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Department: From Where I Sit



Brian Housand, NAGC Board of Directors, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC NAGC = “Gifted Land”

Educators across the country are embarking or are about to embark on the journey of yet another school year. With every new school year, we are confronted with new promises and new possibilities of what might happen. For me, this is always a time to set new personal and professional goals. I am now entering my second year as an At-Large Member of the [NAGC Board of Directors](#), and I would like to share some of my goals related to NAGC for this academic year.

To me, NAGC represents an idealized version of the place that I lovingly refer to as “Gifted Land”. Since attending my first [NAGC Convention](#) in 2000 in Atlanta, the start of school year has also signaled that the annual convention was only a few months away. For many years, I mistakenly equated NAGC with only the Convention. Perhaps, this is because the Convention is a life altering, giant gathering of like-minded and not so like-minded individuals from who all share a passion for gifted children. It is a time to learn from and interact with professionals, researchers, and master teachers. It is a time to reconnect with old friends and to make new friends. However, I want to challenge you to seek out ways connect to all that NAGC has to offer, and not just during the one week during November.

This school year I am challenging myself to do at least ONE thing each week to more deeply connect with “Gifted Land” and to take full advantage of the wealth of resources and information that NAGC has to offer.

TAKE ADVANTANGE OF THE LIVE LEARNING CENTER

At every NAGC [Convention](#) there are always so many amazing sessions that I want to attend, and it never seems to fail that I am simply not able to see them all. Did you know that recordings of many of the sessions from past conventions are available in the [NAGC's Live Learning Center](#) for free? I am a little embarrassed to say that I have never taken advantage of this valuable perk from being an NAGC Member and conference attendee.

READ MORE ARTICLES IN *GIFTED CHILD QUARTERLY*

While I love technology and constantly try to envision what the future will look like, I am also a firm believer that we must have a deep understanding and appreciation for the past. One of my favorite member benefits of NAGC is the free, full access to the electronic version of *Gifted Child Quarterly* <http://www.nagc.org/GiftedChildQuarterly.aspx>. Every article from every issue dating back to 1957 is available online. This academic year, I vow to read more deeply so that I may see further by better stand on the shoulders of the giants of our field.

ATTEND MORE WOWS

While I conducted three separate [Webinars on Wednesday for NAGC](#), I am also embarrassed to say that I have only attended three others. This year, I plan to take better advantage of this ongoing professional development delivered to my Digital Information Device (DID) by some of the leading experts in the field. Personally, I am very excited about the FREE WOW being held on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 4:00 PM being conducted by my friend and fellow tech geek, Ginger Lewman entitled Twitter 201: Powering Up Your Network. My major goal from this year is to transition from being primarily a consumer of information online to being a better producer of new knowledge and information via Twitter.

So, what is your plan for the new school year? How are you going to leverage all that NAGC has to offer to best meet your professional learning needs to empower you to better meet the needs of the gifted children in your life?

About Brian

Brian Housand is an assistant professor and co-coordinator of the Academically and Intellectually Gifted Program at East Carolina University. Dr. Housand earned a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology at the University of Connecticut's National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented with an emphasis in both gifted education and instructional technology. His column, Technology Untangled, appears in the NAGC publication *Teaching for High Potential*. He currently serves on the NAGC Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large. Brian frequently presents and works as an educational consultant on the integration of technology and enrichment into the curriculum. He is currently researching ways in which technology can enhance the learning environment and is striving to define creative-productive giftedness in a digital age. Check out his [website](#) or follow him on Twitter @brianhousand.