



# AEFA

Spring 2006



## American Education Finance Association Newsletter

### Call for Nominations

#### President and Board of Directors

#### Slots Open for Federal Government Affiliate, Teacher Organization Affiliate and Three At-Large Seats

Please submit nominations to Patrick McEwan ([pmcewan@wellesley.edu](mailto:pmcewan@wellesley.edu)) and Anthony Rolle ([Anthony\\_Rolle@redlands.edu](mailto:Anthony_Rolle@redlands.edu)), co-chairs of the nominations committee, by **June 14, 2006**. Additional nominations may be considered at later dates.

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**Alert! 2008 AEFA Conference Date has changed.** The American Educational Research Association is holding its annual meeting in late March 2008, which conflicts with AEFA's 2008 Denver conference dates. The Board voted to change the dates from March 27-29, 2008 in Denver to April 10-12, 2008 at the same city and hotel. [More highlights from the Board meeting.](#)



#### ED STEINBRECHER RECEIVES AEFA OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Marge Plecki presented the **OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD for 2006 to Ed Steinbrecher** at the 2006 AEFA Conference.

As has been our tradition for the past 21 years, AEFA honors an individual for contributing to the field of education finance through public policy development, research, local education finance development, or service to AEFA. Ed Steinbrecher, the recipient of the 2006 Outstanding Service Award is a long-standing member of AEFA who has served in a number of leadership ...

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### President's Message

*Chris Roellke is Chair and Associate Professor of Education at Vassar College. He is also the Founding Director of the Vassar College Urban Education Initiative. He assumed the presidency of AEFA following the March, 2006 meeting in Denver.*

First, many thanks to Jim Guthrie, AEFA Immediate Past-President, for his able leadership of our organization. During Jim's tenure as President, he successfully launched AEFA's new quarterly publication, the *Journal of Education Finance and Policy* (edited by David Monk and David Figlio). Jim has also laid the groundwork ...

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Please submit your contribution to the *AEFA Newsletter* by AUGUST 1, 2006 to [hnelson@aft.org](mailto:hnelson@aft.org). The newsletter is sent to members of AEFA and helps the Board of Directors conduct the business of the organization. The newsletter also provides opportunities to share information on a wide range of school finance organizations, publications and activities. Most recent info at <http://www.aefa.cc/>.

*(President's Message continued)*

... for a new *Handbook of Research in Education Finance and Policy* (edited by Sunny Ladd and Ted Fiske). Jim has established considerable momentum for our organization and I look forward to working with him and the entire Board of Directors this year.

Second, a special thanks to Ed Steinbrecher, AEFA Executive Director, for managing a very difficult set of circumstances resulting from Hurricane Katrina. Ed quickly secured a fantastic alternative site in Denver and our conference success is due largely to his efforts. Ed's long-term dedication and commitment to our organization is now formally recognized, as he is the recipient of the 2006 AEFA Distinguished Service Award. Thank you, Ed Steinbrecher!

#### **Results of the Post-Conference Evaluation.**

Immediately following the 2006 Annual Conference in Denver, the program planning committee conducted an online post-conference survey. We are pleased with the response to our survey as 208 out of 310 (67%) conference attendees provided useful feedback that will assist President-Elect Jennifer King Rice as she works on developing themes and sessions for the 2007 conference to be held March 22-24 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Based on our survey, the 2006 conference was highly successful. For example, 92% of respondents rated our concurrent paper sessions as either excellent or good and over 95% of paper presenters rated their experience as either excellent or good. I am also pleased to report that a full 93% of our respondents indicated that they are highly likely or likely to attend the 2007 conference in Baltimore.

**Member preferences for future conferences.** We also want to take into account member preferences for future sites for our conference and our respondents identified "ease of travel" (direct flights, proximity to airports, etc.) as the most important consideration and "area attractions" (restaurants, entertainment, etc.) as another important consideration. Full results of the survey will soon be available on the AEFA website ([www.aefa.cc](http://www.aefa.cc)). I and the Board of Directors value your feedback a great deal and we look forward to working on your suggestions as we continue to strengthen our organization.

As many of you know, proposals continue to be placed before the AEFA Board for altering the organization's name to be more consistent with its aspirations to be global in nature and to capture the general education policy interests of a growing number of AEFA members. The Board will continue to work diligently to support our new Journal and forthcoming handbook and to expand and diversify our membership. These and other issues will be the focus of deliberation at the upcoming June meeting of the Board of Directors. As always, we will continue to solicit feedback from our membership on these and other important issues facing the organization.

