

## A little NEAC Conference History

Eighteen years ago, the Northeast Affiliates of ASCD, led by MA, created a new venture: the early December conference, developed and mounted by the NE affiliates (CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, Ontario, RI and VT). We saw this event as an opportunity to create a professional development experience focused on and targeted to the needs, interests and proximity of the geographical area. The location was Boston's historic Park Plaza Hotel and the time was the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas when the "big city" dressed up in its winter finery.

Topics ranged from Assessment (several years in the 90's) to Excellence (2013). An overarching category with different subcategories for several years was "Learning and Leading" as was "Matters" as in "Transformation Matters".

Headliners included such people as Gene Carter, the DuFours, Thomas Guskey, Andy Hargreaves, Doug Reeves, Ted Sizer, Carol Ann Tomlinson, Stephanie Pace Marshall and Alan November.

The conference grew each year until 2012 when competition from other organizations meeting in Boston and headlining some of "our" speakers, at the same time made the planning group question whether the format, long successful, was not now viable given the change in learning and social patterns with the advent of the new technologies.

So a new format has been devised. Two speakers will provide the morning's presentation webcast to all the affiliates involved now and then each will mount the afternoon's program independently.

We will see how this new format meets the needs of current and potential members.

Unlike the first year, we are getting a great deal of support from ASCD.

IKZ 10/4/14