



Sept. 12, 2013

## Department: From Where I Sit



### Tracy L. Cross, NAGC President Looking Ahead

Greetings from a new voice in the leadership. While I am about two weeks into the Presidency of NAGC, I am a long time member of the gifted community and a steady supporter and contributor to NAGC. While I am happy to serve in the president's role, I am still learning about it. Nancy Green and the NAGC professionals who run the headquarters have been wonderful in their efforts to prepare me for what lies ahead. I would also like to publically welcome George Betts, who begins his term as president-elect as I begin mine as president. I'm sure George will bring to this role both respect and appreciation for past practice, as well as enthusiasm for what NAGC can be in the future.

I actually start my work this weekend, when we have a [Board](#) Retreat in Indianapolis—it's an important annual event for NAGC. Why? It's the time every year when we look back at our accomplishments and challenges, and then look forward to what the future may hold. This year, we have invited outside experts to join us to discuss the national education landscape as well as successful models for supporting diversity and inclusion through a broad action plan. We take the long view to anticipate what may be coming down the path to change education and the world of our members. To my knowledge, no other group within NAGC looks ahead in this way, which then results in our roadmap for the next two years.

Our meeting this weekend in Indianapolis is just two short months before NAGC's best and brightest come together back here in the same location. Having been here many times, I can share first-hand knowledge of how the city has grown and changed. The [JW Marriott Hotel](#) is brand new, and its location

in downtown Indy is very close to restaurants, shops, professional sport complexes, museums, and even the zoo. I believe that that this year's conventioners will enjoy the location immensely.

I am also quite excited about the sessions for this year's [Convention](#). To celebrate the NAGC 60th anniversary, there are many signature sessions that highlight, emphasize, and generally celebrate the important figures in the field that set the stage for us to exist 60 years later as a professional organization. All sorts of creative ideas will manifest over the course of the conference. It has been very exciting for me to learn of these ideas and to see them grow and develop. In early November, all this will come to fruition and like everyone else in attendance, I will be there learning and enjoying myself. When the Convention is over, not only will I have engaged in considerable professional development, I will have learned a great deal about the history of the field of gifted education. I cannot express the level of pride and degree of gratitude that I feel to have this special perspective during the 60th anniversary of NAGC.

On a more personal note, not only is this year of the NAGC Convention very special, its location is near and dear to my heart. I lived and worked in Indiana for 16 years, and more importantly, my four children were raised there. I encourage you to come join the Hoosier family and enjoy their hospitality.

As we complete the important work of the Retreat, please mark your calendar for a special webinar on Thursday, September 26, from Noon to 1:00 p.m. (Eastern) where I will share, along with past president Paula O-K, our vision for the future. [Register for "NAGC: Leadership Directions—Navigating a Changing Educational Landscape" now](#), it's a free session. I look forward to hearing your feedback!