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## Upcoming Events

- **2022 Fall Forum – The Future of Assessment: What Higher Education Needs Next**
  - Nov. 3, 2022: virtual (live) presentations will be offered in the afternoon via Zoom.
  - Nov. 4, 2022: in-person, all-day conference at the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, MA).
  - Deadline for [proposing a presentation](#) has been extended to Sept. 16th.
  - Registration is also [now open](#).
- **2023 Dialogues in the Disciplines**
  - Exact date to be announced but traditionally late March

## Enjoy Your Membership Benefits:



- Access the recordings of [any and all of our webinars](#), including the most recent one from August 2022.
- Online access to the latest issue of the [Journal of Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness](#)
- Visit the [Job Board](#) to see what's out there
- [Contact us](#) with your ideas, interests, and what you might like to see next issue of this quarterly newsletter

***If you're not a member and these benefits sound attractive to you, consider [joining NOW](#)***

## Fall Forum Keynote Spotlight

NEean is excited to announce that Dr. Stephen P. Hundley will offer the Fall Forum keynote address, *New Realities, Promising Opportunities: Trends in Learning, Assessment, and Improvement for Our "Next Normal"*, on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA.

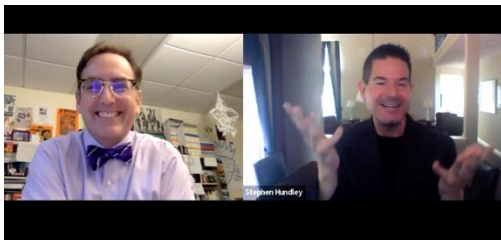


Director of Communications, Denny Frey, recently had the chance to interview Dr. Hundley not only about his forthcoming presentation, but also about his pathway to a career in assessment. The interview

## Fall Forum Keynote Spotlight (cont.)

—really more of a conversation—revolved around the following three questions: 1) What has been your professional journey to assessment work and in that journey; 2) What have been some of the challenges; and 3) What have been some of the joys and rewards? Other questions asked include: 1) Can you give us a brief preview of your keynote presentation?; and 2) Would you share with us some of your lessons-learned from the pandemic?

These rather wide-open questions led to a delightful conversation, lasting just over half-an-hour, with lots of insights about assessment, higher education, high-impact-practices (HIPs), re-accreditation, and many other topics. Readers are encouraged to follow the link below to watch the full interview:



<https://vimeo.com/744747105>

Stephen shared that his keynote presentation will begin with “a broad backdrop of some meta trends, meta themes in teaching, learning assessment and improvement,” but ultimately will “land on...equity and engagement and the interplay between those two main pillars” of higher education. He also extended an invitation to “those watching the video [and of course readers here] to be thinking about their own respective contexts, wherever you are, whatever role you play in all of this,” and to bring those contexts and thoughts “to the table” in November. In fact, as noted on [NEean's webpage announcement](#), participants “will have an opportunity to inventory their own practices and plan for learning, assessment, and

improvement in their respective contexts.” And, by doing so, we will all work collectively toward “promoting both *equity* and *student engagement* in our learning environments.”

## Review of the *Leading Improvements in Higher Education Podcast Series* by *Ana Maria Young*

Two years ago, during the start of the first full COVID academic year (2020-21), Dr. Stephen Hundley created the “Leading Improvements in Higher Education” podcast, which has continued uninterrupted to this current year. During that challenging first year, as the world scrambled to develop and distribute coronavirus vaccines, Dr. Hundley hosted 26 episodes, or an impressive average of one podcast, every two weeks. The first twelve episodes, each running just about an hour, plus or minus, include profiles of various partners organizations with the Assessment Institute of Indiana-University-Purdue-University -Indianapolis (IUPUI), which Dr. Hundley directs. The podcasts are a veritable who’s who of the Higher Education Assessment world. For instance, the inaugural episode features an enlightening conversation with the Executive Director of NILOA (National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment), Natasha Jankowski, and the Assistant Director, Gianina Baker. And, later episodes spotlight guests from organizations, such as AALHE, AAC&U, and SAAL to name just a few. Full of insight and resources from a variety of assessment experts, these first twelve episodes are a treasure trove of information. Dr. Hundley uses the following fourteen episodes from season one to broaden the conversations beyond assessment, bringing in leaders

## Review of the *Leading Improvements in Higher Education* Podcast Series (cont.)

from across higher education to discuss student affairs, presidential perspectives, enrollment management, and other topics relevant to improving the student experience.

