

THE

# AFCON

SENTINEL



Volume XVIII Number 2

A Quarterly of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska

June 20, 2014

## AFCON OFFICERS

David Moshman  
President

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Immediate Past  
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Tom Black  
Newsletter Editor

### Purpose:

To promote academic freedom, defined as intellectual freedom in educational and research contexts. This includes freedoms of belief and expression and access to information and ideas.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—David Moshman

I'm ready to protest anything.

In April I acquired a black armband autographed by Mary Beth Tinker. No, I was not searching a specialized market of historic First Amendment paraphernalia.

Truth be told, it's not the actual armband she wore as a student in Des Moines protesting the Vietnam War. My armband is not really the one that led to *Tinker v. Des Moines* (1969), the historic Supreme Court decision upholding the First Amendment free expression rights of public school students. But I did get the armband, and the autograph, from Mary Beth Tinker.

The Tinker Tour came through Lincoln in April, in a van covered with First Amendment stickers. As part of her speaking tour, Mary Beth came to the UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications, where she addressed an auditorium of students about the history and necessity of youth activism and free speech.

After her talk, Mary Beth had lunch with the AFCON Board of Directors (thanks to arrangements made by Laurie Lee). This included, not surprisingly, far-ranging discussion about state and national censorship issues and a focus on what we can do. You can find a message from Mary Beth Tinker

and photos from the Tinker Tour's Lincoln visit elsewhere in this issue.

After lunch, Mary Beth had First Amendment coloring books and other souvenirs for everyone and distributed black armbands, which she was happy to autograph. So we're all ready to protest.

One thing AFCON was already protesting was the "Content Standards Compliance Form" (see the March *Sentinel*) recently promulgated by the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) for speech and drama competitions. Even the title upset us.

Where did this form come from? When I brought it to the attention of former AFCON President Doug Paterson, professor of theatre at UNO, he replied "Egad. It reads almost word for word what was read to us in 9<sup>th</sup> grade plays in 1959." He hypothesized that it was found in a discarded mimeograph machine from the 1950s.

The March speech competition resulted in problems of censorship that resulted in a brief Facebook and media frenzy. This drew the attention of ACLU Nebraska, which questioned the constitutionality of the policy

(Continued to Page 2)

## Upcoming Events

AFCON Board Meetings: Saturdays June 11, July 12, and September 13, 2014.  
Loren Eiseley Library, 1530 Superior, Lincoln, Nebraska; 10 AM

## THE PRESIDENT

In May, I had a very pleasant meeting with the Executive Director and Associate Director of NSAA, who were happy to work with AFCON on revising the form to be more protective of intellectual freedom—and to give it a less threatening title. My black armband was not needed. We are already working on revisions and they plan to attend our July Board meeting for further feedback and discussion.

It turns out, incidentally, that the form was devised after looking at models from other states and the language was ultimately taken from Texas. So Doug Paterson's hypothesis that it came from the 1950s was not quite correct, but arguably

close. I'll give him partial credit.

Finally, we have exciting national news. Our 2013 keynote speaker ReLeah Lent has arranged for a small contingent of AFCON Board members to conduct a panel discussion about forming academic freedom coalitions at the November 2014 meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) in Washington, DC.

This will be an excellent opportunity to spread the word about the value of coordinated statewide activism in support of academic freedom. As we have long maintained, every state needs an academic free-

dom coalition.

Unfortunately, the NCTE does not fund panelists. So we're raising funds to help with this trip. We need your support, always, and especially right now. If you have not renewed your membership for 2014, please do so. Both individuals and groups are encouraged to join or renew.

We'd also be happy to receive special donations to support spreading our message in Washington and beyond.

Thanks!

