



July 11, 2013

## **Department: From Where I Sit**



### **Tracy L. Cross, NAGC Convention Program Chair and NAGC President-Elect Back Home in Indiana**

As the NAGC president-elect and Convention program chair, I am given this opportunity to provide some information about the upcoming [NAGC Convention](#) to be held in the beautiful city of Indianapolis, Indiana. Indiana holds a special place in my heart as I was very fortunate to serve as the executive director of the [Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities](#) for nearly a decade. I served as president of the [Indiana Association for the Gifted](#), and I worked at the wonderful Ball State University for 16 years. In short, becoming President of NAGC during the conference being held in Indianapolis is a very precious and appreciated opportunity for me. And as the old song goes, I look forward to being Back Home in Indiana.

This year's NAGC convention is very important, as it is our 60th anniversary as an organization. To celebrate, conventioners will find myriad opportunities to learn about important milestones in our history that have helped get NAGC to where it is today. To host this celebration in Indiana is particularly appropriate as the state has been quite influential in the field of gifted education and the history of NAGC. For example, the following are a few of the Hoosiers who have worked on behalf of students with gifts and talents: Lewis Terman, John Feldhusen, Howard Spicker, Don Treffinger, Cheryl Adams, Sydney Moon, David Williams, Vickie Barton, Marcia Gentry, Jean Peterson, Felicia Dixon, Jonathan Plucker, Kristie Speirs Neumeister, Ginny Burney, Michael Thompson, Nina Yssel, Jennifer Riedl Cross, and many others. This does not include the numerous alums from the doctoral programs at the state universities who are leading programs across the United States.

The Signature Series are a special part of any NAGC Convention, but especially this 60th anniversary year. The Signature Series help NAGC share information on important topics that reflect NAGC's mission and goals. This year 11 sessions will be presented that range from a dialogue about the future of the field from the gifted child perspective and the talent development perspective, to events that very

specifically bring to life important figures from the past. Some of the figures are well known, while others less so. Both groups are important of the development of the field. Knowing what will be presented will hopefully elicit two conflicting feelings: 1) I had no idea that that was already in place or attempted 60 years ago, and 2) the field has moved to an increasingly sophisticated conception of giftedness and talent and I can see how it connects with the past. One session that will likely bring about these two feelings is the session with past presidents discussing where they think the field is headed.

Another wonderful outcome of the Signature Series is that the diversity of the field relative to important historical figures is evident. This is quite intentional and important as one of the goals of NAGC is to be reflective of the diversity of both the professionals who provide gifted education services and those needing them.

I hope that you enjoy these Signature Series.

Happy 60th NAGC.