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Department: From Where I Sit



Gearing Up for NAGC's 60th Annual Convention

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Checkered flags. Black asphalt. Revving engines. These are just a few of the mental images we associate with Indianapolis. Beginning November 7, we hope those images will be replaced in your mind with engaging speakers, collegial conversations, and abundant resources.

I hope by now you have seen the preliminary Convention program that was mailed to NAGC members earlier this month. A glance at the schedule of events, and you will see the vast array of offerings. Please allow me to highlight just a few, since Indy is a personal favorite of mine. I have visited often since I worked at Ball State University for several years.

- We are excited to be holding our [60th NAGC Convention](#) in Indianapolis this year—a city that is synonymous with speed and energy. You, too, can seize the moment by signing up for “Keeping Pace: Behind the Scenes at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Home of the Indianapolis 500,” one of ten **Action Labs** created to provide a learning opportunity while also educating you about the local area. Participants will receive a grounds tour with visits to notable landmarks normally not open to the general public plus a trip to a racing team facility to see how the race cars are built.
- As for Indiana history related to gifted education, you can learn about Dr. Martin Jenkins, a native of Terre Haute, Indiana and alum of Indiana State, the first African American scholar to publish scholarly works from 1934-1950 related to highly gifted Black children across the nation. A panel featuring local African American gifted students will be featured. In other **Signature**

Sessions you will also be able to hear about influential leaders in the field as well as the perspective of past NAGC presidents.

- The history and culture lesson will continue into the evening when you are invited to the **Indiana Party at the Indiana State Museum**, hosted by NAGC and the [Indiana Association for the Gifted](#). Constructed completely from Indiana materials, the building holds thought-provoking and hands-on exhibits on Indiana's history.
- Convention attendees can offer their support to the local community by joining the team of Back on My Feet, a national organization that uses running to help the homeless, for a **fun run/walk** along the White River. The JW Marriott, our headquarters hotel, is the meeting place for the team at 5:45am on Friday.
- One other local connection to Indy: *New York Times* bestselling author [John Green](#), our Saturday keynote speaker, was born in and currently lives in Indiana.

So buckle your seat belts and get ready for a visual and intellectual adventure in a classic American city, all while celebrating NAGC's 60th "diamond" anniversary year. We look forward to seeing you on the starting line in November!