, he is the founding member of the Statewide BOCES Directors of Special Education biannual meeting, and serves on a variety of school district committees.

In addition to Dr. DeMartin’s work in alternative and special education he enjoys spending time with his husband Danny and their twins Parker and Emma. He also loves traveling with his family and spending as much time as possible outdoors in the beautiful Buffalo winters and gorgeous summers.

Looking for ALL Former NAEA Presidents:

We want to reach you with a special invitation! Please email current NAEA President, Pamela Bruening at pam.bruening@gmail.com with your current contact information. Thank you!

CONNECT with others in your region at the 2019 NAEA Conference! Regional meetings enable you to meet your Regional Directors & connect with others in your state and geographical region. Learn how you can work together to provide each other with ongoing support throughout the year.

News Items Needed!

We want to feature your school next month!!! Tell us about some of the great things your school is doing or a specific best practice that works very well. Send pictures or video links. Please email your district/school news to: justin_demartin@yahoo.com
Submit Your Research


Your colleagues want your contributions! Submit works that you have found particularly useful using the simple template provided. NAEA members tend to most interested in the title and the What, How, Why of the work:

- **What**  A description of the work and its findings
- **How**  The methodology or some key terms like quantitative, qualitative, policy research
- **Why**  The big picture – a rationale about why the work is important-valuable

NAEA looks forward to your submissions, so that alternative education research is accessible to NAEA members and all Alt Ed advocates. As you see, you will be recognized on a nationally available website for your contribution.
Educators around the Globe!

NAEA Monthly Twitter Chats (30 minutes)
These monthly chats focus on NAEA's exemplary practices. It is for all stakeholders in the field of alternative/nontraditional education. Chats begin at 9:00 pm EST the last Tuesday of each month to build capacity and awareness.

Join Us!

Submitting Articles

If you are interested in submitting an article for the NAEA newsletter please reach out to Justin DeMartin, Region 1 Director for more information. justin_demartin@yahoo.com