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## Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings—Peggy Adair

### March 8, 2014—

**Present:** Peggy Adair, Dwayne Ball, Nancy Comer, Frank Edler, Bob Haller, Laurie Thomas Lee, Lora Leibrandt, Cathi McMurtry, David Moshman, Linda Parker, Rod Wagner

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the AFCON board meeting held on January 11, 2014, were approved as presented upon motion by Parker, second by Wagner, and a voice vote. Minutes of the AFCON board meeting held on February 8, 2014, were approved as presented upon a motion by Edler, second by Parker, and a voice vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** McMurtry presented the treasurer's report dated March 7, 2014, with a balance on hand of \$1,289.62. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit. McMurtry reported the Lincoln Education Association if dropping its AFCON membership. Moshman will draft a letter of invitation to organizations with dormant AFCON membership and will work with Edler on draft language.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Moshman reported a paperback edition of *Unlearning Liberty* by Greg Lukianoff, president of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), has been published. The book discusses consequences of free speech restrictions on university campuses. Moshman presented copies of the Nebraska School Activities Association's "Content Standards Compliance Form" for board discussion. Moshman has contacted individuals and organizations to alert them of the issue and to get their input. Moshman will continue to monitor this issue and provide updates to the AFCON board.

**LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Adair reported the legislative bills related to academic freedom are not likely to move forward this session. Haller reported on LR42, a legislative resolution urging Congress to pass the Parental Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Amendment supports the fundamental right of parents to "direct the upbringing and education" of their children, with the only exception being something the parent does "that would end life." Sort of that, anything goes. The resolution was introduced by Senator Brasch and 31 other senators have signed on to it. The Amend-

ment is a response by people who oppose the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child. Adair will research the status of legislative bills regarding charter schools in Nebraska, and will report back to the Board.

**Sentinel:** Moshman will work with Black to develop a master email list for electronic copies of the *Sentinel*. Moshman will work with Haller on a list of people to whom paper copies of the *Sentinel* will be sent.

**WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA:** Parker reported she has developed the AFCON Facebook page, "Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska—AFCON." Parker reported will activate the page after she uploads content to the page. Parker and the Board discussed options for content. Parker will email the Board when the Facebook page is activated.

**CHOOSE PRIVACY WEEK:** Parker reported the American Library Association is developing materials and activities for use by local librarians and others during "Choose Privacy Week," which is held yearly May 1-7. A motion made by Ball, second by Lee, that AFCON commends ALA for its work and supports its efforts. Motion carried by voice vote. (See **Minutes, page 3**)

## Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings

(Continued from Page 2)

Parker will report back to the AFCON board in April with more specific plans for the week, and how AFCON may be able to participate.

**OSHER LIFELING LEARNING INSTITUTE:** Haller requested that those AFCON members planning to present OLLI sessions email him to let him know what days/times work best for them.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH/NATIONAL OUTREACH:** Edler reported he has been in contact with Joan Bertin, Executive Director of the National Coalition Against Censorship. She has offered to assist with the AFCON presentation at the NCTE Conference, and has also indicated interest in organizing a national discussion on critical thinking.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The Board agreed by consensus that it should look into co-sponsoring with ACLU to host an event with Rainbow Rowell as the keynote speaker. Comer will make contacts to begin organizing the event before she leaves the country to visit an undisclosed location near Australia.

**MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:**  
**Nebraska Center for the Book:** Wagner reported the Nebraska Book Festival will be held April 25-26 at the UNO Thompson Alumni Center in Omaha. **Nebraska State Reading Association:** Comer reported the NSRA spring conference was held February 25-26 in Kearney, Nebraska. **Member at Large:** Edler reported he will be presenting a lecture on the "Nebraska Peace Society, 1912-1918," at the Quaker Meeting House, 3319 S 46th Street in Lincoln, on March 30, 11:15 am to 12:15 pm. **Nebraska Library Association:** Parker reported the Intellectual Freedom Round Table will meet on March 28 in Seward, Nebraska. **UNL Faculty Senate:** Lee reported Mary Beth Tinker (of *Tinker v West Des Moines Independent School District* fame) will be presenting on the UNL campus in the Journalism Mass Communication Auditorium at 9:30 am on Tuesday, April 15. Lee reported that UNL Chancellor is considering purchasing a campus-wide software program that makes reporting "incidents" and complaints easier, allows for tracking incident reports to discover patterns, and provides reports on the reports. AFCON board members voiced a plethora of concerns. Lee will continue to monitor the issue and will report back to the Board. Lee reported a faculty forum will convene to discuss issues surrounding non-tenure track faculty. **AAUP, UNL Chapter:** Haller reported Julia Schleck continues to work on renewing and revitalizing an AAUP Chapter on the

UNL campus. She has secured a nominee for President and with Moshman's assistance has located the Constitution of the previous chapter of the AAUP-UNL.

