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12-15-2008

### NERCHE Updates, volume 5, issue 1

New England Resource Center for Higher Education at the University of Massachusetts Boston

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#### Recommended Citation

New England Resource Center for Higher Education at the University of Massachusetts Boston, "NERCHE Updates, volume 5, issue 1" (2008). *NERCHE Bulletin*. 8.  
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## NERCHE Updates

December 15, 2008 ♦ Vol. 5, 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 an electronic newsletter for the UMass Boston community to inform you about recent NERCHE events and activities.

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**Project Compass**

NERCHE serves as the coordinator of Project Compass on behalf of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, which has awarded funding to four public institutions of higher education in New England that have undertaken interventions to promote the success and retention of traditionally underserved populations of students. The participating campuses are Bridgewater State College, Eastern Connecticut State University, Lyndon State College, and the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

This is Year One of a four-year implementation cycle for Project Compass funding. The four grantees participated in a funded year of planning and a rigorous review of proposed interventions in order to be eligible for implementation funding. NERCHE, as the intermediary of the funder, designed a "learning community" structure to link the campuses in a collaborative network both within and among the participating institutions. Twice a year, NERCHE convenes the campus teams for a learning community meeting and provides ongoing technical assistance and coaching to the campus teams.

In November 2008, NERCHE brought together representatives of the four Project Compass campuses in Nashua, New Hampshire for a two-day learning community meeting. Featured presenter John Tagg, author of "The Learning Paradigm College," discussed critical research on how students learn and the implications for creating intentionally student-centered programs.

Campus teams engaged each other in a series of dialogues related to infusing culturally responsive and student-centered principles into institutional change efforts in areas such as advising, teaching, and faculty/professional development. Another discussion theme was the importance of "a culture of

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inquiry" in which practitioners effectively gather and analyze data to inform planning and programs.

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### **Faculty and Professional Employee Workload Study**

NERCHE has been selected by the CSU-AAUP to conduct an independent, comprehensive study of faculty and professional employee workloads within the Connecticut State University system. The research team is led by Dr. Jay Dee, Associate Professor in the Higher Education Doctoral Program at UMass Boston, and includes Dr. Glenn Gabbard, Associate Director, and Sharon Singleton, Senior Program and Research Associate, from NERCHE and Nancy M. Ludwig, Director of Institutional Research at Northeastern University.

This 16-month workload study will examine full-time and part-time CSU faculty workloads; workloads across academic departments and between graduate and undergraduate programs of study; policies and practices associated with teaching load adjustments; the relationship between faculty workloads (including opportunities for professional development) and practices that support student learning and retention; effects of workload on recruitment, retention, and career satisfaction of faculty; and workload issues for other academic professionals, including librarians, coaches, and counselors. In addition, NERCHE will conduct an analysis of the relationship between faculty workload and student outcomes reported in state accountability reports, as well as a longitudinal analysis of trends in faculty workload. The study's findings will be available in December 2009.

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### **NERCHE Presents Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement**

On October 19, 2008, NERCHE awarded the *Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement* to **Michelle Dunlap** from Connecticut College at the annual conference of the Coalition for Urban Metropolitan Universities (CUMU), which co-sponsors the Award. At the conference, Michelle, along with two of her students, Penney Jade Beaubrun and Christina Burrell, presented on their collaborative experiences with respect to courses, research projects, service, community engagement and other field experiences in a session entitled "Collaborative Learning, Serving, and Trailblazing in a Liberal Arts Environment."

*Citations for Distinguished Engaged Scholarship* went to **Rose-Marie Chierici**, associate professor of anthropology at SUNY-Geneseo, and **Ann Feldman**, associate professor of English at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

[Click here to learn more about the Lynton Award...](#)

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### **Higher Education and Democracy Project: Authors Meeting at the University of Pennsylvania**

As part of larger project on Higher Education and the Future of Engagement (see [www.futureofengagement.wordpress.com](http://www.futureofengagement.wordpress.com)), ten authors met to continue their collaboration on a forthcoming book, *Democratic Civic Engagement*, edited by John Saltmarsh, NERCHE director, and Matthew Hartley, associate professor of education at the University of Pennsylvania. The meeting, hosted by the [Netter Center for Community Partnerships](#) at the University of

Pennsylvania, took place on October 30-31, 2008.

