



NASDSE's 80TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND BUSINESS MEETING

"Aligning Systems of Support to Improve Meaningful Daily Outcomes"



OCTOBER 6 – 9, 2018

OMAHA MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN AT THE CAPITOL DISTRICT



Dear Colleagues:

It is my distinct pleasure to invite you to NASDSE's 80th Annual Conference and Business meeting. I can't believe that NASDSE is 80 years strong!! The Conference will take place October 6-9, 2018 in Omaha, Nebraska -- centrally located so everyone can hopefully get there in a half day or less.

The theme for this year's Conference is ***Aligning Systems of Support to Improve Meaningful Daily Outcomes***. Your Conference planning team has made a few changes in the format for this year's conference while keeping some long-standing traditions.

- There will be two pre-conference meetings in the late afternoon on Friday, October 5th for the 7-PAK Consortium and the Small States Consortium.
- The NASDSE business meeting will take place on Saturday, October 6th and will be an all-day meeting (9-4) to ensure that there is ample time for discussion. Your input is always so valuable to the organization.
- Based on your last year's feedback, the conference will end with a luncheon on Tuesday, October 9th so you can catch a flight home on Tuesday.
- The Installation and Awards ceremony will be included in the State Night activities at the beautiful Lauritzen Gardens.
- The You Pick sessions will allow for further discussions based on the keynote sessions.

Other Conference staples will continue, including:

- a welcome reception to meet new state directors;
- a keynote session with OSEP leadership;
- sponsor showcases;
- NASDSE's terrific Silent Auction (remember to bring a gift that reflects your state!); and
- a government relations update.

Please join me in thanking our Conference organizers – Jamie Wong, our Conference Chair and Steve Milliken, our Conference Host.

During our time together in Omaha, we'll be able to greet old friends and make new ones. We'll have time for both formal and informal discussions, food for thought and a host of sharing opportunities.

The NASDSE Board and staff look forward to seeing everyone in Omaha.

Santina Thibedeau
NASDSE President

REGISTRATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Please note that there are three registration options for this year's conference:

- Early Bird Registration \$475 (through July 15)
- Regular Registration \$525 (through September 28)
- Late Registration \$600 (after September 28)

Your registration fee covers all conference events, including State Night and the receptions. Your registration payment or purchase order MUST be received by the closing date to count for either the Early Bird or Regular registration options. [NASDSE Conference Registration Link](#)

Payment can be made by credit card or check. Checks should be made payable to NASDSE and mailed to: NASDSE Conference 2018; Attention: Accounts Payable, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420; Alexandria, VA 22314. Purchase orders may be mailed to the above address or faxed to: (703) 519-3808.

GUEST TICKETS

This year we have combined State Night and NASDSE's Installation and Awards Ceremony. Guest tickets for this event is available for purchase by conference attendees for \$80, if purchased prior to September 28th. After this date, we cannot guarantee that tickets will be available.



CANCELLATIONS

A \$100 processing fee will be imposed for conference registration cancellations made after Friday, September 14th. Registration fees for cancellations after Friday, September 28th will not be refunded. Cancellation notices must be submitted directly to Carla.Meade@nasdse.org.

OMAHA MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN ACCOMMODATIONS

The conference hotel, the Omaha Marriott Downtown Capitol District, is located at 222 North 10th Street, Omaha, Nebraska. Conference participants are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements. The hotel room rate is \$154 plus taxes. The hotel's phone number is (402) 807-8000. To make your conference hotel reservations, click here: [Marriott Hotel Reservation Link](#).

Hotel reservations can also be made by calling 1-844-696-3779. If you are making your reservations by phone, please identify yourself as part of the NASDSE conference in order to qualify for the special group rate. These special conference rates are available from October 3rd – October 10th so that conference attendees may arrive early or extend their stay.

To ensure you receive the conference rate, make your reservations by **Wednesday, September 12th**. Reservations made after Wednesday, September 12th will be confirmed on a space and rate available basis. Be sure to advise the hotel staff of any special room requirements you may have.

TRANSPORTATION

The Omaha Marriott Downtown Capitol District is less than five miles from the Eppley Airfield Airport (OMA). The hotel provides complimentary shuttle services to/from the airport, which runs every half hour.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

CONFERENCE AGENDA

[Click Here](#) to view and download the conference agenda. The Draft Agenda will be updated on a regular basis.