**NEXT MEETING:** Saturday April 12, 2014, at Eiseley Library, Lincoln, Nebraska  
[www.academicfreedomnebraska.org](http://www.academicfreedomnebraska.org)

### April, 12, 2014—

**Present:** Peggy Adair, Dwayne Ball, Nancy Comer, Claudia Garcia, Bob Haller, Laurie Thomas Lee, Lora Leibrandt, David Moshman, Linda Parker

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the AFCON board meeting held on March 8, 2014, were approved as presented upon a motion by Ball, second by Parker, and a voice vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** McMurtry presented the treasurer's report dated April 11, 2014 via email, with a balance on hand of \$1,288.03. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Moshman reported he has been in contact with Amy Miller, legal director for ACLU Nebraska, regarding the Nebraska School Activities Association's "Content Standards Compliance Form," the Association's recent censoring of a student's award-winning poetry presentation for Nebraska Educational Television, and the Association's subsequent permission for the student to present his poetry. The executive director of NSAA plans to meet with Amy Miller in May. Moshman will report back to the AFCON board after that meeting, for further discussion.

Moshman reported an alert observer witnessed the UNL basketball head coach leading his team in a kneeling prayer to Jesus in the team locker room after a televised basketball game. Moshman reported without a complainant, little can be done to stop the "voluntary" prayer practice. Ball offered to infiltrate the UNL basketball locker room by serving as Team Chaplain.

Moshman reported the UNL LGBTQA organization is hosting a "Right here, right now, always" inclusion campaign in response to the UNL administration's "Not here, not now, not ever!" intolerance-of-intolerance campaign.

On a related note, Lee reported the UNL administration is planning to install "Issue Event Manager" software by the fall semester. The software will allow anonymous rating on people, and chosen people will have access to the resulting data. Discussion followed. Lee will continue to monitor the situation.

Moshman reported he will work with Comer to create a personalized letter inviting the

Nebraska State Reading Association to consider re-joining AFCON as a paid member when their finances permit.

**LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Adair reported the legislature has only one more day left in this session.

**SENTINEL:** Moshman will continue to work with Black and McMurtry on compiling mailing addresses and email addresses for the *Sentinel*. Deadline for articles for the next issue of the *Sentinel* is May 26. Parker will upload the latest issue of the *Sentinel* to the AFCON website. Suggested articles for the next issue of the *Sentinel* are the Christian basketball team prayer and the Tinker Tour event in Lincoln

**WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA:** Parker and Leibrandt reported the website needs updating and they will work on it. Parker reported the AFCON Facebook page is live. Parker reported Moshman's Huffington Post Blog is hard to like but easy to love. Adair will send a pdf of the AFCON logo to Parker.

**CHOOSE PRIVACY WEEK:** Parker reported Governor Heineman signed a proclamation supporting May as "Choose Privacy Month." The Governor chose to choose privacy and will not participate in a public proclamation ceremony for his "Choose Privacy" proclamation.

**OSHER LIFELING LEARNING INSTITUTE:** Haller reported the OLLI sessions will run from September 8 to October 18 on Wednesdays at 1:00pm. Each session will be 90 minutes long, with approximately 45 minutes of presentation followed by 45 minutes of group discussion. Haller requested AFCON presenters provide him with dates they will be available.

**TINKER TOUR, April 15, 2014:** Lee provided a map and outline of the day's events. Lee encouraged AFCON members attending to take photos for the *Sentinel* and the AFCON website.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The Board discussed different days, times, and venues. Comer will continue to work with ACLU on annual meeting plans and will continue to pursue Rainbow Rowell as the keynote speaker.

**MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:**  
**Nebraska Center for the Book:** Wagner submitted a written report. The Nebraska Book Festival will be held April 25-26 at the UNO Thompson Alumni Center in Omaha. **AAUP, UNL Chapter:** Haller reported the missing AAUP treasurer has surfaced, Julia Schleck continues her organizational work, and an AAUP Chapter will soon reappear on the UNL campus.

**NEXT MEETING:** Saturday, May 10, 2014, at Eiseley Library, Lincoln, Nebraska.

[www.academicfreedomnebraska.org](http://www.academicfreedomnebraska.org)

## Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings (Continued from Page 3)

**May 10, 2014—**

**Present:**

Peggy Adair, Nancy Comer, Frank Edler, Cathi McMurtry, David Moshman, Rod Wagner.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the AFCON board meeting held on April 12, 2014, were approved as presented upon a motion by Edler, second by Wagner, and a voice vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** McMurtry presented the treasurer's report dated May 9, 2014, with a balance on hand of \$1,438.03. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Moshman reported he has written a letter to the Nebraska State Reading Association encouraging them to remain an organizational member of AFCON and to remit their dues when finances allow.

**LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** Adair reported Senator Sara Howard is concerned that the high turnover rate due to term limits (17 new state senators will be elected this year) has resulted in lack of institutional knowledge and an acrimonious atmosphere in the state legislature.

**SENTINEL:** Deadline for articles for the next issue of the *Sentinel* is May 26.

**NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION:** Moshman reported ACLU legal director Amy Miller met with the executive director of NSAA to discuss the problems with the NSAA's Content Standards contracts. (School administrators must sign these contracts in order for students to participate in speech and theater events.) After learning about the legal issues surrounding the present document, the NSAA executive director and the assistant executive director have agreed to meet with Moshman on May 15 for further discussion.

**CHOOSE PRIVACY WEEK:** Moshman reported Choose Privacy Week, which through the shenanigans of Parker became officially proclaimed by Governor Heineman to be Choose Privacy Month (May), is upon us. Choose Privacy Month is, however, private, so no further activities are planned.

**UNL FORUM ON NONTENURE-TRACK FACULTY:** Moshman reported he and Lee participated in the well-attended session. Moshman reported the discussion was positive and inclusive. Moshman reported the AAUP is re-building on the UNL campus and their renewed presence will strengthen the entire faculty voice.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Comer reported she has been in contact with Cynthia

Tiedeman, the event planner for ACLU Nebraska. Comer reported Rainbow Rowell is doubtful as a speaker for this fall, but negotiations will continue to secure the author for a future event.

The Board discussed possibilities for Academic Freedom Awards for 2014 as well as ideas for speakers and venues. No action was taken.

**MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:**  
**Nebraska Center for the Book:** Wagner reported the Nebraska Book Festival featured authors that had books published last year. The 2014 selection for One Book, One Nebraska is *Once Upon A Town*. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2015 selection.

**At Large:** Edler reported Massachusetts is now requiring civics education as part of all undergraduate degrees.

**Nebraska State Reading Association:** Comer reported the NSRA wants to stay involved in AFCON, and they thanked Comer for paying their dues. J

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the **AFCON BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will be **Saturday, June 14, 2014**, at Eiseley Library, Lincoln, Nebraska.

[www.academicfreedomnebraska.org](http://www.academicfreedomnebraska.org)

### Check out these links to recent articles in the Huffington Post by David Moshman

Christian Football in Nebraska (Nov. 2013)

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/christian-football-in-nebraska\\_b\\_4289124.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/christian-football-in-nebraska_b_4289124.html)

Zero Tolerance for Intolerance (Jan. 2014)

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/zero-tolerance-for-intole\\_b\\_4602798.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/zero-tolerance-for-intole_b_4602798.html)

Academic Boycotts and Counterboycotts (Feb. 2014)

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/academic-boycotts\\_b\\_4875076.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/academic-boycotts_b_4875076.html)

20 Years Ago, Genocide in Rwanda (April 2014)

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/twenty-years-ago-genocide\\_b\\_5066844.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/twenty-years-ago-genocide_b_5066844.html)

Education for Rwanda (May 2014)

