



Aug. 23, 2012

Department: From Where I Sit



Tracy L. Cross, NAGC Convention Program Chair and NAGC President-Elect Back to School and Back to Learning . . . for All of Us

The 24/7 news cycle turns toward educational stories at this time of year. Concerned educators and parents are troubled when hearing that services to our most promising students may be severely reduced, or in some cases, eliminated entirely. How do we prepare, in our professional development and roles as parent advocates, to face the naysayers and conquer common myths of gifted education? Well, you have taken two important steps already! You are a member of the national organization dedicated to supporting the needs of high-potential learners, and you are keeping up to date by reading NAGC's members-only, twice-monthly e-newsletter! Now take the third and show the naysayers that engaging and nurturing gifted and talented students is crucial to the school's performance and our nation.

Register now to attend the [NAGC 59th Annual Convention & Exhibition](#). The NAGC Convention takes place in Denver, Colorado, November 15-18. *I was tempted to change November 15 to November 14, because the [pre-](#)*

[convention programs](#) give you a unique glimpse of [how the Common Core State Standards will impact gifted and high-potential learners](#), take you on an [experiential learning opportunity](#) in and around the Mile-High City, or link you with [experts on critical issues and models for success](#). If you can make it only for the Convention, please plan to arrive early in the day on the 15th. The Convention officially kicks off at 2:30 pm with an opening general session. Over those four days you will: gather classroom management strategies, sample lesson plans, and products and ideas from exhibitors; learn about the latest research from scholars in the field; and compile a list of colleagues who support what you do. You take all this with you, ready to put to use at home, in your classroom, or with your students' families to support learning away from school.

When you register for the [NAGC Annual Convention](#), you are using your professional development budget wisely. You get all you need to succeed in supporting the needs of high-ability learners at the nation's largest event dedicated to gifted and talented education. Now is the time to register, before the September 21 early bird deadline. (That is also the group registration deadline.)

Do not let the negative headlines overshadow the progress you have made in your work in the classroom and at home. We must show school leaders and decision makers that engaging and nurturing gifted and talented students is crucial to the school's performance and our nation. Kick off the school year by educating with altitude!