Should you, as a member, have additional matters you believe worthy of Board consideration, you are invited to inform me or other Board members.

Lastly, it is an honor to have been selected as the 2007 AEFA President and I look forward to working with you this year and beyond. See you in Baltimore!

**Chris Roellke**  
AEFA President



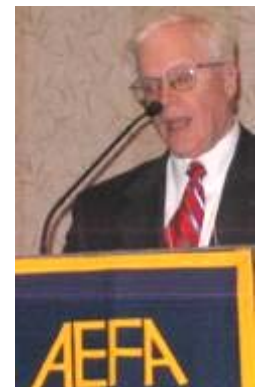
### **--Wrap-up-- 2006 Annual Conference Denver, Colorado**



**John Merrow** NewsHour education correspondent Executive Producer/Host and President of Learning Matters, Inc. spoke on **Declining by Degrees: Higher Education at Risk**. Using video clips, he took the first plenary session of the conference to college campuses around the country to hear firsthand from students, teachers and administrators, who provide

candid insights of the national problems and challenges facing higher education in America.

AEFA President **James Guthrie**, Vanderbilt University, gave the AEFA Presidential Address, which described how the association has been changing and speculated on future trends.



The third plenary session featured **David G. Sciarra**, Esq., Executive Director, Education Law Center and Counsel for Plaintiffs in *Abbott v. Burke*, the New Jersey school finance case. He described next steps for the 30-year old case.

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### Steinbrecher Awarded Outstanding Service Award

... positions in education finance, including service as one of AEFA's Presidents. He has contributed to AEFA in ways too numerous to mention. Most importantly, he is hard-working, humble, generous with his time, and gracious in every way.

Born in Colorado, but raised in Wisconsin, he returned to Colorado in 1966. He was awarded a B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse, a M.S. from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and an Ed.D. in Educational Administration from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Ed's professional positions include Director of Research for the Colorado Association of School Boards, Deputy State Commissioner of Education, as a superintendent of schools and a university professor. As Deputy Commissioner of Education in Colorado, he served on many national task forces and panels in special education, vocational education, and finance. He served two terms on the Board of Directors and is a past president of the American Education Finance Association, and since 2002 has been the Executive Director of the Association. He also served four terms on the Board of Directors of the Study Commission of the Chief State School Officers as well as two terms as its president.

A desire to return to the area of curriculum and to a local district prompted Ed's acceptance of the position of Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services in Jefferson County, Colorado's largest school district and then Superintendent of the Platte Canyon School District also in Colorado. He has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Colorado/Boulder, University of Colorado/Denver, University of Colorado/Colorado Springs, and the University of Denver. He was appointed a full time professor and Director of Administrator Preparation Programs, and Chair of the Department of Administration and Policy Studies at the University of Denver. His teaching areas included education finance, education law and education policy.



### Jean Flanigan 2005 Dissertation Award Goes to Debbi C. Harris

This year's winner of the annual Jean Flanigan Outstanding Dissertation Award was Debbi C. Harris, currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Florida State University.

She completed her dissertation, entitled "From Steps and Lanes to the NASCAR Circuit: Teacher's Responses to Professional Pay," in the Department of Educational Policy at Michigan State University, under the

supervision of David Arsen and Suzanne M. Wilson. Debbi's work exemplifies the sort of rigorous scholarship, grounded both in theory and practical policy application that AEFA strives to promote. The AEFA makes the award annually and the recipient receives a one year membership, complimentary conference registration, a commemorative plaque and a \$200 honorarium.



### 2006 New Scholars Awards Presented to Ashley J. Raduege-Broer and Colin Chellman

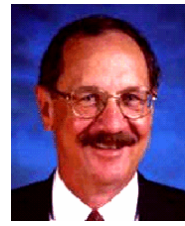


The first recipient of a 2006 AEFA New Scholars Award is **Ashley J. Raduege-Broer**, a graduate student in the School of Education and Human Development at the University of Colorado at Denver. Ms. Raduege-Broer's proposal, "Adjusted Measures of District and School Performance – A Social Justice Study of Colorado Latino Students," was selected based on the

thoroughness of the research design, the appropriateness of the topic and the relevance to AEFA research interests. Anthony Rolle (University of Redlands) chaired the selection and review committee. The Award includes a \$500 stipend to conduct the proposed research during the next year. Ms. Raduege-Broer will present her research at the 2007 annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland, March 22-24.