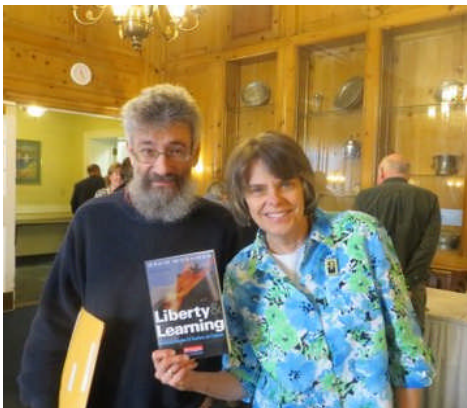
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/education-for-genocide-in\\_b\\_5394776.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/education-for-genocide-in_b_5394776.html)



Left to right: Laurie Thomas Lee, Dave Moshman, Peggy Adair, Mary Beth Tinker, Mike Hiestand, Nancy Comer, Bob Haller, and Linda Parker.



Mary Beth Tinker and Mike Hiestand



David Moshman, President of AFCON, presents Mary Beth Tinker a copy of his book *Liberty and Learning*.

To all of my new friends at AFCON—thank you, thank you, thank you! When the Tinker Tour rolled into town, your midwestern hospitality was so appreciated. (I’m a proud midwesterner, too—from Iowa and Missouri.) We enjoyed the wonderful luncheon with everyone, and especially great conversations with kindred First Amendment spirits—you! So, thank you again—for that, and for all you do to defend academic freedom.

We completed our Tinker Tour of the US the first week of May. By the end, we spoke with students in 31 states plus the District of Columbia. Whew! How amazing to talk with students—and teachers—about the First

Amendment, and learn how they’re using it to speak up and stand up about so many issues. As you know, so many are.

So, here’s to freedom of expression! It was heartening to learn some of the ways you’re keeping it alive in Nebraska, like challenging the “Content Standards Compliance Form.” I know you’ll agree that if ever there was a time when we need the right to express ourselves, it is now.

Thanks again!

--Mary Beth Tinker

## Parental Rights v Academic Freedom By Bob Haller

Intellectual Freedom can be frightening to a parent. Especially when such freedom manifests itself in their children.

So 32 Nebraska Senators are cosponsoring LR 42, which would ask the Congress to pass H.J. RES. 50 (among whose co-sponsors one finds our First District Congressman) approving a Constitutional Amendment to guarantee parental rights, specifically the “right to direct education and choose public private, religious or home schools without government infringement,” it would also forbid our country from entering into any treaty or a court to cite any international law which might “supersede, modify, interpret or apply to these rights.”

These defenders of parental rights see two threats: the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, signed by this country but never submitted for Senate approval, and federal judges, including those on the Supreme Court, who create confusion by citing international standards and policies.

What is this all about? Go to [parentalrights.org](http://parentalrights.org) and you will see. There you will find that the CRC would usurp the rights of parents and encouraging government interference in the efforts of parents to assure that their children receive proper education. Like being told that their parents’ religion is the only true one.

This resolution did not get out of committee in the last legislative session, nor has the House Resolution made progress in Congress. But it is the sign of a dangerous trend in our nation.

We defend the academic freedom of teachers and students. But what about the appropriate intellectual freedom of judges and diplomats? This proposed amendment is intended to stifle their intellectual freedom, to take away their capacity to make decisions and treaties on our behalf. There

may be 192 nations of the world who have ratified the CRC, not fearing that it would rob them of their capacity to give parents their rights while educating the children who also have rights.

This resolution, like the Agenda 21 resolution in the last session, and like the state laws forbidding the citation of Sharia Law in legislation and court decisions, is part of a troubling movement to close off intellectual freedom in the essential processes of legislation and court judgment. The censors are just as fearful of public servants as they are of those engaged in education.

I will close with an observation which may or may not be relevant to this trend.

If you read the list of co-sponsors of HR 50, you will find only one woman there—the Gentlewoman from Delaware Michelle Bachman. If you look at the Board of Parental Rights you will see one woman: the wife of male board member she is being allowed to Join so as to prevent her from independent judgments.

Are we to understand that testosterone is the enemy of academic freedom?

