



IDEA Reader's Corner

Iowa Developmental Education Association Newsletter, June 2016



Ruth Kunkle, MS
Chapter President, Iowa
Developmental Education
Association

I am the current President of
Iowa Developmental Education
Association (IDEA) and will turn

the leadership over to Dan Nelson at the Fall
Conference, Friday, October 7, 2016, at the
beautiful Arrowwood Resort in Okoboji, Iowa.

I would like to introduce everyone to the new
Newsletter – “The Reader’s Corner.” The Executive
Board members are hoping each and every member
as well as future members of Iowa Developmental
Education Association (IDEA) will take advantage
of submitting your articles, keeping all members up
on your career successes as well as sharing
interesting pieces of work you have ventured into;
let us know about speakers, and authors coming to
the area, as well as your travels; and share your
concerns. Together we can make this newsletter an
interesting reading for ALL.

In this issue, we are starting with a “Focus on an
IDEA Member” with a look at current president,
Ruth Kunkle. We are then doing a review of our
conference last fall 2015 held at the Arrowwood
Resort in Okoboji, Iowa. Dr. Robert Reason and
Val Newhouse were our keynote speakers with a
special NADE Guest, Gwenn Eldridge, president of
NADE. Please enjoy the reading in – The Reader’s
Corner.

Focus on an IDEA Member:

Ruth Kunkle, MS

I have had the pleasure of working in higher
education since 2008, when I began as an Adjunct
GED Instructor. To my surprise, teaching GED put
my feet on a path I don’t plan on changing anytime
soon.

I hold a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in
Human Services with a minor in Psychology. My
advanced degree is a Master of Science with an
emphasis in Higher Education.

I have had the pleasure to engage many students,
learn from my colleagues and continuously strive to
improve.

As IDEA President, this year I had the opportunity
to attend the National Association for
Developmental Education (NADE) conference in
Anaheim, CA. I had the privilege to work
cooperatively with the planning committee; I served
as co-coordinator for the Poster Board Presenters.
As a part of the planning, I worked closely with
those selected to present their work. NADE is a
wonderful outlet to get involved and learn about the
successes and challenges within developmental
education.



FALL CONFERENCE 2015

Hope, Purpose and Engagement

September 30—October 2, 2015

Arrowwood Resort, Okoboji, Iowa



**Keynote Presenter—
Thursday
Dr. Robert Reason,
Iowa State**

Robert Reason is Professor of Student Affairs and Higher Education at Iowa State University. He serves as the Program Coordinator of Iowa State's Student Affairs program, in which he teaches courses related to student development theories, college student outcomes, social justice issues, and assessment in student affairs. Reason served as Assistant and Associate professor at Penn State University from 2003 to 2011, where he was also a

Senior Research Associate in Penn State's Center for the Study of Higher Education. He recently completed (with Patrick Terenzini) two comprehensive studies of first-year student learning outcomes at over 45 colleges and universities, and a third (with Bradley Cox), that included over 50 more colleges and universities. In 2012, he co-authored (with Kristen Renn) a text, published by Jossey-Bass Publishers, titled *College Students in the United States: Characteristics, Experiences, and Outcomes*. This text has been widely adopted among higher education and student affairs graduate programs as a primary text for student outcomes courses.

Dr. Reason is the Director of the Personal and Social Responsibility Inventory (PSRI), an ongoing research project in collaboration with the Association of American Colleges and Universities' (AAC&U). The Personal and Social Responsibility Inventory (PSRI) is designed to revitalize and lead a national conversation about higher education's role in developing college students' sense of personal and social responsibility, help campuses assess and refine environments that encourage such development, and engage students in activities that encourage them to fulfill their obligations in academic, campus, and global communities. Dr. Reason focuses much of his research and scholarship on the importance of personal and social responsibility in today's higher education contexts.

Keynote Review by Molly Struve



Dr. Robert Reason, who is a professor at Iowa State University, started the 2015 IDEA conference on a very positive note. The topic of his presentation was student retention. He discussed how faculty and staff at the college play a key role in connecting with students, which in turn can lead to an increase in retention rates. Conference attendees were given the chance to speak with colleagues and discuss best practices for student retention.



Dr. Reason also discussed student sub-cultures and how they can affect retention. These sub-cultures can include groups like individual classes, job, family or extracurricular activities. These groups can have both a positive and a negative impact on whether or not a student continues on with his or her education. Some students are scared of what may happen if they do succeed. They may be the first one in the family to earn a degree or have the chance at a high paying career; this thought process may scare them because it is such a drastic change. This is one mindset I have never thought of before, but I

now realize how great of an impact fear can have on a student's success in college.

Overall, Dr. Reason's presentation on student retention was very enlightening. Every college is impacted by retention and it is an area that can constantly be improved upon. Dr. Reason allowed attendees the chance to discuss the issues of retention and the possible ways to overcome these.



Keynote Presenter-- Friday

Valerie Newhouse, President of Iowa Lakes Community College

In the fall of 1988, Valerie Newhouse enrolled at Iowa Lakes Community College to earn her Associate in Arts degree. After that, she went on to earn her BA from Buena Vista University and her MA from the University of Iowa. Twenty years after attending Iowa Lakes Community College, in February of 2009, she became the seventh President of Iowa Lakes Community College.

As the current president of the Iowa Community College President's Board, Valerie discussed the future of community colleges and gave insight on what to expect in the community college world in the next few years. She also detailed new statistics on college student debt that were just released shortly before conference.





