



# NAEA

## A Historical Timeline

### WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

The National Alternative Education Association was developed to support the disenfranchised youth and to re-engage these students back into the education environment. The innovative thinking of the founders decided to develop an association to help meet the needs of these students. The NAEA is, in effect, a byproduct of the Safe Schools Coalition (SSC). The SSC organized and supported the initial alternative education conferences in Kissimmee, FL then Orlando, FL. The founders of the SSC were Ruth and Edsel Erickson.

### THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FOUNDERS OF THE NAEA:

\*See attached spreadsheet for Board Directors and dates of service from association records 2002-2022.

Fritz J. Erickson, EdD  
Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI  
Founding NAEA President

Alan W. McEvoy, PhD  
Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI  
Founding NAEA Vice President

John Vonk, PhD  
University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO  
Founding NAEA Secretary/Treasurer



# THE FOLLOWING IS A TIMELINE OF EVENTS THAT HAVE SHAPED THE ASSOCIATION INTO THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT IT IS TODAY

## 1995

- ✓ Development of the Association – The Association was an affiliation of the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay until 2008 at which time the affiliation was affiliated with Farris University in Michigan

## 2002

- ✓ The Association was incorporated in the State of Florida

## 2009-2011

### Under the Presidency of Lori Lamb, Arkansas

NAEA dissolved its affiliation with the University and became an independent Association

- ✓ Held Symposium in Rogersville, Arkansas
- ✓ Adopted the Exemplary Practices for Alternative Education Program
- ✓ Established 5-Year Strategic Goals
- ✓ Revised Policies and Financial Guidelines

## 2011-2013

### Under the Presidency of Lori Lamb, Arkansas

- ✓ First National Alternative Education Conference as an independent association was held at the Downtown Hilton in Nashville, Tennessee
- ✓ Established outreach for state associations
- ✓ Established dialog with USDOE to speak as conference Keynote

## 2013-2015

### Under the Presidency of Robert Eichorn, Virginia

Developed social media presence & technology tools for state association use

- ✓ Development and implementation of social media – website, Facebook, Twitter
- ✓ Development of the NAEA App for state use
- ✓ Updated 5-Year Strategic Plan
- ✓ Adopted “Exemplary Practices in Alternative Education 2.0”

## 2015-2017

### Under the Presidency of Kay Davenport, Tennessee

- ✓ Expansion and support of Regional Meetings
- ✓ Utah and Florida established state associations
- ✓ Established partnerships & piloted Exemplary Practices & Rubric Pilot school programs
- ✓ Developed a partnership with National Dropout Prevention Center, Clemson University
- ✓ Developed a partnership with New England College. New England College offers a Graduate certificate in Alternative Education. The courses are taught by NAEA Board Members.
- ✓ As the leading national professional association on alternative education, NAEA actively collaborated with other groups and submitted a position paper on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) regarding policy and implications for alternative education.
- ✓ NAEA Directors traveled to Washington, D.C. to engage Congressmen and Senators as well as members of the US Department of Education to gain support for Alternative Education

## 2017-2019

### Under the Presidency of Pam Bruening, Florida

- ✓ Expanded partnerships, increased outreach, & established processes to allow for further growth
- ✓ Developed a partnership with Kennesaw State University, Georgia
- ✓ Hired its first Executive Director
- ✓ Updated Exemplary Practices & Rubric language
- ✓ Increased state associations & started seed money application process for new state associations
- ✓ Increased NAEA Board with establishment of Regional Directors residing within their regions to improve networking & connectivity
- ✓ Updated association branding, newsletters, membership database, & conference registration system
- ✓ Started annotated alternative schools research collection & advocacy tool sections on NAEA website
- ✓ New NAEA website is under construction to be launched in January of 2020

## **2019-2021**

### **Under the Presidency of Kathleen Chronister, Utah**

- ✓ Pivoted to the first virtual conference in 2020 due to Covid protocols
- ✓ Initiated virtual school tours
- ✓ Created new Executive Director position and hired Executive Director
- ✓ Created new Conference Director position and hired Conference Director
- ✓ Amended election procedures to include virtual voting
- ✓ Defined a definition of Alternative Education
- ✓ Generated NAEA position statement on civil discourse June 2020
- ✓ Launched NAEA new website
- ✓ Improved technology including Google Docs, Shared Drives, Transferable Email for board members
- ✓ Researched, organized, and uploaded all former NAEA Board documents into an accessible folder
- ✓ Developed an outline for running the first NAEA Exemplary Practices cohort for 18 schools

## TODAY

NAEA affiliates throughout the United States, Canada, Bermuda, and New Zealand Europe, and the Caribbean to promote alternative education. NAEA continues to be the premier organization advocating and providing professional development on behalf of professionals working with or on behalf of students in alternative education.

At least 30 states have established formal state associations to support professionals working with or on behalf of students in alternative or non-traditional programs in their states.

The Annual NAEA Conference draws more than 550 attendees representing 46 states and 3 countries every year.

The Exemplary Practices & Rubric have become a standard tool of guidance for many alternative & non-traditional schools. Numerous state departments have utilized the Exemplary Practices as a guide in developing their own state standards. Many alternative schools across the country have been established and evaluated with the guidance of the Exemplary Practices & the Rubric. The Exemplary Practices & the Rubric are being used in current dissertation research. In addition, the Rubric has been made electronic



## National Alternative Education Association

Developing  
Potential  
in All Students



## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

NAEA is looking to...

- ✓ Develop a process for accrediting alternative programs/schools.
- ✓ Continue to support state associations by helping to develop associations and provide guidance to exiting associations.
- ✓ Increase advocacy efforts at the state and national level.
- ✓ Increase partnerships with several universities around the country.
- ✓ Increase the visibility of student stories.



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