Our First Amendment protects freedom of speech.

House Resolution 50 proposes a Constitutional Amendment asserts the parental, and says that Any love of the Constitution will find this proposal repugnant: amendments have as their purpose to establish principles, not to ward off specific policies or government actions.

Legislative Resolution 42 cites the Supreme Court opinion in *Troxel v. Geranville* 530 U.S. 57 (2000) as having introduced “confusion” about parental rights because of its five concurring and dissenting opin-

ions, and the CRC as drastically altering “the fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children.”

This bill had a hearing before the Judiciary Committee last March, where the proponents eventually had to admit that they were acting on policies developed by Parental Rights. Senator Chambers, while not a member of UNA, is alert to these activities promoted by national organizations with axes to grind on missions irrelevant to Nebraska’s realities.

There would be no reason to respond to these resolutions were it not for the fact that LR 42 has 32 cosponsors and HR 50 has our Congressman’s name among the Sponsors. Of course no elected legislator wants to be against “parental rights,” but it is scarcely responsible legislative activity to support making the UN a threat. As LR 42 acknowledges, the CRC has been ratified by 192 nations—apparently the rest of the world is eager to compromise parental rights. But encouraging the belief that the UN is a bunch of “foreigners” seeking to invade U.S. sovereignty is not helpful in this country’s international engagement.

Nor is it helpful to assert “rights” which either are under no threat or which have doubtful standing as “rights.” On the website [parentalrights.org](http://parentalrights.org), the claim is made that the CRC would prevent a parent from telling a child that Christianity is the only true religion. Of course it cannot prevent that, any more than it can prevent an atheist parent from telling a child that Christians are superstitious or a Muslim parent telling a child that only Sharia law leads to holiness.

Education is not a private matter. Its purpose is to prepare children for the world in which they will work, have a social life, and participate in a polity.

## Why Entrepreneurs need Academic Freedom By Bob Haller

Our AFCON mission has been hampered by the unresponsiveness of the educational community and just as importantly, our inability to persuade policy-makers and the public of the importance of Academic Freedom.. As hard as we have tried, we have not convinced education professionals that they should create the systemic reforms that would protect them against violations of academic freedom, nor have we convinced administrators and political office holders to take steps in support of creative teachers and the students who will be our fellow citizens and our state's professionals, business leaders, workers and families.

Implicit in our mission are the two primary reasons for putting Academic Freedom at the center of educational activity: training of those who will advance science, scholarship and the arts, for the enrichment and improvement of our shared lives; and enriching the discourse of citizens and policy-makers so that public decisions are based on the soundest ideas in a consensus achieved by effective articulation of common values and understandings of how the world

works.

The final presentation of his year's Thompson Forum at UNL can, I think provide us with a third justification for the freedom we are seeking, one having the potential to make a stronger case for freedom in the schools.

Yong Zhao, a professor at the University of Oregon, presented at this forum an argument which links education to entrepreneurial effectiveness in our society. Everyone loves entrepreneurs these days.

A quick summary of his basic argument is as follows:

--Our country has headed down a mistaken path with *No Child Left Behind* and *Race to the Top*, the *Common Core*, and an emphasis on training "employees". These programs, and the effort to raise our student performance on comparative international tests to those of the world leaders will narrow our educational objectives and kill the American leadership in innovation.

--All of these "reforms," he says, have as their outcome, grave harm to the

conditions and qualities that make our educational system superior and our nation the most entrepreneurial on earth. The features of our educational system which contribute to our superiority are, local control, diversity of educational method, universal access, and the ability to re-enter the system at many levels and under many conditions.

--The route to genuine reform would enhance these aspects of American education and add to them teacher autonomy (that is, academic freedom) and individualized student programs (freedom for students).

His claim is that only this approach will clear the adult children who cannot find jobs out of our nation's basements.

It might also be the basis on which AFCON makes its case for the enhancement of "critical thinking" as the most important outcome of schooling.