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### **NERCHE Sponsors Graduate Student Reception**

More than 60 graduate students attended a reception sponsored and hosted by NERCHE at the Eighth International Research Conference on Service-Learning and Community Engagement held in New Orleans, October 25-28, 2008. At the reception, graduate students met with colleagues and senior researchers in the field to exchange ideas and establish networks related to their research interests and graduate education.

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### **NERCHE Hosts Two Leadership Speaker Events**

As part of NERCHE's ongoing Leadership Speaker Series, Dr. Emile Netzhammer, III, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Keene State College, delivered a presentation and led a discussion on "Developing a Culture of Reflection, Accountability, and Improvement" on October 24, 2008, 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.

Jacqueline Peterson, Vice-President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, led the second Leadership Speaker event on Friday, November 21, 2008 with a presentation on "Leading Change in Student Affairs."

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### **Think Tanks**

Twenty years ago, NERCHE inaugurated its first Think Tanks for academics from colleges and universities across New England which were structured to provide time and space for members to reflect on their practice, learn from each other and from the literature, and speak frankly and confidentially about the challenges they face on their respective campuses.

Members are drawn from a diverse group of regional institutions and represent skilled leaders with a commitment to higher education and a willingness to engage contemporary challenges in higher education with thoughtfulness and creativity. NERCHE convenes Think Tanks for Chief Academic Officers, Academic Deans, Associate Academic Deans, Chief Student Affairs Officers, Multicultural Affairs Officers, and Chief Financial Officers.

For more information, please visit the [Think Tank pages of NERCHE's website](#)

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### **NERCHE Hosts Planning Meeting to Explore the Creation of an Engaged Scholarship Think Tank**

On November 19, 2008, more than 20 faculty members from multiple disciplines and from institutions across New England met at the College of the Holy Cross for a planning meeting to explore the establishment of an ongoing

Think Tank for Engaged Scholarship. As a way to model the NERCHE Think Tank structure, the morning was devoted to a discussion of a report from Imagining America, *Scholarship in Public: Knowledge Creation and Tenure Policy in the Engaged University* (2008). The meeting was coordinated and facilitated by David Scobey, Director of the Harvard Center for Community Partnerships at Bates College.

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### **Corporation for National and Community Service Social Media and Civic Engagement Project**

UMass Boston is partnering with CIRCLE (The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement) and the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University on a project using social media to increase and deepen youth civic engagement. The three-year project, administered by NERCHE, is funded with a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

A leadership team of students in Asian American Studies is coordinating the project, which also involves faculty members Peter Kiang (Asian American Studies and Education), Shirley Tang (Asian American Studies and American Studies), and Sam Museus (Higher Education Doctoral Program).

Through the project, Asian American Studies will offer courses employing a community-based curriculum and community-mapping software to analyze community issues and networks.

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### **NERCHE and UMass GCE Celebrated at ASHE Meeting**

At the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education held in Jacksonville, FL, November 5-8, 2008, UMass Boston's Graduate College of Education hosted a reception celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the Higher Education Doctoral Program and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NERCHE. Dwight Giles, Jr., Senior Associate at NERCHE and faculty member in the Higher Education Administration attended on behalf of GCE.

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NERCHE at the Graduate College of Education, UMass Boston receives support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Kettering Foundation, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation, and the Spencer Foundation. Previous sponsors include the Annie E. Casey Foundation, The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, The Education Resources Institute, the Exxon Education Foundation, The Ford Foundation, the Graduate College of Education, UMass Boston, The W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Lumina Foundation for Education, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Pew Charitable Trusts.

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](mailto:nerche@umb.edu).

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