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NERCHE Updates

March 14, 2007 ♦ Vol. 3, Issue 1

**The New England
Resource Center
for Higher
Education**

*(NERCHE) is a
center for inquiry,
research, and
policy.*

*NERCHE supports
administrators,
faculty, and staff
across the region in
becoming more
effective
practitioners and
leaders as they
navigate the
complexities of
institutional
innovation and
change.*

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NERCHE Updates is a bimonthly electronic newsletter for the UMass Boston community to inform you about recent events and activities. We welcome your feedback.

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NERCHE to design and manage planning activities for NMEF's Project Compass

In April 2007, the [Nellie Mae Education Foundation](#) will launch **Project Compass**, a multi-year regional initiative to help more underrepresented minority students succeed in and graduate from public four-year institutions of higher education in New England. This initiative will support innovative institutional programs and strategies that strive to eliminate achievement gaps and significantly increase academic success, retention, and graduation rates for minority and low-income undergraduate students.

Contingent on the quality of proposals, the Foundation intends to award grants in the range of \$100,000 to \$200,000 to three to six institutions to support an initial year of needs assessment, capacity building, structured institutional planning, and program development. NERCHE will design and manage planning year activities, convene regular grantee meetings, and provide technical assistance to each grantee institution. During the planning year, grantee institutions will develop proposals for continued support from the Foundation; if institutions make adequate progress and demonstrate adequate institutional commitment during the planning year, the Foundation will award four-year implementation grants of \$100,000 to \$200,000 annually. NERCHE will continue to work with campuses that receive the four-year implementation grants. The [Center for Youth and Communities at Brandeis University](#) will conduct a project evaluation.

[Click here to view the Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#)

Save the Date: NERCHE Spring Colloquium, June 19, 2007

NERCHE will host a leadership colloquium and dinner with Dr. Jon Wergin, author of the newly released *Leadership in Place*, on Tuesday, June 19, 2007 (rescheduled from March 13) at the Hoagland-Pincus Conference Center in

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Shrewsbury, MA. A Pre-Colloquium Virtual Think Tank on "Leadership in Place" with take place June 4 – 15, 2007. In his *Leadership in Place*, Jon Wergin takes an innovative look at academic leadership and argues that it's time to rethink how our colleges and universities are organized and led. The concept of leadership in place calls for a shift in attitude about leaders and leadership—from a hierarchical view that academic leadership flows from a leadership position, to a more lateral view that leadership roles are available to everyone.

[Click here for more information about the Spring Colloquium](#)

Call for Nominations: 2007 Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement

NERCHE is now accepting nominations for the Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement, which recognizes a faculty member who connects his or her teaching, research, and service to community engagement. Nomination deadline: April 27, 2007.

[Click here for more information about the Lynton Award and the nomination process](#)

February Leadership Speaker Series with Terry Gomes

As part of NERCHE's ongoing Leadership Speaker Series, Dr. Terrence Gomes, President of Roxbury Community College, led a presentation and discussion on "Leadership and Change in the Community College" on Friday, February 23, 2007, at UMass Boston. Sponsored by NERCHE on behalf of the doctoral program in higher education administration at UMass Boston, the Speaker Series is an opportunity for doctoral program students, alumni, and faculty to meet in an informal environment with state, regional, and national leaders, acknowledged for their vision and ability to make substantive change in higher education.

Rev. Mark T. Cregan, President of Stonehill College, will lead the next Leadership Speaker event on Friday, April 20, 2007. President Cregan's discussion will focus on "Sustaining the Mission: Leading Change."

NERCHE Brief: "Graduate Education and Civic Engagement"

KerryAnn O'Meara, Professor of Higher Education Policy, Research and Administration at UMass Amherst, has authored NERCHE's latest Brief, which explores the importance and challenges of integrating civic engagement into graduate education, and offers several key questions that might help guide campus efforts to prepare future academics and professionals for effective civic engagement.

[Click here to download the Brief](#)

NERCHE develops new Think Tank websites

In January 2007, NERCHE launched a series of websites designed specifically for its six Think Tanks. These "closed" sites allow current Think Tank members to view materials for both past and upcoming Think Tank sessions, including agendas, readings, proceedings, and logistical information. The sites also give members in each Think Tank access to a listserv discussion forum meant to facilitate dialogue among participants around issues of higher education.

Most recently, Think Tank discussions have focused on: "Influencing Institution-

wide Initiatives for Faculty and Professional Development," "Revisiting the Mission of Higher Education," "The Leadership of Place: Making a Difference from Multiple Positions within the Institution," "Stewarding Curricular Change," and "Ethics, Moral Responsibility, and Civility (Student conduct and honor codes; Expanding notions of plagiarism and cheating)."

[Click here to learn more about NERCHE's Think Tanks](#)

NERCHE Notes

- NERCHE Director, **John Saltmarsh**, **Dwight Giles**, professor of higher education, and **Lorilee R. Sandmann**, professor in the Department of Lifelong Education, Administration, and Policy at University of Georgia, presented "A New Model for Faculty Preparation and Support for the Scholarship of Engagement" at the Faculty Work and the New Academy: Emerging Challenges and Evolving Roles Network for Academic Renewal Conference, on November 9-11 in Chicago. The session explored how to transform institutions into enabling environments for faculty engagement; the institutional contexts that create supportive environments for engaged scholars; and future faculty needs for becoming engaged scholars.
- On January 12, 2007, **John Saltmarsh** presented a day-long workshop for the Massachusetts Campus Compact on *Designing and Implementing Civic Learning Outcomes across the Curriculum and the Campus: Teaching civic skills to improve democratic and civic education*. The workshop was designed to assist faculty in a variety of disciplines to embed civic learning outcomes in the curriculum.
- **John Saltmarsh** and NERCHE Senior Associate **Cathy Burack** from Brandeis University presented a workshop, "Taking Stock: Assessing the Institutionalization of Civic Engagement, at the annual meeting of the Association for American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) on January 17-20 in New Orleans. This workshop was structured to expose participants to the latest thinking about the institutionalization of civic engagement and the tools and methods available to assess this across the campus.
- Also at AAC&U National Conference **John Saltmarsh** co-presented a workshop entitled "Engaging Departments across the Nation: Moving Faculty Culture toward Collective Focus for the Common Good." The co-presenters included Kevin Kecskes, Director of Community-University Partnerships, Portland State University; Cynthia Spence, Associate Professor of Sociology, Spelman College; Susan Agre-Kippenhan, Dean, School of Art, Montana State University; Charlotte Brammer, Director, Writing across the Curriculum, Stamford University. The workshop drew upon the recent book *Engaging Departments* (Anker 2006) in which John Saltmarsh co-authored two chapters.
- Peter Kiang, education professor and director of the Asian American Studies Program, led a NERCHE-sponsored panel on "Post-Katrina Refugee Rebuilding and the Role of Asian American Studies Praxis – Lessons from Student Engagement with New Orleans' Vietnamese Community" at the AAC&U conference in New Orleans. Asian American Studies Program instructor James Dien Bui and graduate student Jennifer Nguyen also presented on the panel.

NERCHE at the Graduate College of Education, UMass Boston has received support from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, Lumina Foundation, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, The Institute for College Access and Success, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Exxon Education Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Education Resources Institute, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

For more information about any of the above events or activities, please contact NERCHE at (617) 287-7740 or via email at nerche@umb.edu.

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