Please note that while the conference ‘officially’ opens on Sunday, October 7th, NASDSE special meetings with 7-PAK and Small States Consortium will take place on Friday, October 5th and the business meeting for state directors and will take place beginning on Saturday, October 6th.

Please make your travel plans accordingly.

PRECONFERENCE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING FOR STATE DIRECTORS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

NASDSE’s 7-Pak Consortium and Small States Consortium will meet at 4:30pm on Friday, October 5th. NASDSE’s annual Business Meeting for state directors (or their designees) will begin on Saturday, October 6th at 9:00 am. This session provides a rare opportunity for state directors to meet in a closed-door session with their peers. State directors are urged to arrive in Omaha in time to attend these important meeting. NASDSE President Santina Thibedeau and Executive Director Bill East will give NASDSE’s State-of- the-Organization report. President Santina Thibedeau will accept nominations for NASDSE officers and the Board of Directors. There will also be an opportunity for state directors to discuss current issues of concern to the membership.

PRECONFERENCE AFFINITY GROUP MEETING FOR DATA MANAGERS AND 619 COORDINATORS

The data managers and 619 coordinators will be meeting in closed-door sessions from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 pm on Saturday, October 6th. All affinity group members are invited to attend these meetings, which are being planned and led by the data managers and 619 affinity group leadership teams.

SPONSOR SHOWCASES

Conference attendees will have an opportunity to attend the Sponsor Showcases - mini-sessions hosted by NASDSE's conference sponsors - to learn more about the opportunities that they can provide for states. The sponsor showcases will take place throughout the conference so stay tuned as to where and when your favorite sponsors will be hosting their sessions.

NASDSE'S SILENT AUCTION TRADITION

NASDSE has a long-standing tradition of hosting a Silent Auction at its annual conference, the proceeds of which are used to support training for new state directors. (NASDSE has trained more than 50 new state directors since 2011!) Conference attendees are encouraged to donate an auction item representing his/her state.

Donations may be brought to the Silent Auction desk beginning Saturday morning. The auction is always fun and is a great source of gifts and mementos to take home. Start thinking now about a great idea for a donation that represents your state! And be sure to leave room in your suitcase to take home a special item that you win!



OMAHA STATE NIGHT AND NASDSE'S INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND AWARDS CEREMONY

This year we have combined State Night and NASDSE's Installation of Officers and Awards Ceremony. The location of this year's event will be at the beautiful Lauritzen Gardens. The Lauritzen Gardens is a living museum of unique four-season plant displays, maintained to the highest standards consistent with environmental stewardship. Relax while cultivating your mind in this living plant museum conveniently located in the beautiful Omaha riverfront hills.

The installation of the new NASDSE Board of Directors and the presentation of NASDSE's annual awards are a conference highlight. It is at this time that NASDSE honors outstanding individuals for their work on behalf of individuals with disabilities. NASDSE's annual awards include the following:

- the **Martha J. Fields Award of Excellence**, which is presented to an individual or organization that has made extraordinary contributions helping NASDSE realize its mission and goals;
- the **Heritage Award**, which is presented to an individual for significant service and contributions to NASDSE and to the field of special education; and
- the **R. Elwood Pace Humanitarian Award**, which is presented to an individual who engages in services or activities of a humanitarian nature that exceed his/her professional responsibilities.

CONFERENCE ATTIRE

Daytime attire for the conference is business casual. The temperature in October in Omaha can range from 68° during the day to 46° in the evening. State Night/Installation Awards Ceremony dress is also business casual this year.

EXPERIENCE OMAHA

When looking for the fun in Omaha – just follow the pins! Giant blue push pins map out 15 top Omaha attractions. Each location offers year-round, unique Omaha experiences that appeal to a wide range of interest. Walk through the world’s largest indoor desert and North America’s largest indoor rainforest. Step inside a pink marble museum and come face-to-face with priceless works of art by Degas, Monet, Chihuly and more. Visit the tomb of Boys Town founder Father Flanagan, currently up for sainthood. Walk on Bob, the first and longest pedestrian bridge to link two states – Nebraska and Iowa. It’s a long list full of fun and your adventure starts with the attached link with specially designed maps to help you plan your pin exploration. <https://dogis.org/giantpins/>

Questions? Contact Carla Meade at NASDSE at Carla.Meade@nasdse.org.