Special NADE Guest— Gwen Eldridge, NADE President

NADE President Gwenn Eldridge brings to her office 25 years of experience in higher education, both as an

administrator and faculty member. She currently serves as department chair for university transfer at Ivy Tech Community College, Indiana's statewide community college system. Her primary teaching focus is on integrated reading writing and co-requisite course design. She was part of a team that developed Ivy Tech's integrated reading writing course and offers professional development sessions to faculty members across the state. During her tenure as NADE president, she has worked to increase NADE marketing through a new branding campaign. She also is working on a number of initiatives that will result in partnerships to enhance the visibility of NADE at the national level.

It was truly an honor for IDEA to have our NADE President speak at a breakout session. Gwenn's session focused on "Developmental Education: Going Forward with Purpose."

President Eldridge encouraged developmental educators to band together to share best practices and meet the challenges of accreditation/certification, and redesign. Across the country professionals in higher education must network for the benefit of our students.

America Reads Recipient— Estherville Lincoln Central's Demoney Elementary School

This year's recipients of the books donated by IDEA Conference attendees will be children attending Estherville Lincoln Central's Demoney Elementary School.



Shane Kalous, Principal at Demoney Elementary, was present at the IDEA conference on Thursday afternoon to accept the books on behalf of the school. The majority of books were distributed to students in grades PreK-2.



Molly Struve presenting books to Demoney Elementary students.

“THANKS, IDEA!”

Breakout Session Reviews

Review by Meridith Nelson

Keynote Address Follow-up

Dr. Robert Reason, Professor of Student Affairs and Higher Education at Iowa State University, facilitated a breakout session following his keynote address which opened the 2015 IDEA Conference. In the keynote, he stressed how crucial the institutional environment is to student success. Students need to understand that the purpose of an education is not just to attain a good job and make money, but it is a social broadening of themselves. If students are better informed, are competent problem solvers and have a broad perspective of life in general, a good job will come.

Although we often come away from conferences energized and full of ideas, seldom is there an opportunity to participate in a Q & A with a major presenter. There was ample opportunity to request specific details about what teachers can do in the classroom to enhance students' personal development in college, community and beyond. The classroom should include academic preparation, of course, but it should also weave in academic integrity and social integrity. Service Learning, either on or off campus, can be a powerful tool in expanding students' ability to think outside themselves. If we use the course we teach as a catalyst in creating a service project and allow the students to generate ideas for projects, we are facilitating the application of many skills students will use in college, at home and on the job. Dr. Reason says, "It's harder to leave a place when you feel integrated."

Review by Martha Schwandt

The Psychology of Learning: Providing Hope, Meaning, Purpose and Engagement to all Learners presented by Laurie Ann Schmidt with assistance by Janeice Garrard. Through hands on activities, we gained insight about learning styles of ourselves and

students and how to design the learning environment to incorporate different learners and increase student achievement. Dr. Schmidt recommends using the backwards design. Begin by setting the academic goal and define the achievement of the goal, then use the four quadrants to plan the curriculum. Moving through the four quadrants hits upon the left brain/right brain or analytic and holistic processing. Quadrant 1 collaboration strategies, such as brainstorming, sets the groundwork of a hopeful environment for students to connect to their learning and each other. Once students are motivated to learn, move on to quadrant 2 where critical thinking assists understanding and gives meaning to curriculum. Quadrant 3 gives purpose for learning. Creativity can shine here to encourage ownership. One strategy to utilize here is self-assessments or self-reflections. Finally, in quadrant 4 engagement in application and real world problems provides evaluation and assessment of learning. Utilize assignments and activities to develop self-direction thinking skills such as using data to make informed decisions, and providing situations with ambiguous and uncertain outcomes. This process provides a learning environment that considers building critical thinking while being relevant to the students' lives.



**2015 IDEA Scholarship Award Winner—
Frederick Carey (pictured on far right)
Hawkeye Community College**

WHAT A GREAT 2015 CONFERENCE—SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



Stay in Touch with IDEA and NADE

IDEA Website:

Check the IDEA website for 2016 conference updates, student scholarship information, and member resources.

www.dmacc.edu/idea

IDEA Facebook:

Like us on Facebook to receive updates on IDEA



and our annual conference!

www.facebook.com/iowadevelopmentaleducationassociation

NADE List Serve:

<https://groups.google.com/a/thenade.org/d/forum/na-de-discussion-forum>

Join the IDEA Conversation

- Have you recently attended a conference of another professional organization? Summarize a session relevant to our membership for the Reader's Corner.
- Has your institution revamped its placement policies, developmental studies offerings, or academic support program? Provide a quick update.
- Have you located a great academic resource for student or faculty use? Share the wealth.
- Have you transitioned to a new position or received special recognition for your professional accomplishments? Let us celebrate with you!

To submit articles or information for future editions of "IDEA Reader's Corner," please send to:

IDEA Executive Board Member: Newsletter Editor
Tom Mueller
Dean of Transitional Programs
Hawkeye Community College
thomas.mueller@hawkeyecollege.edu

IDEA Executive Board

President: Ruth Kunkle, ICC and DMACC
President-Elect: Dan Nelson, DMACC
Secretary: Molly Struve, ILCC
Treasurer: Martha Schwandt, MCC
Past President: Joe Davis, NIACC
Newsletter Editor: Tom Mueller, HCC
Community College Rep: Lynn Jenson, ILCC
Regents Institution Rep: Ellen Sonnet, UNI
Member at Large: Meridith Nelson, DMACC
Webmaster: Sue Wickham, DMACC and MCHS
(For contact information please see the IDEA website linked to the left)