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The second recipient of a 2006 AEFA New Scholars Award is **Colin Chellman**, a graduate student in the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University. Mr. Chellman's proposal, "State and District Responses to No Child Left Behind – Three Essays on Education Accountability and Finance," also was selected based on the thoroughness of the research design, the appropriateness of the topic and the relevance to AEFA research interests. Anthony Rolle (University of Redlands) chaired the selection and review committee. The Award includes a \$500 stipend to conduct the proposed research during the next year. Mr. Chellman also will present his research at the 2007 annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland, March 22-24.



**William J. Mathis, Local Government Affiliate**, is Superintendent of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union in Brandon, Vermont. He has been a Vermont Superintendent of the Year in 2002. He frequently speaks before professional, policy, legislative and lay groups around the nation.

**Martin E. Orland, Federal Government Affiliate** is Director, Center for Education, The National Academies which is housed in the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences.



**Eric Hanushek, Member at Large**, is Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution of Stanford University is also a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research. His on-going research interests include the impacts of high stakes accountability, the importance of teacher quality, and school finance policy.

**New President and Board Members Elected**

At the 2006 AEFA Conference in Denver, members chose Jennifer King Rice of the University of Maryland as AEFA's President-Elect. Jennifer will serve as program chair for the 2007 conference in Baltimore, after which, she will succeed current President Chris Roelke. Congrats also go to newly elected Board members:



**Jennifer King Rice, President-Elect**, is in the Department of Education Policy and Leadership University of Maryland. Her current work focuses on teachers as a critical resource in the education process, and she is working on several projects focused on the costs of hiring and retaining qualified teachers in difficult-to-staff schools.



**Patrice Iatarola, Member at Large**, is in the Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies, Florida State University Her research focuses on the distribution, use and allocation of resources, school accountability, and high school reform, all with an emphasis on urban public schools and districts.



**Andrew Reschovsky, Member at Large**, is at the University of Wisconsin's Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs. At Wisconsin he is also associated with the Institute for Research on Poverty and the Department of Education Leadership and Policy Analysis.



**Abigail Payne, International Affiliate**, is Associate Professor of Economics at McMaster University where she holds a Canada Research Chair in Public Economics and is the director of the Public Economics Data Analysis Laboratory.



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**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

The Board of Directors of AEFA is a working group charged with governing, planning and overseeing all of the activities of the organization. The President-Elect is primarily responsible for the program at the annual

conference and after one year becomes the President, serving as the formal leader of and spokesperson for AEFA, initiating new policies, practices, and organizational relationships. For more details on the specific [duties of the AEFA Board](#), the [President](#) and the [President-Elect](#), see the attachment to this newsletter.

Any member in good standing can be nominated for these elected positions although prior service on the Board is suggested for the President-Elect nominees. Directors on the Board reflect the demographic and experience diversity of the membership, running the gamut from new assistant professors to experienced public servants. Typically, only about half of the Board has academic affiliations.

Board slots open in 2007 include:

- ✚ Member at Large (Three Positions)
- ✚ Federal Government Affiliate (One Position)
- ✚ Teacher Organization Affiliate (One Position)

**Board of Directors.** Active, thoughtful, and dedicated Board members are critical to the successful operation of AEFA. Thus, Board members and officers must agree, prior to having their names placed in nomination, to participate actively in Board meetings and the annual conference for three consecutive years following their election.

Board members represent the entire membership of the organization. Knowledge of the profession and the field, ability to think independently, and willingness to lead effectively and to work cooperatively with others are very important attributes to our members.

**President-Elect.** It is required that nominees for President-Elect have previously served a full term on the Board of Directors. The President-Elect is elected at the Annual Conference and assumes the presidency following the year of service as President. During this term of office, the President-Elect serves in the absence of the President, but is primarily responsible for the program at the Annual Conference. The President serves as the formal leader of and spokesperson for AEFA, initiating new policies, practices, and organizational relationships for one year following the year of service as President-Elect. The President oversees all new and continuing organizational activities during the year of service in this role.

