MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FRIENDS OF NEC PRESIDENT:

The Northshore Education Consortium remains committed to the core mission of providing high-quality, cost-effective public programs, support services, and resources to assist member districts in meeting the needs of students who require specialized educational services.

The generous support of our friends and donors in FY 2017 enabled us to make significant advances in expanding the technology available to our educators and our students and allowed us to continue to provide a varied array of enrichment activities in all of our schools. Once again, we were able to start the school year with many new computers, laptops, Chromebooks, iPads, and augmentative communication devices in our classrooms. We have enhanced our sensory integration spaces, and have begun to plan for a new rock wall in the gym at Northshore Academy.

Some highlights of the past year included:

- Continued progress in the upgrading of educational technology across programs
- Continued expansion of our transition, pre-vocational and vocational programs, including a wide array of community-based jobs and internships
- Continued implementation of best practices in the areas of trauma-informed care and behavioral support
- Beginning the process of transferring the Topsfield Vocational Academy from CREST Collaborative to NEC
- The successful graduation of 34 students who passed their MCAS exams and received diplomas from their sending districts
- The provision of training and consultation for member districts in the areas of Behavioral Health and Augmentative Communication
- Participation and leadership in several statewide initiatives including, Low Income Education Access Project, Inclusive Practice Ambassador Project, and a Pilot Program for a new Competency Review process for licensing Special Educators

What does this mean for our students and families? It means that a young man who has struggled with anxiety, depression, and substance use after a childhood filled with trauma took his SATs, is applying to college and envisioning a future filled with hope and possibility. It means that a teen-aged girl with physical and intellectual disabilities joyfully attended her first school dance. It means that students with mental health challenges spent a beautiful fall weekend hiking on the mountains, that parents of children with autism have a peer support group, and that community businesses are seeing young adults with disabilities succeed in the workplace!

We couldn’t succeed without all of you. And so, once again, we would like to thank our staff for their outstanding work, the Friends of NEC Board for their service and commitment, and our fantastic community of supporters and donors who play a key role in helping us fulfill our mission!

Francine Rosenberg
Executive Director
Graham Bacheller, President
Friends of NEC

NEC BOARD MEMBERS
Dr. Steven Hiersche
Beverly Public Schools
Dr. Lisa Dana
Danvers Public Schools
Dr. Richard Safier
Gloucester Public Schools
Dr. Michael Harvey
Hamilton-Wenham Public Schools
Dr. Michael Harvey
Hamilton-Wenham Public Schools
Dr. Catherine Latham
Lynn Public Schools
Ms. Jane Tremblay
Lynnfield Public Schools
Mr. Anthony Perantozzi
Nahant Public Schools
Mr. Jon Bernard
North Reading Public Schools
Mr. Jon Bernard
North Reading Public Schools
Dr. Herb Levine
Peabody Public Schools
Dr. John Doherty
Reading Public Schools
Mr. Robert Liebow
Rockport Public Schools
Dr. Margarita Ruiz
Salem Public Schools
Ms. Pamela Angelakis
Swampscott Public Schools
Mr. Scott Morrison
Tri-Town School Union
Mr. BrianForget
Triton Regional School District

FRIENDS OF NEC BOARD MEMBERS:
Graham Bacheller, President
Margot Abels
Christopher Corcheri
Cynthia Johnson
Andrea Kantaros
Bridget McGuiness

Francine Rosenberg
Executive Director
Graham Bacheller, President
Friends of NEC
42 years of service
20.3 million dollar operating budget (NEC and Friends)
20 member districts (local cities and towns)
18 NEC Governing Board Members
10 Friends of NEC Board Members (including Ex-Officio members; non-profit board)
270 NEC staff
7 NEC Schools/Programs served 427 NEC students from 54 districts:
  Kevin O’Grady School served 126 students from 31 districts
  Northshore Academy Upper School served 146 students from 36 districts with 18 graduates
  Northshore Academy Lower School served 52 students from 24 districts with 45% return to home districts
  Recovery High School served 54 students from 23 districts with 14 graduates
  Embark served 13 students from 7 districts with 2 graduates
  SOAR served 23 students from 13 districts with 8 graduates
  STEP served 13 students from 9 districts with 1 graduate

Cost/Benefit Analysis:
Based on an analysis of private schools serving similar populations, member districts can save up to $150/day (over $27,000/year, not including transportation costs) by sending a student to an NEC program.

Additional 100+ students received school-based consultation, vision or home-training services from NEC enabling them to remain in local home schools.

Philanthropic Development:
- Revenue of $177,150
- $35,069 donated to our Tribute Program
- $83,778 received from grants (supporting technology, much needed equipment for our most physically disabled students, vocational programming, advancements in our arts programming and additions to our athletic field and track)
- $28,042 was raised during our annual appeal; our highest year ever
- A $150,000 proposal was prepared by NEC and presented to Linzee and Beth Coolidge. They graciously accepted our proposal and agreed to gift Friends of NEC $150,000 for purposes specific to advancements in technology, sensory integration, the arts, and the building of a rock climbing wall. Funds were granted July 2017 from the Belinda Fund. There will never be enough “thank you’s” for the Coolidges and what they have done for NEC.

Changes of note:
- Preparation for the transition of a new school into NEC effective July 1, 2017; the Topsfield Vocational Academy
- Throughout FY 2017, preparation was being made for the Topsfield Vocational Academy (TVA) to transfer from the CREST Collaborative to NEC effective July 1, 2017. TVA provides hands-on vocational training to middle and high school students who benefit from social, emotional, and behavioral interventions to achieve their educational goals. While students participate in core academic classes, they also participate in a variety of vocational experiences which include on-site woodworking and culinary arts programs and off-site opportunities such as auto shop, sheet metal, and child care.

Professional Development:
- 500+ professionals (non-NEC) attended our Professional Development courses and workshops