Yong Zhao, *Catching Up or Leading the Way. American Education in the Age of Globalization*. ASCD 2009

Yong Zhao, *World Class Learners. Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students*. neasp/Corwin 2012

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### Huffington Post articles in the summer of 2011 by David Moshman

Equal Access for Gay-Straight Alliances

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/christian-conservatives-gay-straight\\_b\\_878843.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/christian-conservatives-gay-straight_b_878843.html)

Supreme Court on Video Games

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/children-violence-and-the\\_b\\_886606.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/children-violence-and-the_b_886606.html)

Students Need Teachers With Tenure

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/students-need-teachers-wi\\_b\\_942770.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/students-need-teachers-wi_b_942770.html)

Don't Say Gay, Do Say Gay

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/gay-history-curriculum\\_b\\_980392.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/gay-history-curriculum_b_980392.html)

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**AFCON SPEAKER'S BUREAU** (As of December 2007)

Peggy Adair: "Banned Books, Black Arm-bands, and School Prayer: The Evolution of Children's First Amendment Rights in America"

padair@tconl.com

Dwayne Ball: "Threats to Academic Freedom at Universities"

adball@neb.rr.com

Bob Haller: "Civics Education and the Practice of Freedom" and "How Books Can Harm You: Lessons from the Censors"

mshortt@inebraska.com

David Moshman: "Principles of Academic Freedom"

dmoshman1@unl.edu

John Bender and David Moshman: "Student Freedom of Expression/Student Rights"

jbender1@unl.edu

dmoshman1@unl.edu

Laurie Thomas Lee: "Implications of the USA Patriot Act"

llee1@unl.edu

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Presentation of the Readers' Theatre production of A Tangled Web: Student Freedom of Expression.

(a cast of adults and students)

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**ADDRESS FOR THE AFCON WEB SITE**

**<http://www.academicfreedomnebraska.org>**

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**Check it out and learn Who We Are and about Our Activities; read our Constitution; learn how to Join Us; see the where and when of our Meetings; meet our Members and Officers;**

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**REQUEST FOR NEWS FOR FUTURE ISSUES**

The editor of the AFCON SENTINEL invites all AFCON individual and organizational members to send news about academic freedom issues in Nebraska or editorial comments for inclusion in this newsletter and/or announcements of organizational meetings for the UPCOMING EVENTS column.

**Due date for submissions to the SEPTEMBER 19, 2014, issue is AUGUST 25, 2014..**

Send to Tom Black, editor, 610 West Park, West Point, NE 68788 or wpc6296@cableone.net



# AFCON

515 North Thomas Avenue  
Oakland, NE 68045.

Mailing  
Address  
Label

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## ACADEMIC FREEDOM COALITION OF NEBRASKA

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### HELP AFCON PROMOTE ACADEMIC FREEDOM

As a member of AFCON, you can help us

- ◆ support applications of the First Amendment in academic contexts, including elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, and libraries.
- ◆ educate Nebraskans about the meaning and value of intellectual freedom, intellectual diversity, mutual respect, open communication, and uninhibited pursuit of knowledge, including the role of these ideals in academic contexts and in democratic self-government.
- ◆ assist students, teachers, librarians, and researchers confronted with censorship, indoctrination, or suppression of ideas.
- ◆ act as liaison among groups in Nebraska that support academic freedom.

**MEMBERSHIP** (To become a member, send dues, organization or individual name, address, and phone number to Cathi McMurtry, 515 N. Thomas Avenue, Oakland, NE 68045)

**Organizational Membership** (\$120) entitles the organization to one seat on the AFCON Board, one vote in the election of officers and at the annual meeting, eligibility for office and chairing standing committees, provides newsletter subscription for the board member to share with the organization's information director, and reduced rates to AFCON conferences for its members.

**Individual Membership** (\$15) provides newsletter subscription, eligibility for office and for chairing standing committees, reduced rates for AFCON conferences, and one vote at annual meetings.

**Student Membership** (\$5) entitles full-time students to the same privileges as provided by the Individual Membership.

**AFCON ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS, PLEASE DUPLICATE THIS NEWSLETTER FOR YOUR MEMBERS.  
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND AFTER YOU HAVE READ IT.  
ENCOURAGE HIM OR HER TO JOIN AFCON**