Season Two continues offering listeners a broad range of topics in assessment. Dr. Hundley's interview style allows guests ample opportunity to introduce themselves and provide context for how they came to be assessment professionals. Guests connect their professional and personal stories to assessment helping listeners envision how it is possible for them to transition into assessment as a profession. Additionally, he summarizes answers and lists key points or concepts described and explained by guests. This demonstrates his respect for their expertise but also gives the sense that he is truly listening to their responses and absorbing what they have come to share on the podcast. While the topics are focused on assessment, they are a wide range of themes and topics from case studies of competency-based systems, national organizations focused on assessment, and award recipients, to broader topics of equity and justice through assessment practices.

A theme that continues to dominate the conversation in the podcast and assessment community at large is concerned with using assessment to increase equity and justice. This seems to go beyond the more commonly discussed topic of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) but rather challenges professionals to use assessment practices to make systemic changes to improve student outcomes centered on justice, belonging and equity. Even when equity and justice are not the focus of the podcast conversation, they are mentioned as necessary components of a successful assessment culture and infrastructure.

The greatest strength of the podcast is Dr.

Hundley's ability to keep the listener engaged by asking guests open-ended questions that connect to practical applications of assessment. He often asks guests to share experiences with listeners of times when the implementation has not gone as planned or what advice they have to help avoid mistakes guests may have made when embarking on their assessment journey. *Leading Improvements in Higher Education* has insights to offer novices and experts in the field. Dr. Hundley keeps the content accessible by clarifying jargon, summarizing pertinent information, as well as providing resources for further exploration.

## Board Member Transitions

NEean held its annual election in late May 2022 for two positions on the Board of Directors. Those vacancies arose when two, long-serving members announced that they would not seek re-election to the board. Before announcing the newest additions to the Board, we would like to offer our deepest gratitude and warmest wishes on their next adventures to Richard (Dick) Gerber, and Gavin Henning.

As one of the founding members of the Network, Dick Gerber provided NEean with more than two decades of service, including a stint as President. More recently, Dick has served as the Network's Parliamentarian.



Holding the rank of Professor Emeritus of History at Southern Connecticut State University, Dick continues to research, write, teach, and share his love of the past with

## Board Member Transitions (cont.)

others. We honor him by adding “Board Member Emeritus” to his professional titles.

Serving as NEean’s Treasurer, Gavin Henning not only kept the books but also brought renewed vitality and energy to the Network. On several occasions Gavin chaired ad hoc committees, exploring new opportunities and initiatives, in webinars and sponsorships.



His insight and contributions helped the Network weather the storms of COVID. Gavin continues on in his day-job, as the Program Director of the Department of Higher Education at New England College’s Graduate & Professional School.

Stepping off the regular board, but remaining as an affiliated member, is Kim Puhala. Kim contributed webinars to our programming, and we welcome her continued energy and fresh ideas on the Program Committee and elsewhere in NEean. Kim is now a Senior Data Analyst with HelioCampus.

And, now we offer hearty congratulations to Paul Antonellis, Jennifer (Jen) Mandel, and Kim McKeage, who were elected to the board for two-year terms. Paul is Director of Institutional Planning and Advancement at Endicott College, and will be our new Parliamentarian. Jen is the Associate Director of Assessment at the University of New England, and will be our new Treasurer. Kim is the Associate Director of Learning Outcomes Assessment at Greenfield Community College and serves as an at-large board member.

Going into this academic year, the roster of NEean’s board will be:

- President – Craig Pepin
- Vice-President – Carina Self

- Treasurer – Jen Mandel
- Communications Director – Denny Frey
- Parliamentarian – Paul Antonellis
- Program Director – George Michna
- Member at Large – Marlene Clapp
- Member at Large – Kierstyn Hunter
- Member at Large – Kim McKeage
- Member at Large – Sandra Mohr
- Member at Large – Mark Nichols
- Member at Large – Mamta Saxena
- Affiliated Member – Wafa Al Tamimi
- Affiliated Member – William (Will) Duffy
- Affiliated Member – Carlos A. Gonzalez Campos
- Affiliated Member – Ed Morgan
- Affiliated Member – George (Tony) Pepper
- Affiliated Member – Henriette (Riette) Pranger
- Affiliated Member – Kim Puhala
- Affiliated Member – Michael Rossi
- Affiliated Member – Ana Maria Young
- Affiliated Member – Natalia Zagula
- Ex Officio Member – Raymond (Ray) Shaw, JAIE Co-editor

## A Community of Practice: Volunteer Opportunities

The Network is first and foremost a community of practice, bringing together folks of varying levels of experience and varying roles at institutions of higher education. We pride ourselves on our welcoming and supportive mission to further efforts at assessment so as to improve teaching and learning.

Our network functions and thrives through a robust committee structure. We would like to invite our members to consider joining us in this work. The following committees are always looking for volunteers: Programming, Communications, and Membership.

If you are interested in any of these committees, or if you have any ideas that you would like to share with them, then please don’t hesitate to contact us at [neean.assess@gmail.com](mailto:neean.assess@gmail.com)