

7-8-2009

NERCHE Updates, volume 5, issue 2

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 2" (2009). *NERCHE Bulletin*. 9.

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NERCHE Updates

July 8, 2009 ♦ Vol. 5, Issue 2

**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.*

NERCHE

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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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NERCHE launches redesigned website

In January 2009, NERCHE launched its new website, which features a revamped design and two new additional components. The first is a content management system (CMS) that allows easy updating of the front page to include links to current resources such as conferences, articles, and news related to higher education. The second component is an online membership system that simplifies the nomination and application process for NERCHE's Think Tanks, and facilitates billing and record maintenance. The new membership component of the website also provides Think Tank members with a central, password-protected forum for interacting with other members and accessing meeting materials and other information pertinent to their campus work. NERCHE will soon be launching presence both on Twitter and Facebook as well.

[Click here to visit NERCHE's website...](#)

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NERCHE hosts Special Think Tank meeting

In May 2009, NERCHE held a Special Think Tank meeting with Think Tank coordinators and other selected participants. The aim of the meeting was to collect data about: (1) the effectiveness of the Think Tank model, (2) the impact of the current economic climate on member campuses as it relates to the viability of Think Tank membership for the 2009-2010 academic year; and (3) strategies for reaching out to prospective Think Tank members for the 2009-2010 season. NERCHE will also use the information gathered at the Special Think Tank in planning for future projects and activities.

[Learn more about NERCHE's Think Tanks...](#)

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NERCHE presents work on transformational practices in higher education at Boston Foundation event

In June 2009, the Boston Foundation convened area college Presidents to discuss the implications of a recent report focusing on the academic achievement of Boston Public School graduates in the early college years, entitled "Who's Making it?" NERCHE's work on transformational practices in higher education—related to the presence of increasing numbers of underserved students—was presented by John Saltmarsh, NERCHE's director. The report, written by Stoutland and Coles, is available at <http://tinyurl.com/ldwm54>.

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Lynton Award recipient to be announced July 2009

In 2009, NERCHE's Lynton Award was re-designated as an award for early career faculty (i.e., pre-tenure at tenure-granting campuses and early career – within the first six years – at campuses with long-term contracts) in order to recognize the engaged work of a rising number of junior faculty. The Call for Nominations for the 2009 Lynton Award was distributed in January 2009. Review of the nominations is currently underway, and an award recipient will be announced in late July 2009. In addition to NERCHE staff, the Review Committee members comprise a group of leaders in the field of engaged scholarship, including: Andrew Furco, University of Minnesota; Matthew Hartley, University of Pennsylvania; Peter Levine, Tufts University; KerryAnn O'Meara, University of Maryland, College Park; William Plater, IUPUI; Elaine Ward, University of Massachusetts Boston; Nicole Webster, Pennsylvania State University; and Edward Zlotkowski, Bentley.

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

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Boston Area Social Network Project

This three-year project involved a partnership among UMass Boston, CIRCLE (The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement) and the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University, and employed social media to increase and deepen youth civic engagement. Funded by a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, the project was administered by NERCHE and coordinated by a leadership team of students in Asian American Studies, along with 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 offered courses employing a community-based curriculum and community-mapping software to analyze community issues and networks.

[Click here to learn more about the Boston Area Social Network Project...](#)

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NERCHE hosts "Mapping Opportunities" meeting

Funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, NERCHE's "Mapping Opportunities" project convened a select group of individuals from New England's four-year public colleges and universities in an effort to identify the cultural and structural changes needed to facilitate the success of low-income students, students of color, and students who are first in their families to attend college. The one-day meeting, held on January 16, 2009, in Providence, RI, brought together 25 participants who, along with their respective institutions, have demonstrated a commitment to ongoing institutional transformation to better match the assets of underserved students. Attendees represented a cross-section of campus life, including presidents, senior leaders in academic affairs, student affairs, administration and fiscal management, institutional research and institutional advancement as well as deans, multicultural center directors, and faculty.

[Read more about the "Mapping Opportunities" project...](#)

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NERCHE hosts two Leadership Speaker Events

As part of NERCHE's ongoing Leadership Speaker Series, Dr. Linda Eisenmann, currently the new Provost at Wheaton College, delivered a presentation and led a discussion on "*Leadership Challenges at the Dean's Level: Understanding the Limitations of Authority*" on February 20, 2009, 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.

Mr. Jeffrey Apfel, former Senior Vice President for Administration in Finance at Rutgers University, led the second Leadership Speaker event on Friday, April 3, 2009, with a presentation on "*The Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Stewarding Change.*"

[Read more about the Leadership Speaker Series...](#)

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The Democracy Imperative Conference

NERCHE is a sponsor of The Democracy Imperative and its conference focusing on the impact of deliberative democracy on future directions for educators and practitioners in teaching, research, and citizen-centered initiatives. The meeting is being held from July 8 – July 11, 2009, at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH: <http://www.unh.edu/democracy/conference2009>. As part of its sponsorship, NERCHE has made available four scholarships to cover conference registration for students interested in attending.

[Learn more about The Democracy Imperative Conference...](#)

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NERCHE co-hosts spring seminar series on Community-Engaged Scholarship and Learning

Co-Sponsored by NERCHE, the College of Public and Community Service (CPCS), and the Labor Resource Center at UMass Boston, the series included the following presentations and panels:

- Dr. Eugene Rice, "*Engagement and Academic Careers: A New Generation of Scholars and Scholarship*," February 2009
- Dr. Nadinne Cruz, "*Civic Arts: A Theory of Engaged Knowing*," March 2009
- UMB Faculty Panel, "*Is Community-based Practitioner Knowledge Recognized and Valued by Universities?*" April 2009
- UMB Engaged Students, *Public Scholarship Capstone Conference*, May 2009

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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.

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