**Please submit nominations to Patrick McEwan ([pmcewan@wellesley.edu](mailto:pmcewan@wellesley.edu)) and Anthony Rolle ([Anthony\\_Rolle@redlands.edu](mailto:Anthony_Rolle@redlands.edu)), co-chairs of the nominations committee, by June 14, 2006.** Additional nominations may be considered at later dates.

## Highlights

### AEFA Spring Board of Directors Meeting

The Board met on March 26 and March 29 at the Annual Conference in Denver.

- **AEFA Name Change:** After considerable discussion, the Board first voted to take action at this meeting to change the name of the association. Then a motion to change the name of the Association to the Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) was amended by vote of the Board to the Education Finance and Policy Association (EFPA). However, the proposed new name failed to get enough votes to replace AEFA. Finally the board voted to not change the Association's name to any new name at this time.
- **The Board approved:**
  1. The contract with Erlbaum Publishing for the Handbook of Education Finance.
  2. Payment of \$7,500 to the University of Florida for support of the Journal.
  3. A contract with Affiniscape of \$4,000 for the yearly lease of the Association's Software.
- **Financial Reports:** The Board reviewed year-end 2005 and year-to-date 2006 financial statements. AEFA had a very good year in 2005 primarily because of higher attendance at the Annual Conference, lower costs for the conference in Louisville, increased sponsorships by groups for the conference, and the subsidy from AIR for the Journal. The AEFA finished the year with a balance of \$76,374, up considerably from 2004.
- **Update on Denver Conference:** Just over 300 members registered and attended the conference which is up from prior years. It was not known if this is because of the new on line registration which was available this year but it should indicate a good overall turnout for the conference.
- **Review of dates for the 2008 conference:** Ed Steinbrecher brought up the issue that the AERA had moved their conference from their historical April dates to late March which would put our 2008 Denver conference dates in conflict with AERA. After discussion the Board voted to change the dates from March 27-29, 2008 in Denver to April 10-12, 2008 at the same city and hotel.



## In 2007, AEFA will be in Baltimore, Maryland

March 22-24  
Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel



Do you know which 19<sup>th</sup> century American poet lived in this house, which is an easy walk from the Sheraton Inner Harbor?

Hint: The title of his most famous poem is also the name of a Super-Bowl winning National Football League team.



The Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel is one block from the Inner Harbor (shopping, restaurants, food court, and historic attractions) and minutes from The National Aquarium and Maryland Science Center. Historic Fort McHenry, birthplace of the Star Spangle Banner, is 10 minutes away by water taxi.

### Future AEFA Conference

2008 in Denver

April 10-12

Westin Tabor Center Hotel

Every member is important to the strength of the AEFA and your best way to stay involved and contribute to your Association is to maintain your current mailing address and e-mail address in order to receive regular communications. Send changes to:

Ed Steinbrecher, Executive Director  
8365 S. Armadillo Trail  
Evergreen, CO 80439  
Ph. (303) 674-0857  
Fax (303) 670-8986

E-mail [EdS@aefa.cc](mailto:EdS@aefa.cc)



**AEFA Officers:** Christopher Roellke, President; Jennifer King-Rice, President-Elect; James W. Guthrie, Immediate Past President; and Ed Steinbrecher, Executive Director. **Board of Directors: Terms Expire at Adjournment of the 2007 Conference:** Dave Danning, Jane Hannaway, Helen F. Ladd, Martin Orland and Patrick McEwan. **Terms Expire at Adjournment of the 2008 Conference:** Lawrence Getzler, Jennifer Imazeki, Kim Rueben, Anthony Rolle and Richard Rothstein. **Terms Expire at Adjournment of the 2009 Conference:** Abigail Payne, William Mathis, Eric Hanushek, Patrice Iatarola and Andrew Reschovsky. **Designees of Sustaining Members:** Edward J. Hurley, National Education Association; Jewell C. Gould, American Federation of Teachers; and Ronald Skinner, Association of School Business Officials International. **Institutional Members:** American Institutes for Research, New Jersey Department of Education, Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, Rand Corporation, University at Albany-SUNY, Vanderbilt University. **Newsletter Editor:** F. Howard Nelson. **Education Finance and Policy, Executive Editors:** David Figlio and David Monk. **Executive Director Emeritus:** George R. Babigian. **Website:** <http://www.aefa.cc/>.

