“Let Us Turn to One Another”

Dear NADE Colleagues,

I’m hoping that all of you are having a lovely summer and that you are taking time to relax. I know that all of the changes and new directives on our campuses can be stressful, and some can be exciting. It seems the entire country is experiencing many levels of change. But as the saying goes, change is the only constant. However, I sometimes feel overwhelmed by it. I want to be inspired. When I find myself in need of motivation and encouragement, I think of NADE and the hundreds of members I
have met over the years and call friends. Mickey Hay, former NADE Vice President, always said, “NADE members are my tribe.” So true! There is an ineffable spirit about us that I hope we never lose. We need to remember that we are here for each other. Stay connected, share, get involved….support others when you can and let yourself be supported when you need it. Add your positivity to the field through NADE.

The following is a little gift to you which is another source of inspiration. I received it at a leadership workshop in Michigan. It is written by Margaret (Meg) Wheatley, and with permission, I’m passing it along to you. Her message is powerful and comforting. The excerpt is from her book, Turning to One Another. If you have time this summer, I encourage you to read it. It won’t disappoint. The greatest source of hope is “us.” No one knows us (our tribe) better than we do…and no one cares more about our field.

There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about. Ask “What’s possible? Not “What’s wrong?” Keep asking. Notice what you care about. Assume that many others share your dreams. Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters. Talk to people you know. Talk to people you don’t know. Talk to people you never talk to. Be intrigued by the differences you hear. Expect to be surprised. Treasure curiosity more than certainty. Invite in everybody who cares to work on what’s possible. Acknowledge that everyone is an expert about something. Know that creative solutions come from new connections. Remember, you don’t fear people whose story you know. Real listening always brings people closer together. Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world.
Rely on human goodness. Stay together.

Margaret J. Wheatley

Thank you for being a loyal member of NADE. Let’s keep the critical conversations going. NADE will support you. Contact NADE directly, office@thenade.org, or stay connected to NADE throughout the year:

Let us “turn to one another."
Deb, NADE President