



## A Letter from the President

### **2019: Prepared for Takeoff!**

On behalf of the Executive Board, I wish to convey our very best wishes for a happy new year! I hope each of you enjoyed quality time during the holiday season with family and friends. Because of your support, NADE has made several noteworthy accomplishments during 2018 and is enthusiastically prepared for takeoff in 2019!

For me, January has always been a month to exhale - a time for reflection, gratitude, and renewal. Especially with the unrelenting pace of change in the world during 2018, a small pause is welcomed. Many course and program cuts, new implementations, and new processes were experienced at the local and national levels. It was hard keeping pace. Some of the change was disappointing, but

much was exciting; innovation and redesign brought us a new dimension of advancements. Practitioners personalized many of the requested changes at their institutions - in ways that work best for their students. Our webinars and concept papers (formerly the Digest) will continue to share these innovations and highlight professional development opportunities regarding curriculum changes and andragogical tools.

The reform “glitter” has started to settle, and we all recognize that there will always be a need for developmental education practices. We learned that a one-size-fits-all approach is not a good idea. I learned from outside educational organizations, articles, and NADE that multiple-assessments can be effective and perhaps could be strengthened with more focus on the human factor. Considering along with academic scores and the usual non-cognitive variables, such as financial struggles, transportation obstacles, and housing concerns, we might want to deepen our understanding where students are “in their heads” at the time of college entrance. Addressing anxiety and mental health issues – including the impact sound and meditation have on learning - may prove beneficial, and may be worth additional exploration in 2019.

We learned that there are biased ways of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. As a result, more practitioners have begun to ask for more research/data support from NADE. We listened. Our Leadership Congress will provide a workshop for state and organization leaders regarding data – how to collect, read and share meaningful data in ways that will influence decision-makers. Our webinar in January is *Developmental Education: Professionalism, Politics, and Practice* (January 28, 2:00 p.m. Eastern) presented by Dr. Patrick Saxon, a respected leader in developmental education research. And, NADE’s February webinar is [\*Data, Won't You Be My Valentine? How to Lovingly Collect, Interpret, and Analyze Data in Higher Education \(February 14, 2:00 p.m. Eastern\)\*](#) presented by Alex Goudas, NADE’s current Research Committee Chair. Please connect with this committee for additional resources and support.

Moving forward, NADE will have a new name. It will be revealed at the Celebration Breakfast, at our 2019 Conference. NADE is and will continue to be a great organization. Thank you for being part of it. I am excited about our future work in 2019! This year’s Conference Committee has worked hard getting us “prepared for takeoff” in higher education! It is our conference theme and it is NADE’s

charge. I invite you to rededicate yourselves to the vision of NADE, for the betterment of higher education, and most importantly, for our students. Hope to see you in March!

With very best wishes,  
Deb Daiek, President

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