## **DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THE AMERICAN EDUCATION FINANCE ASSOCIATION**

The Board of Directors of the American Education Finance Association is a working group charged with governing, planning and overseeing all of the activities of the organization. Board members and officers must agree, prior to having their names placed in nomination, to participate actively in Board meetings and the annual conference for three consecutive years following their election.

Board members represent the entire membership of the organization. The powers and authority of Board members and officers are derived from the Articles of Incorporation and the By-laws of the organization. The Board meets three times a year--prior to the annual conference, immediately after the annual conference, and once during the summer months. The pre-conference meeting is usually 9:00 a.m. to noon the first day of the conference. The post-conference meeting is usually from 1:00-3:00 p.m. immediately following the last general session. The summer Board meeting, usually in June or July, begins early on a Friday morning and is completed by early afternoon on Saturday.

Board member responsibilities are as follows.

- + Serve as chairpersons and members of standing and ad hoc committees.
- + Participate in conference planning, including site, themes, and logistics.
- + Assist in the implementation of conference plans.
- + Assist with the development of newsletter copy.
- + Provide policy and administrative leadership and advice.
- + Participate in the development and approval of the annual budget.
- + Participate in membership drives.
- + Render internal and external leadership to the organization.

Committees of the Board include:

- + Outstanding Dissertation
- + Outstanding Service
- + Nominations
- + Long Range Planning and Administration (Immediate Past President, President, President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and at least one other Board member)
- + Membership (Secretary-Treasurer/Executive Director and a minimum of two representatives of the Board plus a minimum of two representatives of sustaining members of the Board)
- + Special Committees (e.g., Constitutional Revisions, Study Groups, Research Initiative)

## **DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN EDUCATION FINANCE ASSOCIATION**

The President serves as the formal leader of and spokesperson for AEFA, initiating new policies, practices, and organizational relationships for one year following the year of service as President-Elect. The President oversees all new and continuing organizational activities during the year of service in this role. Specific on-going responsibilities include:

- + Prepares agendas and presides over the Board meetings that follow the annual conference in which the person served as President-Elect, the summer Board meeting, and the Board meeting prior to the next annual conference.
- + Chairs the executive committee and serves on the long range planning committee of the Board.
- + Appoints chairpersons and members to Board committees immediately after the annual conference and oversees the work of these committees.
- + Works with the newsletter editor to plan and provide copy for newsletters.

- ✚ Presides, wherever needed, at the annual conference.
- ✚ Presents a brief presidential address at the annual conference.
- ✚ Sends follow-up letters to all committee chairs and Board members who served during the year and retiring Board members.
- ✚ Advises the President-Elect on matters pertaining to the annual conference.

### **DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE AMERICAN EDUCATION FINANCE ASSOCIATION**

The Vice President also serves as President-Elect. It is suggested that nominees for the position have previously served a full term on the Board of Directors. The Vice President is elected at the annual conference and assumes the presidency following the year of service as vice-president. During this term of office, the Vice President serves in the absence of the President, but is primarily responsible for the program at the annual conference. Tasks associated with the President-Elect include.

- ✚ In the absence of the President, presides over meetings and annual conference activities.
- ✚ Appoints and presides over a program committee at the Board meeting following the annual conference.
- ✚ Solicits proposals for sessions at the annual conference.
- ✚ Presents tentative conference plans and a theme at the summer Board meeting and solicits Board input and other specific assistance with conference planning.
- ✚ Identifies and contracts for services with major speakers during the summer prior to the annual conference; determines their travel arrangements, lodging and audio-visual needs.
- ✚ Prepares and distributes pre-registration mailers describing conference highlights and logistics in conjunction with the secretary-treasurer and president.
- ✚ Provides copy about the conference and keynote speakers to the newsletter editor for the late summer and winter editions of the newsletter.
- ✚ Acknowledges receipt of proposals, oversees selection of proposals, organizes presentations thematically, schedules presentations, determines audio-visual requirements, and notifies presenters of their participation and conference logistics.
- ✚ Prepares the annual conference program, makes room assignments, schedules breaks and socials, and audio-visual schedules with the secretary-treasurer. Programs are printed and brought to the conference site.
- ✚ Mails copies of the conference program to major speakers and confirms travel, lodging, and audio-visual plans about one and one-half months prior to the conference.
- ✚ Prepares follow-up letters to major presenters and others who played significant roles in the annual conference.
- ✚ Selects the recipients for the Roe John's Travel Award.